

MARCH FIFTEEN CENTS

Our **TIMES**

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS



ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEW DAY?



WHEN I was a little girl my father ran a sawmill. At night when the day's work was over and all the men had gathered on the porch of our house to talk or had wandered off down town, dad would go back to the mill and begin a long evening's work of filing the saws for the next day's cutting.

There were the large circular saws, the band saws, edging and trimming saws, and each tooth of each saw had to be examined carefully; for in cutting through the logs sometimes they would strike knots. These knots were hard, tough, unyielding places in the wood that put the best saws to a stiff test. If the machine had to labor through an unusually hard log—a tree which had been twisted by storms until its fiber was tough and sinewy—the teeth would become dulled under the pressure and strain. Then again, perhaps, some one had blundered in handling the log and steel had hit steel leaving several warped teeth. So every night the saws had to be inspected and reconditioned.

Each morning these employees of a Los Angeles precision tool manufacturer kneel in prayer to ask for strength and skill for the new day.



God's Assistance Assured

By Inez Gene Carr

Often I used to slip down to the old mill in the cool whippoorwill time of the evening, perch myself on a log or saw frame, and watch dad slowly turn the large saws around as he carefully applied the test to each tooth. This testing instrument was called a saw set; and when he placed it firmly against the teeth, it told him just how much warp was there and where the untrue spot was located. Then he would pound the warped tooth into line, file it to a new cutting keenness, and pass on to the next one.

One evening as I saw how careful he was that not one tooth passed through his hand untested I asked, "Dad, what would happen if you let some of the bent teeth go through without straightening?"

"Several things," he answered. "If some teeth were out of line and they struck an extra tough knot, the whole piece of steel in this saw might buckle and fly in pieces, one of which might easily pierce the skull of a workman. Or

(Continued on page 16)

OUR TIMES
SINCE 1891, A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS

MARCH, 1948

VOL. 57

NO. 4

Established in 1891 as *The Southern Agent*. Name changed to *The Southern Review* in 1892, to *The Southern Watchman* in 1901, to *The Watchman* in 1905, to *The Watchman Magazine* in 1917. Incorporating: *The Tennessee River Watchman* (1901), *The Gospel Herald* (1903).

Editor

STANLEY C. HARRIS

Circulation Manager

RALPH E. CRAWFORD

Art Director

ROBERT M. ELDRIDGE

PUBLISHED monthly (except February, when semi-monthly) by the SOUTHERN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, 2119 Twenty-Fourth Avenue, North, Nashville 8, Tennessee. Entered as second-class matter January 19, 1909, at the post office in Nashville, Tennessee, U. S. A., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, and authorized July 11, 1918.

★ *Rates:* 15 cents a copy, and \$1.75 a year, in the United States. Rates higher for other countries.

★ *Change of Address:* Please give both the old and the new address.

★ *Expiration:* Unless renewed in advance, the magazine stops at the expiration date shown on the wrapper.

★ *Special Notice:* No magazines are sent except on paid subscriptions, so persons receiving *Our Times* without having subscribed may feel free to accept it without obligation.

★ *Correspondence:* Address all correspondence to *OUR TIMES*, Box 59, NASHVILLE 2, TENNESSEE.

PHOTO CREDITS

- Cover—H. A. Roberts
- 2—Press Association, Inc.
- 3—Keystone View Co.
- 6—International News
- 7—Hofmann, artist
- 10—Acme and International News
- 12—Acme
- 13—Acme
- 14—Dwight Herbert
- 18—Canadian National Railway
- 20—International News and Ewing Galloway

As we advance in life, we acquire a keener sense of the value of time. Nothing else, indeed, seems of any consequence; and we become misers in this respect.—*William Hazlitt.*

The Victorious LIFE

A Glorious Triumph for Those Who Attain It



Those who are living the victorious life look forward in great anticipation to the glorious triumph at the dawn of God's new day.

dom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6: 33.

There is a very wonderful reward for doing God's will. "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." 1 John 2:17. One who employs his time in this life to get earthly pleasure, wealth, and fame receives his reward in this life but it is neither lasting nor satisfactory. But one who puts his whole soul into the service of the God of heaven to do His good pleasure has the sure promise of abiding forever in the earth made new.

We have been discussing in the past several articles a number of points on how to be a Christian, how to walk in the Christian pathway, and how to grow daily in spirituality. The Christian life is a battle and a march. We do not obtain our goal of perfection in Christ Jesus overnight. Those who are victorious in the battle with self will reap the reward of eternal life. But what will it take to reach this goal? Let us notice a few qualities which must be in our character if we are to live the victorious life.

First there must be the surrender of the will to God's will. You will remember that when Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane, and facing the terrible ordeal ahead, He knelt down and prayed, "Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will but Thine be done." Luke 22: 42. It was not easy for Jesus to pay the price of our redemption. His soul shrank from the pain and agony of Golgotha's hill. But Jesus had always lived a life in entire surrender to His heavenly Father's will, and so again He submitted, "Not My will, but Thine be done." If we would live the victorious life, we, too, must surrender our will to

(Continued on page 19)

FOR I AM NOW READY to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4: 6-8.

There is great satisfaction in achievement. To win a victory in a hard-fought battle brings joy. Paul's experience was a glorious triumph of a victorious life. He had reached his high spiritual goal in Christ Jesus. He could now glory in his triumph.

What is the Christian's goal? Is it earthly pleasures, wealth, or fame? "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," said Jesus. Matthew 6: 21. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Verse 33. The Christian's goal is not the things of this earth. Earthly pleasures,

wealth, and fame are transitory. The Christian's aim is on higher and more lasting values.

What is a Christian? A Christian is a follower of Christ. A Christian is one whose aim is to be Christlike. Christ's mission to this earth was a selfless mission. "For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6: 38. And again, "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4: 34. The Christian whose aim in life is to be Christlike will also seek to do his

By

Nevins Morrelle Harlan

heavenly Father's will in preference to his own pleasure. Said Jesus, "Whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother." Matthew 12: 50. "But seek ye first the king-

WHAT DOES the Bible teach about the new birth and the moral law? No Scriptural truths have been more singularly confused in the minds of Christians than these. The moral glory of the new birth is that it puts the sinner saved by grace into absolute harmony and perfect obedience to the will of God as expressed in the moral law of Ten Commandments. Jeremiah predicted that God would make a new covenant with His people in which they would be reconciled to Him: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know Me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31: 31-34. The Jews misunderstood this covenant much the same as Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus' sermon on the new birth.

It has always been difficult for the human spirit to understand divine revelation. In fact, human nature is incapable of understanding the divine nature until the human heart experiences a sur-

The New Birth and The Moral Law

How Is God's Law Put into Man's Heart?

By F. B. Jensen

render and a regeneration. The apostle Paul endeavored to point this out for his people when he wrote: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14.

God planned to reveal the new birth to the children of Israel, for without that the new covenant could have no effect. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2: 9, 10.

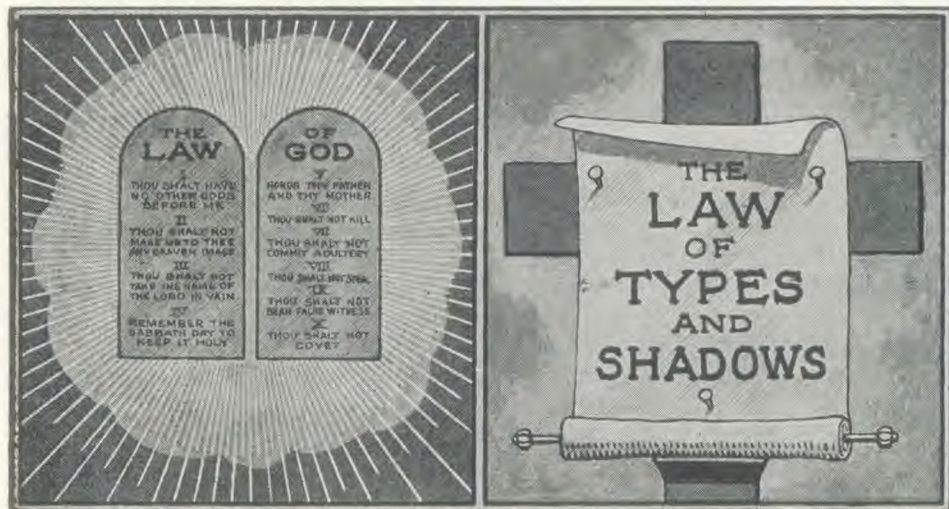
The children of Israel had been taught that when they had disobeyed the requirements of the law, their sin could be washed away and the broken law ap-

peased by the blood of a sacrifice. They understood that "without shedding of blood is no remission." Hebrews 9: 22. But they did not accept the true Lamb of God when He came to rescue them from their sins. They had become so blinded by a desire for a Messiah who would deliver them from the Roman yoke of bondage that they failed utterly to recognize the One who alone could redeem them from the greater bondage of a sin-laden heart. They wanted only a deliverer, not a Redeemer. They wanted a political savior, not a blood-atoning Saviour. So in the fulfillment of prophecy, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God." John 1:11, 12.

Paul placed this truth before his people in the great epistle to the Romans: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Romans 5:10. Such a redemption the Jews were not concerned with. They failed, not because God did not love them, but because there is no remission without the shedding of blood. The Jews were lost not because they did not reverence the law—they cared much for the law, indeed they made a savior out of the law—but because they wanted a law without a Saviour. So they perished in their blindness.

What then is the relationship between the new covenant of liberty and the new birth and the moral law? "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1. This text is often

The moral law and grace are inseparable, and can no more exist apart than can Siamese twins.



quoted by certain theologians to prove that the moral law was nailed to the cross. This confusion arises out of unwillingness to recognize the basic difference between the moral law and the ceremonial law of the Old Testament.

The law of ceremonies was given to Moses for the purpose of maintaining ritual purity and oneness with God until the Lamb of God should come, whose death on the cross fulfilled the requirements of all ceremonial laws, and thus the Mosaic law ended at the cross. These laws were ordained to guide the Israelite to repentance and reconciliation with God by an atoning sacrifice when he had broken the moral law. The whole book of Leviticus and much of Exodus and parts of Numbers and Deuteronomy deal with the ritual laws "which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation." They remained "a figure for the time then present" while "the first tabernacle was yet standing." Hebrews 9: 8-10.

But in contrast to the old covenant, with its ritual law of ordinances that was nailed to the cross, is the great glory of the new covenant where the moral law is written in the heart and mind of the Christian by the Spirit of the living God.

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9: 14. Here we find the foundation principle of the new covenant. Observe that it is the apostle Paul who is writing the gospel of the new covenant. This needs ever to be kept in mind since it is Paul who speaks about the necessity of not being entangled again with the yoke of bondage. You must notice that in the new covenant the moral law is written in the heart. That is obviously different from being nailed to the cross. One wonders why the theologians have been blinded to this great and glorious truth in times past.

Listen to Paul as he pours out this mighty truth in his letter to the Hebrews: "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that He had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them. And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Hebrews 10:15-17.

It is rather strange that Christians love to talk about the new covenant of lib-

erty, yet they have never been taught the real truth concerning this vital subject. But with this background you are now ready to appreciate the surpassing beauty of the new birth in its relationship to the new covenant. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the right-

eousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1-4.

Need I point out that in this sublime passage Paul asserts that God *condemned sin and not the law? God gave us the Spirit to set us free from the law of sin and death, and not from the requirements of the moral law. Finally, he wrote the law in the heart and mind* "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us."

One misses the whole point of the new birth unless he sees in it the miracle of God's love imparting to the repentant

(Continued on page 17)

The Run of Life

By C. L. Paddock



BENNY LOCKE had served as an engineer for fifty-seven years on the Lackawanna Railroad, and during all these years not one demerit mark was registered against him by his superiors. He was industrious, punctual, and thoroughly dependable. Being a Christian, he always removed his cap as he entered his engine to begin his run and offered a prayer to God for protection and guidance.

We will let him tell in his own words of one experience: "Number six was twenty-five minutes late out of Scranton, one day, and I had my little prayer, as usual, when I stepped into the cab. After I had asked for the safety of our train, I said, 'Lord, help me to bring her in on time.' It was a stiff climb up the Pocono Mountains, for the first part of the trip, and it never seems so steep as when you are late. I couldn't gain a second on the way up; but after we dipped over the summit, things began to break just right for me. It was a beautiful day, with the air perfectly clear, and we almost flew down the mountain. I just held her steady and let her go. At last the old train shed at Hoboken loomed ahead, and as we pulled under the edge of it, I looked at my watch,

and we were just on the dot. As I stood wiping the sweat off my face, there was a tap of a cane on the side of my cab; and when I looked out of the window, there stood the president of the road, all smiles, and he said to me, 'A good run, sir! A very good run!' That meant more to me than anything which could have happened."

We are all making the run of life. Sometimes the road may be uphill and the load heavy. Many times the way is rough and troubles arise that are discouraging. As we check on our progress we may seem to be away behind time. We do not seem to make the rapid progress that is desired. But if we will always remember to call upon the Lord in time of need, He will surely bring us through.

May we keep our record free of demerit marks, and when we pull into the great terminal station at the end of the way, may we hear the Master say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. You have made a good run."

IT IS commonly believed in the religious world today that when a sinner dies, his soul immediately leaves his body and flies straight as an arrow into the fires of hell. There this soul, immaterial, invisible, thought of by many in a vague sort of a way as being nothing but a filmy, cloudlike bit of ectoplasm, writhes eternally in torment. It is usually not explained by those who

form. "Thy whole body" shall "be cast into hell," He says.

Many other individuals have thought that hell-fire is reserved for those who are dead. They think of it only as something that takes place after death. Here is another text of Scripture that will give us a little different outlook on that subject. In Revelation 19:20, these words are found: "And the beast was

texts on this subject, we must then see the fact that individuals as entire and alive as we are will be cast into the fires of hell.

Immediately then we are faced with the question, Do sinners go to their punishment right at death? Let us permit the Lord Jesus Christ to answer this question. "As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall

When Will God Punish The Wicked?

At Death, or at the End of the World?

By W. A. Fagal

hold this theory how anything invisible and immaterial could be harmed by anything as material as fire.

Despite the fact that this is the common belief, I find no evidence for it in the Word of God. Rather I find texts of Scripture such as these that are found in Mark 9. "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. . . . And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. . . . And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell-fire." Verses 43, 45, 47. These texts of Scripture say definitely that the individuals that will finally suffer in the fires of hell will suffer in bodily form. These verses say nothing about one's soul, or some immaterial bit of protoplasm being cast into the fires of damnation. Rather, we here are told that it is better to enter into life maimed, than to go into the fires of hell with two hands.

And to show that the conclusion at which we have arrived is correct, let me quote Matthew 5:30: "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Jesus here makes plain the fact that individuals will ultimately suffer the fate of the impenitent in the fires of hell; they will be cast in in bodily

taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." This verse of Scripture states that the wicked will be cast alive into a lake of fire. We have discovered that the punishment of the wicked will be heaped upon individuals in bodily form, and now this text makes obvious the fact that those who suffer this punishment will not be dead, but will be very much alive when cast into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Away then with the idea that hell will be filled with the souls of the dead. Away with the idea that hell will be a place where dead bodies will be piled up and burned much as trash or dead wood might be consumed. If we are to believe the Bible and these plain

There is always a day of punishment for misdeeds, and according to the Bible, God is reserving "the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Peter 2:9.

it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13:40-42. Notice what this text says—"So shall it be in the end of this world." The angels will be sent to gather out all them which do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire. This obviously is describing the ultimate fate of



the wicked in the burning fires of hell.

And notice when Jesus says it will take place. Not at death, not before the second advent, but rather it will take place at the end of this world after Jesus Christ has come again to receive His loved ones unto Himself. Then it will be, according to Jesus, that angels of God will gather out them which do iniquity, and cast them into a furnace of fire. Jesus makes this same fact plain in Matthew 25: 31-41. "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left." Verses 31-33. Then, the Record says, He directs those on His right hand into the everlasting joys of heaven. But it adds, "Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Verse 41. Jesus once more makes plain the fact that it will be at the time of the second coming of Jesus, and in the period which follows it, that He will separate the good from the bad.

Jesus further stated that the wicked do not go into the hell-fire until the day of judgment at the last day. "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12: 48. Through the apostle Peter God spoke these words regarding the time of the punishment of the wicked: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Peter 2: 9. The wicked, then, are not to be punished at death. They rather are to be punished at the day of judgment, at the last day after the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Now just think a bit about this, and see how reasonable the Bible's teachings on hell-fire are, and how unreasonable man-made inventions on this subject are. Do you find it at all reasonable to imagine God consigning a man to the fires of hell at the time of his death, and there letting him suffer for hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of years until the second coming of Jesus Christ, and then bringing him out and placing him on trial to discover whether or not he really deserved to go to hell or heaven? What would you think of a court of law here in the United States of America that would permit a man to serve twenty years of hard labor in a federal peni-

(Continued on page 18)

The Soul's Great Need Supplied in Christ

He Will Satisfy

AFTER the first fierce day of the battle of Fredericksburg, in Virginia, hundreds of Union soldiers lay wounded and bleeding. All through the night and most of the next day, artillery fire prevented their relief. Yet all that time their agonized cries went up, "Water! water!" At last, however, a noble Southern soldier, a sergeant, Richard Kirkland, rose above his love of life, and hastening to General Kershaw said, "General, I can't stand this any longer! Those poor souls out there have been praying and crying all night and all day, and it's more than I can bear! I ask your permission to go and give them water."

"But do you know," said the general, "that as soon as you show yourself to the enemy you will be shot?"

"Yes, sir, I know it," he answered, "but to carry a little comfort to those poor dying men, I'm willing to run the risk!"

The general hesitated, but finally said, as his heart was touched with sympathy over the suffering soldiers, "Kirkland, it's sending you to your death, but I cannot oppose such a motive as yours. For the sake of it I hope God will protect you. Go."

So the brave soldier, furnished with a supply of water, stepped over the stone rampart and began his work of Christ-like mercy. Wondering eyes beheld him as he knelt by the nearest sufferer, tenderly raised his head, and held the refreshing cup to his parched lips. Every soldier in the Union line understood the tender mission of the man in gray, and not a shot was fired. For over an hour one after another of the wounded and the dying was given refreshing drink, had his cramped or mangled limbs straightened, his head cushioned on his knapsack, and was covered with his coat or blanket as tenderly as though by his own mother.

So also is it on life's great battlefield, where souls are wounded and dying from the fearful effects of sin. They are thirsty for the water of life, with none to reach out to them the refreshing draft



The water of life that Christ offered to the Samaritan woman at the well is freely offered to all who will partake of it.

they so crave, except the One who stepped over the ramparts of heaven and came down to risk His all on the cross of Calvary to rescue them from their sins by giving to them the water of everlasting life. So how true are the words to be claimed by every thirsty one for himself:

"There was One who was willing to die in my stead,

That a soul so unworthy might live,
And the path to the cross He was willing to tread,

All the sins of my life to forgive."

With what tender assurance Jesus does indeed give the water of life to every thirsty, appealing one, as truly as He

said to the woman at the well in Samaria: "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14. With longing heart He said also, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to

(Continued on page 17)

NEVER BEFORE have Protestant church leaders been so determined to achieve some form of church union. They believe that the times demand that something more than usual be done without delay. The present world crisis has greatly accelerated this movement. When Christian leaders hear statesmen declare that we must have one world or perish, they hang their heads in shame as they think of the divided state of the church.

E. Stanley Jones in his recent whirl-

seen a great multiplication of Christian sects it has witnessed an acceleration of the movement for church union. Today in almost every country of the world where different Protestant communions exist there are federations of churches, or national church councils. A world council of churches has been organized and its first assembly will be held in Holland in August, 1948. One hundred twenty-four different communions in thirty-nine countries have joined the World Council of Churches.

bodies numbering just about ninety.

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam on the occasion of his being elected to the presidency of the Federal Council of Churches in 1944 declared, "Some day, please God, there will be one Church of Christ throughout the earth. I am convinced that the day draws nearer with each act of co-operation, each hour of common worship, each day of fellowship."

In a speech in 1947 he said, "I believe that union of the larger Protestant de-

The Growing Demand for

Would Union Bring Peace or Persecution?

wind campaign for one Christian church in America said, "A world seeking unity, knowing that it must find it or perish, will pay only marginal heed to a church unable or unwilling to show the way to unity."

Harry Emerson Fosdick, leading Presbyterian churchman, wrote recently in the *Ladies' Home Journal*, "The world is certainly in a mess, and whether or not we like to face the fact, religion helps to make it so. It is not simply aggressive nationalism, imperialism, militarism, racial prejudice and all the other ungodly forces that divide us, but religion too."

A leading clergyman of the Episcopal church, Bernard Iddings Bell, wrote in the *Atlantic Monthly*, "It is little short of tragedy that when those who are disillusioned about the future of man and the permanence of civilization decide to turn for illumination and strength to the religion of their fathers, the religion centered in Jesus, so many of them get the impression that Christianity speaks not as a serene mother of souls but rather as a quarrelsome sewing circle."

Such words as these sink deep into the hearts of those who bear in mind the prayer of Christ for the oneness of His disciples. Today Christians are divided into more than 250 separate communions and there seems to be no end to the dividing and the sub-dividing of the so-called Christian church. It is not surprising that church leaders are alarmed and wonder how the church can be a help to a chaotic world. Instead of the church speaking with one voice it sounds more like the confusion of Babel.

While the past hundred years have

In the United States for some years there have been seven inter-denominational agencies which have handled certain co-operative activities, such as: The Council of the Church Boards of Education, The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, The Foreign Missions Conference of North America, The Home Missions Council of North America, The International Council of Religious Education, The Missionary Education Movement, The United Stewardship Council. A plan

By Frederick Lee

now being considered and which will no doubt soon be put in operation is to merge all these agencies in one all-inclusive council which will be called "The North American Council of Churches of Christ."

Even closer union than such a council as this is being sought, and invitations are going to all leading churches to gather in a plenary conference in 1948 to consider "closer unity," that is, more organic than "the federation of autonomous denominations."

Recent years have seen many mergers of denominations, the most notable one being that of the Methodist Church which brought together many separate bodies of Methodism into one great church consisting of more than eight million members. There have been other organic unions of previously separate

nominations could be consummated within a decade, and that our laity and clergy earnestly desire this union."

E. Stanley Jones during September and October of 1947 conducted a crusade for a united Church of Christ in America. He visited thirty cities in thirty days and spoke specially to the lay members of the denominations affiliated with the Federal Council of Churches. He urged that something be done quickly in the matter of bringing about a united Church of Christ. He wanted to learn what the lay members thought of this live subject. Did they wish a church union? After completing his tour Dr. Jones said that fully ninety per cent of the seventy-five thousand Christian men and women who attended his meeting want some form of church union, and that they feel that something should be done about it without delay.

Dr. Jones emphasized the need of eliminating competition among the churches, and spoke of the great advantage there would be if the Christian peoples of America and of the world could speak to civic and national officials with one voice. He referred to a remark made by former Secretary of State Stettinius at the United Nations conference in San Francisco when delegations from different churches sought interviews with him concerning some provision they wanted placed in the United Nations charter. He said to one delegation, "Why can't you Christians speak with one voice?"

The arguments in behalf of church union sound very plausible. Christ prayed for the unity of His church. The world asks the churches to speak with one voice. Who dares to deny that unity among Christians is one of the greatest needs of the present hour? Church divisions are called a scandal and a sin. We are asked to consider what the church could accomplish if all its energies were concentrated on one great effort to bring about a better world. What a powerful influence would be

posals for church union call for union on a few simple essentials such as belief in God, belief in Christ, belief in brotherhood, and belief in immortality.

Stanley Jones reduces the terms for the fashioning of his proposed great United Church of Christ to one confession, that of Peter who said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." No one would even need to ask a new member just how he regarded Christ to be the Son of God. If he would assent to that statement, as the

Church Union

felt if the forty-three million Protestants of America could say to Congress or to the United Nations, "This is what we want." Other groups such as labor and management, we are told by avid church unionists, tell the legislators what they want. Why should not the Protestants be able as a group to do the same?

In this whole program for church unity the one outstanding incentive is the desire for greater power and influence in the shaping of national and world affairs. Those who are the most ardent promoters of church union are the liberal wing of Protestantism, those who believe in what is termed as the social gospel. They believe that through Christian action manifest in the life of the members of the church as well as through legislative reforms the kingdom of God can be established on earth. These men have little use for such doctrines as the blood atonement of Christ and His second coming. They deny much of the teachings of Scripture. They look to reason and to history rather than the literal interpretation of the divine Word for spiritual guidance.

These men are not looking to the judgment of the last days for a renovation of this earth and for the establishment of God's kingdom through a personal appearance of Christ, the Son of God. They believe that by social and political reform they can make a heaven of this earth which will eliminate the need of Christ's personal return.

These sponsors of church unity have so little regard for many Bible doctrines that they speak of them as nonessential fringes of truth that can be discarded as well as not. In fact, many of their pro-

liberals would do with tongue in cheek, he could become a member. Thus the united church would be filled with people believing in the inerrancy of the Scriptures and those who deny it, those who believe in the virgin birth of Christ and those who deny it, those who believe that Sunday is the true day of worship and those who believe that the seventh day is the only sacred day of the week. Dr. Jones tells us that liberals, conservatives, even Roman Catholics if they desire to come in, would be received.

This reveals the desperate end to which the professional unionists have come. Anything will do, just so it can be called union. But this is not union. It is Babylon.

God did not pour out His Spirit upon the early church merely because the members of the church were in one place, but because they were of "one accord." (Acts 2:1.) Church union should not be the aim of Christians but the unity of a common faith. The only way to secure such unity is not by human devisings but by a willingness to submit to the authority of the Bible. When Christ prayed for the unity of the church He said, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." John 17:17.

There are only two ways by which real religious unity can be obtained. One is by the authority of an infallible pope. The other is by the authority of an inerrant Word of God. Protestants do not believe in the first. They rejected it for the authority of the Bible. Now men who reject both are trying to bring to-

(Continued on page 19)

TERSE TOPICS

STRIKES ON BIRTHS AND DEATHS—"From the 15th of May of 1946 to the first of June, nobody knows how many births or deaths there were in France, owing to the fact that during that time the Confederation of Physicians' Syndicates of that country decreed an administrative strike, with the objective that the physicians should be given new automobiles."—*El Centinela*, September, 1947.

POPE'S DAILY ROUTINE—"Each day he [the pope] will arise at 6:30 A. M. and spend the hour between seven and eight o'clock in celebrating mass and praying in his private chapel. His breakfast consists of coffee and milk with one slice of bread or a biscuit. The pope then devotes himself to work until lunch when he generally has a light soup or rice boiled in water, followed by a serving of meat or fish with vegetables, a small slice of bread and a little fruit. Occasionally the mid-day meal is accompanied by a glass of white wine. Following lunch the pope rests for two hours and then works steadily until 8 P. M. when dinner is served. The meal usually consists of egg, vegetables, fruit, and wine. Dinner is over about 9 P. M. and the pontiff immediately returns to work and scarcely ever gets to bed before midnight. Sometimes, when he is working late, the pope calls for a cup of strong black coffee."—*Religious News Service*, August 1, 1947.

CONSCIENCE CASH—A man signing fictitious names has been paying up his taxes in West Virginia on the installment plan. George P. Alderson, Tax Commissioner, states that the money is coming from someone in San Francisco who admits that his signature is a fictitious one. To date, \$1,200 has been received from this man, who says that "the Lord has convicted me."

The Message OF TH

God's

SIX WEARY survivors of a torpedoed ship in the Pacific reached a small uninhabited island in their lifeboat. Here they sought to make life as enjoyable as possible, knowing they might never be rescued. Weeks and months passed by. Not once did they see a ship on the vast ocean. Then one morning early, just after sunrise, one of the party saw a tiny speck on the horizon. Every man became alert. A great bonfire was lighted and smoke signals were sent up into the air. But the speck moved on out of sight.

Disheartened and discouraged, the men settled down in exhaustion to await

to awake. He saw his dreams fulfilled when his eyes beheld the ship, the savior of these lost men.

Today civilization as we know it on this planet is that one speck in all God's universe that is lost. Of all God's inhabited worlds ours is the only one where man has lived in sin and rebellion for six long millenniums. But soon the picture is to be changed. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. We stand on the brink of eternity. We shall soon see our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He

cousin of Jesus was sent of God to proclaim the message of *present truth* that Christ the Saviour of the world had come and would save them from their sins. Certainly we should rejoice that He can save us today from our sins.

If God was so definite in Noah's day in sending a special message to the antediluvians; if He was so specific in sending the message of repentance by John the Baptist in his day; is He not even more interested in sending a message of final warning to the earth today?



The three angels' messages represented in the Bible as being carried in the heavens. Literally, the gospel is being flown through the heavens and wafted over the air by radio. These means of propagating God's message speedily hastening its fulfillment.

Such unrest as that shown here by rioting in Italy calls many honest hearts to long for a message of peace and hope. The "everlasting gospel" satisfies this desire as it speedily goes to the ends of the earth.

their doom. The day passed and night came on. The fire died down but the embers kept burning. During the night the wind came up, and the fire burned brightly again. This time its light was reflected for many miles. Members of the crew of the ship thought they had seen smoke in the direction of the island and hunted all day for the tiny isle in the great Pacific. But now during the night when the flame had been fanned by the wind into a life-saving beacon, the sailors knew they had not been mistaken. Before dawn they anchored near the island. You can imagine the thrill of joy that filled the heart of the first man

is coming in power and great glory as God's Book so fully and frequently testifies.

To prepare men to meet God, a final warning message of love and mercy is being given to all men everywhere. Down through the ages God has given His special message of truth to every group of men who have lived in a strategic period of earth's history. Noah was called of God to preach a message of salvation and of destruction of the earth by a flood of water. John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness crying: "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3: 2. The



THREE ANGELS

Warning to the World

Yes, most assuredly God is sending His final message to us today. We know that Christ will soon return. Prophecies have been and are being fulfilled in the world of science, discovery, and invention. Strikes and labor problems in the industrial field herald the end of all things. The political discord in national and international problems and the upheaval in the religious realm likewise add their testimony to fulfilled and fulfilling prophecy. The stage is rapidly being set for the last great conflict. With these conditions so apparent we must expect to find that God has a special message for mankind in this dark hour and that it is being sent to men everywhere.

In Revelation 14:6-14 we find His last message recorded. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Verses 6, 7. We must remember that

The last warning message is symbolized in Revelation as being carried by angels flying above the earth.

much in the Book of Revelation is symbolic prophecy. The term "angel" is purely a symbol. This message, the "everlasting gospel," is to go to every nation under heaven.

Recall the words of Jesus as He was speaking to His disciples, "And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. God uses human beings to preach His message of truth. He has given to mortal man this privilege and responsibility. This angel which preaches the everlasting gospel, calling men to "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come," represents a body of men or a group of people that God will use to proclaim this particular message to all men.

John the Baptist is spoken of as "the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Isaiah 40: 3. Likewise, in our day, these messages of the three angels of Revelation 14 represent a body of people that God will send to the ends of the earth, preaching this threefold message in these last days prior to Christ's second advent.

The "everlasting gospel" is the "power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Romans 1:16. It is not a new doctrine but the same truth of saving grace proclaimed to seekers after truth in every generation. The message of the three angels is the last phase of the "everlasting gospel."

Turning to Revelation 14: 8 we read the message of the second angel: "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

This second angel announces the fall of the great false religious system called "Babylon."

The origin of the term "Babylon" goes back to the days of the tower of Babel. When God confounded the plans of evil men, the result was confusion. (See Genesis 11:1-9.) In "Babylon," or the apostate religious systems, confusion abounds. False teachings of God's great pillars of truth in His Word, set forth as "truth" have confused millions, and have undermined their faith, leaving them spiritually in a state of confusion, or as the second angel calls it, "Babylon."

In Revelation 18:1-4 we find another angel joining the second angel, saying, "Come out of her, My people." God is giving His message today and calling

His true followers scattered everywhere throughout "Babylon"—the great ecclesiastical system, the false religious body—to come out of her, to accept Christ and His final message of salvation and be saved.

After this we read, "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb." Revelation 14: 9, 10.

This third message pleads with men not to receive the mark of the beast, for those who receive the mark of the beast cannot be saved, they cannot be God's

(Continued on page 17)





Drought is Cutting U. S. Food Supply

A SHORT CORN CROP in 1947 is to be followed by a short winter-wheat crop in 1948. Severe drought in the big growing areas of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska has already cut our contemplated wheat yield as much as 500,000,000 bushels. For a world dependent on the United States for food, the outlook is bad.

The weather has been uniformly good for the past seven years, but recently it has taken a turn that bodes no good. The abundance of food in this country on which the world has come to depend, is on the verge of ending. The hungry peoples of other lands will feel the effects of this before the year is out. The people of America will also feel the pinch, unless there is a decided change for the better. There will have to be a reduction in the feeding of cattle that will finally result in much less meat for consumption. There will be telling effects on wheat products.

ages could well-nigh be disastrous. We must realistically face the facts and admit that such could occur. Some have gone so far as to mention the possibility of another big dust bowl.

When Christ spoke of the signs of His coming and of the end of the world, He said, "And there shall be famines." Matthew 24: 7. The prophet Joel reveals something of the conditions that will prevail when the day of the Lord is at hand as follows: "Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Is not the meat cut off before our eyes. . . . The seed is rotten under their clods, the barns are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered." Joel 1:15-17. This striking revelation of what is to come continues in the following language: "Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; . . . for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished." Verse 11.

It seems evident from these prophetic words that famine will be widespread



President Truman Urges Systematic Giving

PRESIDENT TRUMAN issued a statement to the recent conference of the National Stewardship Institute of the Golden Rule Foundation urging systematic sharing of income with religious, educational, and character building organizations. He stated that contributions to church and charity institutions dependent on voluntary support had dropped from 5.3 per cent of income in 1932 to the present level of 1.6 per cent of income.

The president said that "we cannot hope to be worthy of the continued blessing of Providence if our prosperity is used selfishly for our own personal gratification."—*The New York Times*, November 17, 1947. The president also noted that "regular tax payments through withholding provisions had given 40,000,000 wage earners an 'ease in payment' of exactions running to two, three, and more times that of the Biblical tithe."—*Ibid.*



The preparation of Turkey's army for any eventuality characterizes the unrest that permeates the world, and particularly the Near East.



This huge scroll, containing 200,000 American names pledging loyal support for peace, was recently presented to the United Nations.

With the grain belt of the United States holding the key to the world's food supply, tremendous interest will be attracted to it in the months ahead. A prolonged drought could bring severe government controls back that would probably be more drastic than those imposed during the war. A major crop failure in this day of critical food short-

over the world prior to the return of Christ. However, the Lord does not leave His faithful children without hope for these dark hours. He assures the Christian that "bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." Isaiah 33:16. Thank God for the Fatherly love that prompts Him to comfort His flock with the promise of sustenance!

The president struck a note of truth when he referred to the use of prosperity for selfish gratification. Great sums of money are being spent for liquor, jewelry, tobacco, shows, night-clubs, cosmetics, and personal luxuries. Very little is being donated, comparatively speaking, for the propagation of the gospel. Not even the one tenth that



The starting of the Friendship Train in Hollywood, California, marked the beginning of a magnanimous project.

THE FRIENDSHIP TRAIN

THE CHARITABLE spirit of America was wonderfully shown in the Friendship Train project. Thousands of the citizens of this great nation responded wholeheartedly to the appeal for food to feed the hungry ones of Europe. The train started on the West Coast with eight carloads of food and the number of cars increased to about three hundred by the time it reached the East Coast. Spirited drives were put on in the various states to gain the support of the people in making the Friendship Train a success. The response should prove that America is truly a charitable nation. And now some are suggesting Friendship Ships.

It is good for us to do things like this. It helps to develop the spirit of unselfishness. Furthermore, it establishes the good will of the unfortunate inhabitants of other lands. It is the sort of thing that aids in creating the spirit of peace. Even the unfriendly nations cannot long dislike us if we try to mollify their wounds.

Unquestionably Americans want

peace, and the best way to convince the world that we are sincere in this desire is to reach out a helping hand to those countries left destitute by the war. The Friendship Train is convincing evidence. It represents the people of America. It is not a government loan or gift, but a spontaneous response directly from the people of this country. Count Carlo Sforza, Italian Foreign Minister, made a radio address stating that the Friendship Train touring the United States showed the world that "there are no frontiers for charity and human solidarity." "We must tell you," the Foreign Minister said, "that the charming idea of the Friendship Train has particularly touched our hearts here in Italy."—*The New York Times*, November 17, 1947.

Suspicion, jealousy, and prejudice cannot long endure against acts of kindness. Every intelligent person knows that the way to win an unfriendly neighbor is to heap kindnesses on him. God's Word is very clear on this point when it says, "If

thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee." Proverbs 25: 21, 22.

Yes, Americans want friendship and peace. This was clearly demonstrated recently when a huge scroll more than half a mile in length bearing 200,000 names of citizens of this country was presented to the U. N. pledging support for peace. (See the picture on the opposite page.) But it seems that this desired peace will not be established through the efforts of the diplomats. The leaders of the nations seem unable to come to any understanding. We hear of nothing but quarrels in the peace conferences. Perhaps the only way to gain the end that we seek is through the common man. Friendship trains and ships carrying food and clothing to the millions of people in desperate circumstances will speak much louder than the speeches of the statesmen. Many poor people can understand the spirit of brotherly love when it is demonstrated in a practical way. Such action on the part of the American people will silence the propaganda against us, and will go a long way toward the establishment of peace.

America must continue to demonstrate to the world that her people are moved by a Christian spirit. We must not hear our people uttering murderous remarks against Germans, Japanese, Russians, or anyone else. Mistakes have been made it is true, but peace will never come as long as hatred exists in our hearts. If we are followers of Christ, we do well to heed His instruction: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven. . . . For if ye love them which love you,

(Continued on page 18)

God claims as His own is given to Him. The Commerce Department reports that Americans spent more last year for liquor than any previous year. The total liquor bill (1946) was \$8,700,000,000—almost one billion more than the year before.

Is it any wonder that God charges that "ye have robbed Me"? But many

will bristle up and ask, "Wherein have we robbed Thee?" The answer comes back from God: "In tithes and offerings." Malachi 3: 8. Then the worst thing that could ever be pronounced against man is declared by God: "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation." Verse 9. Nothing could

be worse than the curse of God. In this troublous hour of human history we can ill afford to be cursed by Him. Therefore, President Truman gave counsel that we all should heed, and we should be faithful in systematic giving to the cause of God. "For God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9: 7.

HERE EXISTS an intimate relation between what men eat and what they drink. This was recognized by the poor inebriate who, when admonished by Dr. Lauder Brunton of England to "straighten up and be a man," replied, "You good people have much to say about my drink, but you have nothing to say about my thirst." This poor man recognized that if it were not for the craving he possessed for drink, he would have no difficulty in giving it up. Temperance advocates should be able to tell the poor inebriates why they possess this craving in order to help them permanently. So general is this craving that a noted minister of the gospel, who himself evidently possessed it, said: "The desire for something stronger than anything found in brook or cistern is a natural one," and then reached the conclusion that, being a natural craving, it would be a wrong interference with personal liberty to deny one the right to satisfy this craving. He, however, took the position that strong alcoholic beverages should be *prohibited*, but the sale of the milder drinks, as beer and wine, should be permitted. It is true that the desire for something stronger than water is general, but it is not a universal desire. Neither is it a natural one.

The saloonkeeper of former days understood that a very intimate relation existed between the foods he served his patrons and his sales at the bar. He did not furnish oranges, grapefruit, peaches, grapes, pears, pineapple, and apples. Why? Because these foods, he knew, instead of creating a thirst for alcoholic beverages, tended to allay the desire for strong drink. The free-lunch table he set out had on it sausages, ham, pigs' feet, pepper, mustard, chowchow, and a

PROHIBITION AND



A wholesome diet of foods that are not highly seasoned and irritating will protect against stimulating a craving for strong drink.

There are those in whom this craving exists, who, because of early training and a good supply of will power, are able to keep away from drink. There are those, however, with weakened wills, who escape just as long as they are unconscious of what they crave. Should they ever take a drink of liquor, this desire would be met. Having made this discovery, in all probability they would resort to this means of allaying it again and again. This explains how the 750,000 chronic alcoholics we have in the United States were made.

the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." Daniel 1: 8. "Let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink," was his request. Verse 12. No drink stronger than water is ever demanded by those who subsist on the food of Daniel's choice. The craving for wine by those who ate of the irritating foods found on the king's table was a cultivated and not a natural craving.

The success of temperance reform lies in food reform, and is therefore practically in the hands of women. Some years ago before a public gathering in

HIGHLY SEASONED FOODS CREATE CRAVING FOR STRONG DRINK

liberal supply of salt, all of which tended to create or intensify the desire for what was furnished at the bar. The most convenient and popular beverage being beer, naturally men resorted to it. The saloonist could not give the scientific reason why he supplied that kind of food, but he knew that to do so was a safe business investment for him.

The sad feature was that many a mother in those days furnished her family with the same kind of food that was furnished by the saloonkeeper. Unconsciously she played into his hands and neutralized her prayers for her husband and boys by the way she fed them.

By D. H. Kress, M. D.

Anciently this relation between food and drink was well understood. The irritating and highly seasoned foods furnished to the princes at the table of Babylon's king were naturally accompanied by wine. But Daniel, who had been brought up on the non-irritating foods furnished by nature, demanded no drink stronger than water. When as a young man and a captive he was commanded to eat at the king's table, he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself *with the portion of*

England, Staff Captain Hudson, who was then the matron of South Newington Inebriates Home for Women, in relating her own experience and that of the inmates of her home after the adoption of a meatless diet, said:

"I have been asked to come here to say a few words as to the result of having adopted a special diet in our Home for Female Inebriates.

"Speaking generally, the benefits are incalculable and cannot be done justice to in fifteen minutes.

"About three years ago I was induced by Mrs. Booth to try this diet.

"Let me say here that I had been

working in the Home for four years previous to this, with the usual mixed diet—joints, bacon, salt fish, pickles, pepper, mustard, oysters, and vinegar, etc.—and that I was very skeptical about this new idea.

"Since that time one hundred and ten women of all shades of society have passed through the Home. Two thirds of these have been (so far as the drink and drug habit are concerned) the worst possible cases, the majority of ages being from forty to sixty, most of them habitual drunkards of ten, fifteen, and even twenty-five years' standing: some so bad that other Homes would not receive them!

"There were those suffering from delirium tremens; there were morphia maniacs, having periods of fierce craving for the drug, at times amounting to madness!

"Others were so unnerved, and such physical wrecks, that I felt doubtful as to what would happen as a consequence of giving them this diet. You will agree with me that I had a variety of material to work upon. Now for results!

"Both myself and the other workers were quickly convinced that we had taken a right step. We found that the strain and anxiety about our work gave place to a much more restful and peaceful state of mind; also that we could think and sleep better. This was a great gain for us, especially for myself, since I was beginning to find the work very trying. Some of us had suffered from severe headaches, which gradually disappeared. This was splendid!

"We also found less need for medicine, and that was a new idea for me, swearing by the doctors as I had done all my life, entirely due to my bringing up and my nursing work. So much for us!

"But what was taking place with us, was rapidly developing in the inmates, only their sad condition made the change much more marked. Lazy, vicious, bloated, gluttonous, bad-tempered women, heavy with years of soaking; whose bodies exhaled impurities of every description, who had hitherto needed weeks and even months of nursing and watching, to my astonishment and delight, under this new treatment, made rapid recovery, assuming a fairly normal condition in about ten days or a fortnight.

"Mrs. W., who had been drinking hard for sixteen weeks—twenty-five years a drunkard—came to us on a Thursday and was up and about on Monday!

"Within four months we had practically abolished the meat diet! The people, as a whole, are much happier. We do not have violent outbreaks of temper

as we used to; they are more contented, more easily pleased, more amenable to discipline. One serious difficulty with them has been their variable moods, in consequence of the terrible depression from which they suffer. We have now much less of this than ever before. The general health of all is an increasing wonder to me."

The significance of the reply given by the poor drunkard who was admonished to give up drink and be a man—"You good people are constantly talking about my drink, but have nothing to say about my thirst," already referred to—may be better understood by reading this as related by Captain Hudson.

There can be no doubt that the free use of meat and condiments tends to create the thirst experienced by the chronic alcoholic. All flesh-eaters possess this craving to some degree. All do not satisfy it by resorting to alcoholic beverages, either because they recognize the evils that might result from their use, or because of the public prejudice that exists against the use of alcohol.

Dr. Lauder Brunton of England recognized this when he said, "I believe that schools of cookery for the wives of work-

ing men in this country would do more to abolish drinking habits than any number of teetotal temperance societies."

It is a fact that the free use of oranges, lemons, peaches, and other juicy fruits will in time destroy all desire for alcohol and other narcotics. That it is the Creator's design for man to subsist largely upon fruits and other natural foods may be seen by the fact that He placed man originally, where he should have remained, *in a garden*. He surrounded him with trees pleasant to the sight and good for food, and said, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." Genesis 2:16. Had man always adhered to this original diet and eaten freely of fruits, there would exist no craving for alcoholic beverages or other narcotics, and there would be no need for temperance rallies. Many who would not be guilty of placing on their tables wine or beer or liquor of any kind will load their tables with food which creates such a thirst for drink that to resist the temptation is almost impossible.

There can be no doubt but that wrong habits of eating prepare the way for drunkenness. We can better under-

(Continued on page 19)

What Is Your
HEALTH PROBLEM?

The answers to health questions are supplied to the readers of OUR TIMES by Owen S. Parratt, M. D. Address your queries to him in care of this magazine.

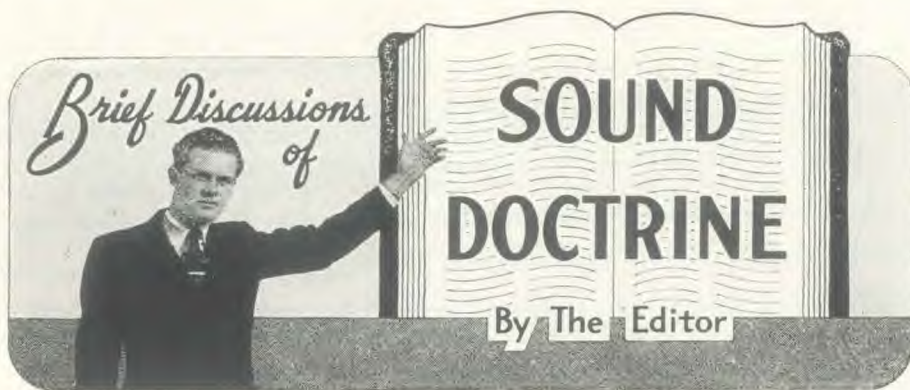
What is asthma, and what is the cause?
—M.E.

Asthma is considered to be a nervous disease, and some type of allergy is thought to be a provoking cause. In true asthma it is more difficult to get the air out of the lungs than to take it into the lungs. All the factors that are involved are not clearly known, but strangely enough two persons with this disease may change to each other's climate, and both may recover or improve. Generally a higher altitude and one free from smog and dust is best. Skin tests to find the provoking factor may sometimes result in brilliant results, but in most cases the results are disappointing; for when all discovered allergic factors are removed from the diet, or pollens, etc., are avoided, the patient may still suffer about as much as ever. It has been observed that common factors which tend to precipitate an attack are nerve strain, worry, fatigue, and the eating of heavy foods, especially at night. The first and most important thing to do is to build up the patient's general physical state by the most careful hygienic habits possible, such as a diet of light, easily digested foods, attention to the bowels, plenty of sleep, sun bathing when possible, freedom from undue nerve strain and excitement. Asthma remedies as a rule contain some form of mild

sedatives which in most cases are light doses of sleeping medicines. Specific medicines which may give temporary relief are injections of Adrenalin or ephedrine or aminophylline. Severe asthma in a little child is a most distressing condition in which attention to bowels and other measures should not be neglected. Often persons with this trouble may so build up the general health as to go for years without symptoms and may even entirely recover from any attacks.

What are the symptoms of typhoid?—R.J.

Typhoid fever may be a little difficult to diagnose in the first few days. However, this disease may be easily suspected as it is accompanied by much prostration and weakness with marked gastro-intestinal symptoms of coated tongue, fetid breath, and lack of appetite. It runs a protracted course, which gives time for study of the symptoms. The final diagnosis is made by means of a Widal test in which the patient's blood shows an antagonism to the typhoid germs and agglutinates them even when in great dilution, which means that it causes them to form in clusters and stop their motion. This blood test cannot be made until a week or more has elapsed, but is diagnostic except in cases where the patient has already had immunizing shots.



HOW MUCH of the Bible is true? How much is of value and importance today? These questions are raised by many. The answer is brief and unequivocal. All of it is true, and all of it is valuable and important today. The Bible claims infallibility, and if that claim can be controverted with proof to the contrary, let such proof be produced by its adversaries. Thus far none has been brought forth that can be sustained. The Bible claims that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16. Yet there are some who even take the name of Christian who do not accept all the Bible. Some consider the Old Testament to be unreliable. There are those who pride themselves that they believe only the New Testament. There are some self-styled New Testament Christians. Either the entire Bible is true and inspired of God or else it is an unreliable book containing fraudulent claims.

If we cast aside the Old Testament, we discard all the valuable prophecies pertaining to Christ and His death and resurrection. We also lose many outstanding prophecies that are yet unfulfilled, such as those of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. Really, it is impossible to properly understand the New Testament if it is not studied in the light of the Old.

"The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

"The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed.

"The Old Testament is the New Testament contained.

"The New Testament is the Old Testament explained."

The prophets of the Old Testament were just as inspired in their writing as were the prophets of the New. One New Testament writer says that "the prophecy came not in old time [Old Testament times] by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were

moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21. Their prophecies were not self-made concoctions, but revelations received and written under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

Some skeptics attack the Old Testament account of creation as unfounded and unreliable. This is one point of the Bible that has been viciously attacked. The theories of evolution propounded by Darwin and Wallace have been set forth in direct opposition to God's Word. A worthy defense of the creation story was made by a noted lawyer sometime ago in these words: "After many years' investigation of the philosophy of evolution, an investigation carried on in full sympathy with the widest application of that captivating theory, I have yet to see proof of a single fact showing, or tending to show, the operation of the so-called 'law' or 'principle' of evolution in the world of Nature. No instance has ever been found of a living thing of one species coming from ancestors of another species; and there is not the slightest ground for the belief that such a thing ever happened. On the other hand, every one of the countless billions of reproductions of living creatures—the grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit—which occur every year, are in accordance with the divine command recorded in the first chapter of Genesis. Oak trees have never betrayed the slightest tendency to produce any fruit but acorns, nor acorns to produce any trees but oaks. The theory of organic evolution, promulgated by Darwin and Wallace, has nothing to commend it except that it offers an alternative to the acceptance of the account of the origin of species given in the Bible."—*The Fundamentals*, Vol. 5, p. 45. It takes much less faith to believe the Bible story of creation than it does to accept the theories of the evolutionists. One has to exercise quite a stretch of the imagination to accept the origin of the species and the survival of the fittest as taught by Darwin and

others. How much more sensible and safe to accept a "thus saith the Lord" as revealed in the divinely inspired Word!

If the Bible contains accounts that are false, then it is a book of lies and completely unreliable for anyone to give consideration to. If the creation story is fiction and not fact, and we have evolved from monkeys instead of being created by God in His own image, then we are of all men most miserable. If the foundation truths are unreliable, then how can we believe in a life after death, in the eternal home of the saved, and other outstanding doctrines related in the later chapters of the Scriptures? What hope would we have for the future?

It is firmly believed by the writer that the Bible is all true, from cover to cover. It is believed that as all of its prophecies of the past have been fulfilled, so will the prophecies of the future be fulfilled just as they are written. Thank God for the hope that is in the true Christian's heart! God's guidebook clearly promises a second coming of Christ to claim His own, a great resurrection day, immortality, and an eternal home in a paradise of glory. How sad that some do not accept these blessed promises, but place their hopes in the unreliable, confusing, and passing theories of men who are thought to be wise. But "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." 1 Corinthians 3:19. Those who join this class of skeptics have no hope whatever. The only safe thing is to believe all God's word to be true, divinely inspired, and absolutely reliable from beginning to end.

Are You Ready for the New Day?

(Continued from page 2)

it might just break a tooth, but that would ruin the whole saw. Then, too, if the teeth were dull, the edges of the boards would not be smooth and clean so they would either have to be thrown out or cut over again with considerable waste."

Ever afterward when I heard the rasp of the file or the sound of the hammer on steel ringing through the quiet of twilight, I knew tomorrow would be a good smooth-cutting day.

What kind of a day have you had, my friend? How did you tackle that knot life placed in your way? Did it warp you just a little—twist your soul's fiber—and try your patience beyond what you felt you could endure? Was the work today a little more than you were equal to? Did you become worn

and weary and dulled from the steady grind?

The Great Master Mechanic is ever ready to equip us for a new day. He has provided a workshop full of tools whereby we may be straightened, polished, and sharpened. There is the testing instrument—His law—and the hammers of pain to bring us in line that we may not damage others as well as ourselves, and the filing process to renew the roughened edges, the frayed nerves, or perhaps the irritation of hampered freedom.

Just submitting ourselves to the work of His hands, trusting His infinite wisdom, we become refreshed, renewed, at ease, rested, and ready for more work to be done without grinding effort. In His glorious plan we may make a new and perfect beginning every morning—the past forgotten.

The New Birth and the Moral Law

(Continued from page 5)

sinner the Holy Spirit, who comes into the life, and there writes the moral law, the law of righteousness, in the Christian's heart and mind. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4: 6. The psalmist said: "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of Thy righteous judgments endureth forever." Psalm 119:160. So David could say: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19: 7. With this high esteem and correct understanding of the moral law Paul wrote to the Roman church: "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Romans 7:12.

To experience the new birth is to experience the impartation of the Holy Spirit. The imparted Spirit in the new covenant relationship writes the moral law in the heart and mind, and frees the sinner from the yoke of bondage. (Galatians 5:1.) What is the yoke of bondage? Read Galatians 5:19-21. Can the law deliver you from such bondage? Never. If one could succeed in nailing the moral law to the cross would that deliver one from such bondage? Never. Who then can save a sinner from the chains of sin? Christ only. How does He save the sinner? By His atoning blood, and regeneration. What is regeneration? It is the incoming of the Spirit who writes the law in the forgiven sinner's heart, and then lets the fruit of the law produce a character in harmony with the righteousness of the law.

Is the law, then, against the sinner? No, it is a spiritual seed, that when planted in the human heart and nurtured by the Holy Spirit produces fruit after its kind. And what are the fruits of the law written in the heart? "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Verses 22, 23.

It is useless to talk about the new birth or the new covenant if we are in bondage to the sins listed in verses 19-21. But if the fruits of the Spirit are grow-

Help Him Walk Again



He trusts you to help him walk again. This walker and his teacher are made available to him through your purchase of Easter Seals from Tennessee Society For Crippled Children, Inc., Headquarters Office; 216 Vendome Building, Nashville 3, Tennessee. Easter Seals support this and other special services for crippled children.

ing in your life from the implanted moral law, then you are free from the "yoke of bondage" of which Paul speaks in the first verse of this chapter.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6: 7. Jesus was careful to point out this great truth for us in His sermon on the Mount: "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord,

Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father." Matthew 7: 21. "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:10.

We need to know that the fruits of the Spirit, which every one so fully admires in the Christian's life, do not grow in a vacuum. They cannot be produced until the law has been written in the heart by the Spirit. The first miracle of the new birth is the writing of the law in the heart; the second miracle is the glory of a fruitful life in whose character the fruits of the Spirit are manifest. If one wishes to make the picture concrete and personal rather than theological, one needs only to look at the indescribable glory of Jesus' life. Of Him it is said: "Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me. I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40: 7, 8.

The Soul's Great Need

(Continued from page 7)

drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water." Verse 10. So with great definiteness the Saviour pleadingly calls: "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." John 7: 37. And over every responding one who comes to Him and presents his great need to be abundantly supplied, He bends with unspeakable, compassionate love as He bestows the heavenly gift of the water of everlasting life in overflowing, refreshing fullness, bending lower still to hear the faintest, weakest cry of those ready to perish:

"I need Thee, O I need Thee!
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Saviour!
I come to Thee."

The Message of the Three Angels

(Continued from page 11)

people. Who are God's people? Verse 12 describes them: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

What a glorious tribute to have said of you by Christ, "You are one of My disciples because you have kept My commandments." Those who will be saved are spoken of as a "patient" people. It does take a lot of God's grace to be patient these days, to keep the tongue bridled and to hold tempers down. But it is worth the struggle. It will even-

tually reward you with an everlasting crown of eternal life. The price is so small to pay for so rich a reward. Let us be patient and keep God's commandments. Let us have faith in God.

The most heartening portion of the last message to mankind is found in verse 14: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle." This, the dream of the faithful in every age, will be the completion of all their hopes and expectations. Heartaches, sorrow, sadness, separation, and distress of soul come to an end. At the sight of Jesus a shout of joy will ascend from the hosts of His patience-filled saints, those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.

The picture is complete. The climax of earth's history follows the giving of this earnest, solemn message to men lost in sin. The human race has degenerated and fallen to a very low estate. The greatest citadel of mankind, the home, is fast breaking up. How necessary it is that God should send a message of warning to earth's lost inhabitants to get ready to meet Him. As soon as the last sermon is preached and the last soul has been warned, Christ Himself shall come to gather those who have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice. (Psalm 50: 5.)

There are five special features in this last warning message of the three angels: First, the hour of God's judgment is come; second, the call to worship God as the Creator; third, the fall of Babylon, and the call to come out of her; fourth, the warning not to receive the mark of the beast; fifth, the call to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

If we realize that we are living in God's great judgment hour, worship Him as our true and living God, accept His call to come out of Babylon, receive not the mark of the beast, keep His commandments and have the faith of Jesus, we will certainly meet the mind of God and will be definitely prepared to be among the redeemed when Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, shall come to take His precious jewels to their heavenly home.

God is doing His part for you and me. He gave His Son to die for us that we might have eternal life. He has given His Word to instruct us in righteousness and truth. He is sending His message today, *present truth*, to every creature under heaven. Mercy's door is still open for you and me. Accept Him now and walk in His light.

The Friendship Train

(Continued from page 13)

what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans [sinners] the same?" Matthew 5: 44-46. With this counsel in mind would it not be wise to sponsor many more friendship trains and ships? And can we not be big enough Christians to distribute the food and clothing indiscriminately?

When Will God Punish the Wicked?

(Continued from page 7)

tentiary before he was ever given a trial to discover whether or not he ought to be punished? The sense of fairness and decency which we have within us would cry out against such treatment. Punishment only follows trial. Sentence only follows a time of judgment.

Think, if you will, of the impossibility in God's sight of a situation such as this. Here is Cain who, as far as we know, was the first impenitent sinner to die. If the common conception of the punishment of the wicked were true, Cain would immediately have been placed in the fires of hell six thousand years ago without ever having a time of trial or judgment. Then finally in the latter days of earth's history he would be called out of his six thousand years of punishment and brought up to stand trial and receive sentence. I can picture Cain rebuking such injustice by saying something like, "It is about time you investigate my case to see whether or not I really belonged there."

Such a view of the punishment of the wicked is indeed ridiculous. God surely has no part in anything as unjust as that. The wicked must be punished. There is definitely to be a hell-fire, but it is not burning today. Not one single individual is in the fires of hell at this moment. All are being reserved until the day of judgment to be punished. They will then be punished in bodily form; cast alive into the lake of fire after Jesus has given life to them in the second resurrection.

Let us discuss now the location of hell. There are many ideas abroad in the world as to just where hell is located. Some have thought of it as being a chasm, or a cave located in some uncharted island of the sea. Some have thought it to be located in the very center of the earth, reached only through a deep shaft which pierces the thousands of miles of earth to its core. There are many individuals who don't even bother to discover from God's Word

where hell is located. Now let me make a statement, and I shall proceed to prove it by some verses of Scripture. Hell is nothing more nor less than this earth turned into a great lake of fire. In Proverbs 11: 31 these words are found: "Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner." The wicked and the sinners are to be recompensed, or punished, right here on this earth sometime in the future. Peter makes this point clearer in 2 Peter 3: 7, 10: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. . . . But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Peter tells us that the atmospheric heavens and this earth are being reserved unto fire. He tells us that the elements of this earth shall melt with fervent heat, and that the earth also, and the works therein shall be burned up. This text makes it very obvious that this earth will one day become a lake of fire. Here is another text which helps explain this matter. "And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch." Isaiah 34: 9. The streams of this earth are to be turned into pitch, and the dust and the land are to become molten brimstone and burning pitch.

In the twentieth chapter of Revelation we are given the sequence of events that will lead up to the ultimate destruction and punishment of the wicked. We are told that at the conclusion of the millennium, when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Revelation 20: 7-9. All of the wicked will be resurrected at the conclusion of the thousand years, and Satan will go out to deceive them. He will gather them together to battle against God, and against the children of God. They gather

around the New Jerusalem, the holy city, which has descended out of heaven to this earth. And then while their hands are raised as it were to strike against God, the Bible says fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them. This is hell-fire. This is the ultimate destruction of the wicked. The devil does not tend the fires; he is cast in along with all of those who have followed him. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone." Verse 10.

But God does not desire any soul to be lost in this way. Rather He is desirous that everyone will accept of the salvation which has been so freely offered. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. Why should we choose sin's wages? Let us rather choose God's gift of life. It has been offered to us through the sacrifice of Calvary. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

The way is open; no soul needs to perish. Each one of us can be saved if we will but look to Jesus, and place our hope and faith and trust in Him. May God lead us to this experience.

The Victorious Life

(Continued from page 3)

the will of God. To do so means eternal life with Him; to be disobedient means eternal death and separation from God.

We must be of good courage if we are to meet the battle with self successfully. The Lord God said to Joshua as he made ready to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land, "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord Thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9. When we lose courage, the battle is lost. The psalmist David said, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14. Let us take courage, for the battle is the Lord's. Let us faint not, no matter how hard the battle goes. God has promised us the victory if we follow on.

If we would be victorious in Christ Jesus, we must learn to trust Him. "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." Psalm

37:1-3. We must be full of faith as was Stephen who was faithful unto death. (See Acts 6, 7.) "Faith is the victory . . . that overcomes the world."

Many are good starters but poor finishers. They start out in the Christian pathway full of zeal but soon become discouraged and drop out by the way. Such, unless they repent and start on again, will never reach the spiritual goal. We must persevere in following the will of God. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians admonished, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Ephesians 6:18. The man or woman who is successful in the Christian warfare will be successful because he persevered in doing the will of God, because he persevered in daily praying to God for strength and victory over self, and because he persevered in daily exercising his faith in God and in the daily study of His Holy Word.

The Christian life is a fight. It is a fight against the powers of darkness and all evil. The apostle Paul admonished the young preacher Timothy, "fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art called." 1 Timothy 6:12.

Too many Christians—or rather would-be Christians—have a backbone like a piece of "wet spaghetti." It is easy to follow the crowd. It does not take any backbone to drift down stream with the multitudes. But it takes real courage and backbone to fight victoriously with self in the Christian warfare. If you lack courage and backbone to stand up for Jesus, get down on your knees and pray God for courage in the battle. He will never fail you. You can have victory through Him. Without Jesus we would all lose the battle, but with Him we can obtain the victory.

Let us press on with the determination to be victorious in Christ Jesus. Let us so run that with Paul we can say, "The combat good I have combated, the course I have finished, the faith I have kept."—Literal translation of the Greek, in Berry's *Interlinear New Testament*. There is only one kind of fight to fight, and that is the good fight of faith. There is only one course to run, and that is the path of obedience to God's will. There is only one kind of faith to keep, and that is the faith of Jesus. Then we can say with the same assurance and confidence of the apostle Paul, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day." 2 Timothy 4:8.

The Demand for Church Union

(Continued from page 9)

gether, without authority of any kind, the various divisions of the Christian church. Such an artificial union will not only be fictional, but it will be dangerous. In former days such unions brought about by the will of men and without regard to truth led to persecution and war, not unity and peace. The leaders of the church who are working zealously and sincerely for church union on other than Scriptural grounds do not know where they are headed.

Let us have an honest, unprejudiced study of the Word of God, and a willing spirit to heed all of its divine teachings. If we cannot obtain Christian unity on this basis the whole search for a united church is both futile and deceptive. Let the honest believers in the churches everywhere continue to seek for truth and may the Holy Spirit lead them "into all truth." (John 16:13.) This is where unity must begin. We must first have spiritual unity based on adherence to the faith once delivered to the saints before we can have its outward manifestation in some formal body of believers.

Prohibition and Food Reform

(Continued from page 15)

stand why the word of inspiration was given: "Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags." Proverbs 23:20, 21. And again, "Blessed art thou, O land, when . . . thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!" Ecclesiastes 10:17. Referring to a moral condition existing, similar to what we may observe in our time, the prophet, calling attention to the causes, said, "[They were] slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine," saying, "Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we shall die." Isaiah 22:13.

What men eat usually determines what they drink. The desire for alcoholic beverages is therefore not a natural one, although it may be almost universal. It is a cultivated desire. The craving for beer and wine finds its explanation in the foods that are eaten. Prohibition can never be a permanent success until food reform is associated with it; but until the science of food reform can be taught, prohibition should be enforced for the benefit of those who possess this craving for drink, and lack the ability to resist it.

Termites

There Are Two Kinds

By Elton A. Jones

As termites wreck homes, sin wrecks lives. If this lad had built a fortification in God, he would not have murdered.



WHILE doing some excavating under our home I discovered that some of the posts on which the house rests were being eaten by termites. I am told there are different species and forms of termites, but I have never seen one to recognize it. But I know what they do! That is all I need to know about termites.

I know these insects work from within. They do not swarm over the outside of the post they are devouring; but after they have worked on that post for a while, you can push the blade of a penknife into it very easily, or a nail file if you lack a penknife. Only a shell of the post is there. Pierce that, and all is hollow.

Another thing about termites is that they thrive in the dark. They are not particular *how* dark, but they like darkness. And they like dirt, too. The infested posts were surrounded by heaps of dirt and through tunnels in this they entered the post proper. I set new posts and arranged for light to get to them.

This experience set me to thinking. The termite is a whole lot like sin. Perhaps it would not be quite improper to say that the termite typifies sin. Sin—any sin, not just some kinds—weakens a man's character. So do termites—any termite—weaken posts. Sin bores from within most successfully. Termites ditto. Posts on which they work *look* just like the posts on which they are not at work. But put weight on that post at your peril! A man whose character is weakened by sin may look just like the sound Christian by whose side he stands. You cannot tell from their singing which is afflicted by spiritual termites; one sings as loudly as the other. But when pressure is brought on both; then it is easy to see which is sound. The sin-eaten character compromises, yields, and breaks—it fails. But the other does none of these things. He stands.

Termites enjoy the dark. Ditto sin. Did you ever notice that cocktail "lounges" are usually very dimly lighted? And there are many men who prefer darkness to light "because their deeds are evil." John 3:19.

And the dirt, too? Sure; they are still in harmony. Sin not merely loves "dirt" but much of it starts, like the termite, in "dirt"; the off-color story, the coarse joke with the double meaning. Just *dirt!*

Now the termite is a little "critter" as far as size is concerned. He is downright infinitesimal as compared to an alligator! Just so it is not the "big" sins that catch us "unawares"—not murder, not drunkenness, not debauchery. They follow. The "little" termite-like sins precede and drill out all the character of the man. Then he falls prey to whatever temptation comes along, according to his mood at the moment.

Beware the spiritual termite!

In many places men have made a business of "termite control." And it is a good business: they help home owners preserve and save their homes. But there is a much surer control for the "spiritual termite." David found it—after the "termites" found him—"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11. Have you found it by experience? The divine Termite Control has *never* failed, and it has been operating successfully ever since sin entered the world.

Does it seem to you that the "heart" has been eaten out—that there is nothing left but a shell? There is a remedy even for that. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you." Ezekiel 36:26. This has been done for countless numbers through the ages, and He is just as willing and able to do it for you. The termite control man is useful and helpful; but the spiritual control and the spiritual remedy are even more sure. They *never* fail.

Daily Bible study will help to protect against the boring termites of sin.

