

MAY . . . FIFTEEN CENTS

Our **TIMES**

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS



"CAN SATAN FORETELL THE FUTURE?" (SEE PAGE 6)



HOUR of MERCY

*An Instructive Story from the Battle
of Okinawa*

By Forest Halvorsen

Editor's note: Forest Halvorsen was a jeep driver for the 321st Medical Battalion, 96th Division. This article is based on his personal observation during the battle for Okinawa.

OMINOUS quiet reigned over the battle-scarred hills of Okinawa. The big guns stood silent for the first time in eighty days of bloody fighting. But the end was not yet. Medeera, last village stronghold of the still-defiant Japanese army, lay in the valley directly below the American forces.

To several thousand desperate Japanese the hour of judgment had come. But first there would be one hour of mercy. A lone army tank, equipped with loud-speakers, approached the beleaguered village. From inside the tank a Nisei interpreter spoke to the doomed inhabitants of Medeera. In their own

language they heard the invitation to surrender—and live. Food, clothing, protection—all this would be theirs if they would come out within one hour.

The warning was equally plain. At the end of the hour Medeera would be blown out of existence. Just once the armor-plated messenger circled the village, then turned back toward the American lines.

Over the walls and through the gates came inhabitants of Medeera. In eager haste to live—running, scrambling, stumbling, some feeble and tottering with age, civilians and soldiers—through the rice paddies and up the rocky slope they streamed. As suddenly as it began the rush ended. The rest would stay and fight.

With ruthless certainty the minutes ticked by—the hour was up. Mortars, howitzers, Long Toms—all seemed to belch at once. Seconds later Medeera became a thundering hell. Another hour and the big guns rested once more, but the hour of mercy was gone. Flame-throwing tanks circled the once-defiant village, burning out the last die-hard fanatics. In vain a soldier fled for safety. Machine-gun bullets cut him down.

This sin-cursed earth is the Medeera of God's great universe. Today is the hour of mercy. Tomorrow is the day of judgment.

"Wherefore, . . . today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 3:7, 8.

SPECIAL NOTICE

WE WISH TO GIVE NOTICE that there will be a new and improved OUR TIMES beginning with the July issue. The new OUR TIMES will contain almost twice as many pages as it now does. Many new and interesting features are to be added for the profit and pleasure of the readers. The attractiveness of the magazine will be enhanced by the addition of color throughout its pages.

With the increase in size and attractiveness of this magazine, there will be an advance in the annual subscription rate. The present price of \$1.75 will be raised to \$2.50. Opportunity is given herewith to everyone who wishes to subscribe at the present low rate. The current price will continue through the month of June. Why not take advantage of this opportunity and subscribe before the advanced rate goes into effect?

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FRONT COVER—U. S. D. A. PHOTO BY KNELL

WHENEVER a crisis had arisen in Israel and a great leader had to step in to help God's people out of serious trouble, years before the emergency and need arose God had in preparation a woman to whom he could entrust the birth and early training of such a man. For example, let us consider the prophet Samuel. His conception, birth, and early training are a remarkable tribute to his noble mother, Hannah. Polygamy being common in those days, her husband had another wife. The one had children, while Hannah, the woman whom he loved and especially honored, had no children. She felt this keenly, and because of this we are told "her adversary also provoked her sore." 1 Samuel 1:6, "Therefore she wept, and did not eat." Verse 7.

Hannah was a noble character and a woman of prayer. As was their custom, year by year, they went up to Shiloh to worship. While there, Hannah "was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget Thine handmaid, but wilt give unto Thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the

A Mother's Influence

A Message for Mother's Day

By D. H. Kress, M. D.

Lord all the days of his life." Verses 10, 11. Eli the priest observed her and said, "Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of Him. . . . So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad." Verses 17, 18. She "conceived" and "she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord." Verse 20.

Several years later Hannah brought her son (whom she had inoculated with the principles she lived) to Shiloh, and presenting him to Eli she said: "Oh my

lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: therefore also I have returned him, whom I have obtained by petition, to the Lord; as long as he liveth." Verses 26-28, margin. "And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord." 1 Samuel 2:1. We see from this simple record that when God wanted a man to whom he could trust the sacred work of bringing about a great moral reform in Israel, he first had to find the woman—a *Hannah*—to make such a deliverer possible.

When a John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, was needed to prepare the way for His work, God had to find an *Elizabeth*. Of her it was said, she was "righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" (Luke 1:6), and "*Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.*" Verse 41. It is not much of a surprise to read of the child that was born to her that "he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and *he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*" Verse 15. To this woman, Elizabeth, God was able to entrust the training of the one who was to prepare the way for the coming and ministry of the Messiah, and who would bring about a great reform in Israel.

When a Samson was needed to deliver God's people out of the hands of the Philistines, to make possible this deliverer God had first to search out the woman. The angel of the Lord appeared to this woman and said, "Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore *beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing.*" Judges 13:3, 4. The training of this child began before his birth. The mother's habits during the period of pregnancy had much to do with the

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EWING GALLOWAY

The tender love and understanding guidance that a good Christian mother gives her child is second only to the love of God for His own.

THE BISHOPS, archbishops, and cardinals of the Catholic Church in the United States in a statement issued at the conclusion of their annual meeting in the city of Washington, November 20, 1948, said that "the novel interpretation of the First Amendment adopted by the Supreme Court" on "separation of church and state" has become "the shibboleth of doctrinaire secularism" which "is threatening the religious foundations of our national life and preparing the way for the advent of the omnipotent state."

The two greatest enemies to human freedom and progress in the past have been "the omnipotent state" and "the omnipotent church." The founders of the American Republic had carefully and diligently studied the history of "the omnipotent state" as well as "the omnipotent church," and had observed that nearly every page of the history of these totalitarian and omnipotent in-

An Omnipotent State or an Omnipotent Church

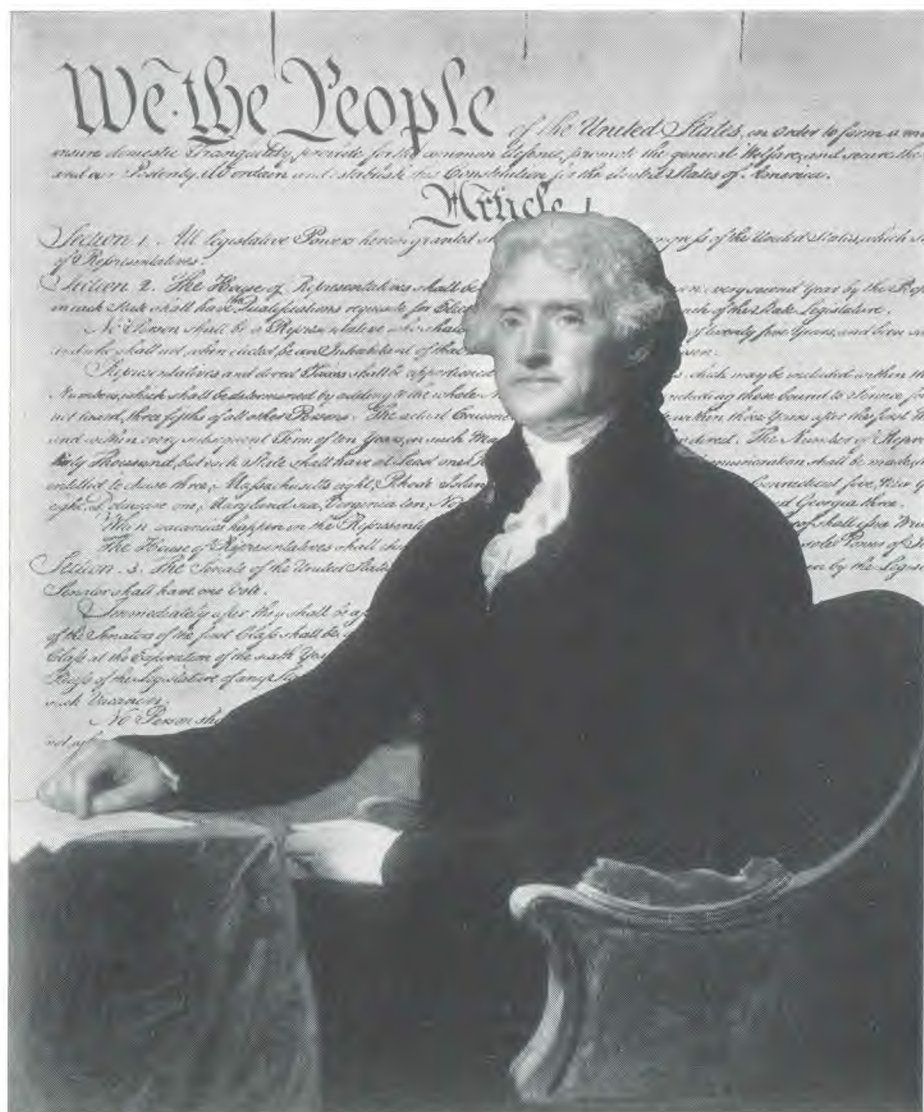
Do Americans Want Either One?

stitutions had been stained with the blood of millions of martyrs and with the most cruel persecutions ever perpetrated upon the human race. The founding fathers decided that the only

remedy to cure such ills was a total and complete separation between the church and the state, with limitations placed upon the powers of the state and upon the powers of an authoritarian church, denying omnipotent powers to both. The reason the framers of the Bill of Rights in the American Constitution adopted the principle of a complete separation of church and state was because they discovered that the only times an "omnipotent state" or an "omnipotent church" came into existence, was under the regime of a union of church and state. Under such a regime the spirit of co-operation was changed to a spirit of rivalry which resulted in one or the other aspiring to the supremacy and the exercise of absolute authority over all things both human and divine, in temporal and spiritual affairs.

So in order to avoid such a contingency arising in America, the Bill of Rights was adopted divorcing religion and the state, placing certain limitations

The godly men who framed the Constitution of the United States wanted neither a super-state nor a superchurch.



By C. S. Longacre

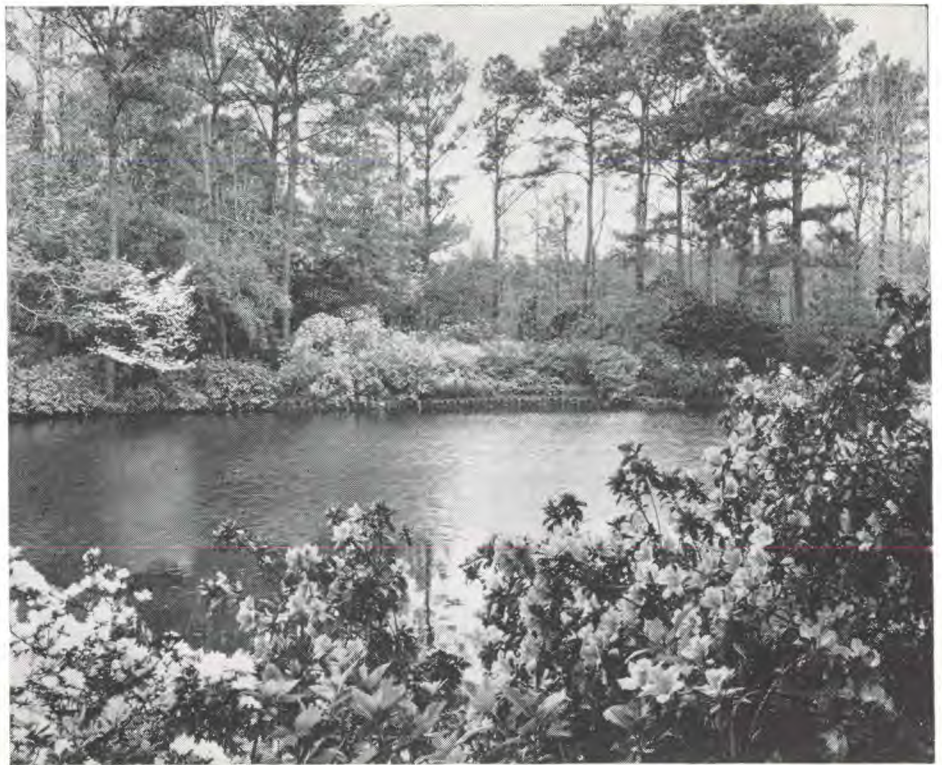
upon the highest lawmaking body so it could not interfere with the conscience of the individual in religious matters, recognizing the equality of all religions before the law, granting special privileges to none, and making the church and the state each free and independent in its own sphere of influence, so neither could exercise omnipotent powers over the other or over the natural and God-given rights of the individual or any minority groups. It was this fundamental principle of government that the Supreme Court, in its decision of the McCollum case in Illinois, upheld by an

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THE REDEEMED will have an eternity of joy—wonderful joy—because of surrounding wonders; because of the marvels of their mansions in their eternal home; because of their songs of highest happiness; because every possible need will be most abundantly supplied; because of the absence of every form of sickness and suffering; because every circumstance of their lives will be most favorable to holy and happy living; because their heavenly Father will lavish upon them the fullness of His joy; and because their loving Saviour will share with them His own everlasting joy.

What an abundance of Bible proof there is for all this heavenly and eternal joy of all the redeemed! The prophet Isaiah makes it stand out clear and plain, in a way that the afflicted of this world can most rejoicingly understand. He declares: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. . . . Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing. . . . No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads." Isaiah 35:1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10.

David declares, "In Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11. Jesus declared concerning those who are reviled and persecuted for His sake, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." Matthew 5:12. Jesus Himself was promised an eternity of joy if He would become the Redeemer, for we read: "Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2. As the redeemed will be "joint-heirs with Christ," we are to share in His eternal joy. (Romans 8:17.) We read concerning God's own wonderful joy over the redeemed at last: "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His



AUTHENTICATED NEWS

The beauties of the Bellingrath Gardens pictured here are a small sample of the magnificent treats awaiting Christ's redeemed.

The Eternal Joy of Christ's Redeemed

The Blessings that Await God's Faithful Children

By John W. Halliday

love, He will joy over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:17. What marvelous joy will thrill the hearts of the saved to all eternity, as they come together in worship before God, who so rejoices over them with song!

What songs God has inspired to express the exceeding joy of the redeemed in the world to come! Let us consider one of them. Sanford F. Bennett conducted a drugstore at Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Joseph P. Webster, his friend had some musical skill. But one day he was depressed, and Bennett asked him, "What is the matter now?"

"It is no matter," he replied. "It will be all right by and by."

In a flash the idea of a song came to Bennett, who exclaimed, "The sweet by and by. Would that not make a good

subject for the composition of a hymn?"

"Maybe it would," returned Webster.

Bennett started writing, and after some minutes handed the verses he had written to Webster. Two friends came in, and all saw a striking change come over Webster, who stepped to the desk and began writing rapidly. Taking up a violin, he played the melody. Next the chorus was finished with all its parts. Soon all four men were singing the song. While they were singing it, another friend came in who, with his heart touched and tears in his eyes, exclaimed, "That hymn is immortal!"

These inspired words have cheered and blessed and comforted untold numbers, and led them to give their lives more fully to God, that they might indeed

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CAN SATAN FORETELL THE FUTURE?

Is He the Power Behind the Mediums?

CAN SATAN forecast coming events? Can a human agent through whom he works make predictions that come true?

Yes, the devil can make short-range forecasts that come to pass with a surprising degree of accuracy. This is one of the means whereby he is able to win and hold many people in deception. Such persons usually think of the knowledge of the future as belonging wholly and exclusively to God; they take it for granted that when the predictions and promises of palm readers, astrologers, spirit mediums, clairvoyants, fortune-tellers, ouija-board operators and others who traffic in the black arts prove true, their prognostications must be of divine origin.

The Holy Scriptures relate an interesting experience in connection with spiritualism. Paul and his band of missionary workers were in Philippi, a leading city of Macedonia. "It came to pass," writes Luke, "as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying; the same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour." Acts 16:16-18.

That young woman was quite successful as a fortune-teller, at least in getting business from the people, for she brought her managers much profit. What was the secret of her success? She was the agent of superhuman power, the medium of an evil spirit, which made her so successful as to win the patronage of many people. She even professed to endorse the work of the Christian missionaries as that of the true God, gave them free advertising, and declared them to be teachers of the way of salvation. Parading under this guise of piety, she was still an agent of the devil and helping to fasten men and women more firmly in his grip.

When King Saul and the army of

By Robert Leo Odom

Israel were about to engage in a decisive battle with the Philistines, he was greatly distressed and felt the need of divine counsel. Because of his persistent disobedience the wicked king could obtain no more instruction from heaven. Samuel, the old prophet who had counseled Saul early in his reign, was dead and buried in Ramah. (1 Samuel 28:1-6.)

In his desperation Saul disguised himself and went under cover of darkness

to a spirit medium at Endor for advice. This woman sought the desired information from "a familiar spirit," an invisible being who professed to befriend her and her patrons. The demon impersonated Samuel, appearing in the form of "an old man . . . covered with a mantle," and even spoke after the manner of the seer. (Verses 7-18.)

In closing his message, the evil spirit made the following prediction concerning the outcome of the impending battle and the fate of Saul:

"Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the



H. M. LAMBERT

The mystic powers of the members of the occult are not inherent in themselves, but the master mind behind it all is the devil.

Philistines: and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the Lord also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines." Verse 19.

Shortly thereafter the army of Israel suffered defeat by the Philistine host. Saul and three of his sons, one of whom was the beloved Jonathan, fell slain in the field of battle. Thus we see that an agent of the devil can make short-range predictions that come true with some degree of accuracy.

The source from which Saul sought counsel in this case was neither of God nor approved by Him, as is attested by the following statement:

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it." 1 Chronicles 10:13.

The Lord had expressly forbidden the practice of the black arts among His people, and for a time King Saul had enforced the divine injunction against them. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 1 Samuel 28:3.) But as a result of his persistent disregard of the light which God had given him, the disobedient monarch finally patronized the very outlandish practice which he formerly had outlawed.

It is not hard to understand how Satan can reveal secret things of the past and even foretell fairly accurately things that are about to happen. Says one well-known writer: "Satan leads men to consult those that have familiar spirits; and by revealing hidden things of the past, he inspires confidence in his power to foretell things to come. By experience gained through the long ages, he can reason from cause to effect, and often forecast, with a degree of accuracy, some of the future events of man's life. Thus he is enabled to deceive the poor, misguided souls, and bring them under his power, and lead them captive at his will."—E. G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 687.

The same author says that such spirits profess to befriend a medium and his enquirers: "Those who have bitterly opposed the truth of God, Satan uses as his mediums. To such he will appear in the assumed person and garb of another, it may be a friend of the medium. He will increase their faith by using the words of this friend, and relating circumstances which are about to take place or which really have taken place, and of which the medium knew nothing. Sometimes previous to a death or an accident, he gives a dream, or, personating another, converses with the medium,

even imparting knowledge by means of his suggestions."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 172.

After his rebellion in heaven, Satan "was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12:7-9.) These devils are still on earth, and have been here ever since Adam and Eve were tempted to sin about 6,000 years ago. They have personally witnessed the happenings of all the long, long history of mankind. Their knowledge of the past is firsthand. The eyes of these evil spirits, invisible to us, have seen the most secret doings of our lives, things which even

the most intimate of our human associates have not known.

Need we, then, be astonished if an agent of the devil should make a startling revelation about a past happening, and it turns out that the occurrence takes place at the time, in the manner, and at the place reported?

After years of observation of climatic conditions, experts have done remarkably well in forecasting the weather a day or two in advance. Having made a close study of certain diseases, medical men can reckon the trend of a case of sickness, and even predict with a degree
(Continued on page 18)



The Master's Touch

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By James Wallace

IT WAS a raw, wintry day. The north wind was cold and blustery along the Thames. The city seemed almost deserted. Down one of the cheerless thoroughfares moved a stooped, poorly clad blind man. In his hand he carried a cheap, cherry-colored violin. With his knotty old fingers, now numb with cold, he attempted to play the instrument. Under the windows of the tenements he lingered, hoping some of the people inside would throw him a coin or two.

Two well-dressed gentlemen happened along, and one of them greeted the blind man. "This is a bad day, friend."

"It is a stormy day," the would-be violinist replied, "and the people will not open their windows."

"Why don't you make them open them? Play so that they will have to listen."

"I would that I could play that well," the aged man replied.

Patting the discouraged musician on the back, one of the gentlemen reached for the violin. "Let me play it," he said.

As he moved the bow gently across the strings, there floated out onto the wintry air music that seemed almost heavenly.

People raised creaking, frost-covered windows and thrust their

heads out to see whence came this wonderful music. Children rushed out of doors to listen. Coins came tinkling down to the street. The gentleman continued his playing, and more coins were thrown to the pavement. The second gentleman picked them up for the blind man.

The blind man asked him, "Who is this playing my old violin? He must be a master."

"A master he is, indeed," came back the answer, "He is Paganini."

What a change had come over the old violin in the hands of the great master! Cheap instrument that it was, the music was touching, moving, entrancing.

You and I may be only ordinary people. We may not look very imposing. Our names may not be in 'Who's Who.' But oh, what music, what blessing, what uplift may come from our lives, if we yield ourselves to the great Master of the universe.

Under the influence of the Master, Peter the fisherman became a great fisher of men. Yielding his life to his Maker, Moses the shepherd became a great deliverer. When Jesus entered Paul's life, the persecutor became one of the greatest evangelists of all time. By the touch of the Master our lives too may be changed.

How Did Sundaykeeping Find Its Way

Is It an Institution of Christ?

By Robert H. Pierson

TODAY most of the Christian world observes Sunday as the weekly day of rest and worship. Jesus, our great Example, kept the seventh day of the week during His earthly ministry. That was "His custom." (Luke 4:16.) His closest followers also rested upon the seventh-day Sabbath even after His death. (Luke 23:54-56.) Years after His resurrection and ascension the disciples of Christ were still keeping the day their Master had taught them to observe through His word. (Acts 18:4; Revelation 1:10.)

How is it then that Sunday, the first day of the week, has found its way into the Christian church?

The word Sunday does not appear at all in the Bible, and, though many Christian people do not realize it, the first day of the week is mentioned but eight times.

How, then, did the sanctity of Sunday arise. Chambers' *Twentieth Century Dictionary* explains that Sunday is so-called "because anciently dedicated to the sun or its worship."

Being acquainted with this fact, Dr. E. T. Hiscox, author of *The Baptist Manual* significantly remarks: "What a pity that it [Sunday] comes branded with the mark of paganism, and christened with the name of the sun god."

The origin of sun worship on the first day of the week goes back over millenniums before the birth of Christ. Just how it arose, we do not precisely know; but very early in the history of the ancient river civilizations of Babylonia and Egypt we find that men had turned from the worship of the true God to the adoration of the sun and other heavenly bodies as well as a multiplicity of other nature deities.

In the construction of the sanctuary by the church in the wilderness, God showed His condemnation of sun worship by having the entrance to the court and to the sanctuary proper placed on the east side so that the priests as they went about their morning ministrations would do so with their backs to the rising sun. In this God wanted to impress upon them that their backs should resolutely be turned upon those who worshiped the creature rather than the Creator.

Yet, despite repeated warnings and



Many people go through religious formalities without ever stopping to find whether they are Biblical or merely traditional.

continued pleadings, the children of Israel, spiritually weakened by their Egyptian bondage, frequently fell away into the abominable practices of Baal worship. They provoked God "to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they Him to anger. They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers

feared not." Deuteronomy 32:16, 17. They "served other gods, and worshiped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded." Deuteronomy 17:3.

Scarcely had the majesty and splendor of Sinai been revealed to them than the children of Israel began building unto themselves a golden calf patterned after the symbol of the sun-god Apis to

to the Christian Church?

which they had learned to bow down in Egypt.

Again in the book of Judges is recorded another turning to Baal on the part of the apostate people: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim: and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger. And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." Judges 2:11-13.

King Ahab's wicked reign may be directly traced to his joining the wicked Jezebel in her worship of Baal: "And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshiped him." 1 Kings 16:31.

About four hundred years later, in the days of Ezekiel the prophet, the spiritual condition of the children of Israel had so degenerated that the priests were actually worshiping the sun in the temple of the Lord: "Then saith He unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshiped the sun toward the east." Ezekiel 8:15, 16.

All through the experience of the children of Israel in Canaan there continued conflict between the followers of Baal and those who sought to serve the living God. Satan used such wicked men as Jeroboam and Ahab, Manasseh and Ahaz, to raise up groves and altars to Baal. On the other hand, God raised up such men as Josiah, Asa, Jehu, Hezekiah, and others, to counteract the influence of their evil predecessors and to keep alive the worship of the living God.

By about seventy years before the birth of Christ, Mithraism, one form of sun worship, had traveled westward and

gained a foothold in Rome. It was adopted by the emperor and the armies of Rome as their religion. Speaking of this idolatry, Dr. Conant says, "Sunday, over which the sun presided, was specially holy."—*Mysteries of Mithra*.

From the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* we learn how the pagan practice of Sunday observance began to influence the Christian church which had spread through the empire: "Sunday (*dies solis* of the Roman calendar 'day of the sun,' because dedicated to the sun), the first day of the week, was adopted by the early Christians as a day of worship. The 'sun' of Latin adoration, they interpreted as the 'Sun of Righteousness'. . . . No regulations for its observance are laid down in the New Testament, nor, indeed, is its observance even enjoined."—Vol. IV, art. "Sunday," p. 2259.

A frank admission from the Roman Catholic Church throws further light on the subject: "In her work of Christianizing the world the [Roman Catholic] church adapts herself as far as possible to her surroundings. She does not reject completely the customs and institutions of a people into whose land she carries the good tidings, but endeavors to bring these institutions into harmony with her own doctrines. . . . So it comes that we find the early writers of the church retaining in substance many of the old heathen myths and legends, changing them only to invest them with Christian atmosphere."—L. N. Leinheuser, M. A., in "Legend of the Phoenix," *The Catholic Education Review*, March, 1921.

From this statement one can easily see how the early fathers of the church permitted the heathen festival Sunday a place in the routine of church life.

The seventh-day Sabbath of the Old and New Testaments is the only day which God has commanded His people to "remember." When we "remember" it week by week, we are honoring the living God.

Sunday, then, has come down to us as a gift from paganism, perpetrated through the "teachings of the Fathers" which opened the gates of the church to a flood of strange doctrine which usurped the plain, "Thus saith the Lord."

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TERSE TOPICS

EITHER WAR OR DEPRESSION—"Even sudden peace could be deflationary—that is, agreement with the Russians would mean less armament and it would be difficult to make the adjustment quickly."—Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, chairman, President's Council of Economic Advisers.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY—"At Asbury Park, N. J., 150 members of Alcoholics Anonymous sponsored a New Year's Eve party with a gala floor show at which coffee was the strongest drink served. They invited all 'problem drinkers' to join them."—*The Christian Century*, January 19, 1949.

LOSING DEMOCRACY BY DEFAULT—"I fear we are losing democracy by default as a result of the relatively light vote in the November election. In 1896, 83 out of every 100 eligible voters went to the polls. In 1948, only 50."—Jennings Randolph, Capital Airlines executive.

LET'S DEFLATE LIQUOR PRESTIGE—"American youth," says Raymond McCarthy, executive secretary of the Yale Plan Clinic on Alcohol, 'has gained the impression that drinking is a mark of success both socially and in business.' He recommends that 'adult advisers to teen-age groups deflate the prestige value of serving liquor at parties.' We advise that the teen-agers who have this erratic idea about drink read and give heed to the Word of God, especially Proverbs 23:29-32."—*Christian Victory*, October, 1948.

PARENTS OBEY—The Duke of Windsor has said: "The thing that impresses me most about America is the way the parents obey their children."—*The Reader's Digest*, January, 1949.

IS CONSCIENCE a safe guide? What about it? The Bible speaks of a *good* conscience. You will find that in 1 Timothy 1:19: "Holding faith, and a good conscience." In 1 Timothy 3:9, we read about a *pure* conscience. A conscience, therefore, can be good and it can be pure, and the texts intimate that it may be otherwise. In fact, we will soon learn that the conscience is not always good, not always pure. That being the case, the conscience would not always be a safe guide.

The conscience may operate on two sides of a question. One may be perfectly sincere in his belief on some doctrine of the Bible, but be entirely out of harmony with the teaching of the Bible. For instance, Christians may have varying conscientious convictions on the question of baptism. One may believe in Bible baptism and another may believe in something else. They may have diverse conscientious convictions on the subject of the Sabbath. One may believe in the first day of the week, another in the seventh day, and still another in no day as the Sabbath. We often find sincere Christians disagreeing upon many subjects. Therefore, conscience cannot be the only guide, nor a safe guide, for the Christian.

To make this clearer still let us turn to Hebrews 10:22. The apostle Paul says: "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an *evil conscience*." This shows that we may have an evil conscience. Certainly we would not want to make an evil conscience the guide of our lives.

In 1 Timothy 4:2, we read about some people who have their "conscience seared" as with "a hot iron." When a hot iron touches the fingers, it sears the skin, and then accurate, delicate feeling in the fingertips is killed. Some people have a conscience like that—it is seared as with a hot iron, and then calloused over, so that they can do wrong things and never feel any compunctions, never feel any prickings of conscience. There are many Christians who can go places and do things out of harmony with God's Word—read bad books, sing jazzy songs, listen to the wrong sort of music, and associate with companions who are not Christians—and their conscience does not accuse them. They can do things that others would feel condemned for doing.

Why do they not have any compunctions? Because they have become so used to doing these things that their conscience does not bother them any more. Their conscience is seared, it is

hardened, it is calloused, as the apostle says.

Turn to Titus now and read about another sort of conscience: "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:15.

From these three texts in which we read of an *evil* conscience, a *seared* conscience, and a *defiled* conscience, it is clear that the conscience is no safe guide, because it may be seared, defiled, or evil.

But even a good conscience may sometimes lead a person astray; that is, a conscience that is desirous of doing right. Why? Because it is uninformed, it is not guided by the Word of God. In Acts 23:1 we read of the experience of Paul. There, before the court, he said: "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

That is the way he was living when he was opposing Christ and persecuting Christians. He was following his conscience; but he was wrong. His knowledge was not correct; he was out of harmony with the teaching of the Word of God. His conscience was desirous of following the right, but he did not know what was right. He thought he did, however. Notice the words of Paul in Acts 24:16: "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men."

He had to work at making sure that his conscience was void of offense toward God and toward man. In 1 Timothy 1:13 we read that he was at one time "a persecutor," but he said that he "did it ignorantly in unbelief." He really thought that he was serving God.

You understand, therefore, that the conscience must be an enlightened conscience—enlightened, educated by God's Word and by the Holy Spirit. The Lord says: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee." Hosea 4:6. The Bible was given so that people might have an enlightened conscience, an educated conscience.

Notice what the Scripture says in 1 Timothy 1:5: "Now the end [or, the object] of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a *good conscience*, and of faith unfeigned."

Why, the very object of God's commandment is that we might have a good, or enlightened, conscience. That is what God wants us to have, and that is why He has given us the Scriptures, so that

the conscience that guides us will be enlightened in harmony with the Word of God. Faith and a good conscience go together.

The conscience is really a monitor to lead us to do what we think is right. Our minds must be enlightened by the

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By H. J.

Speaker for
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Word of God, therefore, so that we shall know what is right and so that we may be led to do right because we follow an enlightened conscience.

God's Word is given in His Book, and God's holy law is the rule of righteousness. The Lord Jesus Christ came

Conscience

Guide?

Hard

"Prophecy"

A Bible conscience, one that is fully in tune with heaven and God, is a safe one to follow.

EVA LUOMA

and lived this law of righteousness perfectly in a human life. It is only when Christ lives in a man's heart that righteousness finds a place in his life. It is only when Jesus Christ comes to a man by faith and guides him that he can live right at all.

As far as a man is concerned, "by the law is the knowledge of sin." Romans 3:20. The law brings him the knowledge of sin and condemns him, and then his conscience continually hurts him. He really has no peace because his conscience is troubled over his sin. Of course, his environment, his education, may have trained his conscience until he can do these things without feeling bad about them. Or, if he does know that they are wrong, he may keep on doing them until at last his conscience becomes seared and he no longer is concerned about his condition.

We are not to be judged by our conscience. We are to be judged by something else entirely. Read these words: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.

Romans 2:12, 16 tells us that men are going to be judged by the law according to the "gospel." Men will not be judged by conscience; they will be judged by God's righteous law as lived in the life of Jesus Christ and revealed in the gospel. Look to the Word of God, and remember that Jesus is the standard of our righteousness. God has revealed to men just what His law requires. Since the Word was made flesh in Christ, we can see just what God's Word is when it is lived out in human life, because Jesus revealed it to us.

No, we shall not be judged by our conscience. In James 2:12 we read that we shall be judged by God's "law of liberty." What, then, do we need? We need to have a pure conscience; our minds must be changed; we must be converted by the mighty power of God. Our only hope is in Christ. Let us read Hebrews 9:14: "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?"

There is our hope. The blood of Christ will purge our conscience. And the apostle Paul says that we are to have a *good* conscience. We can have this good conscience by faith. It will be given to us by the Lord when we turn to Christ with all our hearts. Paul says: "Pray for

us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." Hebrews 13:18. That must be our experience. Then everything we do, all our obedience, will not be in order to be saved, but because we *are* saved—simply the "answer of a good conscience toward God." In fact, Paul uses those very words:

"Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation [or life] in Christ. . . . The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 3:16, 21.

So, friend, conscience is not a safe guide. The conscience must be educated—it must be trained, it must be guided by the Word of God, it must be enlightened by the Holy Spirit. Then it will lead us to obey the truth, to follow God's commandments, to walk in the light of His Word.

How can we get this good conscience? How can we have this changed, illuminated, converted mind? By coming to God in faith—faith in Christ as our Saviour who died for us upon the cross; faith in Christ as our Mediator who pleads for us upon the throne; faith in Christ as our coming King who is to return to this earth in glory and majesty. Through God's grace we may have our conscience purged. We may have a good conscience, a pure conscience, a conscience that is true. And then all that we do, everything that we say, will be the answer of a good conscience toward God.

I have sometimes heard Christians say, when they were talking about some worldly act, "Well, my conscience doesn't hurt me; I can do that." Suppose they can, but what about their example to others?

A tourist was once going through the mountains of Switzerland with a small girl as a guide. She noticed that this child did not leave the track once to pick flowers, but kept straight on. She mentioned this to the child, who said: "We guides never leave the track. We keep it marked for others."

Perhaps we sometimes do things that our conscience may not prick us about, but what about others who are following us? Our influence may lead them astray. May God help us to remember that our conscience must be trained; it must be in harmony with the Word of God. We

(Continued on page 15)



Who Is a War Criminal?

PEOPLE ARE beginning to wonder if it was a good thing to hang the war criminals who were convicted in the trials at Munich and Tokyo. Such trials and hangings have spread to other places until "the National Council for Prevention of War has petitioned the Senate judiciary committee to move to stop the hangings (they are still going on at a rate of about ten a week)."—*The Christian Century*, January 5, 1949.

It seems that there is developing a state of confusion over who is a war criminal. In the German trials a Russian judge sat on the bench. In reality the "aggressions by the nazis only differed in outcome, not in kind, from Soviet aggressions against Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. In Tokyo, a Dutch judge voted hanging sentences for Japanese aggression when Holland was on the eve of one of the most flagrant aggressions in recent history."—*Ibid.* This whole messy business has reached a point where it is hard to tell whether the hangings

are being done in justice or vengeance.

At the moment of this writing, the communist victors in China are claiming that Chiang Kai-Shek and fellow leaders of his government are war criminals. It is beginning to look like the vanquished, regardless of how legitimate their government, or whether they were aggressors or just defending themselves, are doomed to be dubbed war criminals by the victors. We started the war crime idea, but what a boomerang it is getting to be. It looks as if we have invented a Frankenstein monster.

The hanging of so-called war criminals certainly has not made for peace. We are in a greater state of fear and unrest now than we ever were. But we have started something that we cannot stop. If America were defeated in war, though this is very unlikely, we might expect that there would be wholesale hangings of our own governmental leaders from the President on down.

General MacArthur called the executions of the Japanese leaders the most "utterly repugnant" act that he had ever been called on as a soldier to perform.

Winston Churchill has exhorted Parliament to press for an end to war trials and executions. If it can be stopped, it ought to be done now.

We have been shocked to learn that many of the charges upon which the German war criminals were convicted were extracted by United States investigators by means of torture, both physical and mental, that even the Nazi sadists did not surpass. The National Council for Prevention of War is asking the judiciary committee of the Senate to expose these investigators and punish them for abusing their office. The whole story of war-criminal investigation and punishment is becoming more repugnant with time. Again we say, if it can be stopped, it had better be stopped now.

We are living in a world where revenge, retaliation, and a get-even tendency is growing. How can we ever expect world peace and understanding when we refuse to forgive and forget, but let old wounds fester on and on? The Spirit and teachings of Christ are the only hope for us today, yet they go unheeded. Will we ever learn?



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

These people of Berlin carry signs that read: "Become a world citizen for the sake of world peace, . . . for freedom from fear." Christians will someday have world peace when Christ establishes His world government.



Seek Haven for Next War

THE WELL-KNOWN newspaper writer, Roger W. Babson, advises the big-city dwellers to seek farms as havens in the next war. (See *The Nashville Banner*, December 16, 1948.)

Mr. Babson states his reason for such advice as follows: "I am writing for my business friends in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Baltimore, St. Louis, Boston, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D. C. Because when World War III does come, some one or more of these 11 cities will suffer a terrible loss of life."

According to Mr. Babson, those individuals who live in places that are not militarily strategic are "especially fortunate." He believes that business organizations in the big cities would do well to establish emergency plants and living quarters for employees in safe rural locations away from the vulnerable cities. He advises the purchase of old farms for the employees to live in if and when an emergency arises.

The statistical organization that Mr. Babson is connected with has purchased a number of large farms approximately

sixty miles from the present location in Boston. These could house the employees of the company, and facilities are being prepared to operate the business at the emergency location. There is a bountiful supply of fuel and food available, making it independent of railroad transportation. The living quarters of the employees are within a radius of three miles, a distance which could easily be covered with a horse and wagon if no gasoline is available.

The following concluding statement in Mr. Babson's article is most striking of all: "There some day will be a World War III; when it comes some of the above cities will be bombed. Old employees who have not the money to buy and maintain such places of refuge, should be protected in this way. Time to buy such farms is *now*."

The counsel of this wise writer is worth heeding. When war comes again, and all indications point to it, the masses who are packed into the big cities will die like rats. Now is the time to think about a haven in the event that war comes. But there is a much greater preparation needed for the events ahead. It is the spiritual preparation. The havens of this earth only offer a degree of safety. Wherever we may go, we will still be in enemy territory as long as the devil is on the loose. God alone can offer us a true haven of rest from all danger. We had better seek for His watchcare if we would be saved from the wrath to come. Here is the comforting promise of His Word: "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Psalm 91:4.

Inciting America to War

THE MINDSZENTY trial and conviction in Hungary has aroused a tremendous furor in this country. It has been played up by the press to an extent that amazes us. We have been further startled by the fact that the United States Department of State has stepped into the controversy.

We wonder why our government is so anxious to defend a Hungarian against his own government. Would we be as forthright in defending a Hungarian Protestant minister in a similar situation?

Mindszenty is supposed to be a minister of the gospel. But he has admitted participating in political connivings to overthrow his government. Why should the American government make such a protest when he is caught?



STINGY WITH GOD

THE UNITED STATES Department of Commerce recently released figures that reveal the income and expenditures of the American people in 1947. One fact that stands out is that the people gave less than one per cent of their income to religion and charity.

In spite of the great financial boom, statistics show that workers gave less comparatively than when their earnings were low. Another striking fact, that Christian America ought to blush over, is that it spent twice as much on tobacco as it did for churches and benevolence. Tremendous sums were spent for luxuries. Huge totals appeared in the realm of movies, baseball games, football, and horse and dog racing expenditures. Another embarrassing figure reveals that only four times as much was given to churches as in tipping.

The report shows that only eighty-five cents out of each one hundred dollars spent was devoted to religion and charity, which is less than one per cent. This indicates that men are stingy with God.

If Americans gave as much to spread the gospel as they squander on pleasures and intemperate habits, it would not be

long until the story of salvation reached "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." If men had practiced generosity in their giving to religious missionary endeavors, perhaps God's work would have been finished ere this and we would have been ushered out of this troubled world into the kingdom of glory.

It is a happy thought to know that there are some people who are giving much more than the average reported by the Department of Commerce. This is to be expected. For instance, Seventh-day Adventists gave an average of \$126.95 per member in tithes and offerings in 1947. This is a good deal more than one per cent of their income.

It is well for us to remember the familiar Bible statement that where a man's treasure is, there will his heart be also. (Luke 12:34.) In the sermon on the mount Christ said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matthew 6:19, 20.



DIPHThERIA is still one of the greatest known killers of children, even though we seem to have it under control. Indeed, it can be almost perfectly controlled with the proper co-operation of the public. But, it is like a poisonous snake. It is safe as long as it is confined and under constant control in its pit or cage. But once it escapes, it is as dangerous as though it had never been controlled.

Within the memory of the writer diphtheria was a constant danger to childhood, spreading through all communities at any time of the year, most common, however, in the colder seasons and where population was dense. Diphtheria may attack any age, but children from one to ten years are most frequently attacked and the most severely damaged.

Until 1894, when we commenced to control it by the use of antitoxin, it was no uncommon thing to lose several children in one family. In one case observed all seven children of one family died from this infection. This illustrates what diphtheria can do when uncontrolled. Fortunately this rarely happens now and the disease may be, and has been, completely eliminated from many localities for years. Such control does not happen except by hard work and a never-ceasing watch to discover a stray case at the earliest possible moment.

Diphtheria spreads mostly by contact with someone carrying the germs. A person who is sick with the disease is comparatively easy to control. But one trouble is that many people in apparently perfect health may carry the live and virulent germs in their throats and be entirely unaffected by them, while at the same time they may be very poisonous to others. These people and ones who have recently recovered, but who have not yet rid themselves of the germs in their throats, are called "carriers," and they are the real menace in the spread of diphtheria.

The germs of diphtheria do not often spread to any part of the body except the throat. But they produce an exceedingly powerful poison which passes to all parts of the body and causes the serious symptoms. One of the first symptoms is the formation of a membrane in the throat which sometimes prevents swallowing or breathing. If treatment is not very prompt, the patient dies of suffocation. Formerly we used to put a tube in the throat or even to cut into the windpipe to allow breathing and to save life. This occasionally happens yet, but should never be necessary under present knowledge. Often these measures fail.

A fever is usually present, and the

A Killer of Children

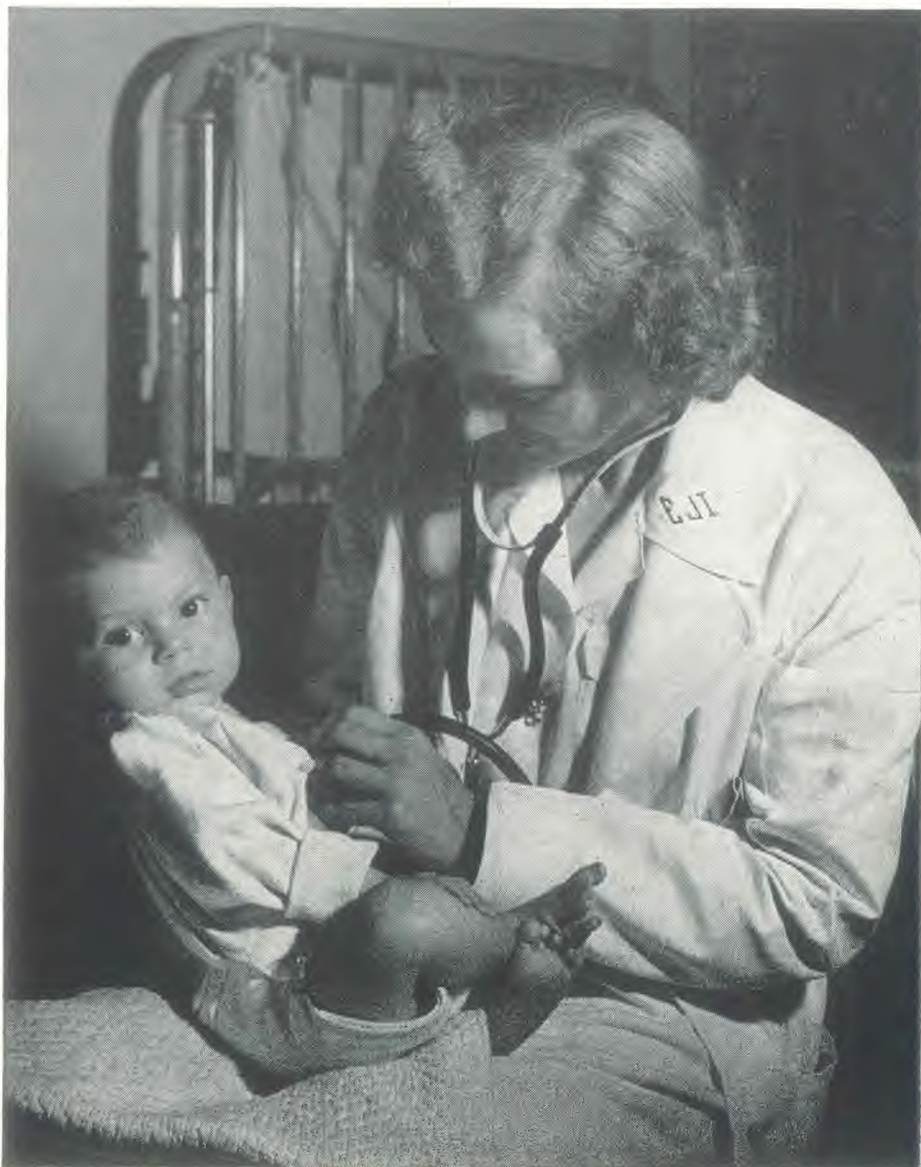
Diphtheria Is Like a Poison Snake

By Colonel George A. Skinner,

Medical Corps., U. S. Army, Retired

child is very sick. If time permits, doctors now take a little secretion from the throat and send it to the laboratory to make sure it is diphtheria. But if the case is serious, the antitoxin is given at once without waiting for the laboratory report to come through.

By 1894 doctors began to find enough antitoxin for diphtheria available to use in nearly all cases. But often people did not realize the danger, and doctors got to them too late. It is very important to get the antitoxin to work early to neutralize the poison of the germs and pre-



PINNEY FROM MONKMEYER

Our children must be protected against the enemies of their tender young lives.

vent the formation of more. When given early (within a few hours of the attack), improvement usually is prompt, and the rapid recovery is almost miraculous. But this does not end the care, for the poison damages the heart. Even after the patient seems to have recovered, the heart may give out and death follow. Hence it is now generally the rule to keep patients very quiet in bed until the doctor is certain that the heart has not been damaged.

The curative antitoxin is wonderful, but treatment by preventive measures is still more marvelous. This consists of giving a toxoid by hypodermic needle, usually in three small doses, spaced three weeks apart. This inoculation will protect all children. It is now generally recommended that babies be immunized at about six months, as it takes some time for the immunity to develop. Then the child is usually tested when he starts to kindergarten or school by the Schick test. A tiny amount of material is injected into the skin and the effect indicates whether or not the protection is still active. If not, a "boosting" dose of toxoid may be given to bring it up again. The protection usually lasts a long time, but varies with individuals; hence the need of this test at intervals, but particularly when starting to school, or if diphtheria is present in the community.

By community co-operation diphtheria may be banished completely and kept out. It is very important that babies and young children be protected, as they are the most susceptible, and carriers may appear at any time in rapidly shifting populations.

At the first sign of sore throat in childhood, competent medical advice should be sought, and laboratory tests made at once. In serious cases the antitoxin should be given as soon as a specimen has been obtained from the throat, for it may not be safe to wait for the laboratory report. As mentioned, early treatment rarely fails, whereas later treatment is only partially successful since the damage may have been done, and antitoxin even cannot undo such poisoning.

Sometimes there is a slight reaction to the toxoid, though this is now quite rare and is quickly controlled if it does occur. But the protection is worth many times the chances of such a slight upset.

One celebrated observer and writer says: "Every community now has the power to determine its own diphtheria rate. The method [protection by toxoid] is practical, effective, and cheap and ranks with vaccination against smallpox as an established prophylactic."—Milton J. Rosenau, M. D., *Preventive Medicine and Hygiene*, 6th edition, p. 68.



What Is Your
HEALTH PROBLEM?

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

We hear a lot about diet deficiency, particularly the lack of vitamins and minerals as a result of depleted soils. How can this lack be made up? What would you recommend?—T.M.R.

This question is now receiving much deserved attention from those who advocate so-called organic gardening which simply means the use of humus, natural barnyard fertilizers and the use of earthworms as builders of the soil. Such enthusiasts condemn the use of so-called commercial fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate and sulphate, depending rather on bacterial activity with the earthworms to turn the trick. On the other hand, those who advocate chemical fertilizers point to the fact that perfect plants and flowers may grow in tanks and gravel beds when Hoagland's solution and similar chemicals are used.

The opinion seems to be gaining ground that nature's methods cannot be improved upon and that lack of natural humus and bacterial activity may be at times responsible for hard and sterile soils and for lowered food value in the end product. Avocado orchards are not now being cultivated by many of the best growers and the same is true of lemons and oranges. Perhaps the Jews had this in mind when they let the land rest and grew a cover crop every seventh year. At The California Institute of Technology experimenters were able to grow carrots containing forty times as much vitamin A as carrots usually contain. There are great possibilities in this field. I believe that at times certain

lacking chemicals as shown by soil analysis should be added to the soil, but no amount of commercial fertilizer can take the place of the natural fertilizers and methods.

Some time ago Federal government agriculturists passed a farm house in Oklahoma where a calf was being suspended by a hammock under its belly. Curious to know what the trouble was they stopped and made inquiry. The farmer said the calf seemed unable to stand up. Soil analysis showed a chemical deficiency. The lacking chemicals were applied to the soil and the food grown afterward on this soil proved adequate.

Is there any way to keep hair from getting gray prematurely?—W.D.

Certain persons or families tend to get gray quite young. People who are inclined to be very exacting in their requirements show a greater tendency toward this as well as those who may worry considerably. One of the B Complex vitamins is supposed to play a part in delaying this process. To show any appreciable effect, however, one would certainly have to use rather large doses over a considerable period of time.

Can the neck glands swell and become sore and yet it be some disease other than mumps?—P.K.

Yes, it is possible but not very common. Stoppage of the duct leading from the gland to the mouth due to small stones or other causes may produce inflammation of the gland. Also other germs may cause inflammation in rare instances.

Your Conscience

(Continued from page 11)

must walk in the light as far as we know it because we are responsible, not only for ourselves, but for our influence on others.

To the woman at the well, Jesus said, "Go, call thy husband." John 4:16. And then the whole sorrowful secret of her life came out. To another He may say, Go, call thy wife whom thou hast wronged. To another, Go, call thy children whom thou hast neglected. To another, Go, call thy father and thy mother for whom thou hast had no filial love. To another, Go, call up the record of that business deal in which you were not honest. Go, call up that examination paper, student, in which you cheated. Go, call back the record of that day

which you have never made right with God or man. Go, call these things up. Call back the past. Call back the hatred; call back the wicked criticism, the slander, the false speaking. Go, call back that secret habit which stains your heart and defiles your soul. Call them back—call them all back, for in the judgment you must meet every one of these things again.

May God bless us all, leading us to confession of sin, to forsaking of sin, to belief on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, so that, directed by the Holy Spirit, instructed from the Word of God, we may be guided by the Lord along the path of life into His eternal kingdom. And then, with a good conscience, an instructed conscience, a Bible conscience, we may live day by day as His children.

Brief Discussions of Sound Doctrine

By the Editor



THE DEEPER the archeologists dig, the more they find that proves the authenticity of Biblical history. As one writer has put it, "not a ruined city has been opened up that has given any comfort to unbelieving critics or evolutionists. Every find of archeologists in Bible lands has gone to confirm Scripture and confound its enemies. The stone has cried out of the wall to witness the truth of Scripture and to the false character of the critical attacks. Not since Christ ascended back to heaven have there been so many scientific proofs that God's word is truth."—J. W. Newton, in *Christian Faith and Life*.

One historical record given in the Bible has for years been considered inaccurate by the critics. This is the story of Belshazzar in the fifth chapter of Daniel. The historians maintained that Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus, and that it was the father who reigned during the time referred to in Daniel and not the son. However, in 1854 Sir Henry Rawlinson found inscriptions showing that Nabonidus, near the end of his reign, established his son Belshazzar as an associate ruler, and that the son was ruling in the city of Babylon at the time that the city was overthrown by the Medes and Persians.

The critics have also pointed to the fact that Daniel refers to Belshazzar as the son of Nebuchadnezzar. Actually he was the grandson. It is foolish to make an issue of a point like this, but the opponents of the Scriptures grab for any straws available. It is common among oriental people to call a grandson a son. This is particularly true of a royal successor. Hirohito of Japan is a case in point.

We have often read the story in the Bible of Israel's captivity in Egypt. We have read about their experience when they "built for Pharaoh store-cities, Pithom and Raamses" (Exodus 1:11, A.R.V.), when the Egyptians "made

their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick" (verse 14), how Pharaoh took away the straw that they were using to make brick so that their labor would be more difficult.

As we followed through in this story we learned that the Israelites gathered stubble as a substitute for straw, but even this failed. Finally they made bricks without either. This story seems like a rather detailed account, and yet in these minute details we find proof to substantiate the authenticity of Holy Writ.

In 1883 the remains of Pithom and Raamses were uncovered, and they found storage pits, unlike anything else in Egypt, built with mortar. The interesting part is that they found the lower layers constructed with brick that contained straw. The middle layers contained bricks in which stubble was used, and the upper layers were of brick without either straw or stubble. A more perfect confirmation of the Bible account could not be imagined. Who can doubt the Bible records when such absolute verification is unearthed.

In a number of instances in the Old Testament a nation called the Hittites is referred to. The numerous references in the Bible to this mysterious people were unconfirmed by any other historical authorities, so that many regarded the Biblical statements as mythical and an indication of the general untrustworthiness of the Bible. One prominent English Biblical critic declared that an alliance between Egypt and the Hittites

was as improbable as would be one at the present time between England and the Choctaws. But, alas for the overconfident critic, recent investigations have shown, not only that such an alliance was natural, but that it actually occurred. The critic had to eat his words. Inscriptions on the monuments of Egypt and Assyria prove that there was once a nation called the Hittites. The cuneiform inscriptions of Armenia and a number of tablets that have been unearthed further prove the former existence of the Hittites. All the doubts entertained concerning the accuracy of the numerous Biblical statements concerning the Hittites are now seen to be due to ignorance.

Many more cases could be cited where the critics have been silenced by the spade work of the archeologists. The thousands of details contained in Biblical history are unraveling in the stories told in the tablets and monuments unearthed by the archeologists' spades. All of which goes to prove that the Bible is a divinely inspired Book. It stands unchallenged as the Book of books. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:8.

A Mother's Influence

(Continued from page 3)

future of the child. "And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. *And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times.*" Verses 24, 25.

We read about some of the kings of Israel who were wicked men and did evil in the sight of the Lord, and yet after their death the sons who ascended the throne were said to be righteous before God. Their fathers were worshipers of idols, but the sons were worshipers of the true God. In such cases it may be found that it was usually the mother's influence and early training that shaped their future.

The father of Gideon, for instance, was a worshiper of Baal. Yet Gideon was a devout worshiper of God. When in deep distress the people of Israel cried unto the Lord, and the angel of God appeared unto this man Gideon and said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor. . . . *Thou shalt save Israel.*" Judges 6:12, 14. The mother's name is not mentioned, but there can be no doubt that it was the early training by a godly mother that bore fruitage in this son.

Daniel, the youth who stood unmoved

and uninfluenced in the courts of Babylon, and who would not defile himself by partaking of the food and drink served at the royal table, was undoubtedly reared in a home where the principles he practiced in Babylon were inculcated by a godly mother.

We must not forget the young prince, Moses, who turned down the inheritance of the throne of the greatest earthly kingdom, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God" (Hebrews 11:25), and to follow the early training of a praying mother. So we might go on.

John and Charles Wesley received the training which made them men of power at their mother's knee. Her *methodic* manner of teaching in the home was responsible for the formation of the organization designated later as *Methodism*. Methodism had its origin, not with John Wesley, but with the methodic mother of John Wesley.

Will and Charles Mayo were great surgeons and physicians. They were also Christian gentlemen. Will, being the older, exerted a great influence over his younger brother. They respected each other as few brothers do. To this we may attribute in a large degree their success. They, too, had, as we might expect, a remarkable mother. One time when Charles was in Europe with some other prominent physicians from America, they were entertained royally by the medical profession. It was the custom to drink a glass of wine in honor of various celebrities, and Charles, a strict temperance advocate, not wishing to appear out of harmony, went so far as to lift the glass to his lips and take a sip of the wine. Learning of this, Will sent him a message in which he merely said, "What would Mother say?" That was all that was necessary to balance Charles. Never again was the glass lifted with others on such occasions. Merely the mention of his mother's name was sufficient to guide him.

The four sons of the great preacher, Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, were all fine preachers, we are told. His youngest son, Howard, took his father's place in Great Britain and was considered the greatest of the sons. On one occasion when the family were assembled, it is said, a visitor asked Howard which one of the family was the greatest preacher. He instantly answered, looking his father straight in the eye, "Mother."

"No other work can equal hers [the Mother's] in importance. She has not, like the artist, to paint a form of beauty upon canvas, nor, like the sculptor, to chisel it from marble. She has not, like the author, to embody a noble thought

Till the King Cometh

By
Edna Atkin Pepper

Tide's running high, and

It's time to work.

No time to idle,

To shrink or shirk.

Gather together

A strength on strength,

Cover the world field

In all its length.

High as the heaven,

As deep as love;

Wide as the star-strewn,

Dim world above.

All our resources—

Give all of these,

Till the King Cometh

And the work cease.

Work shall all cease then;

No death, no sins.

When our King cometh,

Then bliss begins.



in words of power, nor, like the musician, to express a beautiful sentiment in melody. It is hers, with the help of God, to develop in a human soul the likeness of the divine."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 378.

We read: "When the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when the 'Well done' of the great Judge is pronounced, and a crown of immortal glory is placed upon the brow of the victor, many shall raise their crowns in the sight of the assembled universe and pointing to their mothers, say, 'She made me all that I am through the grace of God. Her instruction and prayers have been blessed to my eternal salvation.'"—*Signs of the Times*, Nov. 3, 1861.

Eternal Joy of Christ's Redeemed

(Continued from page 5)

enter that fair and happy land at last:
"There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For our Father waits over the way,
To prepare us a dwelling place there."

There are some, however, who in the past have paid no heed to this wondrous reward, but in whose hearts tender feelings now arise. They have a deep and tender longing to have a part in that home so heavenly and fair, to share in its overflowing blessings. By His tender Spirit Jesus bends over them, with deepest compassionate solicitude opening before them the wonderful reality awaiting them. If they will but grasp it and make it their very own by the surrender of their wills to His holy will and accept by childlike faith the reality of the rich reward, then as they yield their hearts to Jesus, the tender assurance springs up within them that they also are on the way to that happy eternal home of which they sing:

"We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blest,
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest."

Now, with deep gratitude of heart for God's precious gift of His beloved Son, and for all the blessings of redemption in this life, as well as the multiplied heavenly blessings of redemption through all the ages to come, they sing from the depths of their consecrated hearts:

"To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer a tribute of praise,
For the glorious gift of His love,
And the blessings that hallow our days."

An Omnipotent State or an Omnipotent Church

(Continued from page 4)

8 to 1 decision on March the 8th, 1948.

The statement issued by the Catholic hierarchy not only favored the teaching of religion in tax-supported schools but favored government aid to nonpublic schools. Its leaders who signed this statement appeared before Congressional Committees during the last session of Congress and argued in favor of the educational bill which would grant tax funds to parochial schools.

"We, therefore, hope and pray," say these leaders in their recent statement, "that the novel interpretation of the First Amendment recently adopted by the Supreme Court will in due process be revised. To that end we shall peacefully, patiently, and perseveringly work."

It is, therefore, incumbent upon all American citizens who believe in the separation of church and state, and that religion should not be taught in the public schools, and that religious institutions and religious propaganda should not be supported by public tax money, to see that this precious heritage of civil and religious liberty that has meant so much to our matchless Republic be preserved when it is assailed by the reactionary forces who have championed a union of church and state in the past, and advocated the teaching of religion at the expense of the public tax funds.

Thomas Jefferson said: "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical." And James Madison, who introduced and sponsored the Bill of Rights at the time it was adopted, said: "Religion is not in the purview of human government. Religion is essentially distinct from government and exempt from its cognizance. A connection between them is injurious to both." And President U. S. Grant said: "Leave the matter of religion to the family altar, the church and the private school, supported entirely by private contribution. Keep the church and state forever separate."

The framers of the Bill of Rights were not hostile to God or to religion but friendly toward them. Neither was the Supreme Court hostile to Christianity or any other religion when it decided that religion could not legally be taught in the public schools or on school property or at public expense. It was for the best interests of religion and the peace and stability of the state that it erected this wall of separation between the church and the state to which the

Catholic hierarchy so strenuously objects and pledges its persevering efforts to overthrow or revise in time, so religion may be taught at public expense. Benjamin Franklin, who was associated with Thomas Jefferson in drawing up the Declaration of Independence, and with James Madison in sponsoring the Bill of Rights which definitely and legally separated the church and state, said: "When religion is good, it will take care of itself; when it is not able to take care of itself, and God does not see fit to take care of it, so that it has to appeal to the civil power for support, it is evidence to my mind that its cause is a bad one."

The statement from the Catholic hierarchy referred as follows to papal encyclicals: "Authoritative Catholic teaching on the relations between church and state, as set forth in papal encyclicals and in the treaties of recognized writers on ecclesiastical law, not only states clearly what these relations should be under ideal conditions, but also indicates to what extent the Catholic church can adapt herself to the particular conditions that may obtain in different countries." Pope Pius XII, in an encyclical issued December 13, 1939, clearly stated the attitude of the Catholic Church as follows: "It is the duty of the state to help the church maintain its religious schools by aid from public funds, and equally the duty of all Catholics, as an act of religion, to demand that the state perform this duty."

The Catholic hierarchy not only makes an issue between the decision of the Supreme Court on its interpretation of the First Amendment to the Constitution but also between the fundamental principles of the separation of church and state as conceived and advocated by the fathers of our Republic. It will be interesting to watch the outcome of this conflict of ideals in government between the Catholic Church and the Supreme Court of the United States, and between the Catholic hierarchy and the new Congress when the educational bills are introduced to grant federal aid to the amount of millions of dollars to the parochial schools in America. Every lover of liberty and the American way of life will anxiously await the outcome of the coming conflict between the liberal and the reactionary forces. The future of America depends upon the way this critical and important question is settled. Americans certainly do not want an omnipotent state nor an omnipotent church to exercise supreme authority over their consciences and inalienable rights.

Can Satan Foretell the Future?

(Continued from page 7)

of accuracy its outcome. Parents well acquainted with their children often prove correct in calculating what their offspring would do under certain circumstances. Need we, then, be amazed if an emissary of Satan should make a short-range prediction concerning things to come, and it come to pass about as foretold?

The aim of Satan is to marshal the entire human race into determined revolt against God. For the attainment of this end his legions of evil angels are spread out over the globe, and are watching the affairs of men with keen interest. In vision the apostle John was shown "the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them together to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:14. The most efficient system of intelligence and espionage operated by man cannot compare with that of Satan. The most modern inventions, such as the radio and television, do not equal his devices for communicating information. He can show a person in an instant what is happening on the opposite side of the earth. When he tempted Jesus, the devil "showed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time." Luke 4:5.

We must not underrate the power and cunning of the enemy of our souls. When man was made in the beginning, he was perfect in every phase of his being. He was made "a little lower than the angels." Psalm 8:5; Hebrews 2:7. The angels still "are greater in power and might" than man. 2 Peter 2:11. The fallen angels possess such physical and mental powers, which they devote with all malice and craft to the ruin of men. They never appear as the hideous imps that cartoonists paint them to be, but feign to be messengers of light and truth in order that they may more effectively deceive and ensnare the unwary. "For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness." 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15.

The Lord warned ancient Israel, saying: "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that

dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God, with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall love the Lord your God, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him." Deuteronomy 13:1-4.

This admonition tells us that the most conclusive proof that a person is a messenger of truth is not the mere fact that a prediction of his has come true. The prophecies of men sent by God do come to pass in accord with His purpose. Of this we can be sure. (Deuteronomy 18:22.) But the work of a heaven-sent messenger is intended to do more than that. It is to teach people to obey *faithfully* what God has commanded in His Holy Word—the Sacred Scriptures. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. When a man's work tends

to undermine loyalty to God's law, and to substitute the commandments of men for the precepts of God, it is in the cause of the devil.

How did Sundaykeeping Find Its Way Into the Christian Church

(Continued from page 9)

The age-old question that Elijah put to a judgment-bound people again confronts each one of us today: "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him." 1 Kings 18:21.

The Saviour may well ask Christians today as He did the Jews of His day, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" (Matthew 15:3), and then declare of the recalcitrant ones: "In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Mark 7:7.



Address your questions to Editor, Our Times
Box 59, Nashville 2, Tennessee

Please explain the difference between everlasting punishment and everlasting life. Does not the first last just as long as the second?
—J.R.B.

Yes, it does. The punishment of the wicked is everlasting, just as the life of the redeemed is everlasting. There is no difference in the meaning of the everlastings as used in respect to punishment and to life. The difference is found when we determine what the punishment is, and what the life is. We find in Romans 6:23 that "the wages of sin is death." Therefore it is clear that the punishment (wages) for sin is death. It is quite simple to see that the everlasting punishment is everlasting death, and the everlasting life is the promised immortality—eternal life. Can you not see that there is no difference in the everlastings, but there is a tremendous difference in life and death? The death (punishment, or wages of sin) will be just as everlasting as the life of the saints, which will be eternal. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23.

Is there anything in the Bible that condemns astrology?—B. J.

Astrology is a false science and therefore unreliable. Nebuchadnezzar consulted the astrologers when he had a dream, and they could tell him nothing. His grandson, Belshazzar, had a similar experience. (Daniel 2:2, 10, 27; 5:7, 11, 15.) God mocks these would-be wizards and those that patronize them, and finally reveals what will happen to them in the end: "Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame." Isaiah 47:13, 14.

Is it possible for a person to logically interpret scripture to suit his beliefs and yet be wrong in his interpretation?—R.E.P.

Yes, it is. We read in the Bible that "there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12. It is best not to rely upon private interpretation. The Bible is its own best interpreter and should be allowed to explain itself by comparing scripture with scripture. Furthermore, God's Word says that "no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation." 2 Peter 1:20.

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Impatience

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H. M. LAMBERT

LORD, give me patience when tired little hands tug at me with ceaseless small demands." That was my constant prayer when my first child was a baby. Yet, one unforgettable day I lacked sufficient patience. It was unbearably hot. The maid had the day off, which left everything for me to do. Telephone and doorbell vied with each other for attention.

Little Alice, three years old, suddenly objected to playing alone in the yard. She alternately rang the front and back doorbells with childish excuses until I almost screamed at her. After a careful explanation of the circumstances, she was told that if she rang the bell again without a very good reason she would be punished. She promised sweetly and seemed to understand.

Ten minutes later the bell rang. I gritted my teeth and jerked open the door with soap-sudsy hands, ready to pounce on her in exasperated fury. There she stood. Her face was lighted with an angelic smile and her hands were held behind her mysteriously. My tired nerves cried for rest, not mystery. While I lectured harshly and deliberately ignored her babyish appeal, her little head lowered in hurt and humiliation. When I

had finished talking, she still did not look up or lift her head, but slowly withdrew one chubby arm from behind her. In a hot, dirty, clenched fist were three badly wilted dandelions. A love offering!

When Jesus said, "Except ye become as a little child," He must have included forgiveness. Children so quickly forgive our cruel stabs. Alice is twenty-one years old now, and although she assures me that it could not have hurt her as bad as I feared, still I can never forget my own ache and remorse for having lost my patience. Even now, when I find myself about to lose patience, I recall the wilted dandelions and try to realize that love may wilt before me, while I blunder along in my own strength. A mother's prayer might well continue to be, "Lord give me patience . . ." until her last prayer is said.

By
Helen
J.
Lawrence
