

JANUARY TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Our TIMES

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS

SUNSET and SHADOWS

*Sunset tints and shadows
Fall across the sea;
Days and nights are fading
In eternity.*

*Soon will dawn the morning,
Heaven at the door;
Joy for every sorrow,
Sunsets nevermore.*

—Mildred Wood Harris.

LETTERS

From Our Readers

Sirs:

I have enjoyed OUR TIMES very much. "The Scriptures Explained," and "What Is Your Health Problem?" I enjoy very much, and I always like to see so much Scripture that is quoted, as it shows that you stick to the Bible, and gives more faith to those who read it. It is also handy for one to look it up, too. So keep up the good work and the old-fashioned faith. May God bless this work.

Temvik, N. Dak.

P.M.H.

Sirs:

I was one of those persons who ridiculed the idea that the end of the world is near. But I have been changing my mind after hearing and reading what the scientists have to say about the atom bomb and germ warfare, etc. After reading the article entitled "The End of the World" in the August OUR TIMES, I have become fully persuaded that Christ's coming is very near. Pray for me that I may be ready.

Chicago, Ill.

B.H.

Sirs:

Why do you print such articles as the one entitled "The End of the World"? Don't you know that such things frighten people? Furthermore, I think that the world is getting better every day and will not come to its end soon. Would it not be better to talk more about peace than world destruction?

St. Louis, Mo.

F.D.

Editor's Note: Two very outstanding evidences of the imminence of Christ's return are: (1) The scoffers who refuse to believe in His coming. (2) Peter 3:3, 4. (2) Peace and safety cries just before sudden destruction cometh. (1 Thessalonians 5:3.)

OUR TIMES does not want to be guilty of either of these mistakes. That is why we must present the unvarnished truth concerning what is coming. We do not wish to be guilty of tickling men's ears in a serious hour like this.

Sirs:

Please begin my subscription for OUR TIMES with the June issue. My sister gave me the first copy I have ever seen of OUR TIMES today and I like it so much I want to subscribe for it.

Your articles on "A Mother's Influence," "The Eternal Joy of Christ's Redeemed," "Can Satan Foretell the Future?" "Sound Doctrine," and "Impatience" are wonderful.

Clearwater, Fla.

P.B.M.

Sirs:

I have just completed the first copy of OUR TIMES that I have come in contact with, and enjoyed it very much. Also received a great deal of inspiration from its contents.

I am Sunday School Superintendent of a small church, and it is my opinion this magazine should have a wide distribution. It would help Christians and strengthen them; and for non-Christians it would throw a great deal of light on God's work where there is plenty that needs to be done.

Enclosed is my check for one year's subscription.

Jackson, Mississippi

Capt. R.B.C.

Sirs:

I am enclosing my check for \$2.00 for which please send me your magazine, OUR TIMES, beginning with the June number.

I saw a copy of it in a doctor's office and liked it very much, so I want to subscribe for it.

Goleta, California

Mrs. J.N.R.



JANUARY, 1950

VOL. 59

No. 1

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).

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Published monthly (except December, 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: 25 cents a copy, and \$2.50 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.

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The Cover

Our cover picture was taken by Eva Luoma.

This Fast-Moving Age

By
Donald W. McKay



The Meaning of the Sudden Acceleration in Means of Transportation and Communication

dogged forty-niners reached the gold fields and staked their claims. Many lost their lives trying to ford rivers not yet spanned by bridges.

As I reflected, I could not help but think how many changes have taken place in the modes of transportation in the past century. Today many who are on the streets of San Francisco in less than twenty-four hours after leaving New York City in a luxurious airplane do not realize that, barely forty-seven years ago, Orville and Wilbur Wright made flights of from twelve to fifty-nine seconds, which were thought, at that time, phenomenal.

Even some who are reading these words can well remember, as children, the horse-and-buggy days. Only the very wealthy were able to afford, at that time, what today are deemed the common necessities of life. Within the brief span of the past century all the rapid methods of transportation and communication now so familiar were invented and perfected.

It is not mere chance that all these things came to pass in our day. It is all a part of God's great plan. This time in which we live was foretold in the Scriptures twenty-five hundred years ago. "Thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the
(Continued on page 5)

ABOUT A CENTURY ago the gold rush of 1849 was in full swing. Although gold was discovered a year before in the sands of the American River, near Sutter's Mill, California, the news traveled slowly and was not published until many months later in the Eastern states. At that time there were no telegraph lines across the country and the electric telephone was still to be invented.

By the middle of 1849 the gold fever had spread everywhere. The seekers for the precious metal tried to get to California as fast as possible. No railroad trains, airplanes, or automobiles were at their disposal. These pioneers had to wend their way across the great plains on creaking wagons drawn by ox teams; others traveled by slow-moving sailing vessels by way of Cape Horn.

Even at best, months were consumed before these

HOW REFRESHING it is to behold in a follower of Jesus the continually unfolding beauty of holiness of the indwelling Saviour—His saving sympathy, His tenderness of heart, His loyal steadfastness to duty, His meek and humble spirit, His self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of God, His never-flagging zeal, and His heavenly joy that so beautifies the countenance!

The true Christian, as he treads the pathway to heaven, takes a higher step each day, passing on from one level of Christian experience to a still higher one.

By John W. Halliday

The circumstances of life are continually changing, so he seeks the Lord to meet them all victoriously. This brings him the deeper conversion he needs from day to day.

The Saviour said, "Except ye be *converted*, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3. But little children *grow* every day of their lives until they reach their full growth. Likewise the followers of Jesus are to grow in grace till they reach "the measure of the



F. KIRCHBACH, ARTIST

The Saviour said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3.

Daily Deepening Our Conversion to Christ

stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13. Jesus taught us to pray daily, "Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts." Matthew 6: 11, 12. As truly as Christians need daily food, they need to be forgiven known and unknown sins. Those who do thus daily put away *all* sins undergo an advanced conversion from day to day. Even ministers of the gospel need this advancing daily conversion. Thus how true are the words of one eminent commentator, Mrs. Ellen G. White:

"It is religion that ministers need; a daily conversion to God, an undivided, unselfish interest in His cause and work. There should be self-abasement, and a putting away of all jealousy, evil surmising, envy, hatred, malice, and unbelief. An entire transformation is needed."

How surely, then, Christians can go gladly forward seeking an advanced daily deepening conversion. "We

Day
Each
Higher
a Step
Taking

need to be converted daily. Our prayers should be more fervent; then they will be more effectual. Stronger and stronger should be our confidence that God's Spirit will be with us, making us pure and holy, as upright and fragrant as the cedar of Lebanon." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 272.

Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, was a wonderful example of one who daily deepened his conversion to Christ, for he said, "*I die daily*"; "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." 1 Corinthians 15:31; Galatians 2:20. All true Christians may be happy in having such a daily experience, for Jesus declared, "With God all things are possible." Mark 10:27. And in the

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midst of the trying experience in Gethsemane Christ Himself relied thus upon His Father, and gained the deepening devotion He needed in order to die for the lost, saying, "Father, *all* things are possible unto Thee." Mark 14:36.

The following incident may illustrate utter reliance upon a single resource while bending all one's energies to overcoming all hindering circumstances. It is concerning the famous violinist Paganini. One night in Paris he was playing before a great audience. While he was tuning his violin, one of the strings broke. Disappointment swept over the assembly. He paid no attention to it, but began to play with the remaining strings. Then another string snapped. The audience was plainly disturbed about it, but Paganini continued to play till a third string snapped. His hearers were now greatly disturbed. But stepping quietly to the front, he said: "Ladies and gentlemen, you will now hear one string and Paganini." He then brought such wonderful strains of melody from that single string that the audience leaned forward, listening intensely, that they might hear it all. As Paganini sat down he was wildly applauded because he had brought so much out of his single resource.

Likewise every believer who, like Jesus, relies utterly on God to bring to pass that which is possible to Him, and loyally does his part in obtaining the holiest and highest experience possible from day to day, will, like Paul, be able to rejoice in a daily deepening conversion and all the heavenly blessings that attend it. "One string and Paganini." *One soul and God!* What a wonderful daily deepening experience in Christ is possible to every follower of Jesus! And many followers of Christ, sensing their need in this closing atomic age, reach out for this experience and enter into and enjoy its daily freshness and power and peace.

There are many who have never become Christians but who, sensing as never before how surely they also can live victorious Christian lives and not fall out by the way, have awakened within them a great longing to enter into this experience. Jesus, the loving, seeking Saviour, deeply sympathizes with them, and draws near to enable them to do so. With tenderest compassion, by His Spirit He points out the way and makes plain the path to take. His heart goes out to them with a far greater longing than their own, and, with the same saving pity that led Him to the cross for their sake, He bends with compassionate tenderness to save them. Then, realizing His nearness, feeling His presence, and responding to the saving tenderness of His love, they lift up their faces and their hearts toward God. Relying upon Him to forgive and accept them, and to give them this victorious Christian life, they give themselves fully to Him with words like these:

"Father, I have wandered from Thee,
Often has my heart gone astray:
Crimson do my sins seem to me,
Water cannot wash them away.

Jesus, to that Fountain of Thine,
Leaning on Thy promise I go;
Cleanse me by Thy washing divine,
And I shall be whiter than snow."

Then, loyally going forward, they also find the successful Christian experience they longed for, and lead happy and victorious Christian lives, looking forward to the still happier and more blessed experience in the world to come when they shall be ushered into the personal presence of their beloved heavenly Father and their adored Redeemer.

This Fast-Moving Age

(Continued from page 3)

time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4.

As you marvel at the new automobiles, the streamlined trains, radio and television, and the array of electrical appliances, remember that they are but the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

For thousands of years before this generation was born, there was little noticeable advance in science and invention. Even a century ago the world lived much as it had been living for centuries. Men worked with the same crude tools and laborious methods, and used the same slow means of transportation that had been employed by their forefathers. But suddenly all was changed. The world awoke from its lethargy; a new era dawned. It was the time of the end, when knowledge was to be increased and men would run to and fro.

It is a remarkable picture—knowledge everywhere flooding the minds of men. Success rewarded the scientists because God had planned it so. God had a purpose in making possible these modes of travel and communication in our time.

Jesus declared that one of the signs preceding His immediate return would be the dissemination of the gospel to all the world. He said: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

Missionaries today are reaching the most remote parts of the earth which a generation ago were thought inaccessible. Modern means of transportation and communication are aiding in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and the knowledge of His imminent return.

Very soon probation's hour will close. In that day men will still be increasing in knowledge; but their inventive genius will avail them nothing in the final judgment hour. The very brightness of Christ's return will destroy those of every nation who are not prepared in heart and life for the kingdom of heaven. (2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8.)

But those who have been redeemed by the power of God, who have surrendered their lives to divine control, will become citizens of a better world than this—a world wherein "dwelleth righteousness."

Rapture or Revelation—Which?

When and How Did the
Rapture Theory Originate?

THE SECOND coming of Christ is an event of transcendent glory. "With power and great glory" are the descriptive words used by our Lord to picture the manner of His coming. (Matthew 24:30.) Jesus compared His coming to the lightning which streaks across the heavens. (Verse 27.) All other descriptions of the manner of the coming of Christ emphasize the glory of that great event. His coming is to be with a "shout," with the "voice of the Archangel," and with the "trump of God." (1 Thessalonians 4:16.) "Every eye shall see Him" when He comes as King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 1:7.)

The word "rapture" in connection with the second coming of Christ is not found in the Bible. It is an invention of modern times. It is foreign to the faith of

By Varner J. Johns

apostolic times. How strange that men should divide the second coming of Christ into *two* comings, separated by three and one-half or seven years! How strange to teach a secret coming of Christ! The Word of God is against any such teaching. Our Lord warned His disciples against anyone who would link the word "secret" with the manner of His coming. (Matthew 24:23-26.) The "rapture" theory is but another thread of error woven into the web of deceptive doctrine by modern Dispensationalism.

Closely connected with the teaching of the rapture theory is the teaching of Dispensationalism in regard



NEW YORK CENTRAL

The coming of the Lord will be so dazzling that no living being can fail to see it. Christ said that "as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:27.

to the tribulation and the antichrist. There are two schools of prophetic interpretation: the historical and the futurist. The historical interpretation was taught by Bible expositors from the days of the apostles even until the Reformation. This teaching was largely responsible for the breaking of the papal power and the restoration of apostolic Christianity. The historic interpretation takes in the sweep of the centuries, the rise and fall of great empires, the march of time toward the climax of human history in the coming of Christ. The futurist interpretation limits the reign of antichrist and the time of tribulation to a short space of three and one-half or seven years. There is a vital difference in the two interpretations. The Dispensationalism of modern times has reverted to the futurist method of interpretation.

According to the historical interpretation: (1) The fourth beast of Daniel 7 is a symbol of Rome; the "little horn" of this fourth beast is a symbol of the Papacy; the "beast" of Revelation 13, the "mystery of iniquity" of 2 Thessalonians 2, and the "antichrist" of the epistles of John all refer to the great apostasy from the faith which developed into the Papacy.

(2) The papal power would continue for 1260 years, a period described in the prophecies as "a thousand two hundred and threescore days" (Revelation 11:3; 12:6), "a time and times and the dividing of time" (Daniel 7:25), "forty and two months" (Revelation 11:2; 13:5). The Bible index of a day for a

year (Ezekiel 4:6) has been accepted by all great Bible expositors.

(3) The long period of apostasy and persecution was the "great tribulation" of Matthew 24:21.

To indicate the importance of this interpretation we need but read the following words from *Dissertations on the Prophecies*, a book written a century and a half ago by Thomas Newton, Lord Bishop of Bristol:

"The Waldenses and Albigenses propagated the same opinions in the same century. That the pope was Antichrist was indeed the general doctrine of the first reformers everywhere. Here in England it was advanced by Wickliff, and was learnedly established by that great and able champion of the Reformation, Bishop Jewel. . . . This doctrine contributed not a little to promote the Reformation: and wheresoever the one prevailed the other prevailed also." P. 414.

In order to combat the influence of the Reformation, a countermovement was instituted by the Jesuits. They revived the old futurist method of prophetic interpretation, which crowds the tribulation into three and one-half years, and makes the antichrist a single man who would appear at the time of a future tribulation. Note carefully what Bishop Newton said about this invention:

"The greater part of the Romish doctors, it must be confessed, give another interpretation, and acknowl-
(Continued on page 24)

My Prayer for the New Year

LORD JESUS, for this coming year, just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness, or any earthly thing—
I do not ask to understand the way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee.

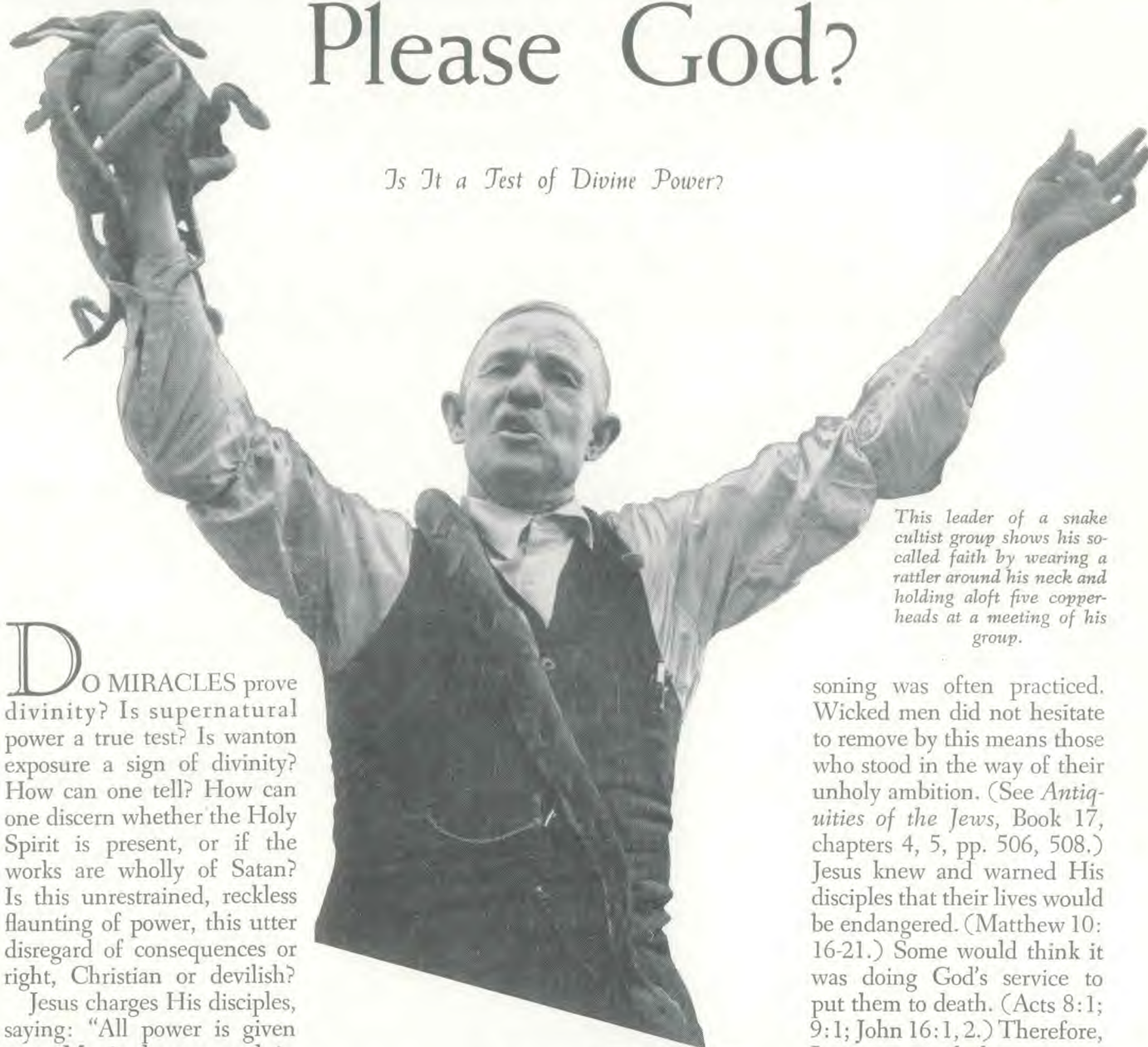
I want to know Thy guiding voice, to walk with Thee each day.
Blest Saviour, make me swift to hear and ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin, a happy year will be—
If I am seeking just to do the thing that pleaseth Thee.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

H. M. LAMBERT

Does Snake Handling Please God?

Is It a Test of Divine Power?



This leader of a snake cultist group shows his so-called faith by wearing a rattler around his neck and holding aloft five copperheads at a meeting of his group.

DO MIRACLES prove divinity? Is supernatural power a true test? Is wanton exposure a sign of divinity? How can one tell? How can one discern whether the Holy Spirit is present, or if the works are wholly of Satan? Is this unrestrained, reckless flaunting of power, this utter disregard of consequences or right, Christian or devilish?

Jesus charges His disciples, saying: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matthew 28:18-20.

And Mark pointedly adds: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; in My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16:17, 18.

At that time, Josephus and others inform us, poi-

soning was often practiced. Wicked men did not hesitate to remove by this means those who stood in the way of their unholy ambition. (See *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 17, chapters 4, 5, pp. 506, 508.) Jesus knew and warned His disciples that their lives would be endangered. (Matthew 10:16-21.) Some would think it was doing God's service to put them to death. (Acts 8:1; 9:1; John 16:1, 2.) Therefore, Jesus promised them protection from this danger.

Jesus' commission included all disciples and believers unto the end of time, for He promised, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.

Now Peter, on the day of Pentecost, filled with the Holy Ghost, cried out: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh. . . . And I will show wonders in the heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath." Acts 2:17, 19.

This Pentecostal power will be repeated. Miracles, wonders, supernatural healings will be wrought. Only,

By R. F. Radke

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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in these last days of the *latter rain*, it will be in greater measure, more abundant, double the apostolic experience. (John 3:34; 14:12; Joel 2:23; Zechariah 10:1; 9:12.) The grandest display of God's presence and power that the world will ever see will be manifested. (Acts 3:19-21; Revelation 18:1-4; Zechariah 4:6.)

With this thrilling and dramatic revelation of God's glory enlightening the earth, we have also another supernatural power to contend with and to recognize. Lucifer, the mighty but fallen angel, or Satan, the devil, can work wonders and miracles also, even to deceiving the very elect of God if they are not on their guard. (Isaiah 14:12; Revelation 12:9; Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12.)

John the revelator says: "Spirits of devils, working miracles, [will] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world." Revelation 16:14. Again, the devil, or the dragon (Revelation 12:9), working through the two-horned beast as his agent, says: "He doeth great wonders, . . . and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by . . . those miracles which he had power to do" (Revelation 13:11-14).

Christ warns us: "Take heed that no man deceive you." For many shall be deceived. (Matthew 24:4, 5, 24.) "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith," says Paul, "giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:13.

Therefore, with these two powers doing wonders and miracles before us, John tells us to try the spirits, to prove them, to test whether they are of God or not. (1 John 4:1.) We are to test and to prove these powers, whether they are the genuine or the false, the true or the counterfeit, of Christ or of Satan.

Paul plainly declares: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." 2 Timothy 3:1. Then in verses two to seven he gives us a searching list of sins that designate the rejectors of truth. In verses eight and nine God has Paul record an exact example of magic workers—sorcerers, enchanter, or charmers—and he not only warns us of them, but exposes them for what they are:

"Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate [of no judgment, margin] concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be made manifest unto all men, as theirs also was."

In Exodus 7:8-12 is the record of Jannes and Jambres resisting the truth, when they withstood Moses and Aaron, the true prophets of God. Here they are called by the Holy Spirit "sorcerers," "magicians," and they matched the miracles of God's servants, "in like manner with their enchantments." Verse 11. Thus Paul wrote, that in our day "these also"—all who are captivated by these sins, these latter-day apostates, these deluded souls—are men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. Thank God

they shall be laid bare to all men of what work they are, just as Jannes and Jambres were. Their success will be cut short and their cases fully exposed and revealed.

Counsel of God has come down to us through the holy prophets. Moses wrote: "Thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of these nations. There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, . . . or an enchanter, . . . or a charmer, . . . or a necromancer." Deuteronomy 18:9-11. "For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord. . . . Thou shalt be perfect [upright, or sincere, margin] with the Lord thy God." Verses 12, 13. "But as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do." Verse 14.

Now a sorcerer or an enchanter or a charmer is one who practices spells, arts, charms, or witchcraft, generally by song or muffled sounds in rhythm, performing surprising, supernatural things by the power of demons. They deceive the sense of sight. John says men will be deceived by the miracles which Satan and his agents will have power to do—not which they *pretend* to do. (Revelation 13:13, 14.) The "false prophet" wrought miracles with which "he deceived" his followers. (Revelation 19:20.) Speaking of Satan, John also says: "For by thy sorceries were all nations deceived." Revelation 18:23. Yes, to such an extent will the devil's influence reach.

Through modern sorcery, or one form of spiritism or another, Satan will appear doing wonders, and it will look as if he is a benefactor of the race, healing or relieving diseases of the people. (2 Corinthians 11:13, 14.) One power will be working for God and Jesus; the other for Satan and his host, both doing miracles, wonders, marvels. It is clear that miracles are not a test of divinity, for the devil can and will produce them, and he most certainly is not divine.

Consider the case of modern snake handlers who represent themselves as demonstrating the power of God. They are modern charmers, enchanter. They stand before audiences handling and displaying dangerous, poisonous snakes; others take deadly poisons, to show by these demonstrations the power of their God.

Will one take a viper to his bosom, expecting God to put a spell upon it so that it will not poison him with its venom? Will he drink poison, expecting God to provide an antidote, to perform a miracle? Can he force God's hand to save life? God is not a man that He can be bargained with. Some need to be reminded that certain religious enthusiasts *claim* such preposterous darings are signs of the power of Christ for these last days. They are no such thing; they are the power of the enemy, the god of this world.

Read carefully Paul's record of the experience that is used to teach and to bolster up such contentions.
(Continued on page 27)

EVENTS of Our Times

CAN THE WORLD EARN ITS KEEP?—A U.N. Scientific Conference on conserving world resources heard that: 1) world population has doubled, to two billion people, in 100 years, will reach three billion in 50 more; 2) much of the land's fertility has been destroyed; 3) half the world lives in want today. Further bad news: serious famine is expected in China next year.—*Quick*, August 29, 1949.

STEWART ALSOP: "It is now entirely possible that the collapse of Britain as a great world power will take place within the next twelve to eighteen months. That is the real meaning of all the figures, all the talk. . . . If this is allowed to happen, plans for halting Soviet expansion . . . become sheer blithering nonsense. . . . Pre-conditions for a third world war will have been met."—*Quick*, August 29, 1949.

HISTORY REPEATS.—It was my first visit to Germany since 1933, and nowhere did I speak to an honest German who is not deeply concerned about the increasing nationalism in his country.—Thomas Mann, author and Nobel prize winner.—*Pathfinder*, September 7, 1949.

THE LAST MILE.—Our nation is blissfully driving down a back road at top speed . . . on the last mile to collectivism.—Herbert Hoover.—*Pathfinder*, September 7, 1949.

U. S. TO SPEND ITSELF TO DESTRUCTION.—It was Lenin of Russia who said back in 1924: "Sometime we will compel the U. S. to spend itself to destruction."—Rep. Hugh D. Scott, Jr., retiring G.O.P. chairman.—*Pathfinder*, September 7, 1949.

A PAIN IN THE NECK.—The way to diagnose polio, a friend told nineteen-year-old Bernard Loughery of Philadelphia, is by touching the chest with the chin. If you can do it, the friend said, you're all right.

Last week a stenographer in the office where Loughery works came down with the disease. That afternoon a frantic Loughery rushed to the doctor: he couldn't touch his chest with his chin.

The doctor checked and came up with his diagno-

sis: sprained neck muscles, acquired during a day of anxious testing.—*Pathfinder*, September 7, 1949.

U. S. PROSPERITY THREATS.—America's two great fears are inflation and communism. That is, if a group of 5,000 city dwellers interviewed by the Psychological Corporation of New York are typical of the rest of us.

Asked what are the threats to a prosperous America, 49.5 per cent listed inflation and 44.1 per cent mentioned communism, Drs. Henry C. Link and Albert D. Freiberg, report to the *Journal of Applied Psychology* (Feb.).—*Science News Letter*, January 29, 1949.

CIGARETTE SMOKING AFFECTS UNBORN CHILDREN.—Now we are told the heart beat of an unborn child is increased seven to eight beats per minute by the expectant mother smoking one cigarette.

It has been too long known to merit comment that whatever affects the physical well-being of a nursing mother likewise affects the child. Tobacco in the blood stream of the mother must likewise poison the blood stream of a tender nursing infant.—*The Civic Bulletin*, March 25, 1949.



"No Crisis With God," by C. S. Longacre

"How Much Did God Decide About You Before Your Birth?" by F. O. Sanders

"Liquor Ads—True or False?" by Edwin H. Maynard

"Saved by Grace," by Fenton Edwin Froom

"More About Heaven," by H. M. S. Richards

"When and by Whom Was the Sabbath Instituted?" by Robert H. Pierson

"Christmas—Christian or Pagan Holiday?" by George S. Belleau

"No Time for the Children," by Henry H. Graham

"Finding Christ More Fully," by John W. Halliday

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ABOUT ONE hundred years ago the Western plains and passes of the Rockies witnessed a new thing under the sun. Hundreds, thousands, were streaming West, using every means of conveyance, although the picturesque covered wagon predominated. Some were lone prospectors, making a mad dash for the gold-bearing sands of California. Others, equally anxious to get there, chose to take wife and children with them. This necessitated a slow trek across the wilderness by horse or ox team.

In those days buffalo herds grazed the luxuriant prairie grass. Wolf packs howled by night. Vultures rode the high air currents by day, waiting to pick the bones of horse or ox that fell through exhaustion or accident. The war whoop, the racing ponies, the flash of rifle fire of the Sioux, the Navajo, and the Apache struck terror to more than one canvas-covered caravan. Still they kept on—the lure of the yellow metal leading them to take risks and endure hardships wholly unknown today.

All these crossed the plains by faith. Not one had seen for himself the precious wealth. They had, however, heard the reports, and they believed. Hope sprang up in their hearts, and they went—went with the hope that they would “strike it rich” in the land of promise. More failed than succeeded. Even of those who finally made it through, only a few amassed a fortune. Thousands succumbed to disease, to the hardships of the trail, and to the tomahawks of the red men.

But what does that have to do with us who are able to cross the plains and mountains on smooth high-

Faith of the Forty-Niners



They Crossed the Plains by Faith and Risked the Dangers of the Trail and the Tomahawk of the Red Man

By Dallas Youngs

ways, with shining, swift cars? We are all gold seekers, too. “But,” you say, “there’s no gold rush.” No, perhaps not; but there ought to be. Maybe there will be when I tell you where there is more gold than ever California boasted. Yes, more even than is now buried at Fort Knox, Kentucky. No doubt you are saying, “Mr. Writer, you will have to show me.” But wait a minute. I did not promise to *show* it to you. I promised to tell you where it is, and that is what I am going to do.

Of course, you must take it by faith, just as your ancestors of one hundred years ago believed in the gold rush. But it is there—a whole city of it. And when we say a city, we do not mean a small one like New York, London, or Paris. We mean a city three hundred seventy-five miles square. (Revelation 21: 15-17.) Listen while I read a verse from the Bible: “The building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.” Verse 18. Not only is gold so plentiful that the city is made of it and the streets are paved with it, but the gates are made of pearl, and the foundations of the walls are of twelve precious stones. (Verses 19-21.)

What city is this? It is the New Jerusalem, God’s capital city. One day, at the end of the millennium, this golden city is going to come down from God out of heaven to this earth. (Verse 10.) Will people living today, even hardened sinners, have a chance to set foot in God’s golden palace? Indeed, they not only have a chance, they have a sure, divine promise, pro-

(Continued on page 27)



The Church of the



THE FOURTH of the seven letters of Christ to the churches of Asia Minor was sent to Thyatira, and it is recorded in Revelation 2: 18-29. The city of Thyatira was located about twenty-five miles southeast of Pergamos, the capital

of the Roman province of Asia. It was founded by Seleucus Nicator, one of the generals of Alexander the Great. It was a garrison city located on the plain with no natural fortifications such as those of Pergamos and Sardis. On coins found in its ruins the city is represented by a horseman bearing a double-bladed battle ax. The name signifies "sweet savor of labor," or "sacrifice of contrition." It has also been interpreted to mean, "never weary of sacrifices."

At the time of the epistle, Thyatira was a manufacturing city, its citizens being mostly of the laboring class, in contrast to those living in Pergamos, the center of official and religious authority. The workmen were organized into guilds, the ancestors of the modern labor unions. The two leading industries were the

manufacture of instruments of brass, bronze, and other metals, and the weaving and dyeing of cloth, especially of the royal purple. Homer mentioned the latter industry, and three inscriptions speak of the "dyers" and their guilds. Acts 16:14 indicates that agents were sent to various parts of the world selling cloth made in Thyatira. Large quantities of purple and scarlet cloth are still made in that region. It is interesting to note that purple and scarlet are the principal colors worn by the popes and cardinals of the ruling church of the Middle Ages, the Thyatira period of the universal church.

The foundries of Thyatira, with their flaming furnaces, give force to the introduction of Christ with "eyes like flaming fire," or "whose eyes flash like fire and whose feet glow like bronze," according to other translations. During this period Jesus traveled everywhere and saw everything, and there was a great deal to see that made His eyes blaze with righteous indignation. His eyes searched "the reins," or motives, of every heart, and with the tread of a conqueror His feet trampled down His enemies and broke them to shivers like a potter's vessel. He is "the Son of God"

whose authority is being usurped by an apostate religious system and its leaders who claim kingly power.

To Thyatira was sent the longest of the seven epistles, and it covers the longest of the seven periods of church history, embracing more than one thousand years, or more than half the Christian era. The middle church of the seven symbolizes the church of the middle ages, covering the period of papal supremacy after being exalted to kingly power through a union of church and state and reaching to the dawn of the Reformation. The evangelical expositors during this period were unanimous in applying the "little horn" of Daniel's vision, the "man of sin" predicted by Paul, the symbolic prophetess Jezebel, the beast with seven heads and ten horns, and the mystic Babylon set forth in the Apocalypse, to the Papacy.



KEYSTONE

The Dark Ages were made dark largely because of the Church's union with and domination over the state. Opposition and persecution always accompany this unholy alliance.

Middle Ages

Fourth in a Series on the
Seven Churches of Revelation

It is evident that the local church in Thyatira was cursed by the false pretensions and activities of a woman who claimed the prophetic gift. Jezebel may not have been her real name, but it was used because of the striking similarity between the reign of ancient Jezebel during the greatest apostasy of Israel and the Thyatira period of the church when the Papacy was supreme. Jezebel was the heathen daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon, whose marriage with Ahab, king of Israel, resulted in leading God's people into idolatry. The spiritual drought brought a literal drought which lasted three and one-half years. It was a time of severe persecution to all who maintained their loyalty to God. The power of Jezebel was finally broken in the reformation brought by Elijah, Elisha, Jehu, and others.

Likewise the absolute domination of the papal power continued three and one-half prophetic years, as predicted in seven different prophecies in the books of Daniel and Revelation, and confirmed by the testimony of history. During this long period of 1260 years this semipagan power "made war with the saints and prevailed against them." It was the worst period of spiritual drought and famine in all history. Just as Jezebel, the bride and wife of Ahab, dominated both church and state, so the Papacy, claiming to be the bride and wife of Christ, ruled over both church and state during the Middle Ages.

The symbolic Jezebel of the Thyatira period is doubtless the same symbol of the apostate church as set forth in Revelation 17:1-6. Both the symbols employed and the language used indicate an unlawful union between the church and the state with the church dominating the state. The fallen church was represented by a woman "arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls," and "upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." It is interesting to note that the colors of the attire of this symbolic woman are the predominant colors of the cloth manufactured in Thyatira.

The Jezebel of the letter under consideration called
OUR TIMES, JANUARY, 1950

By Taylor G. Bunch

herself a "prophetess," and this is the claim of the so-called "Mother church of Christendom." The popes claim divine inspiration even to the extent of infallibility. She terms herself "the oracle of God." The never-ending system of ritualism in the papal religion is indicated in one meaning of Thyatira, "unwearied about sacrifices," or, "never weary of sacrifices."

Richard Trench, in his *Commentary on the Epistles to the Seven Churches in Asia*, says of the appropriateness of this symbol: "For such Protestant expositors as see the Papacy in the scarlet woman of Babylon, the Jezebel of Thyatira appears exactly at the right time, coincides with the Papacy at its height, yet at the same time with judgment at the door in the great revolt which was even then preparing."

Joseph A. Seiss, in his book *The Apocalypse*, Volume 1, pages 194, 195, says of this epistle: "And in all history there is not another character which so completely represents the Papal system—its character, works and worship—as the unclean wife of Ahab, the Jezebel of these Epistles. She was a heathen, married to a Jew; and such is the character of the Papal system in its main elements—Paganism joined to an obsolete Judaism. She is described as calling herself a prophetess, and as undertaking to be the teacher of God's servants; and Popery claims and professes to be heaven's only infallible teacher of God's truth. . . . She was a persecutor and murderess of God's prophets and witnesses; and the Papacy is marked by nothing more than its severity toward such as stood out against its impious pretenses, and its public and secret tortures and butcheries of the saints."

The bed of sin would become the bed of sickness, suffering, and death unless the apostate church repented. "I will kill her children with death," is the threat. Not only did Jezebel suffer a horrible death, but Jehu "took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel." 2 Kings 10:7. How many children compose the family of spiritual Jezebel? She is "the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth," which must include all the lesser false systems of religion. It is, therefore, a large family, and all will share the same fate as the mother church and the

(Continued on page 28)



The SERMON of the MONTH

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

By J. Walter Rich

WE MAY HAVE failed again and again in our attempts to be Christians and to live Christian lives. We have read what Isaiah has written about God's willingness to forgive, and have whispered over and over again those wonderful words: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7. We have thought of what Jeremiah said when he wrote: "And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against Me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against Me." Jeremiah 33:8. Then in the New Testament we read: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

Following all this, we are confronted with these words of Jesus that introduce to us a sin that is not pardonable. Hear what He says: "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." Matthew 12:31, 32.

This statement of Jesus seems to place a thorn in the peaceful teaching of Christ concerning the love of God and His willingness to forgive. Does it mean that the teachings of the Bible are contradictory? Or that in these days of *grace* God has forgotten to be gracious? We have no such statement in the Old Testament. Can we explain why the writings of the New Testament are less forgiving? Can these statements of the New Testament be reconciled with the teachings of the Old? To this we must answer, "Yes." We are sure that since the writings of both the Old and the New Testaments come from the same Author, we can and will find unity of thought and teaching.

Jesus thought in unity with what the prophets wrote in the Old Testament, as expressed in what He said through Matthew. Notice the words: "All manner

of sin shall be forgiven." No sin is so heinous or cruel that it cannot be forgiven if it is confessed, repented of, and forsaken. It is not the sin that is unpardonable, but it is the sinner's attitude toward that sin that makes it unpardonable to the sinner concerned. Another person can be pardoned for the same sin. In fact, "all manner of sin shall be forgiven," but not to all men; so it is not the sin, but the sinner, that stands in the way when a sin becomes unpardonable. The real crux in the forgiveness of sin is brought before us in one word found in the statement quoted from Isaiah above, and that word is "forsake." "Let the wicked *forsake* his way." God cannot forgive a sin, any sin,

GILBERT E. HARRIS



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that we refuse to forsake. Thus any sin might be the "unpardonable sin." It is not the size of the sin that makes it unpardonable. It is the sinner's love of that sin.

To one person the unpardonable sin might be an ungovernable temper. To another it might be an uncontrollable tongue. To another it might be pride, or social standing, or wealth, or any one of a large number of sins—liquor drinking, tobacco using, hatred, etc. What a tragedy that so many people will miss heaven because of the wine glass or the cigarette! We must remember that any sin can become the unpardonable sin, and will become just that, unless we are delivered from its awful slavery. If the sinner refuses to "forsake" his sins, he cannot expect to be forgiven them. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, . . . for He will abundantly pardon." Another tragedy is that so many people will lose heaven for the base reason that they hold a grudge. We must not forget that wrong thinking can and will become the unpardonable sin to many people. We must examine ourselves. We may find something worse in our lives than we think.



There is a point at Niagara Falls beyond which salvation is impossible. There is a similar point that the rejecters of God's mercies can pass.

God cannot and will not forgive the sins that we refuse to forsake; and that makes those sins, whatever they may be, "unpardonable" sins. "The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:1, 2. Have you ever thought that perhaps the reason God does not see or hear you is that you have blinded Him and made Him deaf? With His pure eyes He cannot look upon iniquity. (Habakkuk 1:13.) There is not much use to make a show or a lot of noise when God cannot see and will not hear.

This thought is emphasized by the wise man when he wrote: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall

have mercy." Proverbs 28:13. But, you ask, does not the Bible teach that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"? 1 John 1:9. Nothing is said about forsaking your sins in this verse. Yes, you are right in what the verse says, but you are not right in what the verse *teaches*. Let us explain. Jesus states that the Holy Ghost, or Spirit, is closely concerned with the sin that is not pardonable. And, indeed, He is. Here is how a sin becomes unpardonable:

First, the Holy Spirit comes to an individual and impresses him that his course of action is wrong. Usually this impression has to do with some one particular thing, though it may be an impression of general conduct. That person is led to feel that there should be an entire change in his way of life. This is the beginning of the Spirit's work. It is brought about, Isaiah tells us, by having a still small voice speak to the heart, and that voice calls for a reformation, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isaiah 30:21.

That voice being heard, an impression is made upon the mind and heart. One believes he should follow this small voice and make some changes, perhaps many changes, and is led by the Spirit to confess his faults to his fellows and his sins to God.

Now remember, this being led to confess and repent is not prompted by our own goodness or intuition. That act is a product of the work of the Holy Spirit. Repentance is a gift. We cannot buy, beg, or steal that priceless commodity, any more than we can buy forgiveness. God alone can forgive, and that is not

because of bribery, but because He delights to do it as an evidence of His love. Just so it is with repentance. Peter, writing of Jesus, says, "Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Acts 5:31.

The Holy Spirit is one of the heavenly Trinity, none of whom works independently. Of the Spirit we read: "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come." John 16:13. From this we are assured that repentance does not come by any act of our own, or at any time we may wish. Like a gift, we take it when it is offered. This is not saying that repentance may not be offered more than once; in fact it is offered many times, but it is saying that repentance cannot be exercised at leisure. There comes a time when the Spirit will cease to operate in offering repentance.

(Continued on page 32)

ONE OF THE WORST of all human faults is jumping at conclusions. It causes so many heartaches and so much human misery. Usually such conclusions are based on snap judgment, guesswork, and ignorance of the true facts. Conclusions so reached are nearly always wrong. And they often result in untold harm to innocent parties.

Not long ago a young man of my acquaintance was seen emerging from a roadhouse of none too savory repute. Immediately the story got around that he was a fellow of loose morals. Wagging tongues built on this incident to make a virtual monstrosity out of something that amounted to nothing, in reality. People said he was drunk; and it was a fact that he did wobble a bit uncertainly while walking.

The facts were that he had blown a tire on the motorcycle he was riding and was thrown to the ground, bumping his head. That explained his temporary grogginess. Because the roadhouse was the only place within miles of the accident that had a telephone, he naturally went there to call his brother at home and ask him to come out. The motorcycle had been so badly damaged that he could not use it. The whole affair was innocent enough, but gossipers and jumpers-at-conclusions made a lot out of it. Even the young man's employer, hearing the stories, called him on the carpet and asked for an explanation. The victim



H. M. LAMBERT

Gossipers and faultfinders are an abomination unto the Lord, and they are more dangerous to man than hissing serpents.

Jumping at Conclusions

It Is a Bad Policy and Often Results in Smearing Reputations of Innocent People

By Henry H. Graham

was weeks living down the unfortunate experience.

There is altogether too much loose and idle talk in the world. One person gets a story wrong and spreads it widely. Others pick it up, add a few faulty suppositions, and it will end no one knows where. There should be more guarded speaking. People should be sure of facts before making damaging assertions. Even then it is better not to make them. They do little if any good.

Another young man of my acquaintance was the target for much adverse and unjustified criticism because someone started the story that he associated with a man who had twice become involved with the law. A youth with high scruples and a devout church member, people just could not understand why he would have anything to do with the "undesirable." As the

ugly story spread, the young man's business associates began to shun him.

The truth was that the two had met and become acquainted at a service station where the "undesirable" was employed. As they grew to know each other better, they began to discuss religion. The exemplary young man was working on the other—trying to get him to accompany him to church. With the passage of time he achieved his objective. Today it would be hard to find a better Christian than this man who once found himself quite far off the straight and narrow path of life. But wagging tongues had besmirched the reputation of one who did not deserve such criticism.

There would be a lot more happiness in this old
(Continued on page 28)

Have You Lighted Your Torch?

Are You Doing Your Bit to Dispel the Darkness Settling Down Over the Earth?

By Edna Atkin Pepper



I LOOKED up and glanced out of the window to see the cause of all the excitement. People were filling the sidewalks and talking with distracted gestures. I had to know what it was about, so I opened the door and made a few inquiries.

"Haven't you heard? Why, the Lord is coming soon and everyone is preparing to leave the city."

"How do you know? Who said so?"

"Two girls from a state school received the message. They told the principal, and the message has gone everywhere!"

The next thing I knew I was in a car traveling rapidly on the broad, brick-paved streets. The entire population seemed to have evacuated ahead of us, since we saw no one except two men on foot who were scrambling away out of sight.

I was in the rear seat of the car between two people I did not know very well. For the first time I had an opportunity to think. If the Lord was coming very soon (and we did not doubt it in the least, for a supernatural blue light was fast darkening the earth), it was important that I had done my full share to prepare others for the great event. I made mental journeys up and down the community where I lived. Had I done something for each household that they might be warned of what was coming and be without excuse if they did not choose to accept? These I had invited to services. To others I had sent truth-filled literature. Some had received personal letters, and with others I had spoken face to face.

I breathed more freely. My thoughts turned to another aspect of the case. Had I written the last article I would ever have opportunity to write? Had I included in them every vital message that had ever been impressed upon my mind?

Eyes closed, I called the roll of the members of my family. Were the children in? Where had I failed that I could not be sure of *all* of them?

I peered about me in the fast deepening twilight of

earth's history into the faces of my seat mates. Had they heard the warnings? With a complete lack of what would have been my natural timidity, I began to talk with them of the things that were coming upon the earth. I told them that it was best for God's people to flee from the cities, as we were doing at that time.

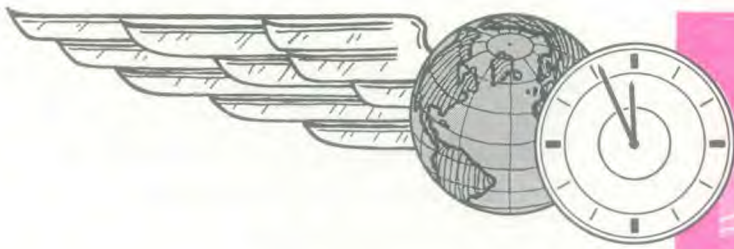
All the time I was speaking to them, there was a puzzle in my mind. Was the church falling down under her responsibilities that God must sound His warnings through the medium of a secular institution? "The message will go," I decided. "If the people do not keep up with it, they will be left behind."

The eerie blue light gave us solemn thoughts as we traveled steadily along the deserted streets. I pondered: "I must think for myself and not believe everything I am told. If Jesus does not appear in the cloud where every eye shall see Him, I may know it is not He, no matter what the circumstances may be."

I awoke from my dream, but the urgency that had pressed upon my heart while passing through it remained. The Lord is coming soon. It is time to clean house and make ready for that stupendous event. I must watch more carefully that nothing unworthy is insinuated into my life insidiously by the enemy of souls. I must scrutinize every motive and throw out everything that is at all questionable.

I must examine my possessions, none of which I can take with me. Do I have anything I do not use? Is someone else in need of it? Are there garments in my wardrobe that I never wear? Out with them! There are those within a stone's throw who suffer lack. Are there accumulations of tracts, papers, or books that should be put into circulation?

It is later than we think, and we will have to give an account of these potentialities for good if we do not make use of them. Darkness is fast settling down over the earth. We have the light, but if we do not let it shine, God will use some other little flame—the task will be finished on time.



INTERPRETING

In the Light
By the

★ "Shaketh His Hands From Holding of Bribes

MANY true Americans have been disillusioned in respect to the caliber of some of the leaders of our nation. Never since the days of the Teapot Dome exposure have we heard more about dishonest acts in our leadership. Military officers of high rank, as well as important administrators, have been deeply involved in the recent exposures of graft.

It seems very evident that there has been a growing tendency to exploit the finances of America, and particularly has this been true during the war—and what a shame this is!—and following the war, in the handling of war surpluses. We cannot help but feel that the average American has been disappointed and led to wonder if the officeholders that he voted for are worthy of the vote. It may be true that the dishonest graft has been small in comparison to the Teapot Dome case. Nevertheless, it is an injury to the pride of the loyal citizens of this country to know that there are those at the top who can be bought. The five-percenters and the receivers of free gifts for the purpose of winning contracts and other remunerative advantages leave us with a feeling of revulsion, and make us long for the high-minded men of integrity who gov-

erned this nation many years ago, and whom we are proud to refer to as statesmen.

In the Scriptures we find that those who will dwell with God "walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; . . . that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that *shaketh his hands from holding of bribes*, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil. He shall dwell on high." Isaiah 33:15, 16.

★ Modern Miracles That Leave Us Cold

REPORTS of miracles have appeared in the newspapers with great frequency in recent months. Some of these purported wonders leave us cold. We read of images shedding tears of blood, and spirit manifestations claimed to be an angel transmitting messages to a ten-year-old boy named Jerome Greten. It is said that when the spirit was asked to write its name on paper, a large "X" appeared on it written with crayon on that had been left near by.

It is hard to believe that God would perform the tricks and magic of such incidents as this. There is nothing that God can gain by having metal or wooden images shed tears, or by permitting His angels to write "X's" on paper for ten-year-old boys.

We do not wish to belittle miracles, for we know that they do occur. Unquestionably God is able and does perform miracles, but we do not believe that He is involved in spirit manifestations, such as articles floating around in the air, and peculiar sounds and knockings occurring in the dark. God does things in a different way. He answers the prayers of faith for the sick when the instruction He has given in James 5:14, 15 is properly followed.

We should remember that God has warned us in His Word that Satan will



Israeli's Chief Justice considering whether the trial and crucifixion

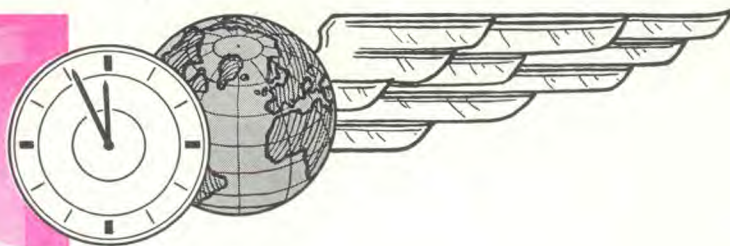


The needle-nosed Skyrocket jet plane is one of the fastest military planes in the world.

OUR TIMES

Bible Prophecy

for



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ire has been con-
can legally review
of Jesus Christ.

perform miracles in the last days to deceive the inhabitants of the world. In Revelation 13:13 it says that "he [Satan] doeth great wonders," and in the fourteenth verse it says that he "deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do." Furthermore, in Matthew 24:24 it reveals that "there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

We must be on the alert against deceptions. Undoubtedly we are living in the end of the time, for false christs, false prophets, deceptive miracles, and wonders are appearing in greater numbers.

★ Are We Heading for an Atomic War?

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S announcement that Russia had exploded an atomic bomb brought far-reaching repercussions to the people of the world. Not only does Russia have the atom bomb, but they have one that is equal to the one that the United States

has. The only advantage that our nation now has over Russia is in its stock pile.

Since the President's announcement, a wave of fear has crossed the world, and people are asking, Will Russia use the atom bomb? It seems to be quite generally acknowledged that she will. But there are some who maintain that she will not, for the same reasons which were given for the nonuse of poison gases in the last war.

However, to the men in important military positions these reasons do not hold in respect to the atom bomb.

Since the President's announcement, our nation has been thrown into high gear for full-speed-ahead preparations for what it considers to be an inevitable atomic war. It is believed that we have from two to ten years to prepare for this terrible conflict that

might end in the Armageddon prophesied in the Bible.

Soon after the world was startled by the news of Russia's atomic bomb, the United States Legislature voted the full amount of 1.3 billion dollars requested for rearming Europe. It was also decided that our Air Force should get more money immediately. Stock piling is to be increased. Research and production of atom bombs will go forward at full speed, for we are now in a race to the death.

In addition to rearming Europe, there will be a huge increase in the military of this country. Decentralization of our industries and cities is to be carried out as far as it is possible. Skyscrapers will no longer be built in our cities. Important arms plants are to go underground. Realizing that one well-placed atom bomb could disrupt the functioning of our government, bomb shelters and bomb-proof offices will be provided for important officials in Washington. Micro-filming of data and duplicating of files and records for safekeeping at outlying points are also part of the plan.

Bernard M. Baruch has submitted a plan for the mobilization of the citizenry and industries and for civilian defense.

This is a time of great insecurity and fear. It seems
(Continued on page 29)



ACME

Arthur I. Morrison holds the Bible Reference Indicator that he has invented. A flip of the dial makes an arrow point to the Bible book, chapter and verse desired.



Better Than Gold

There Is an Unexploited Treasure in Almost Every Home

TWO MEN IN BUSINESS bought a trunk full of junk. Thinking that its contents were of no value, they stored the chest away and forgot about it. There it stayed for many years, gathering dust as the days went by.

In 1941 the men cleaned out the storage room. When they found the dusty old trunk, they examined its contents. They did not remember the name of the person from whom they had bought it.

"What are these things?" asked one of the men, as he picked up some old metal disks lying among other articles in the bottom of the trunk.

"They look like money!" replied the other as he scratched one of them.

Then they hurried over to a government building to have the objects examined. An expert in the study of old money said that they were gold coins. Their actual value was \$4,885, but they could be sold to a collector of rare coins for \$6,000.

People miss many of the good things of life because of neglect of precious treasures lying close at hand which could be of great benefit to them.

Some years ago a man in a large city was very unhappy and needed spiritual help. I recommended that he study an old, old Book that most people have either seen or heard about, but which few have really studied.

"Yes, I know that Book!" he said. "We have a copy of it. There it is right over there. I bought it not long ago."

Going over to the table, I picked up the Book and blew off the dust. The title read, "The Holy Bible." My eye spied some words written with a pen on the first page. The book had been "lovingly presented" by that man to his wife on her birthday twenty years before! To him it seemed "not long ago" that he had bought it. How time flies! And in flying away, it had taken with it many neglected opportunities for that man to enrich his poor soul by the wealth of spiritual counsel found only in the Sacred Word.

As a literary treasure, the Holy Bible is a precious old Book. It is not a product of the twentieth century. It is not even a book.

The name "Bible" comes from the word *biblia*,

the plural form of the neuter Greek noun *biblion*, which means "a little book." So the Holy Scriptures are rightly called "The Holy Bible," because they are a collection of sixty-six small, sacred books. Although usually printed in one volume, the Holy Bible really is a library of sacred literature.

The first book of the Holy Bible is called *Genesis*, which means "Origin." It tells of the beginning of the world, the origin and the early religious history of the human race. It was written by Moses while he was a shepherd in Midian, now a part of Arabia, about 1500 B.C. The last book is called *Apokalypsis* in Greek, which means "Revelation." It was penned by the apostle John during his imprisonment on the

By Robert Leo Odom

Of all the literary treasures on the book shelf, there is none that compares with the worth of the Holy Bible. God imparts to us in its pages truths that are better than gold.



Isle of Patmos—the Alcatraz of the Roman Empire—about A.D. 96.

Thus the Holy Scriptures were composed during a period of 1,600 years. Some forty different persons—probably all Hebrews—were used by the Holy Spirit to write them. The first thirty-nine books were written mainly in the Hebrew language. Parts of Daniel and Ezra were penned in Aramaic. The last twenty-seven books were written in the common Greek tongue used throughout the civilized world during the first century of the Christian era.

The sixty-six books composing the Holy Bible are divided into two principal groups for purposes of reference. The first thirty-nine form the group known as “The Old Testament,” because they were written *before* the birth of Christ. The last twenty-seven are called “The New Testament,” because they were written *after* Christ was born. The New Testament contains many quotations from, and references to, the Old Testament.

The most widely used English translation of the Holy Bible is the Authorized Version, first published in 1611 under the direction of King James I of England. It is sometimes spoken of as the King James’ Version. Other English translations have been published, but none of them have been loved and used as much as this one.

The books of the Holy Bible are not arranged in the chronological order of the dates of their composition, but according to the nature of their contents.

The Old Testament writings are arranged in four sections: (1) the books of Moses, (2) the books of history, (3) the inspirational books, and (4) the books of prophecy.

The five books of Moses—from Genesis to Deuteronomy—are sometimes called the Pentateuch. In Greek the word *pente* means “five,” and the term *teuchos* signifies “volume.” So the Pentateuch is a fivefold volume of the writings of Moses, which record the history of the world from Creation to the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt in the fifteenth century before Christ.

The next group—from Joshua to Esther—consists of twelve books which tell the history of the Hebrew people from their settlement in the land of Canaan (in the fifteenth century before Christ) until their restoration to Palestine (in the fifth century before Christ) after the Babylonian captivity.

The third group comprises five inspirational books—from Job to the Song of Solomon—that consist of interesting and helpful poems, proverbs, and general exhortations.

The fourth group consists of seventeen books of prophecy—from Isaiah to Malachi. The first five—from Isaiah to Daniel—are known as the Major Prophets. The last twelve—from Hosea to Malachi—are called the Minor Prophets.

The New Testament books are also divided into

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A New Year's Prayerful Resolve

As Thou hast made my world without,
Make still more fair my world within;
Shine through its lingering clouds of doubt;
Rebuke its haunting shapes of sin.
Fill, brief or long, my granted span of life
With love, to Thee and man.
Strike, when Thou wilt, my hour of rest,
But let my last days be my best.

—John Greenleaf Whittier.

four sections: (1) the life of Jesus Christ, (2) early church history, (3) apostolic letters, and (4) prophecy.

The four Gospels—from Matthew to John—tell of the life of Jesus from His birth to His ascension to heaven after His resurrection. The first three are biographies of His life; the fourth supplements them.

The Acts of the Apostles is the one historical book of the New Testament. It tells of the most important developments of the church from the ascension of Christ (in A.D. 31) to Paul’s death in Rome (in A.D. 66).

The third group is composed of twenty-one letters written by leaders of the early Christian church. Paul wrote the first fourteen, James wrote one, Peter wrote two, John wrote three, and Jude (not Judas Iscariot) wrote one.

The last is a book of prophecy—the Revelation—written by the apostle John (about A.D. 96).

To make it easy to find any passage referred to in the Holy Scriptures, each book is divided into chapters, and each chapter is divided into verses. For example, if somebody should tell you to look in 1 Chronicles 15:14 for certain information, he

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For BETTER HOMES and HEALTH

HOW ALCOHOLISM MAY BE PREVENTED OR CURED

A Simple Solution to a Tremendous Problem

By C. S. Longacre

IF THE APPETITE for intoxicating beverages were removed, it would bring an end to the traffic in liquors. If one half the effort were put forth to enlighten the public as to how to remove the appetite for liquor as is put forth to create an appetite for alcoholic beverages, a thousand times more good would be accomplished in nullifying the liquor trade and building up good citizenship and nobility in mankind.

The desire for liquor is an unnatural appetite that has to be created and stimulated, and in most cases this is done at home at the table that supplies irritating and stimulating condiments and foods that create an unnatural desire for something stronger to satisfy the craving. Ignorance upon the subject of proper eating and drinking has led many parents to cultivate the habit for stronger stimulants in their children.

Animals, with a few exceptions, cannot be induced to drink alcoholic beverages nor to chew or smoke tobacco. The first attempt to chew a plug of tobacco or smoke a package of cigarettes makes a person deathly sick and nauseated. The whole human organism revolts against the attempted practice. The body does not crave either liquor or tobacco at first. The appetite for these harmful and injurious narcotic poisons has to be cultivated and established by habit through constant use. The poisons in these narcotics produce an unnatural spasmodic action which has to be cultivated and developed before the habit becomes established, the same as in the use of cocaine and morphine and other poisonous narcotics.

To indulge the appetite by eating food that is irritating and stimulating, or drinking liquids which are habit forming, creates an unnatural appetite which demands stronger stimulation, and in time the inhibitions are broken down and the indulging participants bind themselves in bands which no power on earth can break. It is possible to destroy the appetite for either tobacco or liquor by administering and introducing certain chemical elements in the food or in the drink that

create a nausea and abhorrence for tobacco or liquor when taken. Medical science has made these discoveries, and when administered, they have put a temporary check upon the use of tobacco or the use of alcoholic beverages, as long as the effects of the chemicals were present in the human system.

Likewise the use of certain fruits and foods, we are informed by eminent physicians and dietitians, has a similar effect and destroys the appetite for tobacco or alcoholic beverages. Many users of liquor and tobacco have admitted that their appetite for liquor or tobacco has been completely taken away after they lived on a diet of oranges and other citrus fruits for several days. This shows that the roots of intemperance can be mortified and the craving removed by the use of certain food elements which counteract the desire for narcotics. The roots of intemperance lie deeper than mere liquor drinking or the indulgence in narcotics. The workers for temperance make a serious mistake when they do not take into account the causes of intemperance.

A habitual drinker once said: "You temperance people seem much concerned about my drinking and want to stop it, but you manifest no concern about my intense thirst and how to remove it." As long as the thirst exists the drinking will continue. We

temperance people must work to eliminate the thirst. We must lay the ax at the root of the tree of intemperance, and seek to remove the thirst of the drinker if we are to succeed in putting a dent in the liquor trade. If we can succeed in taking away the appetite for liquor or tobacco in a drinker or smoker, or keep the individual from developing an appetite for liquor or

tobacco by proper diet, we have won our battle for the cause of temperance and saved a soul from both physical and spiritual ruin.

This work must begin at our tables by removing all foods and drinks which create an appetite for unnatural stimulation that leads to the use of tobacco and liquor to satisfy the craving for something stronger

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By Caris Lauda

A Good Resolution

Happy New Year, Teen-agers!

Another new year; my, how time flies! Let us make this new year, 1950, the happiest, the best ever. How are we going to do it? Well, I have one suggestion to make that I feel sure will work. It is one of my own New Year's resolutions, too: "To read the Bible—God's letter to me—every day."

At a "Youthspiration" the other day—by the way, did you ever hear that term before? It means an inspiring gathering of young people. Well, at such a rally I heard seven teen-agers give reasons why we should read the Bible every day. Here they are:

1. Because the Bible is the most widely read Book in the world today. It has no competitor as the world's "best-seller."

2. Because the Bible has been the greatest single factor in the development of true culture and right living among men.

3. Because its study enlarges one's horizon. It brings one in touch with the most enlightened and most progressive spirits of this and every age.

4. Because to know the Bible helps one to appreciate the best in literature, art, and music. It is the Book that lends to all and borrows from none.

5. Because knowledge of the Book crowns all other branches of knowledge.

6. Because the Bible is God's own textbook for the development of Christian character. It is the one Book that can help us to love God with our heart, mind, and soul, and our neighbors as ourselves.

7. Because the Bible contains God's message of grace and power for the salvation of all who do His will and glorify Him in their lives.

These are all good reasons, aren't they? Good reasons why we should all be found reading the Bible often. Doctor William Riley Nelson has given us this very interesting life history, "From the Diary of a Bible":

"January 15—I have been resting quietly for a week. The first few nights of the New Year my owner read me regularly; now I have been forgotten, I guess.

"February 2—Clean-up day! I was dusted along with some other things and put back on the shelf.

"February 7—My owner used me for a short time looking up some references and then went to Sunday School.

"March 7—I have been dusted today and placed on
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By D. A. Delafield

God Answers Prayer

A NUMBER of years ago a large transport plane was lost in a heavy storm. For many long hours the heavy plane flew in circles high above the earth as the pilot and his crew tried frantically to contact headquarters by radio. The gas was running low and the passengers were told that the plane would crash soon if they did not find their bearings. You may be sure, Juniors, that many earnest prayers went up to heaven as the passengers prayed that God would save their lives. Suddenly the radio operator contacted headquarters with his powerful receiving set, and before long the big ship landed safely. By following radio directions they were guided to a landing field and their prayers were miraculously answered.

It is wonderful to know that God answers prayer. When we are in danger, we may offer up a silent prayer for divine help, and just when we need it most, rescue comes and we are delivered. This truth is clearly taught in the Bible. The prophet Daniel's life was spared when he prayed to God in the midst of the den of lions. (Daniel 6:16-24.) Death is just as real and terrible when we are facing wild beasts as it is when we are facing the terrors of an airplane crash.

Daniel's companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were cast alive into a furnace heated to white heat, and yet they were not burned. God answered their prayers and delivered them. (Daniel 3:1-30.) Their garments were not even singed by the flames. The presence of the Son of God in the furnace brought deliverance. They were entirely unharmed.

How often does the angel of the Lord protect us from death! Although it is true that many good people are not rescued from disaster, enough cases of deliverance are on record to show us that God hears prayer when offered to Him in sincerity.

If the veil that separates this world from heaven could be drawn aside and we could see the strong angels who serve as ministers and protectors to God's children, we would all feel more secure and live better, more noble lives. Said the psalmist: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psalm 34:7. These powerful messengers of mercy will come quickly to our sides if we breathe a prayer for their presence. Once when Jesus was arrested by a company of soldiers,
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Another Year Is Dawning

By Frances Ridley Havergal

Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year in leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Of ever-deepening trustfulness,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise;
Another year of proving
Thy presence "all the days."

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier works above;
Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, for heaven preparing,
Another year for Thee.

Rapture or Revelation—Which?

(Continued from page 7)

edge that the fathers and the best interpreters understand this unanimously of Antichrist, who will appear in the world before the great day of judgment, to combat religion and the saints. But then they conceive that Antichrist is not yet revealed, that he is only one man, and that he will continue only three years and a half. But we have shown before, that *the man of sin* is not a single man. . . . [The man of sin] is to be understood of a whole order and succession of persons. . . . As this evil began in the apostles' days, and was to continue in the world till the second coming of Christ in power and great glory, it necessarily follows that it was to be carried on, not by one man, but by a succession of men in several ages. It cannot be taking root and growing imperceptibly 1700 years or more, and yet flourish under its chief head only three years and a half."—P. 402.

Strange to say, the Dispensationalists have rejected the historical interpretation which gave birth to Protestantism, and have accepted the Jesuit futurist invention. Many fanciful ideas have been advanced in recent years. Some declared that Mussolini was the antichrist; others gave Hitler this distinction; still others designated Stalin as the antichrist. The most astonishing and absurd of all absurdities was the statement made by a prominent preacher of the Midwest that in his opinion Judas Iscariot, raised from the dead, would be the antichrist.

The rapture theory was invented that the second coming of Christ might fit into the futurist ideas. According to Dispensationalism, the tribulation is bounded by two phases of the second coming of Christ: a secret coming for His church *before* the tribulation, and a coming in glory with His church *after* the tribulation. This is doing violence to the blessed truth of the second coming. Such teaching is without scriptural foundation. In answer to this last-day deception, let us note the following facts of faith:

(1) The resurrection and translation of the saints take place at the same time—not before—that the wicked see Christ coming in power and great glory. Note the sequence of events in Matthew 24:30, 31: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

(2) The resurrection and translation of the saints are connected with a "shout," the "voice of the Archangel," and the "trump of God." These expressions are the very opposite of the word "secret." "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

(3) The Greek word *parousia*, which is translated "presence," and which has been used frequently by Dispensationalists to designate the "rapture," is associated with "glory" and "visibility," and not with "secret" or "silent."

Matthew 24:27: "For as the lightning, . . . so shall also the *parousia* of the Son of man be."

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17: "*Parousia* of the Lord . . . shout . . . voice . . . trump."

2 Thessalonians 2:8: "Wicked . . . consume . . . with the brightness of His *parousia*."

2 Peter 3:12: "*Parousia* . . . heavens being on fire . . . elements shall melt."

(4) The saints of God pass through the "great

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tribulation," are saved from it, but are not snatched away from it.

Matthew 24:21-27: "Then shall be great tribulation. . . . But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. . . . Then . . . shall arise false Christs. . . . If it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . If they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the . . . secret chamber; believe it not. . . . For as the lightning cometh, . . . so shall also the *parousia* of the Son of man be."

Revelation 7:9-14: "A great multitude . . . clothed with white robes. . . . These are they which came out of great tribulation."

Jeremiah 30:7: "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble [tribulation]; but he shall be saved out of it."

Whether it is the long period of papal persecution, known as the "great tribulation," or the little time of trouble just before the second coming of Christ, the saints of God pass through the tribulation and are *not* snatched away from it. Indeed, it is tribulation that "worketh patience." (James 1:3.) The time of trial is God's method of purifying His church. The children of God escape the judgments of God, but not persecution or tribulation.

(5) The *parousia* cannot come until after the antichrist is revealed. Indeed the spirit of antichrist had begun to work even in the days of the apostles, and will continue its evil work until it is destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming.

2 Thessalonians 2:1, 3, 7: "The *parousia* of our Lord . . . shall not come, except . . . that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. . . . For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, . . . whom the Lord . . . shall destroy with the brightness of His *parousia*."

(6) The time of the resurrection of the righteous dead is placed by Jesus at "the last day," not three and a half years *before* the last day. Four times the expression, "I will raise him up at the last day," is repeated in chapter six of the book of John.

(7) Destruction as well as salvation is connected with the *parousia*. The righteous dead are raised, the righteous living are translated at the *parousia*. The wicked are destroyed at the *parousia*.

Matthew 24:39: "And knew not until the Flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the *parousia* of the Son of man be."

2 Thessalonians 2:8: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His *parousia*."

Until the invention of the secret rapture theory, there was no misunderstanding or confusion in regard to the manner of Christ's coming. The Scriptures were

read and believed in all their simplicity and power. Which shall it be—the myth of a pre-tribulational resurrection, or the mighty message of a resurrection accompanied by a "shout," the "voice of the Archangel," and "the trump of God"? Which shall it be—the fiction of a secret rapture, or the fact of a coming "with power and great glory"? Which shall it be—the deliberate dividing of the coming of Christ into *two* comings, or an acceptance of the plain teaching of the Word that "unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation"? (Hebrews 9:28.)

The eminent Charles Spurgeon decried the tendency of our times to depart from the simple teaching of the Word of God. He said: "We are getting too far away from facts nowadays, and too much into the realm of myths and notions. 'Every eye shall see Him'; in this there shall be no delusion. Note well that He is to be seen of all kinds of living men: every eye shall see Him: the king and the peasant, the most learned and the most ignorant."—*The Second Coming of Christ*, p. 109.

There are three words in the Greek which are translated coming: *parousia*, *epiphaneia*, and *apokalupsis*. The fact is, there is no distinction between these words so far as a separation of time is concerned. We have already seen that the *parousia* is a visible coming, "as the lightning" and "with a shout." It is at the *parousia* that the resurrection and translation of the righteous take place. The question is, Are the *epiphaneia* and the *apokalupsis* also associated with the hope and expectation of the righteous? If so, the folly of making distinction in events between the *parousia*, or presence, and the *epiphaneia* and *apokalupsis*, or revelation, is apparent. According to the Scriptures the people of God are:

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing [*epiphaneia*] of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

"Waiting for the coming [*apokalupsis*] of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:7.

Moreover, the people of God are to:

"Keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing [*epiphaneia*] of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Timothy 6:14.

"Hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation [*apokalupsis*] of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:13.

The truth is that all three of these words are descriptive of the *glory* of Christ's coming; all three refer to the one great and glorious event. There is but *one* second coming of our Lord. There are not two phases of His second coming. There is no such thing as a secret, silent snatching away of the church. "With power and great glory" is the word of our Lord in describing His appearing. Will you be ready when His glory breaks forth?



Let's Ask the DOCTOR



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.

I am forty-four years of age and weigh one hundred ninety pounds. I would like to reduce without taking medicine or drugs. I have a small round cyst or tumor in the thyroid gland. Is this dangerous, tending possibly to cancer?—C.B.

I think you would be wise to reduce, and the safest way is without drugs, although in many cases from one to three grains of thyroid may be taken daily for a little time while reducing, but this should not be kept up very long. Since most persons find it hard to diet unless a specific and simple diet is outlined, I would suggest the following:

Each day, for four days, have only four large bananas, three glasses of skimmed milk or buttermilk, and two glasses of either grapefruit or tomato juice.

Following this simple diet, two days of a more complex diet should be carried out, as follows: Breakfast—one serving of cereal, one half all-bran and one half bran flakes, with skimmed milk; one grapefruit, or one glass of tomato or grapefruit juice. Dinner or lunch—one large vegetable salad; one bowl of non-cream vegetable soup; one-half slice of whole-wheat bread; one glass of skimmed milk or buttermilk. For the evening meal—a bowl of stewed tomatoes or non-cream tomato soup; two Ry-Krisps; and a glass of buttermilk or skimmed milk.

Afterward start again with the four-day diet and repeat. One or two thyroid tablets daily, such as Endothylin or proloids, may be taken where weight reduction is slow and difficult.

Regarding the cyst or lump in the thyroid gland, I would suggest that if you have a goiter of any size and there develops a round cyst or separate mass that can be felt easily, it might be well to consult a surgeon familiar with goiters. Malignancy or cancer, when it does develop in a goiter, most often appears in such a discrete, or separate, tumor. This would be taking a safe course, as its removal is not dangerous, and leaving it might not be too safe.

What causes a puffiness under the eyes? What causes dark circles around the eyes?—D.E.R.

Puffiness around the eyes or under the eyes may be caused by kidney trouble, but not always. Nervous exhaustion or fatigue may cause both puffy lower areas or dark areas under the eyes. Plenty of rest and a good building-up program should be helpful in either case.

What is the best way to remove warts and moles?—S.F.

It is possible to remove warts and moles by applying an acid, such as glacial acetic or hydrochloric, but it must be used very carefully, first painting a little vaseline around the mole or wart to prevent getting the corrosive acid on the normal skin tissue. Then the acid must be applied with a toothpick or an applicator which has a tiny bit of cotton wound very tightly on the tip. Probably the best method is the use of an electric needle, using the low-powered fulgurating current of a diathermy machine applied lightly to avoid leaving a deep hole or bad scar. This method would need to be done by a doctor. It is both painless and inexpensive. A bit of injected local anesthetic is used at the point of application.

What is the best way to purify the blood as a preventive against boils and various sores?—K.H.

There are times when the body seems to lose its resistance against minor infections such as boils. One method of regaining this resistance is by the use of specific vaccines, using such a vaccine as would be identical with the type of germ causing the infection. Repeated doses of this at weekly intervals will often stop the crop of boils from continuing or re-appearing. These vaccines must be given by a doctor, or at least must be prescribed by a doctor in the proper dosage, and given hypodermically.

A second method is to start building up the general health and body resistance by the use of extra vitamins and the generous use of fresh, raw vegetable and fruit salads, fruit juices, and with cool showers and sun bathing. These make it possible for the body to regain its ability to destroy invading germs before they have a chance to gain a foothold.

Does Snake Handling Please God?

(Continued from page 9)

(Acts 28:1-10.) Here we find that Paul was a prophet of God and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. When bitten by a viper, a venomous serpent, he merely "shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm." After the spectators "looked a great while"—thinking that Paul would die suddenly—and saw no harm come to him, "they changed their minds." Being ignorant barbarians they said "that he was a god."

No mention of wanton exposure that would endanger life, of entering into temptation, of showing off his supernatural power as a sign of his God, is shown in the text at all. Claiming that the handling of deadly snakes and the drinking of deadly poisons are signs of the Holy Spirit is preposterous, unreasonable, and a perversion of the gospel. The Holy Spirit is always calm, reasonable, sensible, sane, and practical; His business is to save life, not to destroy. God does not presume on miracles to defend Himself. Jesus did no miracle to show off His supernatural power, even at the request of the devil. (Matthew 4:4-11.)

There is a vast difference between walking innocently and unknowingly into a trap set by enemies and Satan, and brazenly taking license. Freedom used in contempt of scriptural injunctions and teachings, such as taking up deadly creatures or drinking poisons, to foolishly and hazardously expose oneself to certain and fatal results is sacrilegious. Such is modern sorcery. Paul's experience shows a walking by faith in the revealed will of God; the other is bold, daring, unscriptural presumption. All such "reproacheth the Lord; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people." Numbers 15:30.

These latter-day presumptuous and dreadful demonstrations, which often result in the death of their victims, are all performed by Satan's agents, not one of whom observes the Ten Commandments of God or is directed by His Holy Spirit. (Exodus 20; Isaiah 8:20; 1 John 2:3, 4; 2 John 8-11; Matthew 7:14, 15; John 14:15.) Obedience to His Word is the real test of a true disciple. (John 14:23.) Every Spirit-filled man will be subject to the tests of all the Bible prophets. (1 Corinthians 14:32.)

God's Word condemns suicide in any form, whether it be by poisoning in one overt act, or by a slow process. Why tempt a snake to kill you and call the act Christian? It is blasphemy, bold satanic delusion, attempting to take lives while under Satan's spell. It is his power that is aiding and abetting such unbalanced, ignorant acts. "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord. (Isaiah 1:18.) Such acts do not show sane, balanced reasoning, a reasoning in harmony with the revealed Word of God.

Does Jesus overlook large dosages of poison and condemn only small draughts? Is a drunkard spared by his

excessive intoxication? Is a tobacco addict displaying holiness by offering much ungodly incense? Alcohol and narcotic tobacco are poisons, and so is snake venom. All are deadly. God's Word condemns the use of all such. (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; 3:17; Revelation 21:27.) Does God condemn slow suicide, on the one hand, and overlook, on the other hand, these outlandish, almost sure-death acts? No.

Faith of the Forty-Niners

(Continued from page 11)

viding they will by faith abandon the old life and take up their trek through this prairie wilderness of sin to the "promised land."

This, to be sure, must be by faith. But "faith," we are told, "is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1. Thousand thousands have, during the centuries of time, seen this city and trekked toward it—all by faith. But the inheritance is sure. Abraham saw it and believed. Others, too, seeing it, suffered many things, rather than relinquish their hold upon the promise.

But you are saying, "It's so intangible. I want something that I can see and feel." Remember, "faith is the substance"—faith, plus the promise of God, is actuality. Do we not do all things by faith? By faith we lie down to sleep, believing we will awaken in the morning. By faith we eat, believing the food will nourish our bodies. By faith we breathe, believing that our breath is sure. The farmer plants his seeds believing in the harvest. The businessman makes his purchases and sales believing in his fellow man. From the cradle to the grave we perform one act of faith after another. Is it so strange, then, that the glories of the eternal world must be taken by faith?

At first, Peter walked on the water by faith. But when his faith failed, he began to sink and would have perished but for the fact that Jesus saved him. (Matthew 14:25-31.) Just so, we, too, shall sink beneath the waves of sin and folly unless we look to Jesus for salvation. We must not doubt. Salvation is wholly by faith on man's part. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8.

Our grandfathers of yesteryear, the forty-niners, at the news of gold, journeyed by faith toward the setting sun. Is it different with us today—the descendants of those rugged, brave men and women? Surely *we* must live by faith. We are seeking the "gold" of the better things of life. We may, if we will, trek toward a far greater prize—eternal life.

We are in the setting-sun period of this world's history. The shadows are lengthening, dangerously. Why not join the Christian believers who have set their eyes upon the heavenly treasure? Said the Saviour of men: "If thou canst believe, all things are possible." Mark 9:23.

The Church of the Middle Ages

(Continued from page 13)

system of false and counterfeit religion. Roman Catholic writers not only unhesitatingly declare that their religion is a mixture of paganism and Christianity, but even boast of the fact on the basis of its being a defeat to Satan to appropriate his religion to Christian purposes. Protestantism even is permeated with doctrines and customs that are of pagan and papal origin and which have no foundation whatever in the Scriptures.

The Thyatira period would be brought to an end by the dawn of the Reformation, and the great souls who led out in that noble work are almost named. An appeal is made to the saints who have "not known the deep things of Satan," and to them no other responsibility would be given than to hold fast to the truth already possessed and wait for the further revelation of light and truth in the coming reformation which would increase their responsibility accordingly. "Till I come" must include the second advent of Christ, but it may also have special reference here to His coming to judge and punish spiritual Jezebel and her children and to usher in the Reformation.

The faithful children of God during the closing part of the Thyatira period would be granted to "see the Morning Star" (Moffatt). Christ was the royal Star that was to rise out of Jacob in fulfillment of the prophecy of Balaam, the "Day Star" that brings the day dawn to those who take heed to "the sure word of prophecy," and He is "the bright and morning Star" who is to reign forever over the house of David. Christ is, therefore, the "Morning Star" of our text. Just as the morning star rises and is seen in the darkest hour of the night, which immediately precedes the dawn of day, which is ushered in by the rising sun, so the Dark Ages came to an end with the appearance of Christ through the reformers as the Day Star of truth in preparation for His advent as "the Sun of Righteousness" in the fuller light of gospel truth.

The promise of the Morning Star indicates the approaching end of the night, and is also the sign and promise of the coming of greater light. Wycliffe has been known as "the morning star of the Reformation," and he appeared in the fourteenth century. Savonarola, in the fifteenth century, was another of the morning stars which were predictive of the dawn of a brighter day. They were beacon lights heralding a new day of light and truth and liberty when the morning star would give place to the Sun of Righteousness. The Thyatira period would be followed by the Reformation, the purpose of which was to prepare the church for the coming of Christ.

As an incentive for the acceptance of His message, Christ promises those who gain the victory over prevailing conditions of apostasy and who obey His word and live His life "unto the end," that He would some day give them power over the nations. The tables

would turn and the saints who had so long been persecuted pilgrims and strangers in the earth would inherit and rule over the redeemed world. The promise is that the power that dominated the earth and trampled the saints under foot will come to an end and that Christ will become the Sovereign and rule "with a rod of iron." "Rule" as here used is better rendered "shepherd." "He shall be their shepherd," is one version. The "rod" is really a "scepter," and the reign of Christ will be as absolute as that of an Oriental shepherd over his sheep. It is the reign of love which is the greatest power in the universe.

The divine promise is that "as the vessels of a potter," the wicked nations and apostate religious organizations shall "be broken to shivers." We are assured that some day the all-conquering Christ will put down all opposing authority and power in this rebel world and will "put all enemies under His feet," and will deliver back to the Father the redeemed kingdom that was lost through sin. See 1 Corinthians 15:24, 25. Then will be fulfilled the prophecy revealed in the second chapter of Daniel when the wicked nations of earth will become like chaff and the kingdom of God will fill the whole earth and continue forever and ever. For the hastening of this great event every sincere Christian should diligently work and fervently pray.

Jumping at Conclusions

(Continued from page 16)

world if people would be slower to condemn, quicker to praise, and if they would know whereof they speak before saying a single word.

I once knew a man who spent most of his time reading on the front porch while his wife worked downtown. He did not even wash the dishes or do a bit of other work around the house or elsewhere. And, of course, neighbors began to brand him lazy as soon as the couple moved there. His intimates were inclined to scoff at his statement that a serious heart condition prevented him from doing work of any kind. He was a big, husky-looking chap. And in reality it chafed him no end because his wife had to work to support him. He was not naturally a lazy man at all.

After some months this man recovered and accepted a lucrative position, his wife then devoting her time to the home. But even to this day some people refer to her husband as "Mr. Laziness" and "that man whose wife supported him." As a matter of fact his enforced period of idleness was the most miserably unhappy one he had ever spent in his life. Until his heart went back on him he had batted the ball hard—too hard, in fact, for his own physical well-being.

This world needs more tolerance, kindness, understanding, and charitableness—a greater willingness to believe the best in people. Misinterpreting motives, jumping at conclusions, and rumor-spreading deserve the severest sort of condemnation.

Are We Heading for an Atomic War?

(Continued from page 19)

that we are rapidly coming to the climaxing events of our present world history. The prophet Joel, in describing conditions down in the end of time, spoke of the "wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke." Joel 2:30. Perhaps the blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke describe atomic warfare.

It seems quite certain, from the course of events, that we are heading toward a fearful conflict. The final movements will be rapid ones, and we should be sure that we are ready to stand in the day of the Lord that is soon to come.

A Good Resolution

(Continued from page 23)

the center table in the sitting room. Special company has been here, but now I am back on the shelf again.

"April 2—Busy day! My owner led a devotional lesson and had to look up some references. She had quite a time finding me and then she hunted and hunted to find the references she wanted. She's not very well acquainted with me, you see.

"May 5—I'm here in Grandma's lap. She is here on a visit. A tear dropped on Colossians 2:5-7.

"May 6—I'm in Grandma's lap again this afternoon. She has spent most of her time reading 1 Corinthians 13, and the last four verses of the fifteenth chapter.

"May 7, 8, 9—I've been in Grandma's lap each of these afternoons; I'm in there now. It is such a comfort to be appreciated, loved, and held tenderly. She reads me part of the time, and then she just sits and talks to me.

"May 10—Grandma's gone and I'm back in the same old place. She kissed me before she left.

"June 4—Had a couple of four-leaf clovers tucked away between my leaves today.

"July 1—I've been packed away in a trunk today with some other things. They are off on a vacation, I guess.

"July 10—I'm still in the trunk, though nearly everything else has been taken out. Other things first, I guess.

"July 15—Well, I'm home again, and back in the same old place. Quite a journey we had, but I can't see why they took me. I was not out of the trunk while we were gone.

"August 1—Rather stuffy and hot. Two magazines, a novel, and an old hat on top of me. I wish they would take them off.

"September 10—Clean-up day! I was dusted and put back. I'm lonesome—wish Grandma would come back.

"September 12—Mary used me for a few minutes today. She was writing a letter to a friend whose

brother had died and she needed a suitable verse to quote.

"October 5—I was carried to church on Rally Day and held up to be counted. I'm glad to be used even that way.

"December 31—Tomorrow I expect to have a knife slipped between my leaves, by a blindfolded person who will place a finger on a verse, then the blindfold removed and the verse read. Suppose the finger should rest on John 5:39? Tomorrow the New Year will be here. I wonder if it will be as lonesome as this one has been? On the shelf, under the dust and magazines and novels, old hats, in the trunk for days and days. If only my owner would read me and get my messages of cheer and instruction. How I would like to help! Won't you pray that I may have that opportunity?"

Let's resolve this New Year not to let our Bibles have such a diary for 1950. Friend of mine, let's by God's grace make this year, this new year 1950, the best ever. Let's follow as our daily motto: "Talk to God before you talk to man; read what God says before you read what man says." Yours for a great New Year!

Your Pen Pal,
Caris

God Answers Prayer

(Continued from page 23)

He said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?" Matthew 26:53. These mighty beings from God's headquarters in the center of the universe are commissioned to help us whenever we are in danger of suffering physical harm or of yielding to temptation.

But prayer is more than calling upon God when we are in trouble. Prayer will help us to be better boys and girls so that we can live pure and upright lives. Each morning and night we should kneel at our bedsides and talk to God as we would to our best friend. We should tell Him all about ourselves. He delights to hear us. We should talk to Him about the things we like. We must not think that He will grow tired and weary. God is interested in our simple pleasures. If we pray about such things as wagons and dolls and bicycles, He will listen.

He is also interested, above everything else, in our lives. We should talk to Him about our future. We ought to tell Him that we want to live a life of service and that we are ready if He should call us to be doctors or ministers, nurses or missionaries.

When you make mistakes, confess them to God and tell Him you are sorry, then ask for strength to be an overcomer. If you will be serious and earnest about prayer and believe that God hears you when you talk to Him, He will look down and smile upon you and give you your heart's desire.

God Answers Prayer

(Continued from page 23)

Your father and mother are made happy when they can give you nice things. "How much more," said Jesus, "shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?" Matthew 7:11.

Suppose that you were sick and needed a doctor. Don't you think your father would be willing to call in the family physician to take care of you? When you are hungry, don't you always find that mother has a good meal cooked and ready to satisfy your appetite? Your parents provide clothing for you in the winter when it is cold. If you need anything to make you happy and healthy, your parents will not refuse you if your request is reasonable. Then, boys and girls, trust God and believe that He means to do you good in the same way as your parents.

There is one condition to answered prayer that I especially want to mention. It is this: The Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18. We must obey God before prayer can be answered.

Prayer also helps us to be kind. "Pray for them which despitefully use you," said Jesus. Matthew 5:44. And we cannot hate those for whom we pray sincerely. Prayer also helps us to be forgiving, for we are bidden to ask God to "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matthew 6:12.

Last, and perhaps most important of all, is to pray in Christ's name. We may ask our heavenly Father for His favor and blessing in the name that is loved and honored by angels and men—our Lord Jesus Christ. Because He has gained the victory over Satan and the world, we may receive His grace to overcome as He overcame.

GEMS of TRUTH

Being alert to speak is important, but being silent at the right time is even more necessary.

To receive a reward is a good thing, but to deserve it is better.

Force yourself to do little things well, and you will do big things well from habit.

Good thoughts are necessary to good deeds, and good deeds are necessary to happiness.

A man who wins fame sets a goal at the beginning and works toward it.



SCIENCE Insights



ACME

*The flower, *Strophanthus preusii*, may be the means of relieving the sufferers of arthritis.*

PENICILLIN FAILS AS COLD PREVENTIVE IN TRIALS.—Hope that daily prophylactic doses of penicillin would keep people from catching colds and other respiratory ailments and losing time from work on account of such illness can be given up in the light of a report to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.—*Science News Letter*, September 3, 1949.

TURNING NEGROES WHITE BY CHEMICAL IS IMPRACTICAL.—The scientist who first investigated over a decade ago the strange phenomenon of Negroes turning white, is authority for the fact that the chemical treatment, given publicity in a national magazine, is impractical and dangerous.—*Science News Letter*, August 27, 1949.

PREGNANCY ILLNESS RELIEF.—Relief from the nausea and vomiting which afflict one fourth to one half of expectant mothers may be had through daily doses of the new anti-seasickness remedy, Dramamine, scientists at Johns Hopkins University and Hospital in Baltimore are finding.—*Science News Letter*, September 3, 1949.



What Says the BIBLE?

"I Can if I Want To, Can't I?"

An intelligent, manly child my mother once trained used to ask, when confronted with a "Thou shalt not": "But I can if I *want* to, can't I?" Most people act as though they could. But can they?

What universal qualification underlies the existence of every being?

"None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Romans 14:7. "Even Christ pleased not Himself." Romans 15:3. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son." John 3:16.

The existence of every being, including Deity, is conditioned by the existence of other beings.

What, then, is the universal principal governing all conduct?

"Not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Matthew 26:39. "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10.

All right action is in harmony with the will of Deity, who wills only what is for the good of all.

What are the results of harmony with this principle or the violation of it?

"If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures. But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge." Job 36:11, 12. "If they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 12:17. Christ "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." Hebrews 5:9.

Is it easy to obey?

"The carnal mind [the natural disposition of all human beings] is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Romans 8:7.

To obey is the hardest thing in the universe to do. *How only can we obey?*

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:3, 5.

Only those whose human natures have been re-created by the power of the Holy Spirit in the new birth can be in harmony with the will of God and thus live.

What will be the attitude of the re-created nature toward the law of God?

"I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8.

How can we know we are doing the will of God?

Only by passing a test on some point that propounds a choice between our wills and God's will can we know that we are obeying God or our own inclinations. Adam and Eve in Eden seemed in perfect harmony with God's will when they ate of the fruit of the Garden; for He had said they might eat. His will and theirs coincided. Only when confronted with the forbidden tree was it discovered that they were disobedient; for they preferred their own will to God's will. They set up their own "want to" as the justification of their act, instead of God's command.

What test is God using today to discover who are in harmony with His will or led by their own willfulness?

"Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:3, 4.

Are all the Ten Commandments equally effective as a test of our loyalty to the will of God?

Though any command of God can be a test of our obedience, if there is a conflict of our will with His on that point; yet there is one command over which there is a stronger conflict than over any other. Just as in Eden there was no conflict of will over any tree but the one whose fruit Eve desired when God had said, "Thou shalt not," so with the Ten Commandments. Decent, civilized, and Christian people enjoy the good results of keeping nine of the commandments and would not express opposition to them. But over the fourth commandment there is an almost universal conflict of will. God says one thing. Almost the whole world says, "No, we have sufficient reasons for doing something else." On that point is the supreme test of obedience.

Suppose one chooses to follow his own "want to" and keeps the day that is convenient for him and agreeable to those about him, will God prevent his doing that?

God never forces anyone to obey Him. He pleads: "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!" Deuteronomy 5:29.

Better Than Gold

(Continued from page 21)

would mean for you to turn to the first book of Chronicles, the fifteenth chapter, and the fourteenth verse.

The Holy Bible contains sixty-six books, which contain 1,186 chapters divided into 31,173 verses. The Old Testament contains thirty-nine books—or 920 chapters divided into 23,214 verses. The New Testament contains twenty-seven books—or 266 chapters divided into 7,959 verses.

The longest book in the Holy Bible is the Book of Psalms. It contains 150 sacred hymns, many of which were sung by ancient Israel to the accompaniment of music. The shortest book is 3 John, a brief letter which the apostle John wrote to a Christian named Gaius.

The longest chapter in the Holy Bible is Psalm 119, which is divided into 176 verses. This song is also arranged in twenty-two sections, one for each of the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The shortest chapter is Psalm 117. The shortest verse in the Sacred Word is John 11:35, which consists of only two words. The longest verse is Esther 8:9. The middle verse is Psalm 118:8.

The Holy Bible is the most widely translated and circulated book ever published. The Old Testament was translated into Greek by order of Ptolemy Philadelphus, king of Egypt, in the third century before the birth of Christ. This translation, made at Alexandria, Egypt, is called the *Septuagint* (the Version of the Seventy) because seventy learned Jewish rabbis are said to have done the work. Either a part or the whole of the Holy Scriptures have been published in more than 1,100 different languages and dialects. The circulation in all languages is about 30,000,000 copies a year. The complete text is sold in some countries for fifty cents or less. The British Museum paid more than \$500,000 for one rare copy—the Codex Sinaiticus.

Of all the writings possessed by the human race, the Sacred Scriptures are the most unique. Written by men, they are not the product of the mind of man. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21.

The central figure of the Holy Scriptures is Jesus Christ. The gospel of His redeeming love runs through all the Old Testament. Paul speaks of "the gospel" which God "had promised afore by His prophets in the Holy Scriptures." Romans 1:1, 2. It is recorded that "beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He

[Christ] expounded unto them [His followers] in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27. At that time the New Testament had not been written. When Christ was with His apostles after His resurrection, "He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me." Verse 44.

The Holy Scriptures are given by God to guide men to salvation in Christ. They can do this even for children. Paul wrote to Timothy: "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15.

Jesus said: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39. In closing his story of the Saviour's ministry, John says: "Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." John 20:30, 31.

The testimony of the Holy Bible is the rule by which every religious doctrine must be tested. (Acts 26:22, 23.) "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. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," wrote David. Psalm 119:105.

The Unpardonable Sin

(Continued from page 15)

God said at the time of the Flood, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." Genesis 6:3. God by the Spirit spoke often and tenderly to those long-lived sinners, and ceased not till there was nothing more that could be done for them. Then the Spirit came not again. By their constant and continued rejection of the Spirit's call the Spirit was grieved away, and without the Spirit there was no more repentance for them. The Spirit came no more. They could not, nor can anyone, repent without the convicting influence of the Holy Spirit. By their own action He had been grieved away, never to return. Their day of repentance was past, and without repentance they could not be forgiven. They had committed the unpardonable sin. It is possible for persons to become so fascinated with sin that the strongest appeal of the Holy Spirit cannot dislodge them from their devotion and slavery to sin.

How few people, comparatively, are ever permanently delivered from the liquor habit; which is another way of saying that this habit has become their unpardonable sin. They recognize and sense their slavery and promise over and over never to touch it

again, only to be defeated. At first the habit could have been stopped easily; but now it will require next to a miracle to break the spell. And broken it must be if we are to inherit the kingdom of heaven. The apostle Paul writes: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest"—and then he names seventeen sins, among them "drunkenness." He concludes with these words: "Of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-21. The way men act in overcoming the liquor habit illustrates how the Spirit, which would enable them to defeat the habit if they would allow Him to control their lives, is finally driven from men. Power unused becomes helpless. The power of the Spirit will enable a person to defeat any one of the seventeen sins, which, unless defeated, will in time become the unpardonable sin. Any sin in your life that you refuse to forsake marks the place where the committal of the unpardonable sin begins. It was the covetousness of Judas, unconquered, that led to his final desperate plunge when he agreed to sell Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and which terminated in his own suicide—his unpardonable sin.

God never turns away at our first refusal to repent. That is not the way love acts. In fact, He never turns away. It is our refusal and rejection of His love and invitation that drives a wedge between our hearts and His love; and each time this happens, the weaker is the response to the appeal of the Spirit the next time. Finally there is no longer any appeal that the Spirit can make that will stir the soul to action, and when that happens, the sin that cannot be pardoned has finished its work.

It may be that you have had the Spirit speak to you before. It may be that there is some truth that God is trying to impress upon your mind and heart. You know it is what the Bible teaches, even though it is unpopular. It may interfere with your business or with your social plans. It may call for a change in your work. Whatever the cost, you will not lose when you obey God. Listen to the "still small voice" which is the Spirit offering you the gift of repentance and forgiveness. It is the continued rejection of the Spirit's invitation that leads to the "unpardonable sin"—the sin that cannot be forgiven—for it is the sin that cannot be repented of.

Someone will ask, "How can I tell that I have not committed the unpardonable sin?" If the Spirit of God is pleading with one to become a Christian or a better person, he can thank God that he has not committed it. Then he asks, "How can I tell the Spirit is pleading with me?" Jesus answers, "When He [the Spirit] is come, He will reprove [convince, margin] the world of sin, and of righteousness." John 16:8.

The very fact that you have a desire to be a Christian, to obey God, indicates that the Spirit is working

on your heart. Again Jesus said, "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." John 6:44. If you have a desire to obey God, thank Him for it, and then be sure to act upon that desire.

You hear the alarm clock go off, but you do not get up. The next morning you hear it again, but not so plainly. After a few mornings of ignoring the alarm, you fail to hear it at all and sleep soundly while its warning message is telling you, "It's time to get up!" Just so it is in listening to the Holy Spirit.

"There's a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord,
Where the call of His Spirit is lost,
And you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng—
Have you counted, have you counted the cost?"

—A. J. HODGE.

Evangelist Shuler tells of a miller who put a sign on his mill, "Today we sell cheap for cash; tomorrow we will give you credit." A farmer drove up without any money. He saw the sign and said to his little boy, "We will come back tomorrow. I have no money, but the sign says tomorrow he will give us credit." The next day he drove to the mill and the sign said, "Today we sell cheap for cash; tomorrow we will give you credit." If he had come a hundred times it would always have read the same. *Tomorrow never comes!*

There is a point on the bank of the Niagara River where the rapids begin to swell and swirl most dangerously, preparatory to the final plunge. There is a signboard that bears these startling words, "Past Redemption Point." Any man who gets into those boiling waters and passes that point cannot make his way. He cannot be rescued by friends.

"There is a line by us unseen
That crosses every path,
The hidden boundary between
God's patience and His wrath.

"Oh! where is this mysterious bourne
By which our path is crossed,
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn
That he who goes is lost?

"How far may we go on in sin?
How long will God forbear?
Where does Hope end? And where begin
The confines of Despair?

"An answer from the skies is sent:
Ye that from God depart,
While it is called today, repent
And harden not your heart."

If you are in the valley of decision as to what you are going to do about being a Christian, about believing in God and following Jesus, may these words and this message help you to decide aright.

GOD'S TWO BOOKS

By Mary Hunter Moore

SHADOWS

What color are shadows? Oh, black, naturally; everybody knows that. Oh, but *is* a shadow black?

My unit of nine-year-old Juniors—the Kookaburras they called themselves—on a nature hike at camp, stood on the trail above Lake Woodhaven and looked at the water through a fringe of trees.

"What color is the water?" I asked.

"White!" they shouted.

"What makes it white?"

"Shadows!" they all cried, and one added, "Shadows of the clouds."

So shadows may be white.

Simkin Street runs west, and the sunsets one sees down it are little foretastes of the New Jerusalem. And half the glories of those sunsets are shadows—shadows that are rich blue and dusty rose and burnt orange and smoky flame colored. And even after the orb is far sunken, and the sunset colors have burned down to ardent coals along the hilltop horizon, the blackening clouds above are transfused with flame. Shadows are sunset colored.

The boarding school where I once taught was surrounded by a maple grove so dense that little grew under the trees, and it was like walking through an arcade to pass beneath them. Surely one was in the black shadows then. But in summer that shade was a delicate green shot through with gold. And in winter, when Minnesota was knee-deep in snow, the rising sun sent long shadows of the leafless maples across the snow; and those shadows were deep, intense purple and crimson. Shadows are royal colors.

A shadow is cast by an object that intercepts some of the passing light rays—not all, for then we would have total darkness and no shadows at all. The intercepting more or less breaks up the light; hence we may have all the colors of the rainbow in shadows. And the colors partake somewhat of the colors of the objects that cast them. In short, shadows and reflections are almost indistinguishable, and both may be any color, depending on the source.

"For I am sometimes in the sunshine,
Sometimes in the shadows,
Walking every day with Him."

So sang the Juniors around their campfire. Walking every day with Jesus does not insure our walking

without shadows. Jesus Himself walked always with the shadow of the cross over Him. Our walk with Him will be through many a shadow. But those shadows need not be black—will not be black for the Christian. They will be reflections of the rainbow around the Father's throne. They will glow with deep shades of rich color reflected from the glory of God and the good angels, whose presence near us is concealed by the shadows. One who has ever walked with God in the shadows understandingly will sincerely say:

"I'd rather walk with Him in the dark
Than walk alone in the light."

How Alcoholism May Be Prevented or Cured

(Continued from page 22)

and still stronger because of the indulgence of a perverted appetite. The drunkard's terrible thirst, which clamors for indulgence in stronger and stronger liquors, was not created in a day, but in months and years of indulgence in stimulants which had their beginnings, many times, on his mother's table, where milder stimulants were furnished in foods and drinks that created the appetite for stronger stimulants.

A perverted appetite has to be fed and pampered, and is never satisfied until stronger stimulation is supplied, and the individual that possesses the perverted appetite will seek for it outside of the home, in the saloon or tavern. There are many avenues and places outside of the home where strong stimulants are offered to the slaves of appetite. The social parties in society offer the social glass, which, step by step, leads to the saloon bar and finally to the last glass that puts an end to the miserable life of the drunkard; or the victim is hanged from the gallows for murder he committed while bereft of his reason under the influence of drink.

If the appetite and thirst for alcoholic beverages were removed from the individual, he would no longer patronize the liquor trade or indulge in the use of liquor. There are three avenues through which the appetite for intoxicating drink can be removed from the individual who is already a slave to drink. The first and most effective means for taking away the intense thirst for alcoholic beverages is a rebirth of the individual by the Spirit and through the grace of God. This can only be accomplished by prayer and the surrender of the will of the individual to God. Hundreds of such miracles of divine grace have taken place under my personal observation and knowledge.

The second method and means is by removing the thirst and desire for liquor by proper diet and creating a chemical change in the body that revolts against the use of alcohol in any form. Those medical men who are working among alcoholics to cure them of the thirst, claim that hundreds of alcoholics have thus been cured through their co-operation with nat-

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ural methods of proper diet which build up a revolt against the desire for liquor or tobacco.

The third means of helping alcoholics is to place liquor beyond their reach, or to make it more difficult for them to obtain it. When the temptation is removed, there are hundreds who will not go to the trouble to make it for themselves nor will they run the risk or go to the trouble of obtaining it by illegitimate means. This latter means is not a cure-all, nor nearly as effective as the first two methods or means set forth. It only aids in minimizing the evil effects of liquor and in aiding those who desire to conquer the liquor habit. Statistics show that under prohibitive laws against the sale of liquor drunkenness was greatly reduced, and that thousands who drank gave up the habit entirely. Only the chronic alcoholic and hard drinker defy all attempts to curb their drinking. The chronic alcoholic has a disease that is incurable unless it is by a miracle of divine grace. All others may be aided and cured if they are willing to cooperate in the removal of the thirst for alcohol.

The first year after national prohibition became effective the Keeley Cure Institutes for drunkards had only 180 alcoholic patients for that year, whereas the year before they had over 20,000 alcoholic patients. This shows that the removal of alcoholic beverages for the first year of prohibition, before the bootleggers started to operate and individuals had time to make their private stills, reduced drunkenness to almost nil—to less than one per cent of what it was the year before, according to the report of the Keeley Cure Institutes. All this proves that it is alcohol that produces alcoholics, that when it is im-

possible to obtain alcoholic beverages, we have no drunkards. But as long as human nature is what it is in its carnal state, it will in time devise means and methods of circumventing prohibitive laws.

So the most effective remedies are the cures effected by spiritual rebirth of the individuals, and also by changing the chemical elements of the body by refraining from the eating of foods and drinking of liquids which create a desire and a craving for stronger stimulants, and substituting those food elements which build up a resistance by a chemical change against these harmful narcotics and beverages.

Whether the voice of experience dictated the following hints, or whether they are someone's spare-time thoughts, there's a lot of good advice in these lines:

Mind your own business—and have plenty of it.

Tackle one job at a time.

Make decisions quickly, and don't fear the outcome.

Learn to delegate a part of your work.

Don't stake too much on success.

Don't be afraid of failure.

Don't overvalue the unattainable.

Don't undervalue what you have.

Forget the people you don't like.

Forget yesterday. It is gone.

Don't dread tomorrow: it isn't here yet.



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Let Us Sing!

Overcoming Difficulties With Songs

By Inez Brasier



H. M. LAMBERT

ONE early summer day I watched a little house wren as she hunted a good location for her nest. She examined the eaves. She looked through the grapevines and the large foliage plants on the porch. For an hour she searched each nook and cranny, singing as though she had not a care in the world.

At last she found a snug place. She flew down under the elms for twigs to lay the foundation of her nest. She picked up a long twig. It was an awkward load and it fell several times. Finally she got it to the door of her home site. It fell again. But each time she sang and tried once more. After some minutes of trying over and over again, she succeeded in getting it through the

door; then how her throat pulsed with the energy of her song!

What a good example for us who feel we cannot pause a moment in the rush and push of daily living! We drive ourselves from this task to the next. Difficulties loom before us, and our reserve of strength, spiritual as well as physical, is depleted. It may be that the tasks require great concentration and that singing would distract our minds as we work, but surely we may pause, as the little wren, to sing as we go from task to task. We would find the strain, instead of mounting, has lessened, and we could meet each task with renewed courage.

Jehoshaphat and his subjects faced a foe so strong that the very existence of Israel as a kingdom was threatened. "Fear not, falter not. Move out against them tomorrow, for the Eternal is on your side," the record says. 2 Chronicles 20:17, Moffatt. They faced the foe, singing, and such a victory was theirs that they were three days removing the rich booty.

"I can understand that one should face bravely the tasks and the difficulties of each day with song," you say, "but what about temptations? One cannot sing then, surely."

Jesus did. He need not have stayed on earth when his days were made so bitter with calumny and suspicion and hatred. He need not have climbed Calvary with the crown of thorns and grief marring the face angels delight to behold. He turned from temptations to sin, to return to His Father's home away from the evil plottings against Him. "Tempted in all points like as we are," He welcomed each new day. With song He shortened the way along the dusty, stony paths of Palestine as "He went about doing good." With song He brought the very gladness of heaven to those who listened. With song He left the paschal supper room for the hill of Calvary.

So we, too, may sing from task to task, from difficulty to difficulty, from temptation to temptation, and find that perfect peace and trust He knew. The atmosphere of heaven will surround our days. Joy will constantly well up in our hearts, for it is fed by streams "that flow from the throne of God." When we have learned to sing heaven's melody of praise here, we shall, one day soon, "come home to Sion singing, crowned with an unending joy."