

AUGUST TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Our TIMES

SINCE 1891

A BIBLICAL INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS



"What Is Missing From the American Home?"

(See page 24)

LETTERS

From Our Readers

Dear Sir:

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of the answers to my questions in the Scriptures sent to you last, which have been fully explained to my greatest satisfaction with many thanks.

With your details now in hand, I shall be able now to defend myself from my worldly opponents.

Life with me at present is not as my former days; for the Word of God has been a lantern unto my feet and a light unto my path.

At first I thought I was playing my part as a true Christian according to the decree in the churches, of which the truth in the Bible had made me to know that they are all false religions, when I joined the Voice of Prophecy in Los Angeles, California, and had a Bible correspondence course from them.

Through the course of lessons received from them, I realized worthy points and experienced vast differences in religion, especially the state of a true Christian.

Sekondi, Africa.

O.K.C.

Sirs:

Just received the new OUR TIMES and like it very much.
St. Louis, Missouri.

R.M.

Sirs:

It is beautiful.
Los Angeles, California.

J.T.

Sirs:

The new OUR TIMES is wonderful.
Dallas, Texas.

M.K.

Sirs:

The religious liberty number of OUR TIMES was so convincing on the matter of keeping the church and state separate that it left me without a leg to stand on.

New York City.

J.H.

Sirs:

I never realized how serious the calendar change idea was until I read Mr. Haynes' article in the July OUR TIMES. I can see now that it would be very confusing for us if the world calendar should be adopted. I would hate to find myself observing Good Friday on Thursday and keeping Sunday on Monday. Such information as this article imparted ought to go into every American home. I personally appreciate the way this matter has been explained so that I now know what it is all about.

Knoxville, Tennessee.

L.T.

Sirs:

The new OUR TIMES has everything but jokes, but I guess they would not be appropriate for a magazine of such high ideals.

Bristol, Virginia.

K.S.

Sirs:

Delighted with the new format and organization of material; I find OUR TIMES easily readable and informational. Congratulations to your staff for the splendid job done!

Detroit, Michigan.

E.B.

Sirs:

The same old stuff only more of it!
Louisville, Kentucky

D.W.



AUGUST, 1949

VOL. 58

NO. 9

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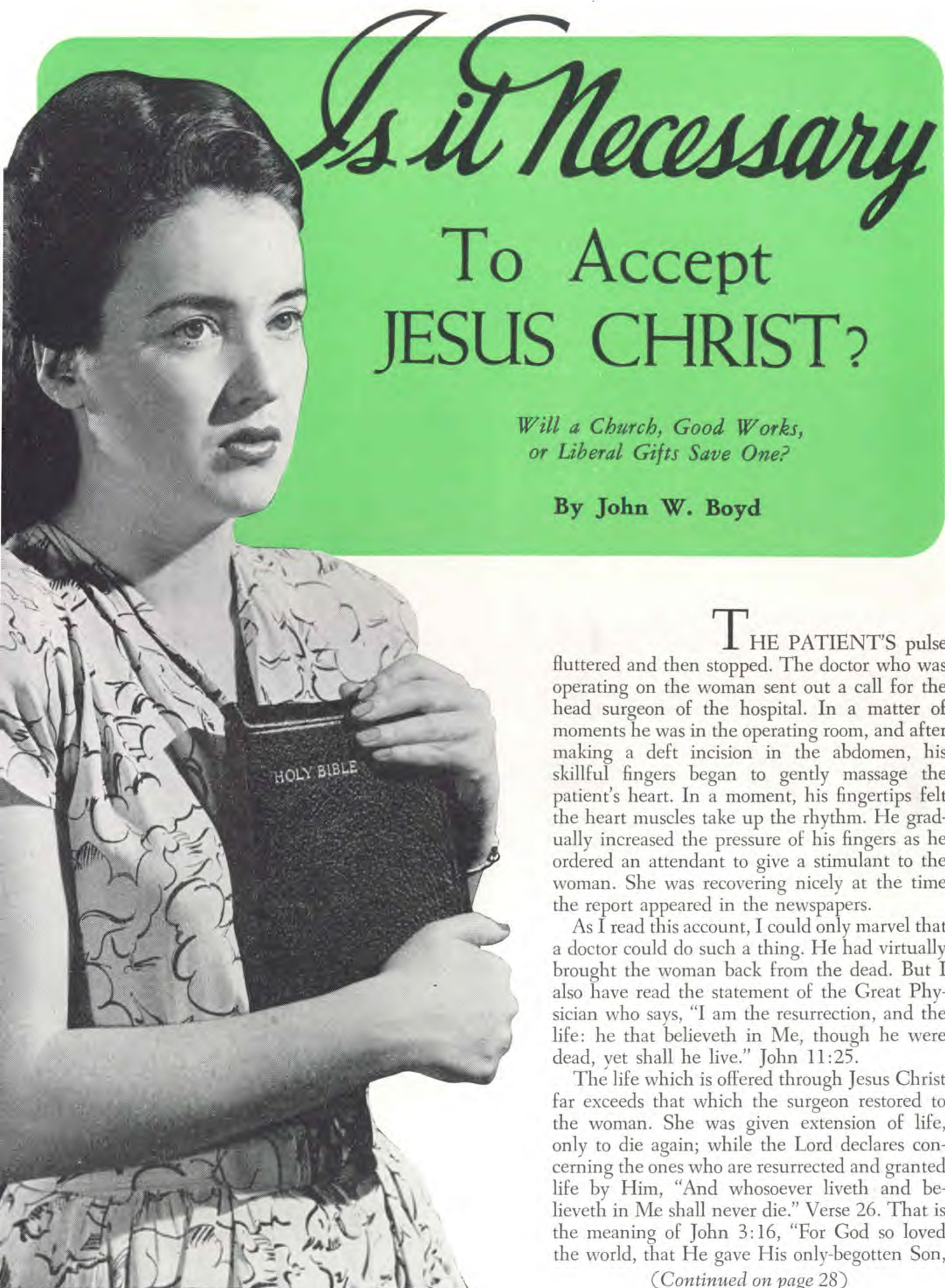
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The Cover

This colorful picture was taken by Leon Cantrell of Nashville, Tenn.



Is it Necessary To Accept JESUS CHRIST?

*Will a Church, Good Works,
or Liberal Gifts Save One?*

By John W. Boyd

THE PATIENT'S pulse fluttered and then stopped. The doctor who was operating on the woman sent out a call for the head surgeon of the hospital. In a matter of moments he was in the operating room, and after making a deft incision in the abdomen, his skillful fingers began to gently massage the patient's heart. In a moment, his fingertips felt the heart muscles take up the rhythm. He gradually increased the pressure of his fingers as he ordered an attendant to give a stimulant to the woman. She was recovering nicely at the time the report appeared in the newspapers.

As I read this account, I could only marvel that a doctor could do such a thing. He had virtually brought the woman back from the dead. But I also have read the statement of the Great Physician who says, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25.

The life which is offered through Jesus Christ far exceeds that which the surgeon restored to the woman. She was given extension of life, only to die again; while the Lord declares concerning the ones who are resurrected and granted life by Him, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." Verse 26. That is the meaning of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son,

(Continued on page 28)

H. M. LAMBERT

HOW TO HAVE PEACE

*The Simple Solution
to a Big Problem*

By Harvey C. Hansen

DECEMBER, 1941. And we were facing that blasphemy of guns and bombs that struck Pearl Harbor like a howling, toothy blizzard out of calm. We were putting on our military boots and turning up our industrial collars preparing to face that bitter blizzard all the way.

Decembers, 1942, 1943, 1944. We were all out making Japan all in, and we were hitting Hitler harder until it was the Allies who were providing the teeth and it was the Nipponese and the Nazis who were doing the howling. And soon the documents ending the fighting were signed.

Then it was December, 1945. And how good it was to have Christmas again like the ones we used to know and the New Year ringing in without war! Men talked peace. Men prepared to frame it. Hopes were high. Especially then did the songs of "good will and peace on earth" and resolutions for betterment swell voices and hearts the world over.



THREE LIONS

Those who are willing to walk according to the statutes of God and have surrendered their lives to Him, will have the peace that passeth understanding.

Yet, all this notwithstanding, the picture is not improving. Warlike feelings and conditions still abound. Old problems are still with us. New ones continue to come. Men have not answered the question of peace.

But God knows the answer. Angels heralded it to the world long ago: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased." Luke 2:14, A.S.V. The second part of this twofold message, which in another version is rendered, "Peace to the men He favors," shows the answer.

Peace on earth means finding favor with God. How can we find favor with God? Again the Bible answers and tells us that such as the following are the things which obtain His favor:

Good understanding—"Good understanding giveth favor." Proverbs 13:15, A.S.V. And what is understanding? "The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10, A.S.V. And how is it had? "A good understanding have all they that do His commandments." Psalm 111:10, A.S.V.

Goodness—"A good man shall obtain favor of Jehovah." Proverbs 12:2, A.S.V. What kind of goodness? "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God." Micah 6:8, A.S.V.

Uprightness—"I know also, my God, that Thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness." 1 Chronicles 29:17, A.S.V. "Among the upright there is the favor of God." Proverbs 14:9, A.S.V., marginal reading. And how may we be among the upright? "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil." Proverbs 16:17, A.S.V.

Truthfulness—"Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah; but they that deal truly are His delight." Proverbs 12:22, A.S.V.

Perfectness—"They that are perverse in heart are an abomination to Jehovah; but such as are perfect in their way are His delight." Proverbs 11:20, A.S.V. And what is the way? "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life." John 14:6, A.S.V. "Blessed are they that are perfect in the way, who walk in the law of Jehovah." Psalm 119:1, A.S.V.

Obedience to God—"Hath Jehovah as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22, A.S.V. "Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29, A.S.V.

Faith in God—"Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that seek after Him." Hebrews 11:6, A.S.V.

Fear of God—"Jehovah taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His lovingkindness." Psalm 147:11, A.S.V. "Blessed is the man

that feareth Jehovah, that delighteth greatly in His commandments." Psalm 112:1, A.S.V.

Praise of God—"I will praise the name of God with a song, and I will magnify Him with thanksgiving. And it will please Jehovah better than an ox, or a bullock that hath horns and hoofs." Psalm 69:30, 31, A.S.V.

Not only does the Bible show us characteristics that obtain God's favor, but it shows also that God-favored persons and nations do possess them.

Concerning nations, Solomon says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34, A.S.V.

And God Himself says, "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up and to break down and to

destroy it; if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it: if they do that which is evil in My sight, that they obey not My voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them." Jeremiah 18:7-10, A.S.V.

Concerning persons, David found favor in the sight of God (Acts 7:45, 46), because he walked in God's ways and kept His statutes and His ordinances (1 Kings 11:33). Solomon, speaking to God, said of David, "Thou hast showed unto Thy servant David my father great lovingkindness, according as he walked before Thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with Thee." 1 Kings 3:6, A.S.V. Notice that the lovingkindness to David depended on how he lived. But David even was held in God's displeasure when he sinned. (2 Samuel 12.) Samuel

(Continued on page 32)



When David walked in God's ways and kept His statutes, he had peace; but when he sinned against God, he had many troubles.



THE END OF THE WORLD

How Will It Come?

NEWELL A. NISWONGER

By Robert H. Pierson

“WHEN THE ATOM BOMB shattered Hiroshima two years ago, it reopened the haunting question of annihilation,” so declared the editor of *Coronet*, in the July, 1947, issue.

According to the writer of this article, the idea of the end of the world being brought about by some cataclysmic force is not a new one. Neither are the possibilities of such a catastrophe confined to but one or two terrifying potentials. In fact, any one of many forces of nature seems capable of blotting the human race from the face of the earth in one violent deviation from its natural course.

The first suggestion set forth is the possible revolt of our sun. “According to astronomers, internal disturbances may suddenly cause the sun to expand to as much as three times its normal size. The resulting increase in heat would then raise the temperature of the earth to about that of melting lead.”—*Id.*, p. 28. The results of such a course would not be too difficult to imagine. Cities would melt. Rivers would boil dry. Life would soon be extinct, and conditions on our earth would be comparable to those on the planet Mercury.

“Death from the sun could strike tomorrow, for, like other stars, the sun can at any moment become a nova, giving off a vast atmosphere of hot gas. By ex-

panding, this gas would engulf us. It would then melt the earth’s crust which is thought to average about thirty-five miles in thickness, turn our mountains into volcanoes, the rock beneath the Pacific Ocean into live coals, and finally vaporize our planet, and possibly all the other planets in our solar system, out of existence. Only the sun would remain.”—*Id.*, p. 34.

The moon, also, is capable of writing “finis” to our mother earth. So declares the writer of the above article: “The moon’s influence on our ocean tides retards the earth’s rotation about one second every 100,000 years. As the earth slows, the moon is receding to a point where the earth’s rotation might accelerate and, like a colossal magnet, draw the moon back to within 8,000 miles of us. Then, as the moon is split apart by our superior force of gravity, its huge fragments will shatter our cities into oblivion. The fragments which did not hit us would remain to circle the earth like millions of new moons.”—*Id.*, p. 30.

If the sun or the moon does not destroy us, then we are told the stars must: “The stars travel at such tremendous speeds and in so many different directions that someday one might enter our solar system. . . . The gravitational force of white dwarf stars is so much greater than our own that people, buildings, ships—

every movable object on earth—are hurtling irresistibly toward it. In a few minutes, our planet, and possibly the whole solar system, will be entirely disintegrated.” —*Id.*, p. 29.

It is further suggested that the earth is never safe from meteors “which fly through space by the millions.” Reference is made to the falling of meteoric material in Siberia in 1908 and in Arizona “in prehistoric times.” Fortunately no one was hurt by those masses of hot metal, but if such a shower came down upon one of our large metropolises, it would be the end of the world for such an unfortunate city.

Several other interesting, if rather terrifying, hypotheses are also set forth as potential “earth terminators.” A “dark star,” “one of those invisible cold masses whose presence is known only by their attraction for other astronomical bodies,” might kidnap us from the sun by pulling us out of our orbit, and we poor humans would all freeze to death.

An asteroid might cross the orbit of our earth close enough to us, leaving in its wake a pressure wave that such cataclysmic forces shall hurl us into eternity after the manner suggested by these scientists.

There is only One who knows anything about the end of the world—God. “He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.” Daniel 2:22.

God’s Word declares the end of the world *will come* and that right soon. Inspiration states that the second advent of Jesus Christ will write “finis” to this world’s long course of sin.

John the revelator describes it thus: “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.” Revelation 14:14-16.

Describing the scene in more detail, John says: “And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” Revelation 6:14-16.

Jesus declares that His coming will be visible: “Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man . . . coming in the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 26:64. “When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne

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Brotherhood



By James Wallace

A YOUNG ARMY officer in the American forces pushing toward Berlin entered a small German village in the Ruhr Valley with a group of men in his command. They had driven the German troops out. The village was in bad condition, almost totally destroyed, but many of the inhabitants were still staying by. The American boys were on the lookout for booby traps, mines, etc. There had been strict orders from headquarters that there was to be no fraternization with the people of the town.

Walking carefully, cautiously through the village, the Americans came to a small church which was intact. The doors were open, as if to invite passers-by to stop for worship. The boys went in.

The young officer had been church organist in his home town in Texas. He cautiously made his way toward the organ in the front of the chapel. On the music rack was a hymnbook, and it was open to the old hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

Should he sit down and play the instrument? It had been months and years since he had touched an organ. He just couldn’t resist.

Pulling out the stops, he put his very life into that old hymn which has been a world favorite for centuries.

The music attracted the attention of the villagers, and they ventured near to see who might be playing their organ. The young musician thought he heard footsteps, and, glancing over his shoulder, he noticed an elderly couple making their way down the center aisle. They sat down reverently in the very front pew. Then came another couple, and another, until there were more than a score of people sitting in reverent, worshipful mood. Before he had finished playing, the listeners all joined in singing the words of that grand old hymn. The American soldiers joined in too.

When he had finished his playing, there rushed to the officer’s mind the orders about fraternization. Could he speak to these German people? Should he arrest all of them? What should his attitude be?

But he did not have to think long. An old German hobbled up to the officer, threw his arms around him, and said over and over again feelingly, “Mein bruder! Mein bruder! [My brother! My brother!]”

The Forks OF THE ROAD

Choosing the Right Way



EVERY DAY in our travel down the highway of life we come to places where the road forks. These forks call for a decision. What we choose, the way we decide to go, determines our destiny. It is at the forks of the road that we make wrong decisions, take the wrong way. Where the road forks is where decisions determining direction must be made, and there we reveal our true selves.

Sometimes the pathway of life becomes very rough and rugged. The going is hard and painful. The load we carry seems heavy; then we come suddenly to a fork in the road. Leading off from this narrow way that we have been traveling is a path that looks inviting. Its smoothness and apparent ease of travel are enticing. It looks like the easy way. So many seem to be turning onto this bypath that it looks like the main thoroughfare. But it is a forbidden path. It leads straight into the broad way, at whose end is death and destruction.

In choosing the right way, in successfully making right decisions, we gather much help and inspiration

from Moses. Moses was marked to die. According to the law of the land, he should have died. But instead, he lived. God had a special work for him to do, and He overruled the designs of man to bring it to pass. He still does that for men today.

There are two things, two elements that must enter into our decisions. There is a negative side, the things to which we must say "No." "Moses, when he was come to years, *refused*." And when he said "No," it was just that, without any trace of compromise. Often our no's are weak and lack the positiveness that should mark our decisions.

But to say "No" when we come to the fork of the road will not get us anywhere. It will simply keep us from going in the wrong way. All the don't's we may ever utter will not bring us to our chosen destination. In every decision there must not only be a "No"—a turning away from certain things—but there is the positive side, the saying of "Yes" to that which is right.

When Moses said "No" to the Pharaohs, he said
(Continued on page 35)

By M. L. Rice



S. C. ELDRIDGE

HOW OFTEN has prayer lifted heavy burdens from the heart, driven sin far from the soul, transformed hindering circumstances into helpers, brought the saving love of God into the heart! Prayer has illuminated the countenance as though a sunbeam from heaven had fallen upon it, and transformed the entire life so completely that it has revealed thereafter the heavenly beauty of divine holiness.

Vast multitudes of mankind feel the need of prayer. Throughout the world great numbers pray to gods of wood or stone, or to the living God. Prayer is a very simple yet a very wonderful means of communication between God and man. It is the breath of the soul, the expression of the most sincere desires and the greatest needs. Prayer may be made vocally or silently and be equally effective, and may be offered in the midst of life's most intense activities or in the quiet hours of life.

The Saviour is our great Example of perfect prayer.



EVA LUOMA

Like Christ In Prayer

Following the Perfect Example

How complete is the prayer He gave us when He said: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13.

To what extent did Jesus reveal the vast possibilities of prayer? He declared: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, *Whatever* ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you." John 16:23.

The miraculous power of Jesus evidently came to Him in answer to prayer, for, when He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, He "lifted up His eyes, and said, Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I knew that Thou hearest Me always." He then commanded, "Lazarus, come forth." John

11:41-43. At all times, under all circumstances, He desires us also to pray and be victorious, for He declares, "Men ought *always* to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1.

With great assurance Jesus urges, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matthew 7:7. Should we not, therefore, gladly obey the injunction, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16.

Especially is united prayer blessed with the assurance of being abundantly answered, for Jesus declared, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven." Matthew 18:19. This is well illustrated by the following incident that took place in a Southern city:

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By John W. Halliday



EVENTS *of Our Times*



"LIFE WITH FATHER" HEADED FOR EXTINCTION—The traditional type of family in which Dad lays down the law, and Mother does not interfere with his discipline is probably on the way to extinction in America.

This is the tentative prediction of Dr. Hazel L. Ingersoll, of the Department of Child Development and Family Relationships of Cornell University. Her conclusion is based on the study of how 37 families are ruled.

Whether Dad or Mom "wears the pants" in your own family depends at least in part on the sort of families they grew up in, Dr. Ingersoll found.

The man who grows up as a spoiled mama's boy tends to pick for a wife a girl who can take over management of the household, thus reproducing the pattern of his own boyhood home.

And the man, or the woman, who lived a life with father as the dominating figure is inclined to reproduce this pattern in his own marriage.—*Science News Letter*, January 22, 1949.

LIQUOR IN LIFE—*Life* magazine is said to have received a cool \$8,000,000 for its liquor advertisements in 1946!—*The Civic Bulletin*, February 18, 1949.

INCREASE IN INSANITY—According to the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, there are, right now, about 700,000 patients in our American mental hospitals—with an additional 300,000 people waiting to get in. Fifty-three per cent of all hospital patients are in mental hospitals. A quarter of a million patients are admitted to these hospitals every year—half of them being new cases.

These statistics tie in closely with the fact that a current bestseller—now in its twentieth printing, with a sale of over 700,000 copies—is not a detective story or a historical epic, but a book purporting to tell how one can achieve peace of mind.—*Our Sunday Visitor*, Sunday, February 13, 1949.

BLESSING THE BEER BARONS—The latest group to be organized by the Catholic Church is the liquor industry. Founded last October 15, *The Catholic Guild for the Licensed Beverage Industry* was launched with the ecclesiastical blessing of Archbishop

Cushing of Boston. "Every Catholic in the industry is urged to join the guild immediately," says a booklet signed by the archbishop. The membership fee is \$2.00 a year.

The object of the guild is listed as twofold: (1) the spiritual welfare of the members; and (2) to aid Catholic charities. *Charity* has been used before to cover a multitude of sins, and *spiritual* in this context may justly be thought of as having other fruits than those of the Holy Spirit.

The guild is to hold meetings every three months, with a communion breakfast and corporate mass each year. To the liquor barons, the barkeepers, the tavern and night-club owners, the archbishop says: "I welcome the opportunity of serving you, for I know that we can be mutually very helpful." The arrangement should indeed be mutual and financially profitable to both sides. Last year the liquor industry in this country grossed almost ten billion dollars.—*The Converted Catholic Magazine*, September, 1948.

NO PLACE TO HIDE—Many people are wondering why we are still building large and expensive warships when it has been revealed that in the Bikini tests sixty-one ships out of seventy-three were put out of commission. The ones that remain afloat are so contaminated by radio activity that they are still deadly.



**COMING
Next Month**



"The Struggle to Be Decent," by Frederick Lee.
"The High Cost of Low Living," by Taylor G. Bunch.

"Selfish Prayers," by M. L. Rice.

"Two Interpretations of the First Amendment," by C. S. Longacre.

"The Origin of Sin," by the Editor.

"We're One Day Nearer Eternity," by Truma Elizabeth Rhodes.

"Justification by Faith," by John W. Boyd.

"Watch Out for Hookworms," by Colonel George A. Skinner, M.D., U.S. Army, Retired.

Those Uncomical Comics

**A SHOCKING
REVELATION**

By Taylor G. Bunch



PHILIP GENDREAU

The minds of modern youth are being fed with murder, sadism, and every type of crime in the so-called comic books.

IN RECENT YEARS much emphasis has been placed on the value of "visual education." It has been estimated that fully 85 per cent of all information received comes through the avenue of the eye. In a recent classroom experiment it was found that moving pictures alone increased the information of students 35 per cent. Visual aids include maps, charts, diagrams, graphs, models, prints, drawings, pictures, photographs, slides, and moving pictures.

True education is the gathering of facts or information by which the mind and character are developed symmetrically. It has to do with the entire being through the whole period of man's existence. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers. There are three principle means of receiving information, through what we hear or read, and through what we see, which is by far the most important.

Visual aids are divided into two classes, and much

OUR TIMES, AUGUST, 1949

depends upon the choice we make between them. One class is based on accuracy, facts, and reliable information. These deal with that which is real and natural and true to life. They have to do with places and people and events which are made more clear and real through the use of pictures and illustrations. The other class presents that which is inaccurate, incorrect, and exaggerated. These are unreal, unnatural, and often grotesque, giving a warped and even dangerous view of life. These latter are doing untold harm to the mind, especially of the youth. They constitute a serious menace to character development.

Of the latter class are the comics, which on the principle of sound reasoning and accepted rules of pedagogy are ruled out as a means of true education. The world is now being flooded with comic books which have supplanted good literature in untold millions of American homes. They are being produced at the rate of 60,000,000 copies a month or more than 700,000,000 a year, which is far greater than the combined total circulation of the ten leading standard periodicals. The total sales far exceed \$100,000,000 annually. One writer declares this to be "the greatest publishing success in history, and the greatest mass influence on children." While a favorite caption of crime comics is, "Crime does not pay," it is evident that the crime comics do pay—the publishers.

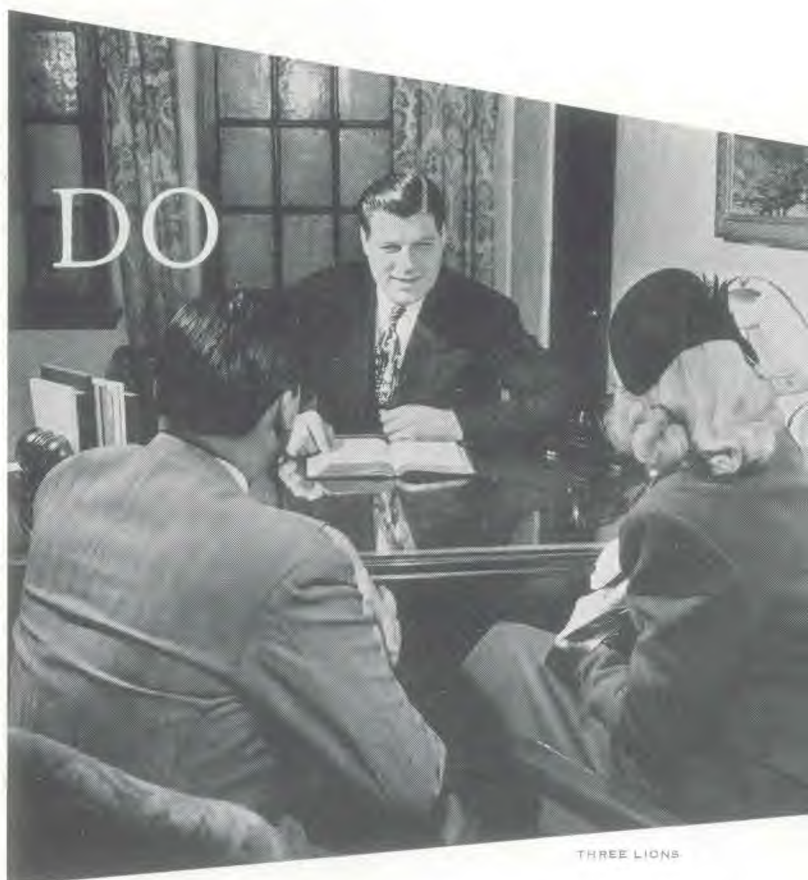
During a meeting of The Association for the Advancement of Psychotherapy held in Manhattan last March, a symposium was held on "The Psychopathology of Comic Books," when a number of specialists were asked to state their views. Psychiatrist and folklorist Gershon Legman, the author of an historical treatise on comic books, showed his fellow psychiatrists some samples of crime comics and gave alarming statistics. He declared that the average city child reads from ten to twelve comic books a month, and that if there were only one scene of violence on each page,

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A Three-Step Plan:

WHAT TO DO with *Doubt*

By W. A. Fagal



THREE LIONS

The one best qualified to advise about fears and doubts is the man who knows what the Bible teaches.

ANY CHRISTIAN who today entertains doubts about any of the great fundamentals of the Christian faith is regarded by us with a type of horror. Instead of our trying to help such a man, frequently we regard him as a good person to stay away from. And yet one of Christ's own disciples doubted for a time that Jesus had risen from the dead. Kindly the Master brought him from doubt to faith.

The type of doubt that can be helped is honest, open-minded doubt. No one is particularly impressed by the sarcastic, antagonistic, attention-getting variety that delights to fasten itself upon some minute point and brands everyone else as heretical who does not see it his way. Neither will time be profitably spent upon those who like to doubt everything just because they seem to get a peculiar joy out of being different. Theirs obviously is not an honest doubt.

However, it would be well to note immediately that not all doubt is bad. Skepticism has had its good uses. We have all heard Bailey's famous lines, "Who never doubted, never half believed. Where doubt there truth is—'tis her shadow." By this, of course, is meant simply that a person who has explored all the possibilities of disbelief, when ultimately convinced, has really arrived at something. Such a person is not moved and swayed by every wind of doctrine. He knows what he believes and he knows in whom he has believed. He cannot be moved, for he is sure of his conclusions. As Tryon Edwards once said, "Doubt indulged and

cherished, is in danger of becoming denial; but if honest and bent on thorough investigation, it may soon lead to full establishment in the truth."

Youth tends particularly to be an age of skepticism and doubt. Little children almost wear out their parents and friends with the persistence of their what's and why's and where's. When the children are small, their questions are rather easily answered. But there comes a time in the lives of many thoughtful young people when they call into question some of the great basic beliefs that they have been taught. And then the problems of doubt and faith are increased.

Not long ago I was preaching in a distant city, and at the conclusion of the service a young lady came to talk with me. She told me that she would rather not tell me her name, and apologized for this by stating that the only reason why she had dared to come to me with the question she was about to ask was that she felt very sure that she would never see me again. Hiding behind a nonentity, she asked me to explain the reason, outside of religion, for the fact that God had commanded that she should observe the seventh commandment and lead a good moral life. I was able to have a very fine talk with her. I hope I was able to help her.

After leaving, I thought to myself, If youth questions such basic things as this, for which there seems to be such an abundance of reason and evidence even outside of God's Word, should we consider it any

wonder that some may question things that belong more to the realm of faith—such as, Is there really a God? Will Jesus really come again? Is there a heaven? Will the dead ever live again? And I suppose that it must not surprise us to find some at times who seem to have lost faith in God, heaven, the second coming, and the resurrection.

I would not, however, infer that doubt belongs exclusively to youth. This would be most untrue, for some there are who in later years pass through periods of questioning some of the basic things of life. We may remember the plea that Goethe wrote to his generation, "Give me the benefit of your convictions if you have any, but keep your doubts to yourself, for I have enough of my own."

While I have made a plea here for tolerance with the honest doubter, I would not have that to be misinterpreted as meaning that I believe a soul should and can go on with doubt throughout his entire life. God does not desire us to live with doubt forever. Doubts may well arise in the minds of the best of us, but they must be honestly faced and logically studied, then ultimately faith and reason must overcome doubt and denial if we are to accomplish all that we desire to in life. It is true, as Willmott has said, "There is no moral power in doubt or in the denial of truth, and any human soul that tries to live on it will die, both morally and spiritually."

It is undoubtedly for this reason that Jesus said, "And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind." Luke 12:29. Jesus does not want us to be of doubtful mind. No soul can prosper on this type of spiritual food. To show the importance of overcoming doubt, Jesus made lack of doubt a condition of answered prayer. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:21, 22. Notice how the Master worded this—"If ye have faith, and doubt not." And then expressing it in the positive, He said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." The Lord is not pleased with any life that is lived under the shadows of doubt. The name of Christ is not glorified by chronic disbelief.

And yet, while Jesus emphasized the need of faith in the accomplishments of a Christian's life, it is encouraging to us to see how He treated an honest doubter. He was patient and kind with every sincere man who honestly wondered about the truthfulness of anything. The Master overcame Thomas' doubts by showing him the nail wounds in His hands and the spear wound in His side; and then gently He rebuked him by saying, "Be not faithless, but believing." John 20:27. Doubts fled before that treatment.

I suppose that Christ could have sent back a most rebuking message when John the Baptist sent emissaries to Christ with the question, "Art Thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" Matthew 11:3. He could have railed on his messengers. He could have stated that He expected better things than this from the one who had been the voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." But there was none of that. Gently He asked John's representatives to stand to one side and watch the day's work. The sick, the maimed, the halt, and the blind

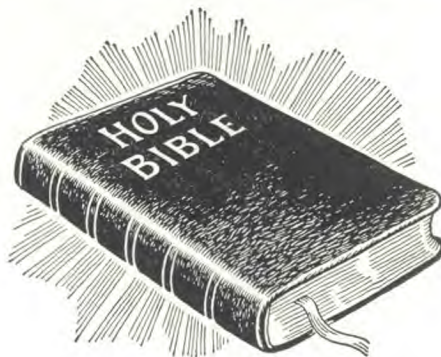
What Goes Into Your Suitcase?

A young Christian packing his bag for a journey said to a friend, "I have nearly finished packing. All I have to put in are a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer, and a set of books I have been studying."

"But you cannot put all that into your bag," objected the friend.

"Oh, yes," said the Christian. "Here it is." And he placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid.—Author Unknown.

—*Bible Society Record*, March, 1949.



all came to Christ and were sent away healed and restored. At the end of the day Jesus gently said to John's disciples, "Go and show John again." They went back and told him of what they had seen, and

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The SERMON of the MONTH

WHERE DID WE GET OUR BIBLE?

By H. M. S. Richards

Speaker on the Voice of Prophecy Radio Broadcast

WE GOT IT from heaven! The Bible is not God, but it is God speaking. He has spoken by the Holy Spirit through men to men. In 2 Peter 2:21 (A.R.V.) we read: "Men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit." The Bible is a revelation from God to man. It is a communication by God to man concerning Himself, His plans, His will, and man's origin and destiny. God speaks in both the Old and the New Testament. We read in Hebrews 1:1, 2 (A.R.V.): "God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds."

Yes, the Bible came from God; it came from heaven. Its author is God. If I did not believe that, I would not be speaking to you today.

A little girl once decided to buy her father a birthday present. She prayed about it and finally felt that she ought to buy him a Bible. Then she wondered what to write on the flyleaf. "From Maggie" seemed too cold. "From your little daughter" wouldn't do, either, because her father had said that she was getting to be a big girl. "From one who loves you"? No, lots of others loved him too. At last she went to her father's library and looked through his books. In one of them she found this inscription on the flyleaf: "From the author."

So it was that when the father opened his gift, he saw those words on the flyleaf of his Bible—"From the Author." He realized that he was not acquainted with the Author of the Bible, so he began to study it. He was converted and became a minister. In telling of his conversion, he often held up that little Bible and told about the inscription that his daughter had written in it—"From the Author."

O friends, let us accept this wonderful Book, read it, believe it, confess it, obey it, and tell it to others, because it is a love gift to all men from the Author.

Yes, the Bible came from God. The whole universe crumbles without God. And the Bible is a message from God. Since World War II, millions of people are trying to find God. They are vastly troubled. Too long they have listened to voices singing out of empty cisterns and exhausted wells. To all such we say, Give the Old Book, the Book of God, a trial.

In another dark time, long, long ago, a man with a great "hunger for affirmations" tried the Scriptures. Here is what he wrote about them in Jeremiah 15: 15, 16: "O Lord, Thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, . . . Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart."

Millions are hungry just as Jeremiah was, but they do not recognize their hunger. They are hungry for a revelation from God, and that longed-for revelation is already here in the Bible, so often overlooked. We remember the words of the poet, John G. Whittier:

"We search the earth for truth; we cull
The good, the pure, the beautiful,
From graven stone and written scroll,
From all old flower fields of the soul;
And, weary seekers of the best,
We come back laden from our quest,
To find that all the sages said
Is in the Book our mothers read."

God has given us a special supernatural revelation of who and what He is, who and what man is, and what God has done and will do for man. This is true because:

First, *a revelation is possible*. We read in Mark 10:27 that "with God all things are possible." An all-wise and infinitely powerful God can, if He so desires, reveal Himself, His plans, and His will to us.

Second, *a revelation is necessary*. Although confused, sinful man might discover by intuition or reason something about sin and its results, he could know nothing of God's love or the salvation to be found in Christ. Without a revelation he could know nothing about the Holy Spirit, immortality, future rewards, or what is to come to this earth. The law of God, the only sufficient rule of moral conduct, can be known only through revelation. To see how much we need a divine revelation from God, look at heathendom—both ancient and modern. The best of heathen philosophers and moralists were corrupt and taught many things contrary to Christian principles.

In the third place, *a revelation is probable*. If a revelation is possible and necessary, and if God loves His creatures and longs to help them, then surely a revelation is most probable.

Fourth, *a revelation is credible*. If a revelation is

possible, necessary, and probable, then certainly it is credible. In fact, it would be hard to believe that such a needed and important revelation should not be given by God.

In the fifth place, *a revelation is reasonable*. The fact that the Bible contains a long series of messages from God to man is just what we should expect. The Creator who enabled us to communicate with one another surely is able to communicate with us. Reason calls for a revelation.

Sixth, and last, *a revelation is certain*. We have the Holy Scriptures which claim to be that possible, necessary, probable, credible, reasonable, and certain revelation from God. The Bible is sustained in its claims by its miracles, its fulfilled prophecies, the expansion of Christianity, its effect in the world, and the soul satisfaction that it brings to millions of people all over the earth. This revelation from God is called the Holy Scriptures. (2 Timothy 3:15.) It is called the Word of God in Luke 8:21: "And He answered and said unto them, My mother and My brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."

Why were the Scriptures given? We read the answer in Romans 15:4: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

Is there any profit in reading them? "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.

What did one wise man say about these writings? "I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12.

Upon what evidence did Jesus Himself base His Messiahship? "Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:25-27.

What did Christ think about God's Word? He said: "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." John 17:17.

What is the Holy Bible to us in these dark days? "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105.

How long will God's Word endure? The prophet said: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:8.

And Jesus said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35.

The Bible has outlived all its enemies.

In the library of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London we saw translations of the Bible, in whole or part, in 1,068 different languages. And in the British Museum we saw the most valuable book in all the world—the *Codex Sinaiticus*, the manuscript copy of the Bible found by Tischendorf at Mount Sinai, and for which the British Government paid the Soviet Government of Russia \$500,000.

Millions of Bibles are printed every year, but the demand is so great that the presses are always behind. The Bible is the Book that people need today because it tells us the truth. It has a message that goes right to the heart. We read: "For the word of God is quick [that is, living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12.

On a trip to Paris, Dr. Malan, of Geneva, Switzerland, fell into conversation with a man who began to reason about Christianity. The Doctor answered every argument with quotations from the Scriptures, never using any of his own words. Finally the other man seemed irritated and turned away saying, "Don't you see that I don't believe your Bible? What's the use of quoting it to me?" He fairly screamed the words.

The only reply was another thrust with the Bible sword, "If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24.

Years afterward, Dr. Malan tore open a letter addressed in an unfamiliar handwriting and read: "You took the Sword of the Spirit and stabbed me through and through. Every time I tried to parry the blade and get you to use your hands and not the heavenly steel, you simply gave me another stab. It made me feel that I was not fighting you, but God." This letter was from the man whom he had met so long before. God had finally reached his heart. So the Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit.

But someone may say: "There are things in the Bible that I don't understand. I cannot accept it as God's Word until I can understand it." Well, now, is that reasonable? After all, wouldn't you expect a book from heaven, from God, to have something in it of the infinite and eternal, something you could not understand?

Once a shrewd agnostic and a Christian clergyman were sitting in a Pullman dining car eating their first course, which was Hudson River shad. The agnostic
(Continued on page 34)



Those Uncomical Comics

(Continued from page 11)

this would give the child "three hundred scenes of beating, shooting, strangling, torture, and blood per month."

He further stated that every city child who was six years old in 1938 has by now "absorbed an absolute minimum of 18,000 pictorial beatings, shootings, stranglings, blood puddles, and torturings-to-death from comic books alone." The Chicago Tribune estimates that "Dick Tracy," one of the worst of the crime comics, is read by between twenty-five and thirty million Americans. According to Market Research, every comic book has from five to two hundred readers, and at least 75 per cent of Americans read them.

At the above mentioned convention, Dr. Fredric Wertham, senior psychiatrist of New York City's Department of Hospitals, and director of both Bellevue Hospital and Queens General Hospital mental hygiene clinics, declared that the increase of violence in juvenile delinquency goes hand in hand with the increase of comic books. He said: "We are getting to the roots of one of the contributing causes of juvenile delinquency. . . . You cannot understand present-day juvenile delinquency if you do not take into account the pathogenic and pathoplastic influence of the comic books."

Dr. Wertham has been conducting clinical studies with numerous delinquent children and discovered that most of them were habitual readers of comic books. He is, therefore, convinced that "comic books represent systematic poisoning of the well of childhood spontaneity." He wrote an article in the *Saturday Review of Literature* of May 29, 1948, under the title, "The Comics—Very Funny," in which he showed that there is nothing amusing about them, but rather that they are pernicious and very dangerous.

Dr. Wertham gives many incidents to prove his argument. A boy seventeen years of age was referred to him by the Juvenile Aid Bureau. He had stabbed a boy of thirteen because of an argument, and confessed that he did not read many comic books, "only about ten a week." "A 12-year-old boy kills his younger sister; a 13-year-old burglar operates with a shotgun; another 13-year-old shoots a nurse and is sent to the reformatory [where, incidentally, he will read more comic books]; a 17-year-old killer leaves a note signed 'The Devil'; two 12-year-old boys and one of 11 shoot a man on the street with a semiautomatic; three 16-year-old boys kill a 14-year-old 'for revenge.'"

The noted psychiatrist tells of "a 13-year-old Chicago boy who murdered a playmate" and told his lawyer "that he reads all the crime comic books he can get hold of. He is sentenced to twenty-two years in prison; while the comic-book publishers who filled his mind with thoughts and methods of murder continue

as before." The doctor said that he saw a theater sign offering comic books free to the first 500 attending. It was a Saturday morning matinee for children and the pictures offered were "horror films."

John Mason Brown calls the comic books "the marijuana of the nursery," inferring that those who read them belong to the nursery in intelligence, and that they are mental narcotics of a dangerous type. Marya Manes, in an article in the *New Republic* of February 17, 1947, declared that comics demand no thought, effort, or concentration because "no thought animates them" and "they demand no thinking." "They are, in fact," said the writer, "the greatest intellectual narcotic on the market." J. Edgar Hoover said: "Crime books, comics, and newspaper stories crammed with antisocial and criminal acts, the glorification of un-American vigilante action and the deification of the criminal are extremely dangerous in the hands of the unstable child." The Chicago police, after investigating a number of crimes by boys and girls, concluded that "most comics incite to juvenile delinquency."

The situation has become so serious that the better element of society have begun to vigorously protest against this breeder of crime. Recently a number of druggists in South Bend, Indiana, refused to sell comic books in their stores, and in other parts of the country they were banned voluntarily and by law. The city of Detroit placed a ban on thirty-six crime comics on the ground that they were "devoted in the main to scenes of violence," and the prosecutor declared that he had "no choice but to arrest those selling the books." But when he discovered that this would mean the arresting of from twenty to thirty Catholic priests, he reversed his stand.

Recently the *Los Angeles Times* ran a cartoon showing a hand clutching a pistol and a copy of a comic book called "Sordid Crimes," with the caption, "Do your children handle loaded guns?" Later a thirteen-year-old boy was arrested for poisoning a fifty-year-old woman, and he confessed that he got the idea and the poison recipe from the comic book. Parents of another thirteen-year-old boy came home from the theater and found him hanging in the garage with a comic book at his feet picturing a hanging body. Two small boys were arrested for burglary and confessed that they had been inspired to commit the crime by comic books which had shown them how to do it.

Outraged by these crime comics under the headlines of "Obey the Law" while they were "dripping with murder by meat cleavers, quicklime, axes, and buzz saws," the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors went into action and passed an ordinance imposing a \$500 fine or a six-months' jail term for selling crime comics to children under eighteen years of age. While the ordinance covers only the rural areas of the county, it is hoped that the legislature will make the ban statewide.

Bending under this pressure, fourteen of the major comic-book publishers, with a combined monthly circulation of fourteen millions out of the sixty millions being published, agreed to conduct a clean-up campaign of their own to save their business. They adopted a code of ethics for comic books which would eliminate "sexy, wanton comics," "scenes of sadistic torture," "vulgar and obscene language," and comics which glorify crime, glamorize divorce, and ridicule race and religion.

Critics of the comics knew that a strict enforcement of this code of ethics would put many of the 270 titles in the United States out of business, and so did those publishers who refused to join in the reform. In defense of the comics, one of the publishers said that they

are needed because "there are more morons than people." Since only twelve of the thirty-four publishers of comic books are committed to the new standards, the problem of handling these gaudy horrors remains largely unchanged.

This increasing indignation over these cheap and vicious publications which are filling the minds of our youth with vulgar and abnormal ideas of life, constitutes a hopeful sign. It is time for the churches and civic groups to put on a vigorous campaign of education and to speak with such insistence that the public will be thoroughly aroused to the danger and do something about it. It is a legitimate cause for legislation since the morals of the rising generation are involved and therefore the destiny of the nation at stake.

Believing Couples Us With Our Saviour

By Lulu May Andersen

We dare not be tempted to doubt what is true—
What God has once told us; we're lost when we do;
For that's wholly wrong behavior.

John 17:17.
Genesis 2:16, 17; 3:6.
Genesis 3:8.

In Eden's pure home, where the tree of life bloomed,
Was where the whole race fell in doubt, and was doomed;
Till God interposed a Saviour.

Genesis 2:9.
Genesis 3:10.
Genesis 3:14, 15.

If Jesus had listened to foul unbelief
Suggested by Satan in his covert "if,"
We still would have had no Saviour.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.
Matthew 4:3, 6, 9.
Hebrews 4:15.

Belief of the truth, with no mixture of doubt,
Imperative is, for to throw Satan out:
And leave the crown on the Saviour.

Matthew 4:1-10.
Matthew 4:11.
Luke 4:6.

For Satan is claiming the dominion crown,
Which Adam was given, but which he threw down,
By his vacillating behavior.

Genesis 3:14; Revelation 12:9.
Genesis 1:26.
Genesis 3:6.

Come, people, be wise, and believe the whole truth;
Let Satan not mix any lie with God's truth:
Decrown him, and crown the dear Saviour.

2 Thessalonians 2:13.
2 Thessalonians 2:14.
Daniel 7:26; Revelation 19:16.

For this is the answer our Saviour must have;
And then, under Him, the dominion we'll have;
It couples us with our Saviour.

Revelation 14:7.
Daniel 7:14.
John 17:17-23; Daniel 7:18; Daniel 7:27.

The faith of our Saviour is always to keep
Fast hold of God's Word, making no doubting slip;
Thus, we must be like our Saviour.

John 15:9, 10; 16:33; 17:13, 14.
John 14:23; Revelation 14:12.
2 Timothy 4:7; 1 John 3; John 17:8.



INTERPRET

In the Light

★ We Must Stop Calendar Change

NUMEROUS attempts have been made to change the calendar in recent years, but the latest so-called calendar reform movement that is trying to establish a world calendar is the most serious of all. Many countries have already approved it, and the United States Senate is now being asked to place its approval upon it.

The calendar reformers, who might better be termed "deformers," hope that the United Nations will, through UNESCO, institute, on January 1, 1950, a perfect, perpetual calendar. The great masses of society

do not know what this world calendar is, nor do they know how it will affect them as individuals. But it ought to be clearly revealed to the people just what is involved in the calendar change. For those who conscientiously keep Sunday for their Sabbath, the world calendar will cause a serious muddle. One year they will be keeping Sunday on the first day of the week, as at present; the next year it will be on the second day of the week; and the third year, on the third day of the week; and so on. Those who keep the seventh day, Saturday, as their Sabbath will run into the same difficulty. Those individuals who conscientiously keep their Sabbath as they believe God has given it to them, will find that the world calendar will involve them in great difficulty. It will be practically impossible to get a different day off from work for Sabbathkeeping each year, as would be necessary if they are to follow their convictions.

Everyone ought to become conversant with this proposed world calendar. A small book titled *World Calendar Versus World Religion* may be obtained for the nominal price of fifty cents by writing to the Southern Publishing Association, Box 59, Nashville, Tennessee.

From an article that appeared in the October [1948] issue of *America*, a Catholic publication, it is evident that the Roman Catholic Church has now placed its approval upon the world calendar. This is very significant. It is also recognized that many large business organizations are in favor of it. All conscientious Christians who do not wish their day of worship to be moved around from one day of the week to another through the years, had better voice their opposition to the world calendar to their legislators at Washington. This is a serious matter. The proposed calendar change must be stopped!

★ Cigarette Claptrap

OUR ATTENTION has been called to an editorial in the *Christian Herald Magazine* of April, 1949, disclosing the clever methods of the tobacco manufacturers in their radio programs. It shows that these programs are directed primarily toward the youth, in an endeavor to develop in them a desire for one of the popular brands of cigarettes. Lucky Strike uses Frank Sinatra in its campaign to win the bobbysoxers. The Chesterfield program is pointed directly at the youth. And more recently the Horace Heidt



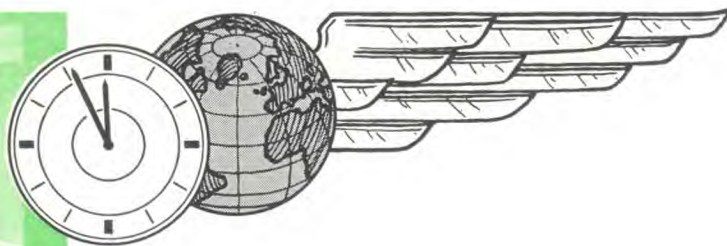
ACME

This procession marks the opening of a study conference on churches and world order in Cleveland. It represents the growing tendency among churches toward militancy.

OUR TIMES

Bible Prophecy

tor



This is the world's largest bomb. It is a 42,000-pound "earthquaker." The name is well chosen, for it would be equally as destructive as a small earthquake.

"Original Youth Opportunity Show," sponsored by Philip Morris, has been sweeping the country. The show tours the nation, plastering its cigarette advertisements around and ballyhooing the merits of Philip Morris cigarettes. Many notable people have endorsed this program that operates under the guise of helping the youth of America.

On December 12, 1948, Vice President Alben W. Barkley commended "the guidance of such programs as that to which we are listening tonight." Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan stated that the show "should be an inspiration to young people everywhere." The mayor of Schenectady praised Heidt as a man who has "devoted a great deal of time in building boys into fine men." Many other governors and other distinguished people have appeared on this program and lauded it to the skies.

We do not wish to find fault with the program, but we do want to state our conviction that such programs are a cheap trick against our youth, for our young people are duped by the propaganda that they are putting across. We understand that there has been an alarming increase in smoking among teen-agers in the past few years. This increase seems to be coincidental

with the rise in the popularity of the so-called distinctive brands of cigarettes. Thousands of youth are flocking to the broadcasts and nightly excitable and exciting shows and are provided with a "fast-paced variety entertainment, with plenty of excitement and suspense."—*Ibid.* They are led to believe that the cigarette is their friend, that it is produced for pleasure, that there is no hangover or throat reaction to its use. They are urged to smoke more for distinction and pleasure. They are also led to believe that the continuance of the "wonderful work" of building better youth is dependent upon their supporting the product by more purchases.

Thinking people know that the nauseating devices used by the tobacco manufacturers are just plain claptrap. Educational and religious forces resent the claim that "Philip Morris is leading the way in helping the youth of America." The only way that Philip Morris is leading the youth of America is down. The tobacco interests are guilty under God of defiling mankind with a filthy habit. God says, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy." 1 Cor. 3:17.

Horace Heidt, Frank Sinatra, and others, ought to refuse the sponsorship of companies whose sole purpose is to develop slaves of nicotine among the boys and girls of America. This, however, they probably will not do, but the parents of our nation ought to set up a storm of protest in the hope that the cigarette manufacturers themselves will "see the light" and stop their radio cigarette claptrap.

OH, BONELESS TONGUE!

The buzzing of the rattlesnake deprives me of my strength, till I recall to my great joy, it only strikes its length. The leg of Jack, my brindle mule, has quite a little strength, but I am not afraid of it—it only strikes its length. The mighty arm of Louis is noted for its strength, but we are safe five feet away—it only strikes its length. . . .

The tongue of mortal slays and kills, and leaves a total wreck; its victims fall in every land, and on the steamer's deck. The martyrs of the ages past and today, our greatest men, are falling to the cutting blade never to rise again. Oh, boneless tongue, so limp and weak, so fragile in thy strength, we hope the time will come when you will only strike your length!

—FRED PAGE.



JOHN VACHON

The aftermath of such drinking sprees as this usually is a splitting headache, bleary eyes, a fit of depression, and a miserable disposition. What a price to pay for a short time of stimulation!

Drink and Destiny

From a "Symmetrical Bottle to an Ugly Box"

WAR WOUNDS its victims. It leaves in its wake armless bodies, ghastly eyes, ugly scars, vacant chairs, broken hearts, horrible memories, and wasted resources. Thus, it is hated and abhorred by all men. Terrible as is this catastrophe of war, it has a no-less-awful companion that scourges man—strong drink. Why should society dread war, yet gladly take to its bosom alcoholic beverages, which produce the same evil litter of woes, wounds, worries, and waste?

It takes sober men to operate the machines in this mechanical age, whether the equipment turns out hairpins or screw propellers, or whether the machine used is a two-ton automobile or a ten-ton truck. One of the first effects of even a small amount of

alcohol taken into the body is to befuddle the brain.

In these days of precision instruments, range finders, radar, and split-second reactions, anything that confuses the mind or body is a menace. The use of alcohol does not synchronize with the intricate instruments of industry of the twentieth century.

"Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine." Proverbs 23:29, 30.

Scientific tests and measurements show without exception that alcohol impairs the judgment and makes muscular co-ordination less accurate. A small amount of alcohol taken by an ordinary man reduces

By R. L. Hubbs

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the ability to memorize by half. Speed in solving mathematical problems is materially reduced by drinking, and loss of accuracy in solving the problems in arithmetic is perhaps the most marked of any of the mental deficiencies. University researchers have come to the conclusion that those who drink even small quantities of alcoholic beverages lessen their efficiency and increase their hazard of being maimed for life or killed in accidents.

In a world so full of ominous sounds, the drinker is less able to hear them, less conscious of the import of what he hears, and still less able to discern their meaning.

Even the casual imbibor in this machine age is forced to live his life among swift-moving objects. Constantly, materials of immense weight and density move to and fro, offering opportunity for collision and casualties. A stepped-up civilization has made it possible for modern man to travel with lightning speed. This same civilization indulges man's intemperance and induces him to use alcohol, the first effect of which is to narrow the focus of the eyesight and to rob him of his natural ability to judge distance, speed, and size of moving objects. Alcohol also slows down the physical co-ordination which normally would preserve man from accidents.

If the above findings are placed along with the recent statistics giving an average expenditure of \$66.66 by each man, woman, and child in America for alcoholic beverages in 1947, the conclusion is inevitable that we have reached a stage of national scandal. America has prospects of protracted disaster in the form of accidents. Violent deaths in the United States are set to make Pearl Harbor only a minor incident as far as casualties are concerned. We assume a sphinx-like attitude, with hands folded, while such dangerous practices and policies are carried on.

There are more than 50,000,000 drinkers in the United States, and soon there will be over 30,000,000 automobiles on the streets and highways. Each driver who drinks even a small quantity of alcohol loses the judgment and inhibitions necessary to take advantage of split-second reactions in avoiding accidents.

Drink befuddles the mind, makes brittle the patience, and benumbs the judgment of those who operate the rapidly moving machines with which we must share the highways. By the slightest inaccuracy these vehicles can be turned into lifeless monsters that kill, maim, and destroy us and our children.

Drunkenness and national disaster seemingly have a direct relationship. Intoxication has always been present when the bloodless hand of doom writes on the walls of fate the sentence which cannot be revoked. The feast of Belshazzar, the death of Alexander the Great and the division of his empire, the fall of France in 1940, and Pearl Harbor in 1941—all testify of liquor's fallibility and liability in an hour of need.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE PROPHETIC FAITH OF OUR FATHERS,

Volume II, L. E. Froom, 863 pp., Review and Herald, Takoma Park, D.C., \$5.

The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers, Volume II, is one of a four-volume set in process of publication, Volumes II and III being already off the press. In these volumes the author covers the entire Christian era and sets in clear contrast the main schools of prophetic interpretation.

Volume II covers the centuries from Dante to the French Revolution. Naturally, the sixteenth century reformation becomes a major feature of study. Especially interesting to the student of prophecy is the author's development of the pre-Reformation influences. While covering the usual field of church history, one also becomes aware that certain names, like Joachim of Floris, Bernard of Clairvaux, Eberhard of Salzburg, Krebs of Cusa, play very much more important roles than has usually been accorded them. In fact, they appear as mountain peaks in the landscape of ecclesiastical history.

Joachim, the founder of a school of prophecy which later bore his name, attracted the attention of such leaders as Richard the Lion-Hearted, who, on his way to the Holy Land, spent some time with this outstanding interpreter studying the antichrist. Bernard of Clairvaux, another powerful personality whose name rings down the centuries, was another who had clear insight into the meaning of these prophetic scriptures. Recognizing their implications, he seems to have felt constrained to refuse the highest honors the church could have bestowed on him.

When Eberhard, dominant archbishop of Salzburg, moves into the arena, we find him distinguishing himself as advisor to the German emperor during the empire's crisis with the Vatican. His appeal to the bishops on behalf of the Scripture is unique, for he clearly identifies the papal pontiffs as the little horn of Daniel's prophecy.

Wycliff is too well known to need more than a passing reference, but his work and schooling are amply treated, and we see him no longer in isolation but as one of a chorus of voices in his age. It is interesting to learn that this scholar, long known as "the father of English literature," refers some twenty-six times to the writings of Joachim.

Another unique character is Nicholas Krebs of Cusa, distinguished scientist and statesman and created a cardinal in 1449. He not only identified the antichrist but became a champion in the field of chronological prophecy giving special emphasis to the 2300 prophetic days. When such leaders as he took to the field of prophetic interpretation, it is not hard to understand why there was a Protestant Reformation:

The background of that Reformation, its influence through the centuries, its attempted overthrow by the Counter Reformation, as well as the origin and growth of the preteristic and futuristic schools of prophetic interpretation, all form fascinating chapters in this illuminating volume.

To the student of Napoleonic history, the section on the French Revolution will hold many surprises. The conviction on the part of so many scholars that the 1260 years of prophecy were meeting a fulfillment in those shattering events is one of the most challenging revelations of the entire book.

Students of American history will be particularly interested to discover that Christopher Columbus was lured into becoming a navigator and discoverer, not so much by love of adventure as by a deep conviction that he was to play a vital part in the fulfillment of inspired prophecy. The gospel must go to all the world before the Lord's return. Opening up the new world was to him a divine mandate.

The author's accurate and painstaking work registers a noteworthy achievement in research. Whatever one's personal views

(Continued on page 35)

For BETTER HOMES *and* HEALTH

HOW TO REPEL INSECTS

By Colonel George A. Skinner

Medical Corps, U.S. Army, Retired

THE GREAT importance of the prevention of insect bites as a means of protection against serious diseases has been demonstrated for many years. It was again brought much to the fore in World War II, and not only by the destruction of biting insects, especially mosquitoes, but by the further protection of repelling those that had not been destroyed by sanitary measures, the damage from these dangerous insects was greatly reduced.

Chemical substances that would repel some insects, such as mosquitoes and flies, have been used for a long time, but mostly they are quite inefficient and protective for only a very short time. In war, in particular, but also in exploration, work in jungle and other tropical areas, and in swamp and lowlands of all localities, the menace of insects is so real that their damage may actually cause the loss of battles or the abandonment of great public works. The former was demonstrated early in our recent war when so many men were disabled through malaria that our military forces were seriously crippled. The latter, by the necessary abandonment of the first effort to construct the Panama Canal, when the French had to abandon the work because men sickened or died on the work faster than they could be brought in. Hence the matter of protection against insect bites is of major importance.

Another reason for the use of such repellents is to make it possible to enjoy safely many places that cannot now be used on account of the number of biting insects that are present, mostly in the evening but also during daylight hours. Recreation in parks and woods, on lakes and rivers, previously too uncomfortable to invite pleasure seekers, is now possible by the use of repellents.

In practically every place where sanitary protective measures are not in operation on a large and persistent scale, mosquitoes and other biting insects will be found. Mosquitoes lead in the danger of spreading not only malaria, but several other serious diseases. The first efforts on a large scale were, therefore, directed against mosquitoes. Effective sanitary measures in prevention of breeding are well known and quite generally used in advanced communities, but this protection is very limited in area, and people must work and live in many places where such protection is not

possible at present. We can screen our homes, and thus be relatively safe at night, but when we must work in infested areas, or be out at night, repellents are of greatest value.

Out of many substances tried both in laboratory and in actual field work, the Navy has developed several very effective repellents. As most such chemicals are very elaborate in composition, they usually go by laboratory numbers until well established and under trade names. Hence, one of the most efficient is called NMRI-448 (Naval Medical Research Institute No. 448). (30% 2-cyclo-cexyl cyclohexanol and 70% 2-phenyl cyclohexanol by volume.)

Such substances must not only be effective over quite a long period of time, but must be entirely without harm or irritation to the skin. This preparation fills the requirements in almost every case, but some do show slight irritation. Hence it was diluted slightly, which reduced its action time by almost an hour, but otherwise did not change it. The protection lasts about five hours.

Another similar preparation known as NMRI-20 has been used extensively in jungle work, and is also without irritation to most skins. Where it is well tolerated, it may last about thirteen hours, but the average is nearer eight hours.

Another fairly satisfactory protection, now available in most sporting goods stores, is called "Rutger's 612." Its action against the most vicious mosquitoes is about one and one-half hours, but for milder ones it is often effective for three hours or more.

Besides mosquitoes, another class of biters (not insects, but arachnids), the eight-legged ticks and mites, are always irritating and often exceedingly dangerous. Fortunately, many of the repellents for mosquitoes repel ticks and mites also. But one can never be sure what a repellent will do until actually tried under field conditions.

A repellent recently very effectively used will keep off ticks, chiggers, and mites for a number of hours. It is best used on trousers, socks, shirt sleeves, and neckbands. The substance, "butylacetanelid," is best used in about 2 per cent solution of common laundry soap, and the trousers and shirts are dipped in this. If one cannot wait for drying, a smaller amount may be spread around trouser bottoms, tops, and on socks.



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.

What harm results from spinal curvature?—T.S.

Good posture and good health should go together. Stooping cramps the lungs and cuts down on the breathing capacity; it cramps the heart and favors improper heart action of this organ, depriving it of its normal oxygen as the breathing is more shallow. The abdominal organs, such as the liver, stomach, and pancreas, are also less free to perform their work as the diaphragm is depressed upon them. Lateral curvatures may result from infantile paralysis or other conditions and require diagnosis and treatment by an orthopedist.

I had perfect vision until I contracted a case of pink eye. Now my vision is impaired and blurred. What shall I do for it?—F.T.

Your experience seems a bit unusual, for we would not expect any permanent damage from a case of pink eye if there is the usual quick recovery. Perhaps you were a bit run down at the time, and you now need to build up your nerve and muscle tone which are factors in good eyesight. You might try taking large amounts of vitamins, especially vitamins A, B, and C. At the same time secure plenty of sleep, with moderate out-of-door exercise and an abundance of fresh salads in your diet, with emphasis on yellow and green foods.

What is the value of penicillin in the treatment of sinus trouble?—J.R.M.

Penicillin is of value in most infections where the germ involved happens to be of a variety which is susceptible to the remedy. In the case of sinuses both systemic and local applications to the sinus cavities are being tried out. It is quite easy to introduce the penicillin spray or dust directly into the lung air cells, but unfortunately it is very difficult in most cases to get it into the sinus cavities. Vari-

Other substances, tested in like manner, have given very good results. Among these are benzol benzoate, dimethyl phthalate, Rutger's 612, and Indalone. The latter two are available at most sporting goods stores.

For quick work a recent report suggests: "The most practical method of treating clothing is to apply liquid repellent from a bottle, in half-inch band around inside of waist, the fly and bottom of trousers, cuff fly and neck of shirts, and a wide band around the upper part of socks."

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ous kinds of apparatus have been invented for this purpose, with alternate positive and negative pressure. In most instances the systemic treatment by mouth and intramuscular injections are the most efficient methods of treating the facial and nasal sinuses unless the cavity can actually be entered by some instrument, which would seldom be practical. Some patients report much help from these methods of treatment while others seem to benefit but little. Do not forget that chronic sinus trouble is often a symptom of lowered vitality, and a general building-up program must be instituted which should include high vitamin A and C intake, and sun bathing as often as possible.

My mother has just had a picture taken of her gall bladder which does not empty. Should she have it removed?—R.B. Gall bladder X rays average, in the hands of an expert, about 95 per cent accurate. Normally a healthy gall bladder should fill, and two hours after a meal containing some fats it should show 60 per cent shrinkage or contraction. If the gall bladder fills but does not empty well, it probably is not a healthy gall bladder. However, before resorting to major surgery it might be wise to have it checked once more by a reliable X-ray laboratory. If there are no symptoms of gall bladder disturbance, such as flatulence, indigestion, pain, or gall bladder colic, I would not be in too big a hurry to operate. On the other hand, if the patient does suffer from these symptoms and a repeat X ray again gets the same findings of a poorly functioning gall bladder, she might expect relief and improved health from having it removed by a competent surgeon. When the gall bladder fails to visualize at all in the first picture, it is probably diseased and should be removed. Be sure that the contrast dye which the patient takes has not been vomited as this would spoil the test and make it of no value.

What are piles? What is the treatment for them?—J.S.O. Piles, or hemorrhoids, are simply varicose veins in the region of the rectum. They are of two common types, internal and external. Internal hemorrhoids may be treated quite satisfactorily by injections, but external ones are usually best operated upon by some well-proved method. When treated by injections, they may, after a certain time, partially recur and require additional treatment. The advantage of this method is that the patient can still keep working without loss of time and there is no hospital expense.

What Is Missing FROM

Searching for the Miss.

By J. DeWitt Fox, M.D.

IS SOMETHING missing from your life? Something vague and misty; elusive as the missing piece to a jigsaw puzzle? Perhaps you, like many other Americans, feel restive and uneasy inside. You know life should be fuller, happier, more contented, but you cannot seem to lay your finger on that certain something which would make it complete.

We do not claim to have the answer to every problem of unhappiness, nor does anyone else. But why not sit down together and search for the missing link in the happiness chain? Maybe it is hidden in some near-by corner, and only needs to be dusted off and slipped into the picture to finish off a masterpiece. In fact, it may be as close as our home or church. Then again, it may need tempering and molding before a cheery, crackling fire on the hearth. Whatever the missing piece of happiness is, the finding will brighten your life, add a new warmth to your home, and thereby strengthen and stabilize our nation.

Do you think something has gone askew in our way of living? Just walk down the street of any busy city and count the number of smiles you see. People just do not look too happy, do they? I wonder why? In many respects our world is better than that of our forefathers. We have more opportunity for health, comfort, convenience. There is more freedom and liberty; more straightforwardness in our relationships with one another. Yet with all the wealth of new devices for convenience and pleasure there is something vitally lacking—*many have not learned how to be happy.*

What is happiness? There are probably as many definitions as there are persons who have enjoyed it. Fundamentally, happiness is a state of mind, a feeling of security. It is that warm feeling within when all is right in our hearts and we are at peace with the world around us. When someone does not possess such security, he often wanders aimlessly, like a blind kitten, in search of some shortcut to a bowlful of happiness. He may end like the kitten—tumbling down the stairs.

People are floundering. Not knowing where they are going, they are, nevertheless, on the way. Unfortunately, these shortcuts to a spurious type of happiness lead to the bar, to cheap ready-made recreation, to casual and lax personal relations—worst of all, crime.



The family gathering for an evening at home is a rarity today. If more time were spent in wholesome association together, there would be fewer broken homes.

H. M. LAM

THE AMERICAN HOME?

Link in the Happiness Chain

America is losing much of its moral fiber. No doubt the Pilgrim Fathers' moral codes were too straight-laced for our modern day. But the well-balanced, secure, and happy homelife they enjoyed seems to be a matter of history compared with our flying, scurrying-out-every-night way of life. What did our forefathers have which we have dropped from our happiness machine while we busily manufacture cars that travel a mile a minute and airplanes that zoom between New York and Los Angeles in half a day? While we wobble without a stabilizer in our lives, too many of us simply give up the search and complacently recline, to "let things work out in the end."

But things do not improve much. Juvenile delinquency is on the upswing in a line almost parallel to our fast and furious gadabout life. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, says juvenile delinquency is more accurately labeled adult and parental delinquency. Why? Because most of the 108,000 youth under twenty-one years of age who were arrested last year have adults to blame for their misdeeds. Mr. Hoover points out that neglect, broken and unhappy homes, and lack of home discipline are fertile soil in which the seeds of crime and juvenile delinquency flourish.

Together with crimes of parents he incriminated the heinous crime movie, lurid horror radio drama, and crime books. Vicious and unscrupulous peddlers and printers of crime books and magazines were held equally as guilty of sex crimes which youthful readers perpetrated.

A lack of religion and regard for church was one cardinal point brought out by Mr. Hoover in recounting the case of a fourteen-year-old boy. In spite of a fervent mother, this lad and his father had no respect for church. The teenage lad began with drinking beer, smoking, and running with girls. He ended by beating to death a neighbor with a shotgun barrel and stealing his car. This lad's home was comfortable; his father provided a good living. The mother was devout. But neither the father nor the children went to church. Discipline was lacking in the home. This boy was permitted to quit school. He frequented gambling halls, saloons, houses of ill fame. At twelve he began being intimate with girls. Because he was the youngest of ten children he was treated as a baby and his

parents always excused his boyish pranks. But Mr. Hoover said a firmer hand would have saved the boy and the life of his neighbor.

This is but one of many cases illustrating a crumbling of the American home. Maybe a happy home life is one of the missing gears in our happiness machine. A happy home includes more than fine furniture, a television set, a rumpus room. Infinitely more important are love, a family altar, a well-worn and regularly read Bible. It is a place where devout Christian parents take time to instill the principles of the Good Book into the minds of their children while they are yet young and impressionable.

"No nation is stronger than its homes. No nation rises above the level of its home life," says the Most Reverend Duane G. Hunt, Bishop of Salt Lake City. The fall of Greece and Rome, he said, were preceded by universal corruption, disregard for the marriage agreement, and widespread juvenile and adult delinquency. As the family declined, the nation declined. "We have a criminal population of over 6,000,000. It goes beyond anything we imagined to be possible, and the major fact behind crime is the broken home."

Bishop Hunt asked, "How can this downward pull of evil be resisted?" and answered, "Ultimately, there is but one answer, and that is to be found in the practice of religion. It is your duty before God to raise your children . . . so that they will be splendid citizens and devout Christians. To that end you must plan, work, sacrifice, and pray. The church is the bulwark of the home."

And millions are turning to religion as the answer to their own problems and the ills of a complex and degraded world. An estimated 72,000,000 churchgoers have swollen our cathedrals and churches to an all-time record of Christians. Yet the Gallup Poll reports that only one out of five American families still offer grace before meals. We wonder how many families still cherish evening devotions as a tie to bind the family circle securely?

In the face of this remarkable number of professed Christians, why do we have an upsurge of crime? Why do some Christians feel jittery and uneasy? Nations still flounder for peace, both domestic and international.

Christians have turned to the right source for solace and peace. But if we seek only a cloak for our conscience, a ritual to soothe a troubled soul, and refuse to make definite changes in our disordered lives, only utter confusion can come of our efforts.



By D. A. Delafield

"THOU WAST perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:15.

Most of our young readers were living during World War II, that terrible contest between Germany, Japan, and Italy on the one side, and Russia and the great nations of the West on the other. You may have seen motion pictures of the air battles over London or the fierce fighting in Normandy. It is thrilling to see the airplanes streaking across the sky, to watch the bombs explode and to follow the tracer bullets as they arch across the heavens, but it makes us all feel bad to see soldiers killed in battle. Human suffering and death are very sad, indeed. We wonder what ever possessed Hitler and Tojo and urged them on in this awful war. If they knew that thousands and millions of lives would be snuffed out, why did they start fighting? And when will all wars end forever, and peace and happiness rule in the hearts of men? That is a question that we want to answer today.

First of all, we want to make it plain that God is against sin; He hates war. Our heavenly Father loves all men regardless of race or creed, and He has proved to the world how deeply He loves us by giving His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Saviour. When Christ came to earth nineteen hundred years ago, He wanted to give the world a demonstration of what God was like. He proved by His life that His Father was loving, unselfish, and true. Men became acquainted with God by studying the life of His Son, Jesus. There was no sin in Him. There was no sin in His Father. He is our Example. If all the world would live as Christ lived, there would be no war and very little suffering. But most men have chosen to live their own lives. They have turned their backs upon Christ and chosen another master.

The Bible teaches us that the great unseen leader of this world is Satan. He was once an exalted angel in heaven. In fact, he led the choir in the courts of glory. His name was Lucifer, which means "son of the morning." (Isaiah 14:12.) He was most beautiful to behold. "Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty," he stood next to Christ in the councils of heaven. (Ezekiel 28:12, 13.) God created him perfect. He was good and pure from the start. God did not make a devil. But iniquity was found in him. (Ezekiel 28:15.) His heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and his wisdom was corrupted by reason of his brightness and glory.

He thought that he deserved Christ's place and that he was entitled to greater respect and power. Poor

deceived angel! His memory failed him. He forgot that he was created by Christ and the Father, and that he was dependent upon God for life and happiness just as were the other angels. He was reminded of this, no doubt, by the angels who loved and feared God, but he refused to listen to reason. He went about heaven grumbling and complaining and criticizing God and His just laws. God was very patient with him for a time, but finally God took action. Lucifer and a large company of rebel angels were cast out of heaven to live in this world, and they have been here ever since. (Revelation 12:7-12.) If he had been allowed to continue his evil work in heaven, the angels would have questioned God's authority.

How sad the good angels felt as they watched Lucifer and the rebel angels descending the sky and leaving their happy home forever! But even though Lucifer was forced to leave God's presence and surrender his position as the leading angel in heaven, he did not repent, for the Bible tells us that the first thing he did when he came to this world was to carry out his hateful work against God that he had begun in heaven. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman to live on this world, were his first victims. They were tempted to disobey God and eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Read Genesis 2, 3.) Satan led them to eat the fruit of a tree that God had forbidden them to touch. By following Satan's suggestion, they showed that they were his servants and not God's. Ever since that time men and women have been doing wrong, disobeying God, and following the suggestions of the evil one. If it were not for the fact that Jesus Christ came into the world and faced the devil on his own battleground and conquered him again and again, we would all be powerless to obey the good commandments of God and be saved from our sins.

You see, therefore, that Satan was the first sinner. But the Bible also teaches us that he will be the last sinner. Some day not too far from now, God will punish the devil for his sins. He will be destroyed and the angels who joined with him in the rebellion in heaven will be destroyed with him. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:9, 10.) Like the root and the branches of a poisonous weed, Satan and his followers will be cast into a lake of fire and destroyed. (Malachi 4:1, 3.) When that time comes, there will be no more sin. Wars will cease upon the earth, and suffering and sorrow and sickness and death will disappear forever. Won't that be wonderful? Isn't that a happy future to look forward to?

That day is coming soon. Let us all be happy about it and rejoice that God's name will be cleared forever of Satan's charges of injustice. The first sinner will be revealed before all the universe as the cause of all man's woes and misery, and we shall spend eternity on this world where sin and wars will never rise up again to deceive and destroy.

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Brief Discussions of SOUND DOCTRINE

By
The
Editor

The Nature and Universality of Sin

"A DISTINGUISHED minister of the city of Adelaide, Australia, preached on sin, and one of his church officers afterward came into his study to see him. He said to my friend, the minister, 'Mr. Howard, we don't want you to talk as plainly as you do about sin, because if our boys and girls hear you talking so much about sin they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about sin.'

"Then my friend took down a small bottle and showed it to the visitor. It was a bottle of strychnine, and was marked, 'Poison.' Said he, 'I see what you want me to do. You want me to change the label. Suppose I take off this label of "Poison" and put on some mild label, such as "Essence of Peppermint," don't you see what happens? The milder you make your label, the more dangerous you make your poison.'"—J. Wilbur Chapman.

There is a tendency today to try to smooth over sin, and in many churches the ministers hesitate to speak of it too pointedly. But sin is a terrible malignancy that needs to be exposed and cured by the Great Physician. There are some who refuse to admit the existence of sin, but the more they theorize in the attempt to disprove it, the more it becomes a solid reality. There are others who, because of having sunk so deep into the mire of sin, have lost all sense of its actuality. Their moral and spiritual natures have become hardened and their consciences seared as with a red-hot iron. The only hope for such individuals is in some tremendous upheaval within their lives, brought about by the operation of the Spirit of God. But it is difficult for God to break through the hard crust of moral numbness and religious torpor in such cases.

There is a third class of persons who simply decline to think about sin. They are unconcerned about it and feel that it does not matter too much if they make so-called little mistakes. This latter class are self-satisfied, lukewarm ones who are probably in the most dangerous condition of all.

One writer has said that "the fact of sin anyone may see in the street." But the Bible clearly reveals that any man who will look into his own heart will discover it.

Continual indulgence in wickedness eventually destroys mental perceptions and blunts the conscience. Any one sin, persistently held to, will eventually destroy all desires for holiness and paralyze the will and

purpose to seek for righteousness. As one writer has well said, "By repeated indulgence the will of man becomes flabby and weakened, until it constitutes little barrier to the repetition of an evil habit. The victim of narcotics goes to the filthy den; the drunkard to the saloon; the libertine to the brothel to satisfy his lust; the pleasure-seeker to the place he finds congenial to his carnal heart." It has been further said that the appetite for sin can become so strong that one loses his fear of God in the determination to satisfy cravings, and will yield himself a willing victim to sin, even when he knows the results.

It is hardly necessary for me to say that the modern ideas about sin receive no support from the Scriptures. Some say that sin is "good in the making," or "the shadow cast by man's immaturity," or "a necessity determined by heredity and environment," or "a stage in the upward development of a finite being," "a physical disease," "a mental infirmity," "a constitutional weakness," and many other ideas are given. But the Bible makes it plain that "sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. Paul said that "where no law is, there is no transgression." Romans 4:15. The Biblical conception of sin can be summed up in the words of the Westminster confession: "Sin is any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God."

Sin is not a light or surface thing. It is the great troublemaker of the world, the destroyer of souls. It is far more destructive than cancer or leprosy. Horatius Bonar in *Everlasting Righteousness*, pp. 10, 11 says:

"If sin is such a surface thing, such a trifle, as men deem it, what is the significance of this long, sad story? Do earth's ten thousand graveyards, where human love lies buried, tell no darker tale? Do the millions upon millions of broken hearts and heavy eyes say that sin is but a trifle? Do the moaning of the hospital, the carnage of the battlefield, the bloodstained sword, and the death-dealing artillery, proclaim that sin is a mere casualty, and the human heart the seat of goodness after all? Do the earthquake, the volcano, the hurricane, the tempest, speak nothing of sin's desperate evil? Do man's aching head, and empty heart, and burdened spirit, and shaded brow, and weary frame, and tottering limbs, not utter, in a voice articulate beyond mistake, that sin is guilt, that that guilt must be punished?"

According to God's Word, sin is not something that is revealed only in exceptional and notorious cases, but

MUST THERE BE TWO?

Again a shadow moves across the earth
 And mothers look at sons
 Through eyes that fight back tears
 And wives remember an ancient fear . . .
 The sociologist repeats again,
 "Each generation needs a war
 To remove the excess population
 In order for the world
 To feed itself."
 And the diplomat,
 "We must have a strong army
 To maintain our national prestige."
 They do not ask the coolie in China,
 Nor the peasant in Russia;
 They do not ask the farmer
 In midwest U.S.A.,
 Nor the sweethearts
 Who find a moment's loveliness
 In a moonlit night . . .
 They do not ask if these want war;
 But who shall go
 With bayonet and hand grenade to kill?
 I have seen young men
 With questions in their eyes
 And others who do not care,
 And I have heard them speak
 And the words of one return to me.
 "They say each generation must have its war,
 But why in mine
 Must there be two?"

—BILL OLIPHANT.



it is something that exists in every child born of a woman. In Isaiah 53:6 it says that "all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." In Romans 3:23 we are told that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." First John 1:8 tells us that "if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." The only one that the Scriptures mention as being without sin is Jesus of Nazareth, who "did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." 1 Peter 2:22.

The Bible tells us that sin defiles the heart, and if it is left to itself, it becomes "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9), "full of evil" (Ecclesiastes 9:3), and "only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5); and that out of it proceed "evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications," and such like (Matthew 15:19).

Eventually a sinful heart will "become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Revelation 18:2. Sin paralyzes the will, wholly or partially. It dulls the conscience so that evil is not detected when it approaches. There is not a single faculty of the soul that is not injured by it. "Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15.

Paul revealed the dilemma of his own experience with sin when he said, "I am carnal, sold under sin"; and then he says that the things that he wanted to do he didn't do and the things that he hated, that he did. He further states that no good thing dwelt in him, and that he had a hard time performing the things that were good, "for the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Paul again states that, "When I would do good, evil is present with me," and he acknowledged that there was warring within between the inward man and his mind, and finally in desperation he cries out, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 7:14-25.

(To be continued.)

Is It Necessary to Accept Jesus Christ?

(Continued from page 3)

that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Very often a person questions, "Must I accept Jesus Christ to gain this life?" The answer is, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:11, 12.

Of course, this is speaking of a future life. We all have this life, at least for a while; but all footsteps lead in one direction, toward the grave. Whittier wrote that all

"Pass the green threshold of our common grave,

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Whither all footsteps tend, whence none depart."

How often the questions arise, "Is this the end? Is this life all that we can look forward to?" Paul, the great missionary of the early church, says, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." 1 Corinthians 15:19.

The Scriptures assure us that there is life beyond the grave. "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." 1 Corinthians 15:20. Skeptics ask, "How do we know that He rose from the dead?" To find out we can at least look at the evidence. The record is "that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: and that He was seen of Cephas, and then of the twelve: after that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; . . . after that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me also." 1 Corinthians 15:4-8. Paul is again speaking. He claims he was an eyewitness to the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead.

It is true that we, today, have not seen Him, but then we have not seen George Washington nor Benjamin Franklin. Others who lived with these early Americans knew them and wrote of them, and we believe their testimony. We can believe those who saw the risen Lord. They were eyewitnesses. They wrote of things which they had seen. Thank God for their message! *There is life beyond the grave.*

We are assured, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." Verse 22. This life beyond the grave is not kept for just a favored few. It is not held tantalizingly beyond reach. It is for "whosoever believeth" on Jesus Christ, but the only avenue to eternal life is through Him: "He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God." John 3:18.

Perhaps some feel that God is a harsh, arbitrary Being for putting this reservation upon immortality, but "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. Again we read, "As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12. "The wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.

Thus we see that all are criminals in the sight of God. All are under the death sentence, but He does not desire to destroy; rather, He would save. "The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9. That was the purpose of Christ's coming to this earth, as we read in 1 Timothy 1:15, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

The great message of the Bible is that pardon from the death sentence is provided. This is epitomized in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave

His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The way is open for everyone, but that way is through Jesus Christ. There is no other way. Peter declared, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

When one's life is depending upon a court decision, an experienced lawyer is needed. The one who accepts Jesus Christ finds that he has an Attorney who will plead his cause. That Lawyer is the Saviour Himself. We are assured, "If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. In Hebrews 7:25 we are told that Christ "is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

The one who has accepted Christ, and thus retained Him as Advocate, need never fear that his case will be lost. Notice this text: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10. If our Lawyer is also our Judge, and we have placed ourselves in His hands, there is nothing to fear. Christ will see that we do not lose.

The great question for us to answer is whether or not Jesus Christ is our Advocate. That is all important. It is not just a thing to be desired. It is imperative. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

There is only one answer to the question, Is it necessary to accept Jesus Christ to have eternal life? The answer is, "Yes." Everyone must make the choice to follow Him or to reject Him. The many Jews gathered at Pilate's hall of judgment were asked, "What will ye then that I shall do unto Him whom ye call the King of the Jews?" Mark 15:12. In answer, the throng in the court clamored for His death. They rejected Him, and the Scriptures reveal the result: God rejected them as His chosen people. Of the Jewish nation it was declared, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:38. Yes, life or death depends upon what we do with the Son of God.

The invitation is open to all. The Lord says, "Come unto Me," and then He assures, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Again He urges, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18.

If you have not believed in Him yet, won't you do it now? He invites you; He urges you. "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.



What Says the BIBLE?

The Glories of Jeremiah

A Christian friend complained that she wished the book of Jeremiah was not in the Bible. "Such a sad book!" she wailed. "I don't read it any more than I can help."

Shocked that a Christian spoke so irreverently of anything God inspired, I said: "Perhaps if you read Jeremiah more, you would find precious promises to sustain those who now live in an age of apostasy and approaching doom."

Later I set myself to prove my own words. What I dug out of Jeremiah's gold mine proved a spiritual Fort Knox treasure. I present here a brief summary for others who may find Jeremiah hard reading.

1. *The most strengthening promises in the Bible for young Christians who want to work for God but are afraid, and for those of all ages who are opposed by the enemies of God, are in Jeremiah.*

"Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. . . . They shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee." Jeremiah 1:7, 8, 19.

2. *Unsurpassed tender pleadings of the loving Spirit of God for backsliders to return to God, with promises of forgiveness are here. The sadness of the book of Jeremiah is that of the broken heart of our Father, who punishes only because we bring it on ourselves. Jeremiah presents a thrilling commentary on "God is love."*

Whole chapters in Jeremiah are filled with God's grieved pleading. Here are samples: "Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the Lord, and with your children's children will I plead. . . . Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, when He led thee by the way?" Jeremiah 2:9, 17. "Return again unto Me, saith the Lord. . . . Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause Mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever. . . . Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you. . . . Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings." Jeremiah 3:1, 12, 14, 22.

3. *Unsurpassed descriptions of God's love are multiplied in Jeremiah. For instance:*

"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3, and elsewhere.

4. *James was only quoting Jeremiah when he promised healing and forgiveness in answer to the "prayer of faith." (James 5:14-16.)*

"Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. . . . And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity." Jeremiah 33:6, 8.

5. *Paul, too, was quoting Jeremiah when he set forth the new covenant in Hebrews 8:8-12, and 10:15-17.*

Read all of Jeremiah 31, and chapters 30, 32, and 33 for the grandest vision of salvation and the restoration of this lost world to be found anywhere outside the rhapsody of Isaiah 40-66 and Revelation 21 and 22.

6. *The sublime New Testament doctrine of righteousness by faith, best developed by Paul in Romans, is drawn from the book of Jeremiah.*

Compare Jeremiah 2:22; 13:33; and 30:12-16 with 30:17; 23:5-8; 24:6, 7, and the whole 31st and 33rd chapters to see the futility of self-righteousness and the sufficiency of imputed righteousness.

7. *The realm of literature would be the loser if all figures of speech based on the work of a potter were subtracted from it.*

These figures all originated in Jeremiah 18, 19.

8. *The prophecy of the millennium in Revelation 20:1-3 could not be easily understood if it were not for Jeremiah 4:23-28.*

Jeremiah 4:23 uses a Hebrew word for "void" used elsewhere only in Genesis 1:2. In Revelation 20:3 the corresponding Greek word is translated "bottomless pit." In the Old Testament it is used in speaking of the whole earth in a desolate and chaotic state, thus showing the millennium to be the desolation of the earth caused by the second advent. (Compare 2 Thesalonians 2:8 with Isaiah 24:17-20.)

9. *The epoch of the last kings of Judah and the Babylonian captivity could not be understood in Bible history without the book of Jeremiah.*

References are too numerous to quote.

These are a few of the nuggets from the Jeremiah lode. Dig for yourself.

What Is Missing?

(Continued from page 25)

The late Dr. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, did not feel that religion and daily life were two separate and distinct entities—the one for Sunday wear, the other for the rest of the week. He said, “The religious man is not only religious when he prays; his work is religiously done, his recreation religiously enjoyed, his food and drink religiously received; the last he often emphasizes by the custom of grace before meat. He does his duty religiously; above all, his failures in duty affect him religiously.”

The relevancy of religion to daily life seems to be the crux of our problem—*what might be missing from our happiness machine*. Psychologists tell us that a well-balanced mental, physical, and spiritual life should incorporate (1) diligence for work, balanced with (2) enjoyable play and recreation; and (3) love for man, balanced with a (4) love for God. Work and play and love and worship are the four spokes of the wheel which, if balanced with one another, make for a well-rounded life.

According to this standard, many of us lead a rather lopsided life. We bump along eccentrically, lump play into work, often spend little time helping our brother or displaying love for our wives or husbands. And our worship and daily devotions consist of an evening prayer when we lie on the brink of sleep—and how about church on Sunday? You answer that?

Psychologists and doctors agree that much of the mental illness and twisted, warped thinking of patients is caused by lopsided living. The high-tension, competitive, materialistic life leaves too little time for relaxation, a pleasant walk in the park, or quiet meditation on God's blessings. We should spend more time appreciating the Christian heritage which has made America great.

Each of us could benefit by looking to God for strength at the beginning of the day, and by giving thanks at eventide. J. Arthur Rank, the British movie magnate, bypasses the elevator in his headquarters building, the enormous town house of the Duke of Abercorn in London's Mayfair. Instead he uses what he calls his “prayer stairs.” He explains: “Every morning I walk up the stairs because it gives me time to pray that I will make decisions during the day worthy of my responsibility to those 30,000 persons who work for me throughout the world and to the millions who see our films. And walking down the stairs at night reminds me to give thanks to God for His guidance.”

Too many Americans are becoming merely the human wheels of the vast machine, modernism. Our day starts in a dither as we race for the 7:30 interurban or dash through city traffic. Eight hours of pencil pushing, telephone answering in a stuffy office, or tedious hours over a factory bench. The 5:30 trolley home or weaving in and out of heavy rush-hour traffic. A heavy

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It is well to follow a leader, but wise to make certain the leader is going the right way.

Very few knockers are ever builders.

Some people are always defending themselves against enemies that do not exist.

When you get all wrinkled with care and worry, it's time to get your faith lifted.—Wynn, in *Magazine Digest*.

Profit is a by-product of work; happiness is its chief product.

It is always easy to thumb a ride on the road to ruin.

It is vain to use words when deeds are expected.

supper, the evening paper, and we tumble into bed. Play and worship missing. Maybe these would spell happiness.

Divorces are devastating thousands of homes today. If your daughter marries today, the chances are she may be divorced in ten years. Why? Because one out of every three marriages ends in the divorce court today. In grandma's day—1890—only one in every seventeen marriages was broken. Do you not think a renewal of home bonds around the family circle would help correct this? Marital problems formerly solved in the privacy of the kitchen are today aired in the divorce court. Homes are becoming little more than sleeping rooms and houses. Most homes boast a living room, but how much time do we live in it?

Tragedy of marriages dashed to pieces on the rocks of misunderstanding is the trail of blood from broken hearts, and bruised and confused brains of innocent children. These are tomorrow's criminals; derelicts strewn along the beach of life, left to comb the scraps which drift ashore.

Stop and consider. What is missing from home life? Is it the delicate hues of a devout religious atmosphere? An affectionate family relationship, which if blended with a rainbow of childish laughter and a staunch but optimistic faith in God's future would make life a beautiful picture?

How to Have Peace

(Continued from page 5)

increased in favor before God and men because he ministered before God. (1 Samuel 2:18, 26.) Joseph was favored because he did not break the seventh commandment. (Genesis 39:8, 9, 21.) The three Hebrews were delivered from the fiery furnace because they served God and trusted in Him. (Daniel 3:16, 17, 28-30.)

And more than all men, Christ, the example to all men, pleased God. He said about Himself and His Father, "He hath not left Me alone; for I do always the things that are pleasing to Him." John 8:29, A.S.V.

But how different the world is! God's place is usurped by evolutionary theories, and to many, Christ Himself is just a *man*. By many, His law is regarded as abolished. To many, His Word is held as nothing more than fine literature. Even in the churches millions seldom read the Bible.

Outside the churches, wrongdoing of all kinds abounds, and somehow finds for itself a vital place in not only man's worst but also his worthiest endeavors. Neither dictatorial aggressors nor democratic arbitrators have succeeded in binding together the nations of Europe, let alone the world. Science and production have produced, but not peace. The world seems to be afflicted with a sort of a moral amnesia. The peace so many seek is not found.

It is as one version of 2 Timothy 3:1-5 reads, "In the last days there are going to be hard times. People will be selfish, avaricious, boastful, arrogant, abusive, undutiful, ungrateful, irreverent, unfeeling, irreconcilable, slanderous with no self-control, brutal, with no love for what is good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, caring more for pleasure than for God, keeping up the forms of religion, but resisting its influence."

Nevertheless, here is our hope, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9, A.S.V.

He says today as always, "Repent then, and turn from all your transgressions, lest your iniquity bring you to ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against Me; and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies. . . . Turn, then, and live!" Ezekiel 18:30-32, P.E.

In other words: Obtain goodness, uprightness, truthfulness, perfectness, and good understanding. Have faith in God, fear God, praise God, and obey God.

Then it may well be that mankind would develop a new heart and enough new spirit to make the possibility of God's words come true: "Oh that thou hadst

harkened to My commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isaiah 48:18, A.S.V.

In short, this world, as individuals and as nations, if it wants peace, must purchase the Pearl of great price—for peace is to them He favors, to them who please Him.

The End of the World

(Continued from page 7)

of His glory." Matthew 25:31. His appearing will be as "the lightning." If anyone "shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Matthew 24:26. The Saviour spoke of no secret rapture.

Yes, the end of the world will come, but it will not be brought about by a revolt of the sun or as the result of the battle of gravity or waves of pressure. It will come when the Son of God appears in the clouds of heaven with all His angelic host to fulfill a promise made two thousand years ago to a group of discouraged followers:

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3.

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John 3:3.

Like Christ in Prayer

(Continued from page 9)

A preacher had earnestly presented this promise of Jesus. At the close of the service an elderly woman arose and said: "Preacher, do you believe what you have preached today?" Being assured that he did, she said: "You quoted in your sermon just now that wonderful promise from Jesus: 'If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father.' Do you believe that promise, and will you plead it with me?" Then she continued: "It is like this. My husband is, and has long been, a captain on the boat that sails the river. He never goes to church and is exceedingly wicked, and now he is growing old. If you will join me in pleading that promise about two agreeing, we will claim him for God and salvation and heaven. Will you join me?"

Before the minister could answer, a plainly dressed blacksmith rose and said: "Auntie, I will join you in pleading that promise." Walking over to where she was, he said, "Let us plead it now." They knelt, and in language as simple as that of a little child talking to its mother, he reminded the good Saviour of His

promise, and then pleaded for and claimed the fulfillment of His promise in saving the old sinful sailor. The prayer was quickly over, but its tender assurance was indescribable.

At the evening service there was the old lady and her white-haired husband. At the close of the sermon, when an invitation was given for those who wanted to become Christians to come to the front, the old man went forward at once, but somehow failed to find the Lord that night.

The next morning there was a knock at the outer door of the preacher's study, and there stood the old man, who said: "Sir, I can't wait for your sermon this morning. Tell me now, if you know, how I can be saved." And right there he surrendered and found Jesus, and became changed in heart, fully converted to Christ through the power of prayer.

How many others there are like him who have neglected salvation in the past, but now earnestly desire, yes, anxiously long to find the Saviour! They also can come just as they are, in all their sins, like the old sailor, pleading for Jesus to accept them just as they are, the language of their hearts being, like that of the sailor, "I can't wait. Tell me now how I can be saved." And they surrender wholly to Jesus as they plead:

"Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

Then how the tenderhearted and pitying Saviour, His own heart overflowing with the tenderest longing to save, inspires in them the faith that *grasps* His salvation, that *accepts* His forgiveness and cleansing of every spot and stain, and *enables* them to *receive* His saving love fully into their hearts. Christ brings conviction deep down in their souls that they are His and He is theirs, as they thus express their faith in the language of prayer:

"Just as I am, Thy love I own
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, and Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

What to Do With Doubt

(Continued from page 13)

when John came to his tragic end in prison, he died with his faith in Christ strong and bright.

Someone may very well be wondering at this moment how he can conquer doubts. I am going to give three simple steps which may be followed that will lead to ultimate victory over unbelief.

First of all, we must have a sincere desire to be rid of doubts. We must see the ineffectualness of unbelief and must be dissatisfied with it. There are individuals who enjoy doubt. They indulge in it just because it gives them satisfaction to shock other people. Doubt

is a sport to them and they enjoy the attention that it brings. It can truly be said of a sincere skeptic that "the doubter's dissatisfaction with his doubt is as great and widespread as the doubt itself." A sincere doubter will welcome each bit of evidence which dispels his doubts.

The second step is that we must associate with those who will help us achieve an attitude of faith. I suppose even the strongest Christians would have trouble if they constantly associated with those who were cynical and taunting. David found this to be true in his experience. This is the statement he made, "My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?" Psalm 42:3. He was associating with people who were constantly saying to him, "Where is thy God?" and it reduced him to a state of tears. Notice the effect that these people had on him: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance." Verse 5. Their unbelief upset him, and it will do the same for anyone. If we want faith, we must associate with those who will help us build it, not with those who will tear it down.

It ought to be obvious that we cannot escape all contact with unbelief, with cynics. Sometimes good Christians find themselves married to some who are scornful of the things of God. Others in their homes at times taunt them with statements of unbelief. We cannot always escape such contacts. We have to pray for strength to remain faithful despite them. But when deliberately choosing friends and companions, we must not put ourselves in the way of faith destroyers.

And the third step is to begin to live a life of faith even though the way is not entirely clear. It has well been said that some things come not so much by logical reasoning as by experimentation. I suppose it would be quite impossible for an elephant to decide whether or not a bridge would carry him until he tried it out a foot at a time, putting a portion of his weight upon it and seeing how strong and secure it is. When finally he is satisfied that it will bear all his weight, he proceeds on unquestioningly. Our lives are like that. Some things we cannot understand until we begin to test the strength of the bridge, and then we discover that, lo, that which looked as if it had many weak places, that which we doubted would have strength enough to bear us, has shown itself to be well able to carry us across the dark abyss below. How did Jesus put it? "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 17:17. If we will live a life of faith, the Lord Jesus will give us rest.

Let us take heart, therefore, if at times we struggle with honest doubts; follow this simple three-step plan, and the experience of Thomas coming from doubt to faith will be ours. "Be not faithless, but believing." John 20:27. May it be so in your life and in mine this day and every day is my prayer.

GOD'S TWO BOOKS

By Mary Hunter Moore
"Pray Without Ceasing"

THE DEPARTING guests were saying a sectional good-by. Little Miss Three-Years-Old occupied the waiting time in running close circles on the grass until she tumbled in a heap of ecstatic dizziness. Her joy was unconfined until mother noticed her and said sharply, "Stop that!" Little Miss obeyed, but the joy drained out of her. I thought: "Oh, mother, let her rejoice in her youth. She's doing no harm, exploring her entrancing powers. Don't be taking the joy out of her life, when her recreations are innocent, and you don't provide something else."

To the child I said, "Come on! Let's run in a straight line." Instantly joy returned to her downcast face. Together we ran to the edge of the yard. Together we sat down in a sudden plop. Then we looked around for the next number on the program. We both saw it at once.

"Oh! Oh!" she shouted. "Little leaves pwaying!" Yes, a big clump of clover leaves near us were going to sleep in the on-coming dusk, each one in the attitude of babyhood at mother's knee in every Christian home: the two lower leaflets folded together like little hands at prayer, and the third leaflet bent down like a reverent head. "Little leaves pwaying!" repeated the baby softly, looking wonderingly from me to the clover clump.

"Yes, darling," I said, "the little leaves are praying. They are going to bed. They worked and played all day. Now they are sleepy. They go to bed early. They don't fuss, and they never forget to pray."

"Little leaves work like daddy?" she asked.

"No, honey. Little leaves stay in one place, where Jesus made them grow. They work by breathing in fresh air and sunshine. They play by waving back and forth in the wind. They go to sleep like this. When the sun comes back in the morning, they will wake up."

Baby looked meditatively at the sleeping clover leaves. The radiance of a new thought flowed over her.

"Little leaves pway while they sleep. *Little leaves pway always!*"

Later as I bowed beside my bed, I prayed the baby's "pwayer": "Lord, keep me as faithful as the clover leaves."

The clovers look at God all day;
Then fold their rounded hands to pray
When evening comes;
And bend their heads
And sleep upon their earthy beds.

Where Did We Get Our Bible?

(Continued from page 15)

looked at his companion and, recognizing him as a minister, said, "I believe that you are a clergyman, Sir."

"Yes, Sir, I am in my Master's service."

"You look it. You preach out of the Bible, don't you?"

"Yes, of course."

"Don't you find a good deal in the Old Book that you can't understand?"

"Oh, yes, some things."

"What do you do then?"

"Well, my dear friend, I simply do what we do when eating this shad. When I come to a bone, I quietly lay it to one side and go on enjoying the shad, and let some fool insist on choking himself with the bone."

Then the agnostic wound up his watch and went into another car.

But there are some things in the Bible that we would understand better if we would study more. Second Timothy 2:15 says: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We will not understand some things in the Bible until we obey God. We read in Acts 5:32: "And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him."

And some things in the Bible we will understand when we meet the Author face to face. "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. . . . For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." 1 Corinthians 13:9, 12.

We need this Book from heaven because Christ is in it. His face looks out from every page. Of the Scriptures Christ said, "They . . . testify of Me." Even of the books of Moses, He said, "He wrote of Me." John 5:46. Of the prophetic books, the apostle said in Acts 10:43, "To Him give all the prophets witness." He is in the Psalms—Jesus Himself says so in Luke 24:44. He is in the New Testament from first to last. The first words of Matthew are: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ." And the last ones in Revelation are: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." Revelation 22:21.

Friend, will you not open this Bible from heaven as the Word of God and let it speak to your heart? If you do, it will change your life for good and will give you a hope stronger than death. It is called the "blessed hope." (Titus 2:13.) This Holy Book will bring you the sweetest story ever told, the story of the cross and salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15.) The more you read it, the more you will want to read it—I know, because I have tried it. It is the Great Book, a Great Book to live by and the only Book to die by.

The Forks of the Road

(Continued from page 8)

"Yes" to the people of God. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God. . . . Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt." Hebrews 11:25, 26.

Decisions are often costly, not alone in what we may give up, but in what we accept. Moses gave up all that became a prince—luxury, royalty, wealth, and worldly power were all brushed aside in his decision. In place of these he accepted poverty, affliction, slavery. It was a costly decision, not one easy to make, but he did it.

What enabled Moses to choose so wisely? We find that he weighed his decisions in terms of the hereafter. He would not let the glitter of the present outweigh the glory of the future. He knew permanent values. He lived so near to God, and was so completely surrendered to God, that his heart was quick to discern what God would have him do. His only desire was to do God's will, and what it cost him in suffering or inconvenience was of secondary importance. This should be the principle that guides us when we come to the forks of the road.

The way we decide the questions that come to us day by day will determine where we will spend the days of eternity. Every day we must take either the higher road or the lower road. This is a burden and responsibility that no one can evade. Neither can anyone decide for us. In serving God, we must choose to walk the narrow way, and give our lives completely to Him.

Book Review

(Continued from page 21)

may be on the subject of prophetic interpretation, this book will prove both informative and stimulating. The variety of sources used in the building up of the thesis is in itself a revelation. The great libraries on both sides of the Atlantic have been made to yield their treasures. Not only the testimony of religious leaders, but manuscripts, medallions, coins, woodcuts, paintings, sculpture, and architecture are all brought onto the witness stand as convincing evidence that the study of Bible prophecy has not only molded religious thought but has influenced tremendously even the political issues of the centuries.

The author made two extended visits to Europe in preparation for his stupendous task, and a short third trip this past summer. He, therefore, writes of things first hand. Since the bulk of this material was gathered, the exigencies of war have destroyed some of the important libraries where these documents were secured. Some eight thousand documented photostats, however, are in the possession of the publishers, thus providing a source for future study. Maps, drawings, facsimiles, illustrations, and diagrams of various kinds illumine the whole subject, and by these and the lucid narratives one feels he can hold fellowship with the leaders of Christian thought through all the changing centuries.

"An absorbing pageant of great names, great events, and great interpretations" is the comment of one reviewer. And such it truly is. One lays down this volume with a deep conviction that "the sure word of prophecy" has been cherished through the centuries. As a source book *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers* contains an extensive bibliography. It is a dependable record and will hold an honored place in the literature of our time.

—R. ALLAN ANDERSON.

OUR TIMES, AUGUST, 1949



SCIENCE Insights



SPEED'S NEW FOE: THE "HEAT BARRIER."—Researchers seek ways to keep "ram temperature" in supersonic flight from melting planes and cooking pilots.

Now that jet power and airplane streamlining have cracked the "sonic barrier," aeronautical scientists are tackling an even tougher foe: the heat barrier.

You've seen what that can do to a flying object if you ever watched a meteor flaming through the night sky. What made the meteor flame into vapor was its friction against the air when it dived into the earth's atmosphere from outer space at twenty miles a second.

In an airplane flying not much faster than today's jets—and only 1/100 as fast as a meteor—that same kind of friction could melt the plastic canopy, burn out the controls, and broil the pilot.—Andrew R. Boone, in *Popular Science*, February, 1949.

NOW IT'S CANNED LINOLEUM.—Fluid linoleum, to be painted on any floor with an ordinary brush, is



ACME

This atomic ribbon-cutting stunt was performed at Oak Ridge where the bomb was first produced. This familiar sight in miniature is the thing that has brought great fear to the world.

offered at about \$7 a gallon by Pro-Industry Products, Inc., of New York City. Called Pavinoileum, it is made in ten colors. One coat is said to cover a floor at a cost of about two cents a square foot. It dries in four hours.—*Popular Science*, February, 1949.

SOFTER RIDING.—Rubber is entering the road-surfacing field; when 5 to 10 per cent of rubber powder is added to the asphalt used, riding qualities are improved and the surface is less affected by winter cold and summer heat.—*Science News Letter*, January 8, 1949.

A CURE FOR SIN

Jesus Offers a Cure and a Promise

By Esther Brassington

"HOME for Incurables." Despair freighted every word of the name for that hospital.

Patients here had no hope of recovery from maladies afflicting them, for the directors had chosen a name that stated the grim facts. The connotations of the two words *home* and *incurable* impressed one with the hopelessness in the lives of the patients.

In this hospital was a little misshapen woman with deformed hands, bent body, and useless limbs. A victim of arthritis, she was doomed to spend the remainder of her days in a place where her only associates were nurses, doctors, and suffering patients. Day in and day out she looked upon the unadorned walls of her small room. The bed, intended to make her comfortable, grew unbearably straight and hard as her pain increased.

Yet when one grasped her withered hand, strength flowed from her—not physical strength, but spiritual robustness. Its source was Christian character. Her body was incurable; no human physician offered

hope of recovery. Nor could he so much as assure her of rest from the agonizing pain. But she had found a Saviour who had healed her soul. Though physically incurable, spiritually she had been healed.

There is a cure for spiritual ills, a fountain of healing from sin. No human help offers a remedy for sin. Christ grieved to witness the millions of people hopeless without Him. He gave Himself that "whosoever believeth in Him should *not perish*, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Jesus offers a cure for sin. He adds a promise of life eternal. But without healing from transgression there can be no everlasting life. The Great Physician gave His life in behalf of all in this world, a home for spiritual incurables.

His treatment is sufficient to cure sin and uncleanness. We may come to Him in all confidence. Regardless of all else we can be whole spiritually.



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