

The Sword AND Staff

"Preach the Word!" (II Timothy 4:2)

•

"Feed the Flock!" (I Peter 5:2)

"What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

By William E. Paul
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North Platte, Nebraska 69101

THE OBJECT OF THE BIBLE is to provide man with the solution to his spiritual needs. Its theme is salvation and its contents deal with how men may be right with God. The Bible is the only source to which a person may resort in order to determine the will of God in this all important matter.

Yet, with the Bible containing over 770,000 words, and over 21,000 verses, it is obvious that every verse does not answer the question of "What must I do to be saved?" So in order to arrive at the answer to this vital question, we must carefully consult only those passages which deal directly with the matter of salvation. For us today this immediately limits our investigation to the New Testament portion of the Bible.

But even in consulting the New Testament let us understand that we dare not select nor isolate any passage from its setting or context just to prove our point. This would be mishandling the Word of God. Besides, on such an important issue, we must have in accurate truth exactly as God revealed it for our salvation. We must take all the verses of Scripture that bear on the subject, study them carefully and then we can arrive at God's answer to this question, the only answer on which we can rely.

Our study will follow along two plain lines of Bible teaching: (1) What did Jesus say that a man must do to be saved? (2) What did the first converts to Christianity do to be saved, according to the written accounts in the New Testament?

These two lines of teaching are the most fundamental approach to the learning of anything! We learn by seeing the process carried out in the lives of others. These

methods are universally accepted as the most effective ways of getting across ideas. Military training consists of hearing what to do and then seeing what to do. In mechanics an apprentice first reads the "how" in his manual and then sees the "how" by watching an experienced man tear down and rebuild an engine.

This is precisely how we intend to determine from God's Word, the Bible, what a man must do to be saved. A number of Jews long ago wanted to know what to do (Acts 3:37); a man named Saul once wanted to know what to do (Acts 9:6); and a jail keeper in the city of Philippi once asked the same question, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

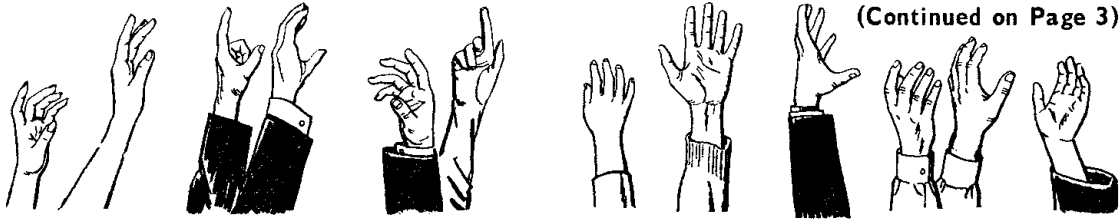
Maybe you are wanting to know yourself just what to do to be saved. You have heard what a lot of different people have said about it but you would like to know what God's Word says about it! Now you can find out and you can do it by consulting your own Bible. Won't you begin a serious search right now? It could be the most valuable time you ever spent!

I. WHAT DID JESUS SAY THAT ONE MUST DO TO BE SAVED?

While Jesus was here on earth he could and did grant forgiveness of sins by merely speaking the words, "Thy sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48). This forgiveness came in response to the individual's personal faith (Luke 23:39-43 and Mark 2:3-5) on recognition of Jesus' Lordship (John 8:11). Jesus had the power to forgive sins! Men and women were forgiven (or saved) simply because Jesus said they were! But now that Jesus is no longer here on earth to forgive sins in this same way, how can people have their sins forgiven and be saved?

If you will recall, it was just before Jesus ascended in the cloud that he gave his final instructions to

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PROVERBS of TODAY

Some people, if they are not in the driver's seat, will not even go along for the ride.

"A leader is an ordinary person with extraordinary determination."

If you would give the world to go to heaven, then that is just exactly what it takes.

"Trying to live without Christ is like trying to drive a car without a steering wheel."

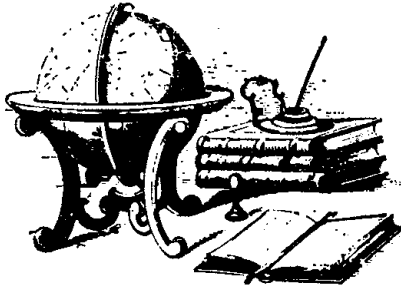
Some people have more interest and respect for old furniture (antiques) than they do for old people.

"Wait not until you are backed by numbers; the fewer the voices on the side of truth, the more distinct and and strong must be yours."

Have love for one another, then you will be loved by more than one.

"For every preacher who carries a flamethrower for God, it seems that there are a dozen 'preachers' equipped with little water pistols trying to shoot cold water onto the blaze."

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EDITORIAL
COMMENTS...

**DIVESTING OURSELVES OF DENOMINATIONALISM:
THE "REVERENDS" OF DENOMINATIONALISM**

THIS MAY SEEM trivial and elementary to some, and yet be a whole new world of thought to others (our reading audience is rather diversified), but the common practice of calling religious Ministers "Reverend" is not found in the Word of God--yes, it is foreign to, and in fact, condemned by the Scriptures. Catholics commonly call their clergymen, "Holy Father," and "Reverend." Protestants, while declining the use of the former, freely refer to their Ministers as "Reverend" so and so. All of this has its roots in the artificial (hence unscriptural) practice of making an arbitrary distinction known as "clergy" and "laity." We must now turn to the Word of God.

We search in vain for any apostle or New Testament writer appending his name with such a pretentious prefix. Starting with the first epistle, Romans, we read, "Paul, a SERVANT of Jesus Christ, called to be an APOSTLE..." To reword it: Paul, a SLAVE of Jesus Christ, called to be ONE SENT OUT (to preach). Read and study the other New Testament letters one by one and you will find in essence the same thing--but NEVER will you run across the word "REVEREND". This is significant, and if we are in earnest about following and applying the Scriptures, we will drop that word from our vocabulary as a religious title applied to a mere human.

The Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 23, while speaking very critically of the scribes and Pharisees of his day, brought out many things that apply to the discussion in hand. Listen as he speaks:

But be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters; for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Let us always remember, as the Psalmist said: "...HOLY AND REVEREND IS HIS (God's) NAME (not man's)" (Psalms 111:9b).

PAUL'S ARTICLE TO BE AVAILABLE IN TRACT FORM

THE ARTICLE "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" by William E. Paul which starts on the front page of this issue, is soon to be available in tract form. There will be a small charge. Direct all interested inquiries to brother Paul at his address on the front page.

SYSTEMATIC

Scriptural Studies

THE PROBLEM OF SINNING CHURCH MEMBERS

(Continued from Last Month)

IV. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN CHURCH MEMBERS SIN?

A. They Should Repent and Pray for Forgiveness.

1. They have personally sinned and personally are to make things right.
2. They are not to be baptized all over again for there is one baptism (Eph. 4:5).
3. They are not to continue in sin (Romans 6:1,2; Hebrews 4:15,16).
4. They are to confess their sins (I John 1:8-10).
5. They are to repent and pray (Acts 8:20-24; II Cor. 7:9-11).
6. Be afflicted and mourn; draw near to God and He draw near to you (James 4:4-10).
7. Bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance.

B. They Should be Spoken to and Restored.

1. Christians should exhort one another to be faithful (Hebrews 3:12-14; 10:25).
2. The spiritual are to restore those taken in fault in the spirit of meekness (Galatians 6:1).
3. In meekness instruct those who oppose themselves (II Timothy 2:25,26).
4. Save them through compassion and fear (Jude 22, 23).
5. By recovering the sinning church member we have saved a soul from death (James 5:19,20).
6. Jesus gives the procedure in settling misunderstandings and sins among church members (Matthew 18:15-17).

C. They Should be Disfellowshipped from the Church.

1. If all others steps failed unrepentant church members were to be disfellowshipped.
 - (1) Consider what Jesus taught about this (Matthew 18:15-17).
 - (2) Disfellowship instructed in I Cor. 5:1-13.
 - (3) Examine II Thessalonians 3:6,7,14,15.
 - (4) A heretic is to be rejected after the first and second admonition (Titus 3:10,11; Romans 16:17).
2. The purpose of disfellowship.
 - (1) To possibly bring the sinner to repentance (I Cor. 5:5; II Cor. 2:4-8).
 - (2) To obey Christ (II Cor. 2:9; Matthew 18:17).
 - (3) To purify the church (I Cor. 5:7,13).

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"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED"...

(Continued from Page 1)

his apostles. These instructions appear in Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16 and Luke 24:46-49. Read these passages carefully, for they bear directly on the matter of what Jesus said to do in order to be saved for us today!

Jesus told his apostles something on that occasion. What was it? (a) He told them to preach the gospel to every creature. He made it clear that people in all the world were to hear this preaching, and they were expected to believe in him, repent of their sins and be baptized. Upon meeting these conditions sincerely and wholeheartedly they had the promise of salvation. And the promise was made by Jesus Christ, the Lord himself!

This same Jesus whose word had previously been able to cleanse the vilest sinner now commands all nations...every creature...to believe, repent and be baptized in order to have his sins forgiven and be saved! Remember, these were Jesus' last instructions before he ascended back into heaven. These were the final instructions to his apostles which they were to carry out by going throughout the whole world preaching the gospel. These instructions apply to you and me today!

Now notice carefully. Regardless of what was required of man for salvation during the life and ministries of Jesus, John the Baptist and the apostles before Christ's ascension, these things mentioned in the above cited passages of Scripture (Faith, Repentance and Baptism) were the requirements for salvation after Christ's ascension. This is exactly what Jesus said to do to be saved. Please reread the passages under discussion...just to be sure that's what Jesus really said!

But maybe you are saying, "Are those same conditions still required for salvation? Since so many things have changed hasn't the way a person becomes saved changed also?" The answer is simply, "No, not one bit!" For you will recall that Jesus said, after instructing his apostles what to preach, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). These last instructions of Jesus to his apostles were not only for every creature but also for all time! They were to be in effect "always" and "unto the end of the world." That means they are in effect right today and will continue to be binding upon all men until

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‘WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?’...

(Continued from Page 3)

Jesus returns. So the big question is really not, “What did Jesus say?” as much as it is, “What have you done about it?”

Now that we have found from the Bible what Jesus said for us to do in order to be saved, let us consider the other line of reasoning for an answer to our question, “What must I do to be saved?”

Now that we have found out FROM THE BIBLE what Jesus said for us to do in order to be saved, let us consider the other line of reasoning for an answer to our question, “WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

II. WHAT DID THE EARLY CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY DO IN ORDER TO BE SAVED?

Let us now begin to follow the apostles and their companions as they carry out their preaching mission according to Jesus’ final instructions. We want to especially notice what their hearers did in response to the preaching of the gospel. For this we must turn to the book of Acts which is often called the “book of conversions.”

The first case of persons promised forgiveness of sins following Jesus’ ascension is recorded in Acts the 2nd chapter. Let us listen to their preaching carefully to see if they tell people exactly what Jesus commanded them to say in his final instructions. In Acts the second chapter we find that a large multitude heard Peter’s message (vv. 14-36); many of them believed in the Christ whom Peter preached (this is obvious by the question they asked in v. 37); they repented of their sins (v. 38); and were baptized for the remission of sins (v. 38). In all the number was about 3,000 (v. 41).

In Acts the 8th chapter we learn that a group of Samaritans heard Philip preach (vv. 5,6); they believed (v. 12); and were baptized (v. 12). In the same chapter a man named Simon (a sorcerer) heard the message (vv. 5,6; 9-12); believed it (v. 13); and was baptized (v. 13). Still again another case of conversion is recorded in this chapter. A man from Ethiopia heard Philip preach (v. 35); he believed in Christ (and confessed his faith, v. 37); and was baptized (note that it was an immersion, vv. 36-39).

Another prominent case of conversion in the New Testament is that of a man named Saul of Tarsus. He heard the gospel (from Stephen, Acts 7:51ff; from those he persecuted, Acts 22:19; and from Ananias, Acts 9:6,10,17); he believed (Acts 22:10); he repented—evidenced by his conduct (9:8-11); and was baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16).

A Roman officer named Cornelius and members of his household heard Peter preach (Acts 10:33-43) (the words they heard were the words of salvation, Acts 11:13,14); they believed (Acts 15:7); they repented (Acts 11:18); and were baptized (Acts 10:47,48).

The 16th chapter of Acts records two more cases of conversion resulting from the preaching of the apostles.

A woman named Lydia and her household heard Paul teach them (Acts 16:13,14); and they were immediately baptized (v. 15). Later on the jail keeper in Philippi and his household also heard Paul tell them about Christ (Acts 16:31,32); and they believed in Christ (v. 31-34); they repented (evidenced by a change of conduct, v. 33); and they were baptized (notice it was the same hour of the night, v. 33).

In Acts 13:8 we learn that some people in Corinth, including a man named Crispus, heard Paul preach, they believed and were baptized.

Finally, twelve men at Ephesus heard the preaching of Paul, believed in Christ and were baptized into Him (Acts 19:2-5).

Now if you have read this far it shows you are really interested in this matter of what to do to be saved. Go back through the above material and underline what each person did in order to be saved (forgiven of sins). When you do this you will see exactly what people did for salvation *according to the Bible*.

Now let us see what this all adds up to. These ten examples of conversion in New Testament times show us the following:

- (1) The things which people did were *only* what was required of them by the preaching of the gospel.
- (2) All did the *same things* in order to be saved!
- (3) They were *all* required to *believe in Christ* (and confess this faith); *repent of their sins* and *be baptized for the remission of sins*.

All they were required to do by the apostles was what Jesus said to do just before He returned to Heaven. What could be plainer?

Now here is the conclusion. We have seen in this message exactly *what Jesus said to do* and exactly *what the early converts did* in order to be saved. So, in the first century, when people did exactly what the Lord required they were saved! If they could have their sins forgiven then by simply meeting certain God-given conditions *sincerely from the heart*, why cannot all people today receive the forgiveness of sins by complying with the same conditions?

Friend, have YOU done what the Bible teaches is necessary for salvation? **TO DO LESS THAN THE BIBLE TEACHES IS NOT ENOUGH! TO DO MORE THAN THE BIBLE TEACHES IS TOO MUCH!** So why not do *just what the Bible teaches* and trust **GOD** to save you just as He saved the people on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2; the Samaritans, Simon the sorcerer, and the man from Ethiopia in Acts 8; Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9 (also 22 and 26); Cornelius in Acts 10; Lydia and the Philippian jailor in Acts 16; the Corinthians, and Crispus in Acts 18; and the twelve men of Ephesus in Acts 19.

Are you trusting in what some preacher told you to do to be saved? Or are you putting your confidence in the doctrines of some religious denomination for your salvation? You may say, “I am trusting in Christ for sal-

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WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF LIVING?

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

• "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

IN THIS HIGHLY political year of 1968 much is being written and said about standards of living. In our country many claim that we have the highest standards of living in the world. God has richly blessed our nation with material blessings and for these things we need to rejoice and give thanksgiving to God for his goodness.

In this lesson we would like to consider three levels of living. It is not my purpose to deal with economics which is perhaps the chief consideration when standards of living are discussed. Under consideration in this message will be three levels of living that economics have little to do with as I see it.

I. THE INSTINCTIVE LEVEL.

Instinct is: "1. A natural aptitude, impulse, or capacity. 2. a. Complex and specific response by an organism to environmental stimuli that is largely hereditary and unalterable, does not involve reason, and has as its goal the removal of a somatic tension. b. Behavior that is mediated by reactions below the conscious level"—Webster's Seventh New Collegiate

Dictionary.

Animals live on the instinct level.

For example, Beavers live together in colonies of as many as 25 or 30. They work together to build dams made of logs and mud. They cut down trees and cut them in desired lengths. They then take them into a stream, weight them down with stones, and pack the cracks with mud until a dam is made that very little water can penetrate. They also store logs under the water for food. These dams hold back water, prevent floods, and keep farm lands from being washed away. How does the beaver know how to do his engineering feats? It is God-given instinct.

Honey bees are another example of instinct. As many as 75,000 may live in one hive. Most of the bees are workers. Many gather nectar and pollen which makes good bee food. Some bees make honeycomb out of wax that comes from their bodies. Still others take care of the queen while she keeps busy laying eggs. Some workers feed "royal jelly" to a few bees which become queens. In carrying pollen from flower to flower, the bees help seeds to form. Men with fruit orchards hire bee keepers to bring their bee hives into their orchards when the trees are in bloom to pollinate the blossoms so that the trees will bear fruit.

There are many kinds of bees. The two kinds best known are the honey bee and the bumble bee. They along with the tiny sweat bee all help man by pollinating plants and and tree blossoms.

A baby's behavior is also largely on the level of instinct. The new born

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"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" . . .

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vation." But are you doing what he says you must do in order to be saved? Some will tell you *only believe* and you are saved. Others will urge you to pray through at the altar for salvation. Some will invite you to "raise your hand where you are and say, 'Yes, Jesus'." **BUT THE BIBLE SAYS NONE OF THESE THINGS!**

Friend, you dare not take the words of men in such an important matter as the salvation of your eternal soul. Instead, take the **WORD OF CHRIST**; you can rely upon **HIM**! Follow the example of those to whom the apostles preached. You can be sure they were told **ONLY** what God required for salvation for the apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

So let me urge you to *study the Bible*, and when you come to understand it, *love it and obey it*...and be saved *God's way*, for it is the **ONLY way!**

WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL...

(Continued from Page 5)

infant doesn't have to be taught to nurse nor cry. He is born looking for food and he cries to tell his parents that he is hungry or hurting.

Living on the instinct level must be limited by humans. Doing what comes naturally is not the wise course of action to pursue in many instances. He must live above the instinct level.

We must consider fellow human beings, their rights, feelings, and welfare in all our decisions and actions. We must also take into account the will of our Creator, for "It is He who has made us and not we ourselves" (Psalms 100:3).

II. THE CUSTOMARY LEVEL.

This is the "What everybody is doing" level. It is not everybody but the generally accepted conduct of the majority, or of a group with which a person may have close association.

The customary level is not always wrong. Most people eat three meals a day, sleep a few hours a night and live in houses. And these and many other things commonly practiced are good.

On the other hand this level is not always good. In our day the majority of people in this country use tobacco which is definitely harmful to the body. Even if most of the adults and teenagers use tobacco in its various forms, it does not make it the wise thing to do for health's sake and for heaven's sake. Only the uniformed and the foolish will even attempt to deny that tobacco is harmful to the body, that it is definitely a health hazard. But not only will it destroy your body, it will also endanger your soul for God's Word says: "If any man destroy the temple of God, him shall God destroy..." (I Cor. 3:17). If you are a Christian your body is the temple of God (see I Cor. 3:16). If you are destroying God's temple with tobacco, better give it up and come clean for God lest this costly habit rob you of your soul, along with your health and your cash.

Drinking beer, wine, whiskey and other intoxicating drinks has become common, perhaps most people do

drink. There are evidently millions who do drink for in this country alone there are more than 11,000,000 drunkards (more commonly designated alcoholics). But the fact that most people are drinking does not mean that it is the wise thing to do, for drinking involves numberless evils, and not one drunkard will make it to heaven. Drinking results in adultery, broken homes, divorce, unwed mothers, unwanted children, jealousy, hate, envy, murder, automobile accidents, a miserable existence, crimes of every kind, neglected children, orphans, widows, etc.

Some who drink have delirium tremors which is "a violent delirium with tremors that is induced by excessive drinking of alcoholic liquors."

Delirium tremors result from serious deterioration of brain tissue—caused by alcoholism, in which the victim has terrifying hallucinations, visions of snakes, rats and other vermin crawling over his body and become violent with fear. BY THIS TIME, his alcoholism has reached the proportion of alcoholic insanity.

But the suffering experienced by the drinker and that suffering that others go through in this life as a result of the drinking of another person is just the beginning of pain and griefs that will be experienced after death and the judgment for "...drunkard...shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:19-21).

Divorce, adultery, fornication and other related evils are popular ways of life at the present time, BUT they are not the HAPPY course to pursue. Broken homes, unwanted children, forced marriages, orphans, misery, hate, murder, etc., are all spawned by disrespect for God's laws of chastity and the marriage vows.

"What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" will face many a guilty person in the judgment. All guilty of urging divorce for every cause may have a lot to face when they are brought before God. To say nothing of the heartache, brought on by disregard for God's laws regarding the home, marriage and chastity. How can a man and woman be so sel-

fish and hard hearted as to break up a home and look into the eyes of their children whose hearts are broken and many times lives ruined because of divorced parents? Disregard for God's law brings on much suffering in this life and promises nothing but greater suffering when this life is over. Read Galatians 5:19-21 to see what will happen to all who disregard God's laws. The above text declares that they shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Revelation 21:8 tells where all such shall spend eternity.

Parking and petting are popular with many people, young and older alike. But it is a dangerous practice if you value your soul. For this practice is lasciviousness—it creates and stimulates desires that are evil outside of marriage. Lasciviousness is listed along with murder and idolatry in Galatians 5:19-21.

Dancing may be acceptable with many worldly people, but with God it is a dangerous practice for it involves "unchaste handling of males and females" which the Bible defines as wantonness and condemns in II Peter 2:18-22.

Standards set by movies, TV, many magazines and books are evil and productive of evil thoughts and deeds. What honest person will deny this? The sincere Christian who seeks to have the mind of Christ will avoid these evil influences and keep them from his family, will refuse to expose his loved ones to such temptations.

In the pursuit of the customary level, we become slaves to the crowd. They dictate everything we do and think from dress to the things we believe about God and creation.

The frequently heard expression, "EVERYBODY'S DOING IT" is often false, and many times misleading.... However there have been times when almost everybody was doing and thinking evil all the time. It was that way when God destroyed the world in the time of Noah. All that God saved was Noah and the other seven righteous souls that were alive upon the earth when the flood came. Had there been ten righteous souls in Sodom and Gomorrah God would have spared those wicked cities. Only three souls es-

HOPELESSNESS

*There is a deadening feel of inactivity and unconcern
that gradually captures the soul, having been brought
about by uncertain living in the absence of hope.*

*Life in unattractive with a hollow emptiness that re-
vibrates itself into the depths of the degenerate soul.*

The reality of existence about one is questioned.

Life is meaningless.

By A. BROTHER

caped the fire and brimstone sent by God upon these cities corrupted by the ungodliness of incorrigible inhabitants. The judgment of God upon the old world and upon Sodom and Gomorrah was designed of God to show us God's hatred of sin and to give us a foretaste by way of example of what awaits all the wicked after the judgment. It is a warning to us today that it does not pay to follow the multitude to do evil. It demonstrates the danger of living on the customary level.

ONLY A COWARD will violate his conscience to please a crowd, or to be like the crowd. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were young men who refused to violate their consciences and to disobey God by eating the king's dainties and drinking his wine. They could have excused themselves upon the grounds that "everybody was doing it," but instead "they refused" to go along with the crowd. God richly blessed them. They soon became rulers in the mighty empire during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar.

The popular course in Paul's day was to persecute Christians. Paul did this until he learned better. But when converted he became one of the most zealous Christians that has ever lived. Being a follower of Christ brought upon Paul much persecution, but at the end of the journey of life he looked forward to "a crown of righteousness which the Lord" would give. This meant far more to Paul than all the honors that might have come his way had he continued to persecute Christians.

III. THE STANDARD OF CHRIST AND THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE HIGHEST AND THE ONLY PERFECT LEVEL OF LIVING!

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48) is the standard (or goal) of this level of living.

This standard gives us the perfect example of Jesus to follow. "For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Peter 2:21).

This standard offers the perfect guide, the New Testament, the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation. In it is revealed the One who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). In it is described "the strait and narrow way which leads unto life" (Matthew 7:13,14). It contains all "the truth" (John 16:13), by which man is set free from sin. See John 8:31,32.

It offers the Holy Spirit as a gift to EVERY penitent baptized believer. The Holy Spirit comes into to lead (Romans 8:14); to intercede upon our behalf (Romans 8:26, 27).

The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray. "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18). "...praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jude 20).

The Holy Spirit strengthens. "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be STRENGTHENED with might by His SPIRIT in the inner man" (Eph. 3:6).

By the help of the Holy Spirit we learn the things of God. "Now we have received, NOT the spirit of the world, but the SPIRIT which is of God; that we might KNOW the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Cor. 2:12). This does not mean that God will give us a head full of facts. It does mean that the Holy Spirit can WORK in our minds to make understanding of God's Word possible and to enable us to apply God's truth to our lives.

The Spirit is a guide for us for we "WALK after the Spirit...they that are after the Spirit mind the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:4,5). "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

The Bible tells us how to live, what is right and wrong; the Spirit encourages us to do right, and gives us the power to do it.

The Spirit also bears good fruit in us. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22,23).

Because men are sons of God, He has given us His Spirit. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts" (Gal. 4:6). We see two important truths here: (1) As sons of God, we need God's Spirit and life imparted to us to enable us to live as sons of God ought to live; and (2) As sons of God, we are entitled to have the nature of God implanted in us through His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit assures us of eternal salvation and redemption. Ephesians 1:13,14: "...after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the EARNEST of our inheritance UNTIL the REDEMPTION of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory."

WE CONCLUDE with this thought: "What is the level of your living?" Is it the instinctive level where you live as do infants and animals? Or is it the customary level where you follow the crowd and seek to do what is acceptable to man, to please men? Or is your level the highest and only perfect level? The level set forth in

(Continued Next Page)

WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL...

(Continued from Page 7)

the New Testament. This level offers the fullest and happiest possible life in this world and it assures of eternal life after death.

When you were born into this world you began on the instinctive level. As time went by you very likely have been influenced greatly by the customary level. You may still be upon this level. If so there is only one way to rise to the perfect level set forth in the New Testament. This is by means of the new birth. All upon this level are in the kingdom of Heaven. To enter the kingdom Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

About 3,000 souls were born again of water and the Spirit upon the day of Pentecost. You read about this in the second chapter of the book of Acts. All who were born again had "gladly received the word" (Acts 2:41) (the Word of God is the "seed" of the kingdom, Luke 8:11); they believed that Jesus was the Christ the Son of God, as is evidenced by their desire to know what to do to be saved (when one believes that Jesus is the Christ he is begotten of God, I John 5:1—Read the American Standard Version, 1901); they were then born of the water in baptism (Acts 2:41) and thus were "...delivered...from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son" (Colossians 1:13).

You too may enter into this highest level of living right now by doing

just as the people upon Pentecost did. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God? If so, "Repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Enter the highest level of living right now. "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

Shun the instinctive and customary level and enter the HIGH way that leads to eternal life! Do it NOW for tomorrow may be too late: "Behold now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2).

ARE WE RELIGIOUSLY IL-LITERATE?

A CHILD spends about 540 hours being instructed in public schools during kindergarten, first and second grades. In order to get this much instruction in Bible schools, a child would have to attend every Lord's day for twenty years. This would mean that if a child would begin attending at the age of three years, he would be twenty-three years of age before he had spent enough time in Bible school to have the equivalent of a second grade Christian education.

By the time one is twenty-three he probably has completed his high school and college education; normally by twenty-seven he has chosen his life companion, by thirty he has no doubt entered business and has a family. The statistics show that most American Christians are making the major decisions of life on a *second grade Biblical Education*.

Is it any wonder that experienced church members know so little of the nature of their religion, fail so completely at times to live up to the simplest commitments of their faith, have no daily communion with God?

Can you begin to understand why we stress the importance of regular Bible school and other church attendance? Do you see why we urge you to see to it that your children take advantage (as well as yourself) of the opportunities, activities, and Bi-

ble training that is provided for them?

—SELECTED

(NOTE: This short article overlooks the significance of daily home training, but the fact remains of the great importance of the church's public teaching program).

Jumping to Conclusions

John was driving home one day when he picked up a hitch-hiker. As they rode along, John felt for his wallet and found it missing; whereupon he stopped the car, ordered the hitch-hiker out, and then said, "Now hand over that wallet before I smash your face in!"

The frightened hitch-hiker handed over the wallet, and John got back into his car and continued on.

When he arrived home that evening, he started to tell his wife about his experience with the hitch-hiker, but she interrupted him. "Before I forget it," she said, "do you know that you left your wallet at home this morning?"

Once again we point out the importance of not jumping to conclusions. Many an unkind word has been spoken and many friendships have severed because someone thought it happened this way when it really happened that way.



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