

# The **Sword** AND **Staff**

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

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

## ● **RESPONSIBILITY**

By James E. Gibbons

WE ARE LIVING in a society that is fast becoming irresponsible. This is strikingly evident in the atmosphere of general permissiveness, unruliness, riots, and crime increase. We are told that during the past seven years the population of this country increased by 10 per cent, but crime rose a staggering 88 per cent. As individualism seems to be on the decline in the face of big cities and the "population explosion," so is a sense of personal guilt and responsibility. Personal guilt and responsibility is discounted by saying one is simply a victim of his environment, an animal product of the social order. Within this decade a president is assassinated. Our "learned" men tell us that we are all guilty of killing the president. Personal responsibility doesn't seem to enter the picture as men riot, loot, and destroy. On superficial grounds students seize control of the administrative buildings of colleges and universities, feeling no obligation to submit to school regulations (nor maintain their character by complying to a personal moral code). It has been brought to our attention that one famous university was faced with the students demanding that free birth control pills be furnished regularly to the student body. Today men are clamoring that the



government provide a guaranteed annual income whether they work or not, contrary to what the inspired apostle Paul taught (II Thess. 3:10; I Tim. 5:8). And, politicians bent on self-promotion are making this a campaign issue.

Oh, where are we headed, my beloved?!!! A free, democratic society is a great and wonderful thing, but it must be in the context of recognized and respected law. A democracy without a mature and responsible citizenry is headed for self-destruction and oblivion. Where freedom has no defined boundaries, where there is not the definite restraint of law and certain law enforcement, soon no one will be free. Without a responsible citizenry the deluded and selfish masses will listen more and more to the promises of self-seeking politicians who seek to exploit the populace and the nation's resources for political gain. We are fearful that as we surrender

our responsibilities, we will to that degree surrender our freedom and our character. A free society without responsible people may be free, but very likely will not stay free long. The situation becomes cancerous. A cancer is a condition in the body where the cells no longer function properly. They "free" themselves from their normal bounds to expand, going "wild," to become malignant, bringing disease and death to the body. May we learn a lesson here.

We are sad to say, but in our day there is also a lack of a sense of real responsibility among religious people. The leaders of many denominations feel that they do not have a responsibility to obey even certain good and legitimate laws of the land, and they advocate "civil disobedience" to emphasize a point in their social-gospel obsession (Romans 13). Then, it is indeed bad to see the spirit of the age reflected many times in the lives of the general "membership" of the church. Too many are conformed to the world, and lost in the crowd, feeling little personal responsibility concerning their religion and the well-being of the church. Evidently they have forgotten that the Bible says: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

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### Proverbs of Today

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*When you come out of denominationalism, make sure that denominationalism has come out of you.*

"Those who bind up their happiness in the praise and applause of men, expose themselves to a perpetual uneasiness upon every favourable word that they hear said of any other."

*If the "Lord's day" is the Lord's day, then it is not your day--use the day especially for the Lord's glory.*

"The problem of dying solves itself when men learn how to live."

*We must empty our lives of sin and self before they can be filled with God and the Holy Spirit.*

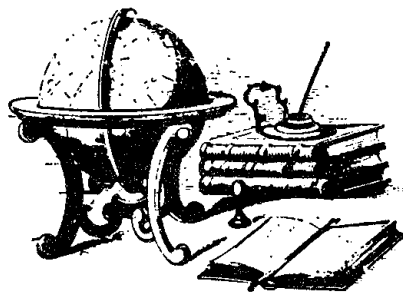
"Love him as a true friend who seeks your good more than your good will."

*Christianity has not been tried and found wanting, but it has been wanting to be tried.*

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## EDITORIAL

## COMMENTS...

### DIVESTING OURSELVES OF DENOMINATIONALISM: THE "FAITH ONLY" FALLACY

THE "BATTLE CRY" and long standing citadel of all old-line Protestant denominations has been and still is "faith only" (except where "modernism" has smothered out faith today). Just examine the creed books of these denominations. You will find emphasized over and over again that man is justified "solely by faith," that he is saved by "faith only." We are convinced that this doctrine came into being in a reactionary way. The Protestant Reformers detested the apparent system of salvation by prescribed human works which they found in Catholicism. As they moved away from this, they went to the extreme in the other direction. They introduced a doctrine which we believe equally is wrong.

We have gone through the New Testament Scriptures and have found at least 20 things or combination of things which are said to "save" us. The word "save" is found in each reference. This writer does not have the audacity to pick out just one of these and place the word "only" after it. Who gave any man such authority? We are to live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). You can trace down other words besides this word "save" and come to the same conclusion. Try these words: "salvation," "remission," "justify," etc. Now here are the references with at least 20 specific things which are distinctly said to "save" us.

1. God (II Timothy 1:8,9).
2. Grace (Ephesians 2:5).
3. Jesus (Matthew 1:21; I Timothy 1:15).
4. Blood of Christ (Romans 5:9).
5. Name of Christ (Acts 4:12).
6. Life of Christ (Romans 5:10; Hebrews 7:25).
7. Gospel (I Corinthians 15:1,2).
8. Mercy (Titus 3:5).

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### MY TEACHER...

It matters little if people fail to applaud, if we please The Master. A musician once wept when a great crowd applauded one of his performances because there was ONE man who did not applaud.

When asked why he was so affected by the fact that one person had not applauded, he replied: "HE was my teacher."

If we should gain the approval of the whole world and fail to receive the approval of the GREAT TEACHER, then we have miserably failed. Let us live daily with this thought in mind; and after a life of faithful service, the Master can say to us: "Well done..."

—Author Unknown

# SYSTEMATIC

## *Scriptural Studies*

### PRIDE AND HUMILITY

*Introduction:*

1. In a world that is greatly controlled and motivated by pride, it is very appropriate to study this subject.
2. By *pride* we mean an inordinate self-esteem, conceit, haughtiness, vain-glory and vanity in one's self.
3. By *humility* we mean lowliness of mind, meekness, self-abasement.
4. It has been said that pride is the only disease that will make everyone sick except the one that has it.
5. Self-respect is a good thing, but an inordinate love of one's self is highly improper; especially for one professing Christ.

I. PRIDE IS OF THIS WORLD.

- A. New Testament Teachings Concerning Pride.*
1. Pride is of this world (I John 2:15-17).
  2. It is a sin of the heart (Mark 7:21-23).
  3. It brought the devil's condemnation (I Tim. 3:6).
  4. Pride is listed among the sins of the depraved heathen Gentiles (Romans 1:28-30).
  5. Teachers of false doctrine are spoken of as being proud (I Timothy 6:3-5).
  6. Pride would characterize the apostate religion of the last days (II Tim. 3:1-5).
  7. Pride and vanity are many times reflected by giving too much attention to the outward person (I Peter 3:3,4; Isaiah 3:16-24).
- B. Old Testament Teachings on Pride.*
1. Pride is a sin (Proverbs 21:4).
  2. God hates pride and we are to do the same thing (Proverbs 6:16,17; 8:13).
  3. The proud are an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 16:5).
  4. Pride keeps a man from God (Psalms 10:4).
  5. Pride chains a man (Psalms 73:6).
  6. Pride deceives a man (Obadiah 3).
  7. Pride stirs up contention and strife (Proverbs 13:10; 28:25,26).
  8. Pride is a shame (Proverbs 11:2).

II. HUMILITY IS OF GOD.

- A. This is Shown by Christ.*

1. Christ was God, but became man and humbled himself to the death of the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).
2. Christ said that he was meek and lowly in heart (Matthew 11:28-30).
3. Paul speaks of the meekness and gentleness of Christ (II Cor. 10:1).
4. Christ is our example and pattern (I Peter 2:21; I Cor. 11:1).

*B. This is Seen in the Teachings of the Gospel.*

1. The preaching of the gospel itself was intended to produce humility--its appeal was not to pride (I Cor. 1:18-31; Matthew 18:3,4).
2. When pride came, it brought the condemnation of the apostle Paul (I Cor. 3:3-5; 21-23).
3. There is no room for the clergy and ecclesiasticism in Christ's religion (Matthew 23:1-12; Mark 12:38; II Thess. 2:3-8).
4. The simple organization of the Lord's church, which was purely on a local basis, offers little opportunity for worldly advancement and prestige (Philippians 1:1; Eph. 3:21).
5. The simple worship, holy living, baptism and the Lord's supper do not encourage pride but rather humility.

III. GOD EXPECTS HUMILITY.

- A. We Should be Humble for God is God and We are but Man.*
1. God is high and holy, but what is man? (Isaiah 57:15; 64:6).
  2. Man at his best is altogether vanity (Psalms 39:5).
  3. When we have done all the Lord has commanded we are still unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10).
  4. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6-10; I Peter 5:5,6).
- B. How Does God Expect Humility?*
1. He expects our very being and outlook to be controlled and motivated by humility.
    - (1) We are to have the mind of Christ (Philip. 2:5; Matt. 11:29; Col. 3:12; Acts 20:19).
    - (2) We are to esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).
    - (3) Notice Romans 12:16 and Titus 3:2.
    - (4) Be clothed with humility (I Peter 5:5).
  2. We are to receive God's Word with all humility (James 1:19-21).
  3. We are humbly to point others to the truth (I Peter 3:15; Galatians 6:1).
  4. We are to pray humbly to God.
    - (1) Attitude of humility (Luke 18:9-14).
    - (2) Bow the knees (Ephesians 3:14; Phil. 2:9,10).
  5. Micah summed it up very well even in the Old Testament times (Micah 6:8).

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RESPONSIBILITY • • •

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Although it may be distasteful to some, at this time we wish to humbly and prayerfully consider this matter, and very important matter, of *responsibility*.

WHAT IS RESPONSIBILITY?

Most of us use the tools of speech, words, and never take time to break a word down to determine its full meaning. Notice the word *responsibility*. **RESPONSE - ABILITY**: it simply means your ability to respond. And, since this message deals with Christians, your ability to respond as a Christian and as a Christian should respond, i. e., respond to that which we should do.

Our modern word *responsibility* is not even found in the King James version of the Bible, but the meaning of the word is definitely recognized time and time again. As far as good works are concerned, we might say that ability plus opportunity equals responsibility. This is found in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The lord of the servants gave "to every man according to his several ability" then took his journey into a far country. Upon his return each servant had to give account of his stewardship of the money. You recall that the five and the two talent men doubled their respective amounts by investing it. The one talent man with his twisted and pessimistic views had not even faced up to the abilities and opportunities that he did have. Because he had not accepted his personal responsibility, he was called wicked and lazy and was cast into hell. Also read Matthew 25:31-46 for another example of responsibility. This will be brought up in the day of Judgment: To these opportunities have we responded with our ability in deeds of kindness and benevolence? These other references will also show how that men responded and should respond with their abilities: Acts 11:29; I

Corinthians 16:2; Galatians 6:10.

But let us look at responsibility from its basic perspective. God has given us His Word by which we gain a knowledge of His will for mankind. He has endowed every normal person as they grow up with enough mentality (ability) to respond to the gospel, which was to be preached to every creature (Mark 16:15, 16). Every man is going to be held accountable (he is responsible) for himself (Romans 2:1-16; 14:11, 12). He is accountable to respond favorably to the light that he does have.

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

(Of course this is a big question, so we will be limited to touch only on some of the highlights of a Christian's responsibility).

Contrary to what some people think, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and every man personally must give account of himself to God--whether he has ever been accountable to anyone during his life or not (Romans 14:10b-12; II Cor. 5:10; Revelation 20:12-15). Paul declared to the undogmatic of his day on the Areopagus in Athens that God "commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man (Jesus Christ) whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:30b, 31). We face up to our first responsibility by accepting Jesus as the only one who can take away the personal guilt of sin (Acts 4:12; I Tim. 2:4-6; II Cor. 5:21; Acts 2:38).

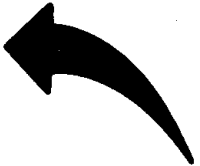
Preachers have a responsibility to tell people their responsibility, although some reply that it is none of anyone's business what they do. Paul reminded the Ephesians as he was relieved of his responsibility: "Wherefore I take

you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:26, 27). The great commission had directed them to "preach to every creature." Paul felt this urgency and exclaimed: "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (I Cor. 9:16b). He further said: "...we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect (complete, mature) in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28).

When we become a Christian, we accept not only Christ but the responsibility of being a Christian. Jesus taught that men should first count the cost before entering into discipleship (Luke 14:28-33). It is not enough to be buried in baptism (Col. 2:12). "If ye then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1). You are to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12b). Then listen to this sobering question directed at Christians: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3a).

There is more involved in being a Christian than most people realize. You don't make Christianity a "part" of your life--it is life itself! Could we but have the same conviction of the apostle Paul: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless

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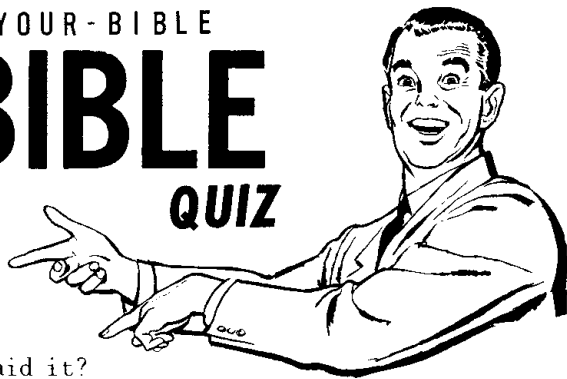


Regardless

how you look at it, there is no "future" in smoking!

KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE

# BIBLE QUIZ



1. Who said it?
- (1) "Let there be light. "-----
  - (2) "Am I my brother's keeper? "-----
  - (3) "Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. "-----
  - (4) "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? "-----
  - (5) "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. "-----
  - (6) "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. "-----
  - (7) "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. "-----
  - (8) "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. "-----
  - (9) "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel "-----
  - (10) "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. "-----
2. In one or a few words tell what is the outstanding subject or event in these chapters.
- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Genesis 3.   | (7) I Corinthians 13. |
| (2) Isaiah 6.    | (8) I Corinthians 15. |
| (3) Isaiah 53.   | (9) I Timothy 3.      |
| (4) Matthew 5-7. | (10) Hebrews 11.      |
| (5) Acts 2.      | (11) James 2.         |
| (6) Acts 10.     | (12) James 3.         |
3. How old were Abraham and Sarah when Isaac was born?
4. Who chose wisdom above riches and God gave him both?
5. What man lived in the land of Uz and endured a great trial of faith?
6. What O. T. prophet probably tells more of the coming of Christ than any other?
7. What prophet might we call the "love" prophet of the O. T.?
8. What prophet might we call the "fire and brimstone" prophet of the O. T.?
9. Approximately how many years lapsed between the last O. T. book and the coming of Christ?

10. Who are the two most prominent human personalities in the book of Acts?

(ANSWERS TO KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE QUIZ FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE)

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## THE SECRET

*I met God in the morning  
When my day was at its best,  
And His Presence came like sunrise,  
Like a glory in my breast.*

*All day long the Presence lingered,  
All day long He stayed with me,  
And we sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.*

*Other ships were blown and battered,  
Other ships were sore distressed,  
But the winds that seemed to drive them  
Brought to us a peace and rest.*

*Then I thought of other mornings,  
With a keen remorse of mind,  
When I too had loosed the moorings  
With the Presence left behind.*

*So I think I know the secret,  
Learned from many a troubled way:  
You must seek Him in the morning  
If you want Him through the day.*

By R. CUSHMAN

## WHAT A STRANGE WORLD!

WHAT a strange world! I have had women to tell me that they didn't feel dressed (like they were undressed) if they didn't have their lipstick and make-up on in public. Yet, these same women could go out half-dressed (half-naked) and less in shorts and in bathing suits without a trace of embarrassment. Again, I say, what a strange world!

Could but people realize that the comely parts of a person need no adornment (I Cor. 12:24), just the uncomely (I Cor. 12:23)! And the covering and adornment of the uncomely is to be in keeping with spiritual principles (I Tim. 2:9,10). There is to be a sense of "shamefacedness."

The whole trouble is that even many supposed Christian women have become intoxicated by the thinking and spirit of this present world. But, the apostle Paul said: "...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, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

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## RESPONSIBILITY • • •

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I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me " (Galatians 2: 20). Our life is no longer an experience of selfishness, but just the opposite (II Cor. 5: 15). Such Scriptures as Colossians 3: 17 and I Corinthians 10: 31 make us realize the all-inclusiveness of the way of Christ. A Christian will have to give account of his time, his money, his talents and the list is unending. Jesus said, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more " (Luke 12: 48b).

Pilate tried to wash his hands of the responsibility of crucifying Jesus. Many today are trying to get around their responsibility. Even so-called Christians by sin and neglect are crucifying Jesus afresh. They try to wash their hands and excuse themselves one way or another. In a world where moral standards are crumbling and falling to the earth, Christians must be as solid as a rock for that which is right. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil " (Eph. 5: 15, 16). Furthermore: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world " (Philippians 2: 15). Christians are the light of the world (Matt. 5: 14). Also: "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and be trodden under foot of men " (Matthew 4: 13). If Christians will not accept their responsibility, what can we expect

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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS • • •

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9. Save Yourselves (Acts 2: 40; I Timothy 4: 16).
10. Love of the Truth (II Thessalonians 2: 10).
11. Grace through Faith (Ephesians 2: 8).
12. Believing (Acts 16: 31).
13. Belief and Confession (Romans 10: 9, 10).
14. Belief and Baptism (Mark 16: 16).
15. Baptism (I Peter 3: 21).
16. Calling on the Name of the Lord (Romans 10: 13).
17. The Word (James 1: 21).
18. Works (James 2: 14-26).
19. Hope (Romans 8: 24).
20. Enduring to the End (Matthew 10: 22).

Our Protestant friends play upon this word "works " in the Scriptures, as in Ephesians 2: 9, to buttress their argument. We have commented on that many times in our writings in this paper. We quote from a former writing: "There are two kinds of works mentioned in the New Testament Scriptures, (1) Works of human merit and (2) Works of faith. Works of human merit greatly characterized the Law of Moses. By this no man had really been justified, according to Paul (Galatians 2: 16). The Law of Moses was very much like a firing squad: The wages of sin is death; all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; and the soul that sinneth, it shall die. There was no escape. Man's goodness could not counteract his badness to tip the scale in his favor. Death awaited. But the kind of works taught in the New Testament are works of faith. We are justified by faith as the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sins, but it must be an obedient faith. The New Testament knows nothing of the common denominational doctrine of 'faith only' (this is the foundational doctrine of Protestantism). James in chapter 2 of his very practical epistle, having reference to works of faith, says that faith without works is dead. The only time the expression 'faith only' is found in the New Testament is to deny the false doctrine of *faith only*. Listen to James 2: 24, 'Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and *not by faith only*.' "

We read this wonderful Scripture in Romans 1: 16--"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that *believeth*; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. " Now if we approached this verse like many Protestants, we would likely say, "Everyone may be saved if they will only believe (faith only). " But is that the whole story? No! Turn to Hebrews 5: 8, 9, or dozens of other references, and you will find something like this: "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all that *obey* him. " Obedience is necessary too!

In fact, many of those doctrines which the "faith only " people reject as "works " are actually described in the New Testament in terms of grace in contrast with works of human merit. Notice this verse: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of

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# "THE PLOT THAT FAILED"

By D. Vaughn Elliott

(Vaughn Elliott, an evangelist in New York City has corresponded with Mr. Schonfield, the Jewish author of the notorious book *The Passover Plot*. His correspondence especially has been in reference to the author's use of Josephus. Brother Elliott is making copies of this valuable correspondence available so that Christians who come in contact with those who have been influenced by this book might be better able "to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you." For a free copy write to: Tenth Street church of Christ, 257 E. 10th Street, New York, N. Y. 10009. Following is the cover page for this collected correspondence.--Editor)

ATTACKS ON JESUS are as old as Herod the Great and as modern as Hugh J. Schonfield. As an ancient Jew, Judas, betrayed Jesus with a kiss, it is not surprising that a modern Jew, Schonfield, would betray Jesus again with a pretended admiration for Jesus' great genius. Mr. Schonfield's recent book, *The Passover Plot*, has attracted considerable attention. It is a new attempt at an old theme, namely, to picture Jesus as plotting his own crucifixion and resurrection by taking a drug so as to appear dead when he was not. Schonfield has the plot fail because the soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear and he really did die. But the more important failure is the book itself. It is based on wild fancy and groundless conjecture. Repeatedly in the first section of the book the author points out that the proof will be found in the second section. But

when the reader examines the second section he finds only more conjecture.

At one point, near the end of the book, Mr. Schonfield suddenly seemed to turn to solid facts in order to establish one of his main ideas--namely, the ministry and death of Jesus in A. D. 35 -36. He turned to Josephus, a recognized Jewish historian of the First Century A. D. However, it took only a short time to check my own copy of Josephus to see that Mr. Schonfield had completely abused Josephus' words. It was at this point that I decided to write to Mr. Schonfield. I could not see how a scholar of some repute could so blindly twist direct evidence. There must be some explanation.

The following correspondence deals mainly with the author's use of the evidence of Josephus. At times the arguments may seem somewhat involved, but the one to blame for that is Herod--it is his family which is so confusing, with inter-marriages, multiple marriages, and sons with the same names. The matter is confusing, but a little study and a family chart (either one you make or one you find) help a great deal. It is a real pity that a scholar will use the confusion as a smoke screen to cover his dishonest handling of the facts. That this is what he has done, the following correspondence shows. All of the following letters, except the last half of the last letter, deal with this point.

If *The Passover Plot* were merely a conjectural reconstruction of the life of Jesus, we probably would not even take the

time to bother with it. However, it is written by a scholar and the second half of the book is an attempt to place a scholarly foundation underneath the conjecture of the first half. But even scholars are human! If we find a scholar who is faithful to the facts as far as they go, then we may give him an ear when he makes conjectures about those matters for which we have no facts. If, on the other hand, we find a scholar who tries to prove a point by openly contradicting the facts, then we will consider his conjectures as of no more value than the wild ideas of a ten year old school boy.

We would hardly expect an unbelieving Jew to be honest with the Bible. But, if he is not even honest with the greatest Jewish historian of the First Century, then why should any truth-loving history or Bible student give his book any serious consideration?! A consideration of some interesting and important matters besides the issue of Josephus will be found in the last half of my last letter. Copies of my letters have been mimeographed. Copies of his letters have been photo-copied. It is my earnest prayer that copies of this correspondence will be a spiritual blessing to some who have been a little troubled by this book or who want to witness to those who have been so troubled.

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## RESPONSIBILITY • • •

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of the people of the world? If supposed Christians cannot and will not see the evils of our day as such, we might as well forget about people of the world seeing them. Beloved, let us be real Christians! Let us prove it by accepting our *responsibility*!

Remember: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

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... Response

OHIO:

"I look forward to The Sword and Staff each month and commend you for the selection of material you use. Other papers seem to neglect good material and run one or two subjects in the ground. The one on Christmas and Masonry and the chart on the Judgment were master pieces."

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"Enclosed find \$4.00 for 1 year subscription to The Sword and Staff I would also like to have your two bound volumes for the price of \$3.00. This is the most scriptural paper that I have seen. May the Lord bless you as you serve Him."

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"I, myself look forward each month for the copy of The Sword and Staff for it is the only material I receive that is completely scriptural and so inspiring."

NORTH CAROLINA:

"The Sword and Staff has truly been a blessing to me and pray God's richest blessing to continue with you."

(We appreciate the kind and encouraging letters that we receive. There is a lot of time and expense that goes into an effort like this--more than most people realize--and to know that good is coming from it is especially encouraging to us--EDITOR.)

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6) . . .

regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost " (Titus 3:5). This is a parallel verse to Acts 2:38 and ties in with baptism. Colossians 2:12 shows baptism as a definite act of faith. We do not believe in what antagonists popularly call "baptismal regeneration," for there is more to regeneration than baptism. But the Bible does represent baptism as the place where the merit of the blood of Christ is applied to remove sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:11-13).

Salvation is of the Lord. God and Christ are both called our Saviour (Titus 1:3,4). All of us are or have been lost in sin. Stripping ourselves of self-righteousness and sin, we must flee to the throne of Grace. But man is not saved by "faith only," or anything else only. It is in God's grace and by God's grace we move in steps of obedience. We must have a God and Christ centered obedience, not a self-righteous, mechanical obedience. We must humbly trust and obey.

Beloved, let us not be afraid to take our stand on what the Bible teaches. Yes, on so great a subject as this, let us go all the way back to the Scriptures (discard the creed books). We will breathe the vigorous air from Mt. Zion and be on apostolic ground. We will be one with the original church of Christ.

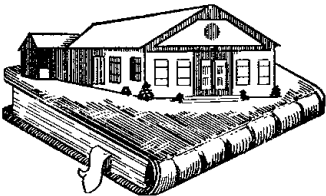
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Answers to: KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE
BIBLE QUIZ

- 1. (1) God; (2) Cain; (3) Joshua; (4) Solomon; (5) Job; (6) David; (7) David; (8) Isaiah; (9) Amos; (10) Paul.
- 2. (1) Fall of man; (2) Call of Isaiah; (3) Prophecy of the suffering servant, Christ; (4) Beginning of the church; (6) Gospel first preached to the Gentiles; (7) Love chapter; (8) Resurrection chapter; (9) Qualifications of elders and deacons; (10) Faith chapter; (11) Necessity of Works; (12) Control of the tongue.
- 3. Abraham, 100 years, Sarah, 90 years.
- 4. Solomon. 5. Job. 6. Isaiah.
- 7. Hosea. 8. Amos. 9. 400 yrs.
- 10. Peter and Paul.

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