

The AND Staff

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

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

The Road to Heaven

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ALL PEOPLE who know anything about the Bible know about heaven. For most, however, their picture of heaven is rather incomplete. All they really know for sure is that they want to go there. To many it is a kind of utopia where they will not have to worry about bills, taxes and other distasteful things of this life. But regardless of what you imagine heaven to be like, I am assuming that you really hope that you'll be there. Even at its best, this life on earth, with its housework or shopwork, is not really all that man wants out of life. And if there were no heaven, man would have a void that nothing could fill.

But the Bible doesn't promise heaven for all who die. The only thing that is promised for all who die is the judgment (Heb. 9:27). The Bible pictures heaven as a prepared place for a prepared people. This life on earth becomes the place where we are to prepare ourselves for heaven. If we fail to prepare now, then we are left without hope of being able to enter heaven. Since it is God's desire that all men be in heaven with him, God has given much in his Word concerning how man can reach it. The Bible becomes man's "road map" so to speak, to reach heaven. Let us go to the Bible and notice some things relative to man obtaining heaven.

I. FIRST WE LEARN THAT MAN CANNOT FIND HIS WAY TO HEAVEN WITHOUT GOD'S HELP.



Jeremiah 10:23, "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

This truth from God's Word is very ego deflating, for most men believe that their way of doing things in reality the best way. Unless man can admit that he is lost he will never seek help.

Most would not think of going on a trip to a place they have never been without first consulting a map. They want to assure themselves that they get where they are going. But somehow man feels differently about going to heaven. Though he has never traveled this route before he feels that he is somehow capable of know-

ing what to do to get there. We hear some tell us how to get there with this bit of advice: "Just be sincere and God will accept you."

As important as sincerity is, there is no area of our life where sincerity *alone* accomplished anything. The banker never accepted our good wishes or sincerity when it came time to pay off the car. No matter how much you might plead with him about how sincere you are, I seriously doubt if you will convince him. His thought would be: "If you were truly sincere you would make the payments." God thinks the same way. Joshua 24:14 says: "Now therefore, fear Jehovah and serve him in sincerity *and* in truth."

Sincerity must be coupled with truth in matters of religion before it is worth anything. Truth is no more and no less than God's Word, the Bible. Sincerely obeying God's Book is the only hope we have of gaining heaven. Let us set aside our foolish pride and every notion we have had about how to get to heaven, and look to God to direct us through His Word.

II. SECONDLY WE SEE THAT MAN DOES NOT HAVE A CHOICE OF WAYS TO HEAVEN.

We live in a time when man prides himself in his individuality. This individuality has come about through his own power of choice. We choose to live in a certain kind of house, or to drive a certain kind of car, or to work at a certain job, all because we want to. We are not forced to live in one kind of a house, or to drive one

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The SWORD and STAFF
Post Office Box 681
Galax, Virginia 24333

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THE SWORD AND STAFF is published monthly by the Locust Grove church on the Fries Road, Galax, Virginia. James E. Gibbons is the editor and evangelist. Second class postage paid at Galax, Virginia.

PROVERBS of TODAY

What you do with Christ now determines what he will do with you at a later date.

"Most trouble is produced by those who produce nothing else."

To live a useful life stay alive as long as you live.

"We can preach 'be good! be good!' till doom's day, and it won't do any good unless people can see we are good."

When we put on a false show of importance, we are demonstrating that we are insecure, very much aware of our limitations, and are trying to cover them over.

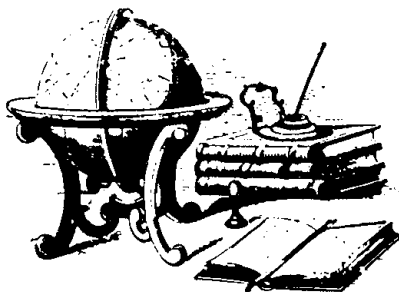
"Those who live for themselves many times fail to enjoy themselves."

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, a lot of people must really love the church.

"The man who lacks courage to make a start has made a finish already."

Zeal without knowledge is the sister of folly.

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EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

THE CHRISTIAN AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God; and they that withstand shall receive to themselves judgment. For the rulers are not a terror to good work, but the evil. And wouldest thou have no fear of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same: for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For for this cause ye pay tribute also; for they are ministers of God's service, attending continually upon this very thing. Render to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

—ROMANS 13:1-7, American Standard Version.

IN THE WAKE of recent developments we wish to digress this time from our regular series on denominationalism and turn our attention to "civil disobedience." To this writer the Scriptures are very clear on the stand a Christian must take, but modern clergymen with their social gospel have in a large measure rejected the authority of these sacred Scriptures. Many obsessed with Marxist views have taken to the streets in unruly demonstration, breaking the laws of the land, and defying public authority. Racial discrimination is a legitimate grievance, but breaking the laws of the land are not Scripturally justified under any of the circumstances that have come to our attention.

As Romans 13 and other references indicate, the Christian is under direct command of the Scriptures to obey the laws of the land. Please examine Titus 3:1 and I Peter 2:13-15. Let those who advocate and practice civil disobedience take warning. Listen to Romans 13:2. "Who soever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." There is an exception to this. When the laws of man conflict with the laws of God, we obey God! An example of this is found in the experience of Peter and John. They were arrested and commanded to preach no more in the name of Jesus. The first time Peter and John replied, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than to God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19,20). Upon their second arrest, with the other apostles, we read: "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). When the laws of the land are at variance with the laws of God, there may be such a thing as "civil disobedience" on the part of Christians, but ONLY WHEN THOSE LAWS POINTEDLY TELL US TO DISOBEY GOD'S LAWS. Otherwise we must obey.

(Continued on page 4)

SYSTEMATIC

Scriptural Studies

THE PROBLEM OF SINNING CHURCH MEMBERS

(Continued from Last Month)

II. WHY DO CHURCH MEMBERS SIN?

A. They do not walk in the Spirit.

1. Notice Galatians 5:16.
2. Why the Psalmist was like a tree planted by the rivers of water (Psalms 1:1-3; 119:11).
3. They sin because they do not keep their minds renewed by spiritual exercise, thus not being able to correctly discern between good and evil (Romans 12:2; Hebrews 5:11-14).
4. They neglect the assembly of the Lord's people (Hebrews 10:25,26).

B. They over-estimate their own strength.

1. In the Devil we are dealing with a supernatural being in power.
2. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:11,12).
3. Our adversary is like a lion, seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8).
4. Paul recognized his personal limitations and warned others to be on the lookout (I Corinthians 9:27; 10:12).
5. Paul said to flee from sin and the Devil.
 - (1) Flee fornication (I Corinthians 6:18-20).
 - (2) Flee from idolatry (I Corinthians 10:14,15).
 - (3) Flee these things (I Timothy 6:3-11).
 - (4) Flee youthful lusts (II Timothy 2:22).

C. They have the wrong kind of companions.

1. Jesus was a friend of sinners, but his relationship to them was to bring salvation, not to simply "chum" with them in their evil ways.
2. Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Corinthians 6:14-18).
3. Be not deceived: evil companionships corrupt good morals (I Corinthians 15:33).
4. It is easy to conform to this world with all of our worldly friends having a big influence upon us (Romans 12:2).
5. Look what happened to Lot and his family who chose to have the people of Sodom and Gomorah as his friends (Genesis 13:10-12; chapter 19).

III. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CHURCH MEMBERS SIN?

A. Sin separates them from God.

1. Sin brings spiritual death for the Christian as well as for the non-Christian (James 1:14-16; 5:19,20; Galatians 6:7-9)--But the Christian has the advantage over the non-believer (I John 2:1,2)

2. The Christian can fall from grace (Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 12:13,14).
3. Paul speaks of some in a state of damnation, the opposite of salvation (I Timothy 5:12; Mark 16:16)--NOTE: Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation to the Corinthians (II Corinthians 7:9-11); this Scripture is originally referring to Christians who had lost their salvation by sin, but now were regaining it through repentance.
4. The latter end of the fallen is worse than the beginning (II Peter 2:20-22).
5. Names can be removed from the book of life and apostates cast into hell (Revelation 3:5; 22:19; 20:15).

B. It destroys the influence of the church.

1. The world will never take notice until they see a difference in the way we live, that our religion is real.
2. In consistent and sinning religious people are the reason the name of God came to be used as a curse word among the irreligious (Romans 2:21-24).
3. Sins were among the Corinthians that even outside heathen seldom practiced (I Corinthians 5:1-6).
4. They were damaging the name of the church by members having lawsuits against other members before the public courts (I Cor. 6:1).
5. Notice Ephesians 5:3-5.
6. The church must give light, must set the right example (Matthew 5:14-16; Titus 2:4-10).
7. We should never do anything to reproach the name of the church, or destroy our influence with the world (Romans 14:16; I Corinthians 10:31-33).

C. Confusion results in the church.

1. Look at the church at Corinth (Notice I Corinthians 3:1-4, but read the whole book).
2. Because of sin in the camp the work of God was paralyzed in the case of Joshua and the Israelites (Joshua 7).
3. Notice James 3:14-16.
4. The Lord will not bless a work as long as sins are not repented of, lives are not made right, wicked sinners put away.

(Concluded Next Month)

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PURPLE AND FINE LINEN

ALONG THE COAST OF TYRE there was found a rare shell-fish (*Murex purpurarius*) from which a costly purple dye was obtained, each little animal yielding about one drop of it. Woolen garments dyed with it were worn by kings and nobles, and idol images were sometimes arrayed in them. This purple robe formed the outer garment, and the linen the inner garment. The *bysus*, or fine linen of Egypt, was produced from flax which grew on the banks of the Nile. It was a dazzling white, and worth twice its weight in gold.

--McGarvey--

THE ROAD TO HEAVEN...
(Continued from page 1)

type of car or to work at one kind of employment. Man needs to cherish this ability he has to choose in material things, for not all governments give their people this power.

As I study the Bible, I find that this choice does not exist in matters of religion. Man has become so accustomed to choosing for himself, that he feels he has a right to worship God as he chooses also. This idea that we do not have a choice in religion may sound dogmatic to some, but permit me to show a few Scriptures that brought me to this conclusion.

In John 14:6 we have the words of Jesus himself. He said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one cometh unto the Father, but by me." I'd say that is dogmatic! It offers man NO choice at all. If we are to approach the Father, we must do it through Jesus Christ. We either accept Jesus and obey his teachings or we cannot come to the Father. Another passage along this same line is found in Acts 4:12 where Peter is speaking of Jesus Christ. He said: "And in none other is there salvation; for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, where we must be saved." Peter is telling us that we have no choice of how we are to be saved. There is not another man in all of history that can save us from oursins. There is only Jesus. We just don't have a choice as to how we are to be saved, it is either Christ or not at all.

We do not even have a choice as to what to believe. We cannot say: "You believe what you want to and I'll believe what I want to; we're all going to the same place." The Bible doesn't say this. Jesus said: "Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24). Not only is man to believe, but he must believe specifically that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Almost all the books of the New Testament, except the gospels and Acts, were written to correct errors in what the early Christians believed and practiced. Friend, we do not have a choice in what we believe.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS (Continued from page 2)...

Let us say that respect should be shown for the government and the public officials. In our free society many times things get out of hand, and people show little respect for public officials. Christians have at times joined in criticizing and vilifying such men. Surely no man is above criticism, but the Bible has something to say about this too. "HONOUR ALL MEN. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. HONOUR THE KING" (I Peter 2:17). In II Peter 2:10-13 this same writer tells of some who "despise government" and speak evil of dignitaries. Likewise, consider Jude 8-10, Titus 3:1,2, I Timothy 5:1-3, and James 3:9,10. Paul apologized for speaking harshly to the high priest, who was the symbol of the government (Acts 23:2-5). Then, just the opposite of what we have been speaking, the New Testament does command that we pray for the public officials (I Timothy 2:1-3).

One's social position, although possibly detestable, in no excuse and occasion for a Christian to become violent. No doubt the slaves composed a major bulk of the early church, but no where are they instructed to "take up arms." The fruit of Christianity finally was freedom for those enslaved. However, before it was brought into fruition, they had commands of another nature. "Servants be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things" (Titus 2:9,10; also, notice I Cor. 7:20-24; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-4:1; I Tim. 6:1,2; I Pet. 2:18-25). Servants could "adorn the doctrine of God" by really "knuckling" down and being REAL Christians. They could show the world what the gospel could do for a person under the most adverse of circumstances; thus beautifying, adorning, the doctrine of God--and serving a very noble purpose in the church in the world.

Christians must be strongly aware of the need for social justice. Didn't the prophet of old say, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8). We are to do this as we truly live the Christian life, but breaking the laws of the land are breaking the laws of God (unless that law commands us to break God's law). May this never be forgotten!

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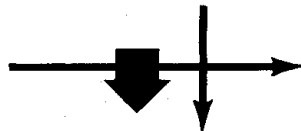
One more Scripture along this line is found in Ephesians 4:4-6. "There is one body (we learn that the body is the church from Eph. 1:22,23), and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all." There is perhaps no Scripture any more dogmatic than this one. Here we learn that there is only one church (body) only one faith, and one baptism (not many--only one). All of these things tell us that we do not have a choice, we either accept the ONE that be-

longs to God's way or we have no hope.

Really God is reasonable in his demands. For man is not capable of doing anything for himself to gain heaven. So God is offering a way and all man has to do is "follow directions."

Friend, let us put aside these man made notions that each man worships God in his own way. The Bible plainly shows us that there is but one way, and if we are to go to heaven, we have no choice but to accept God's way. (See page 7)

Are You a Contradiction?



By James E. Gibbons

or a Paradox?



A MAN WAS GIVING his testimony before the local Alcoholics Anonymous. One thing stood out in his memory, he said, looking back to his drinking days. One day he was on a back street in town; he had his bottle and was downing a few drinks. It was then that this colored preacher happened upon him. The preacher began to talk to him about his soul and the evils of drinking. The man felt so condemned that he started to pour his liquor out. But he was abruptly stopped by the preacher who cried out, "No, no! Don't do that! Give it to me! I can sell it!"

You may think that this was humorous, that it was a contradiction, but most people have contradictions in their lives. In fact, we are living in a society full of contradictions and paradoxes.

We are living in a society where the form of government derives its strength from its weakness, or at least that was the way it was originally. Strong people need a weak government, and weak people want a lot of government. Perhaps herein lies the difference between modern man and his proud, self-reliant forefathers.

We live in a society where a greater percentage of people belong to some "church" than ever before in the history of this nation, but the crime rate goes up every year.

We live in a society where supposedly mature men and women pledge their love "till death do us part," then 1 out of every 4 marriages ends in divorce, and infidelity is increasingly common.

We live in a society where it is proper to hold another man's wife in close embrace while dancing, but removed from the dance floor it becomes a great offense.

We live in a society where people are working themselves to death for more labor-saving devices.

Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

But we ask you, Christian (and we are talking to Christians), are you a contradiction or a paradox? There is a difference. A contradiction is always a paradox, but a paradox is not always a contradiction. A contradiction is a basic inconsistency, and it is always just that. A paradox may seem to be a contradiction. It may appear to oppose common opinion and fact, yet at the same time be true.

1. ARE YOU A CONTRADICTION?

As we said, most people have contradictions in their lives, and most

of them are not even aware of it. There are young people who wouldn't think of stealing, but cheat on their examinations in school. Other people wouldn't think of cursing (taking God's name in vain), but say, "O Lord... Lordie," and use bywords. There are Christians we know who wouldn't be caught in the Movies, but have a TV set and watch everything going. Others don't smoke, and are against it, but furnish ash trays for those who do smoke. Some mothers wouldn't think of wearing shorts, but let their daughters dress immodestly. There are professed Christians who say they don't have time to come to prayer meeting, but can be found week-day nights visiting their friends, relatives, or pursuing otherwise their own selfish interests and pleasures. Some people are strong as horse radish on what they call doctrine, but as weak as pond water on holiness and prayer. Some people say it doesn't make any difference what you believe just so you are honest and sincere, whereas if we are honest and sincere, and we read what the Bible teaches, we will put it into practice. We know people who stress loving one's neighbor as

(Continued on page 6)

REFLECTIONS ON THE SEA BY NIGHT (Hatteras Island, North Carolina)

*I hear the mighty movement of the sea
As tidal waves come in like rolling ridges;
I smell the salty brim and the debris
As savor strong that blows in evening breezes.*

*I see the fullness of the glowing moon
Reflected on the miles of mounting waves;
I see them sweep the moonlite sand (a broom),
Receding back and forth, and foaming, raves.*

*I stand in spellbound awe before it all,
Before the God who made this universe;
Let me ever realize that I am small,
And weak, not important--a child of-earth.*

BY A. BROTHER

CONTRADICTION OR PARADOX?
(Continued from page 5)

self, but have their hearts full of racial prejudice.

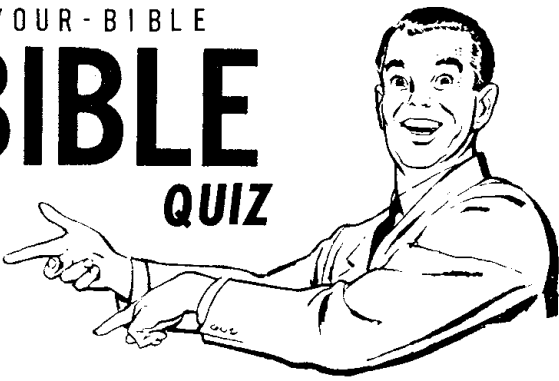
The preacher should face up to the problem of possible contradictions in his own life, as well as in his message and in the church. Too many times we can preach one thing and personally practice another. It *should not* and *must not* be this way. Paul admonished young Timothy to be an example to the believers (I Timothy 4:12), and then he said: "Take heed unto *thyself*, and unto the *doctrine*; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save *thyself*, and them that hear thee" (4:16). Jesus charged the scribes and Pharisees to "first cast out the beam of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:5).

The church must be consistent in its profession. Too many times there is a "practice gap" between what the church is supposed to stand for and actually what it does. We know of situations where those who come forward at "revival" meetings are kept back for a big baptismal service the last Sunday of the meeting. This is definitely a contradiction of the Bible, and what should have been preached. A sinner is baptized for the remission of sins, which means the blood of Christ spiritually is applied to take away his sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Why preach that today is the day of salvation, invite sinners to come forward, then hold these repentant people back for a week or ten days before baptism? In the Bible baptism immediately followed acceptance of Christ (Acts 16:33; etc.; in fact, it is part of accepting Christ). Preacher, why teach that a Christian is supposed to marry only another Christian, and then turn around and perform the wedding ceremony in such a case? Why preach that denominationalism and the traditions of men are wrong, then join in joint denominational endeavors? It is one thing to claim to be the undenominational "New Testament" church, then quite another to really be one.

Then, what do we call religious people with glaring inconsistency in their lives, who profess one thing but

KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE

BIBLE
QUIZ



1. What outstanding thing happened on these prominent mountains of the Bible?
(1) Mt. Ararat; (2) Mt. Sinai; (3) Mt. Hor; (4) Mt. Nebo; (5) Mt. Ebal and Gerizim; (6) Mt. Carmel; (7) Mt. Tabor; (8) Mt. Olivet.
2. Who is the first man in the Bible to have more than one wife, and what were their names?
3. Who is the first man in the Bible called a *Hebrew*?
4. The word *Palestine* is derived from what word?
5. The word *Jew* is derived from what word?
6. The kingdom of Israel at its largest extent reached from what river to what river?
7. Where did Jesus perform his first recorded miracle?
8. Who was the first to see Jesus after his resurrection?
9. What member of the early church became its first martyr?
10. Which one of the seven churches in Asia (in Revelation) had a name for works, but actually was dead as far as Christ was concerned?

(Answers to "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE Bible Quiz" found elsewhere in this issue)

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in reality practice another? You are right! They are called *hypocrites*! Jesus charged the classical hypocrites of his day, the Pharisees: "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:33, 34). In the sermon on the Mount Jesus speaks of the necessity of the eye being single to behold spiritual light, then he continued: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:22-24). Listen to Paul in I Corinthians 10:21. "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and the table of devils." The apostle John makes it plain that if we claim to be in the "fellowship" we must "walk

in the light, as he is in the light" (I John 1:5-7). Otherwise we are liars, and the truth is not in us (I John 2:4-6).

Beloved, no man is free from the possibility of sinning, but isn't it about time that we firmly recognized that sin and Christianity are not in any sense compatible! Glaring inconsistency and contradiction cannot be in the real Christian, nor can it be tolerated. Christians must take a definite stand for what is right and wrong in their profession and in their practice. As we continually emphasize, the Lord must be Lord of all in our lives, or else he is not Lord at all.

II. ARE YOU A PARADOX?

As we draw our attention to this aspect of our question, we find that we are not on strange territory as far the Bible is concerned. Moses said: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord" (Deut. 6:4). Yet we find that God works through three personalities; namely, the Father, the Son,

and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; etc.). Amazing mystery! In the New Testament Scriptures we find a most wonderful paradox, Jesus Christ, the son of God *and* the son of man. Paul said: "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). The cross of Christ presents conflicting concepts. We know what it means to Christians, but to the Jew it was a stumbling block, and to the Greek foolishness (I Corinthians 1:21-25). Could the Christian's God, the God they claimed made heaven and earth, be so weak as to allow his Son to die on the old rugged cross, the most degrading and humiliating kind of death? This was opposed to lofty philosophical concepts of theoretical deity. It created an impasse in their sophisticated thinking.

The preaching of the gospel had its perplexing and conflicting results. When it is proclaimed, Jesus said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be *saved*; but he that believeth not shall be *damned*" (Mark 16:16). The gospel that saves souls also damns souls if rejected (John 12:47, 48). It is the good news to good and honest hearts. It is bad news to obstinate and bad men. It attracts and subtracts; it appeals and repels. This message unites and divides; it is the gospel of peace and at the same time a sword. This gospel of reconciliation links man once again with God (II Corinthians 5:18-20) and unites reconciled men with others who have been reconciled; thus producing peace (Ephesians 2:12-17; Colossians 1:20-22). However, friction immediately and decidedly becomes evident in the reconciled one's relation to those who have not been reconciled. Jesus said: "Think not that I am come to send peace: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." Paul made this unqualified statement: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). The problem is that one is godly and the other isn't. The ungodly persecutes the godly simply because he is godly. It puts the ungodly in a bad light, and he resents it.

Christians are not and must not be contradictions, but they truly present a paradox before this world. Christians are lost people who have been found, and it is in losing their lives they have found them. Didn't Jesus say: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:25,26). In getting ready to die these people have actually learned how to live. In reality Christians are living dead people. They were once dead in sin and now they are dead to sin. Paul testified: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless 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). Romans chapter 6 is a good treatment of this. Christians are in the world, but not of this world. They are saved, yet are being saved and will be saved (I Corinthians 1:18; Phillipians 2:12; Matthew 10:22).

Paul speaks of the paradox of the first century preachers of the gospel (as well as other Christians). Listen: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus sake, that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (II Corinthians 4:8-11). His presentation of this paradox becomes a little more pointed a little further over in the epistle. Listen again: "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God...By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true, as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (II Corinthians 6:4a, 8-10).

THIS SUBJECT concerning *contradictions* and *paradoxes* makes an

interesting study, but our original question returns. Are YOU a contradiction or a paradox? There IS a difference. The difference can be as great a gulf as heaven and hell. We pray that our lives are not inconsistent with the teachings of our Lord, and if they are, we will make them right. You can't fool God at all, nor can you fool man very long. Why profess to be one thing, then live another? Hypocrisy is the worst kind of sin! But, we trust, as real Christians you are a paradox. The world will never understand the true Christian, but God looks down in smiling favor. That is what counts!

THE ROAD TO HEAVEN...
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III. THIRDLY WE LEARN THAT THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY GUIDE TO HEAVEN.

In our search for heaven we must have a basis of authority, a guide to lead. It is obvious to all people that unless we have a common authority we cannot have agreement. Different houses are built from different plans, but identical houses can be built from the same plan. It should also be obvious to the thinking person that not all "religious houses" are built alike. We conclude that different plans (rules of authority) are being used in the construction of each.

The Bible claims to be the inspired Word of God. It claims infallibility, it claims to be from God. Notice II Peter 1:20,21. "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man; but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit." Verse 20 makes the statement that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. Verse 21 explains what he means by this. Peter tells us that the coming of the Word of God was not by private interpretation but rather holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit. These men didn't just see a vision and then write down their interpretation or understanding of it. Rather the Spirit of God took hold of their minds and caused them to write what they did, hence their words were in-

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spired. They were the words of God. When a man writes his own interpretation of something this is not inspired. But the men who wrote the Bible wrote by the help of the Holy Spirit and their words are without error.

Still another passage is found in II Timothy 3:16. "Every Scripture is inspired of God and is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." Paul is saying that since every Scripture is inspired of God then we can use it to furnish us with everything we need for our spiritual lives. He is saying that we need NOTHING more than the Bible to gain eternal life.

What a revelation to some people! All the writings of men are not *needed* to gain eternal life. The Augsburg Articles of Faith, The Apostles Creed, The Wesleyan Confession of Faith and all other man made creeds are not needed to gain eternal life. The writings of man may sometimes be good, but there is always the possibility of error. We will never have to answer to God for these writings like we will the Word of God. The Bible is all that God will have in the judgment. Friend, I am convinced that these writings of men are the very things that are causing the divisions in the religious world today. How do I know? Simply from observation. Notice that the Bible **ONLY** makes a Christian. The Bible plus the book of Mormon makes a Mormon. The Bible plus the writings of Ellen G. White make a Seventh Day Adventist. The Bible plus the teachings of Luther make a Lutheran. But friend, the Bible all by itself makes a Christian, and as Paul told us, it fits us completely for heaven. There is no need for anything else. We need to cast off all the writings of men and look to the Bible as our **ONLY** authority in matters of religion.

IV. LASTLY WE LEARN THAT HOLY LIVING IS A MUST TO THE OBTAINING OF HEAVEN.

Isaiah the Prophet of Old said that the way to heaven would be a "way of holiness" (Is. 35:8). We live in a day when morals are looser than

before. This era is tagged with the "new morality." Even today's theologians have gone on record endorsing adultery, homosexuality, and free love. You name it and some clergyman will back you up.

But there is nothing new about this type of living. The Bible simply calls this "IMMORALITY." Unless we as individuals return to Bible Morality we have no hope of ever seeing God. Hebrews 12:14 says: "Follow after peace with all men, and the holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." Holiness of living is spelled out in no uncertain terms in the Bible, and unless we make an active effort to live such a life we have no hope of heaven.

Permit me to quote a list of unholy things: "sexual immorality, impurity of mind, sensuality, worship of false gods, witchcraft, hatred, quarreling, jealousy, bad temper, rivalry, factions, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, orgies and things like that." Sounds like the front page of some newspaper, but it really isn't. It is a list found in Galatians 5:19 and it is followed by these words: "I solemnly assure you, as I did before, that those who indulge in such things will never inherit God's kingdom."

God is concerned about our everyday life. He is concerned whether we lie, steal, pilfer, cheat on our income tax or what have you. We cannot divorce our daily conduct from God. When Christ brings salvation to a person, he not only frees him from the penalty of his past sins, but he also releases him from the practice of future sin. We cannot live by God's standard by ourselves, we must have His help. And this is where the glorious news comes in. God has promised us if we will obey him he will wash away our sins and give us the HOLY SPIRIT to live in our lives to help overcome temptations. Acts 2:38 says: "Repent and be baptized (immersed) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The moment we accept Jesus and obey him in repentance and immersion then God will forgive us our sins and

give the Holy Spirit to dwell in our lives. This is the means whereby we will be able to live a holy life and thus gain heaven.

The road to heaven is paved with good intentions of many people. But good intentions alone never got anyone to heaven. The Bible offers man the only hope of heaven. We must accept this fact--discarding all contradictory beliefs--and yielding our lives in obedience to him. Friend, why don't you contact the Christian who sent you this paper and he will help you to find the "road to heaven."

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Answers to "Know-Your-Bible" Bible QUIZ

1. (1) *The ark of Noah landed here, Genesis 8:4;* (2) *The O. T. Law was given to Moses here, Exodus 34:29, etc;* (3) *The death of Aaron occurred here, Numbers 20:25-28;* (4) *Moses views the promised land and dies, Deut. 32:49,50; 34:1;* (5) *The Israelites rehearsed the blessings and the curses of the Law, Deut. 11:29-32; Joshua 8:32-35;* (6) *Elijah confronts the prophets of Baal, 1 Kings 18:17-40;* (7) *The prophetess Deborah rallied the forces of Israel here to win a victory, Judges 4:4-6;* (8) *The ascension of Christ, Acts 1:9-12.*
2. *Lamech, and their names were Adah and Zilah (Genesis 4:19).*
3. *Abraham (Genesis 14:13).*
4. *From Philistia (the land of the Philistines).*
5. *From Judah.*
6. *From the River (Brook) of Egypt to the Euphrates River.*
7. *Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11).*
8. *Mary Magdalene.*
9. *Stephen.*
10. *Sardis (Revelation 3:1).*

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