

The Sword AND Staff

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

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

You Could If You Would

By Dale A. Williamson
506 "M" Street
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"For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy one of Israel: In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not" (Isaiah 30:15).

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37).

"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" (John 5:40).

THESE VERSES provide a strong base for the subject before us, for they teach that man could be saved if he would. They set forth divine intervention and human responsibility, a theme so prominent in the Bible. In each verse it can be clearly seen that God was willing and even anxious for people to be saved but they would not.

For the most part, we could do much more than we are doing if we would. This is true in matters secular and spiritual.

Several years ago there appeared this story of a colored man who accomplished a feat that seemed impossible. On a Texas highway a man was trapped in the burning cab of a wrecked truck. Helpless people gathered around and heard the man beg for someone to shoot him so that he would not have to burn to death. A colored man forced his way through the crowd and with unbelievable strength literally tore the cab of the truck to pieces



and released the victim. Without identifying himself, the rescuer left. The newspapers carried the story, and fellow employees at a gas station noticed when the story was discussed this colored man would walk away. They pressed him and learned that he was the man who had done the great deed. They learned that this man had lost a little girl in a house fire and he had developed a great hatred for fire. It seemed that this great hatred surged in his veins and gave him the needed strength to save the man from the burning truck. His only reply when questioned was, "A man don't know what he can do until he has to."

It is impossible to have a proper concept of our relationship to God unless we have an understanding of human responsibility.

YOU COULD BECOME A CHRISTIAN IF YOU WOULD.

Please understand that God wants

you to become a Christian. Because of His love for you He sent His own Son to die for you that you might live through Him. Through the Holy Spirit as the gospel is preached God is doing all that He can (under the circumstances, leaving man a free-moral agent) to bring you to a consciousness of sin and need of salvation. God would have all men to be saved (I Timothy 2:4). He isn't willing that any should perish (II Peter 3:9). Yes, friend, God is willing, but are you?

You need to understand that you are active in regard to your salvation. God through His wisdom has set forth in His Word a plan whereby you may respond to His grace and love and thereby become a Christian. There is not one thing which He requires of you but what you could do if you would. Consider them one by one.

You could believe in Christ if you would. No one has a right to say, "I can't believe," until he has honestly considered all the evidence. No one can honestly consider all the testimony that God has given concerning His Son and not come to have a faith in Him. "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30, 31). "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a

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Proverbs of Today

The more we use our minds, the greater our capacity becomes to use them.

"The tragedy of our day is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer."

The whole counsel of God preached wholeheartedly makes Christians wholly committed to Christ.

"Life poses three major problems—guilt, grief, and the grave—which only Christ can solve."

It seems that we must think big just in order to get small things done for the Lord.

"We learn some things from prosperity, but we learn many more from adversity."

Anyone can get along with the devil if he never mentions the Lord.

"He who is on the road to heaven will not be content to go there alone."

Eating meats which had been offered to idols may have been a matter of opinion in Paul's day, but how they treated the weak brother in relation to the meats was not a matter of opinion (1 Cor. 8:11-13).

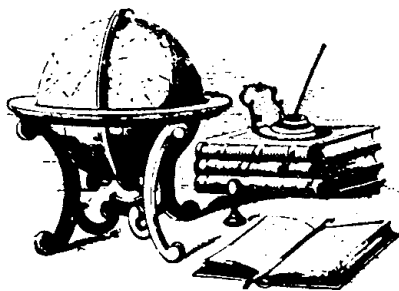
"Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon yield to that which is about us."

The right way to start living right is right away.

"The hearse is a poor vehicle to start going to church in."

There is something wrong with your brand of religion if it doesn't make you clean up your life in every way.

"He only fails who doesn't try."



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

IT HAPPENS ALMOST EVERY MONTH

WHEN WE PUBLISHED this paper back in the beginning in the 50's, the actual printing was done by commercial printers. Now that we have our own print shop and get out the paper almost from A to Z, and now that our mailing list has doubled several times, we have discovered and more vividly realize several things. There is more time, work, and expense involved in such a project than we had ever thought and than the average reader realizes.

There are several things that happen almost every month—if not every month. Here are a few.

(1) We get out **THE SWORD AND STAFF**, mailing over 3,000 copies throughout the U. S. A. and a few foreign countries (we would like to increase our mailing list many times, but we can only do it with help. If this paper has been a blessing to you, would you help?).

(2) New subscriptions, renewals, and letters come in (most of the mail is favorable and very much of an encouragement to us).

(3) Almost every month a few request that their names be removed from our mailing list. Seldom do they say why. It could be that we have "hit the nail on the head" as far as some deficiency in their lives is concerned (like the story of the man who said that he had read so much about the harmfulness of smoking that he had decided to give up reading). Then, if they believe that we are wrong in some particular of our teaching, it seems the law of love should prompt them to point it out **BY SCRIPTURE**. No one could be any more serious in what they stand for than we are trying to be—we believe eternity is in the balance. A loud "exit" does not answer the Scriptural article that has been presented.

(4) Every month we receive returned mail because readers fail to send their changes of address when they move. Not only are they missing one issue of the paper, we have to pay ten cents for each one that comes back.

(5) Almost every month there are returned papers stamped "deceased," or we receive a letter notifying us that a reader has died, and the paper is not to be sent anymore (kind reader, just now... think. Are you ready for eternity? Most people do not have death in their plans. Remember Hebrews 9:27. Read Acts 2:38; Revelation 2:10).

We could tell you of other things that happen every month, but these are sufficient to say. We thought they might be of interest and some profit. It is a privilege and a spiritual pleasure to come into your home or study each month. □

THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MADE SIMPLE—25¢ a copy; 5 copies for \$1.00.

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE SWORD AND STAFF of available back issues—2 books, 1957-60: \$3.50; 1 book, 1967-68: \$3.25.

GLORYING in their Shame

• By James E. Gibbons

THE APOSTLE PAUL told the Philippian church of some professing Christians who actually made him weep. Of them he wrote, "they are enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things" (Phil. 3:18b, 19). No doubt they were of the same kind he later wrote to Timothy about: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (II Tim. 3:5).

I am grieved to tell you something which you already know. The descendants of these people are still with us today. They want what Christianity offers after death, but they are not by a mile ready to live for Jesus. They may have a form of godliness, but they don't have God. The description in Philippians fits them well.

From Paul's words in Philippians, telling of these people, let us emphasize the part which reads that their "glory is in their shame," and try to bring out some pointed lessons under this theme.

I. THE SHAME OF DENOMINATION-ALISM.

From Paul's writings we find that the church at Corinth was divided up into sectarian parties. In so many words, they were saying, "I am of Paul; and I am of Apollos; and I of Cephas" etc. (I Cor. 1:10-13). In I Corinthians 3:1-4, Paul pointedly tells them that he can only refer to them as carnal. Oh, they were proud of the party of which they had become proponents. They were puffed up one against the other (5:2). They were really glorying in what should have been and was their shame.

But did you know that the same situation exists today? There are hundreds of denominations in this country, and it is not uncommon for people's pride to show. Their "church"

has an old traditional heritage (and it may have come out of the Dark Ages with trappings in keeping with its origin). Their "church" can claim a certain great reformer as its founder, etc. They belong to one of the largest denominations. Their "church" has some of the largest schools and universities in the country. Then I had one person dogmatically to tell me, "I'm a from the top of my head to the ends of my toes, and I'm proud of it!" What pride, what vanity what shame!

Every denomination exists against the will of God. Jesus prayed for unity among those who would be his followers in John 17:20-22. Paul shows the shame and carnality of division. Ephesians 4 stresses in no uncertain terms the ONENESS of the plan of God. There is shame a-plenty to be found in denominationalism. It is a work of the flesh just like fornication or murder (Please notice this in Galatians 5:19-21, i. e. the word translated heresy is the same word elsewhere translated sect, meaning partyism).

Let us not glory in our shame, but divest ourselves of all traces of denominationalism. Let us just be humble and thankful Christians, members of the Lord's ONE body, which is his church (Col. 1:18; I Cor. 12:13).

II. THE SHAME OF IMMODESTY.

From the garden of Eden onward God has showed that the human body is to be covered (Genesis 3:7, 21). Under the Law God declared, "Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon" (Exodus 20:26). In the New Testament modesty is taught in I Timothy 2:9, 10 and in I Peter 3:1-4 wherein we find that women are to manifest "shamefacedness." Revelation 3:18 speaks of "the shame of thy nakedness" not appearing. God has spoken on this subject.

However, we are living in an age of vanity, immodesty, and nudity. Such is regarded as high style. Women glory in their figure and display it in many immodest ways. The bathing beauty contest has become the great American tradition. Shamefacedness is a thing completely forgotten as worldly women seek to make themselves look enticing in a brazen manner with all kinds of makeup. They glory in that which should be their shame.

Beloved, let us return to the ancient landmarks of modesty and propriety taught in the Word of God. Some reading this article may not like what I have said, but it is the plain truth.

III. THE SHAME OF CHURCHES.

Under this heading we could gather many things. Paul tells us it is a shame for a woman to speak in the church (as the prophet) (I Cor. 14:34, 35), but "churches" take pride that they have opened their pulpits and the "Ministry" now-a-days to women. Certainly the woman of God has a place in the church, even a teaching position, but she is not to teach nor usurp authority over the man for God-ordained reasons (I Tim. 2:12-14).

Churches today make their boast of great memberships; yea, into the thousands; but the attendance many times does not reflect the big membership. Most churches excessively large in our day get that way because their message is small, i. e. watered down. The membership cannot be accounted for, nor is there discipline, spirituality, and faithfulness on the New Testament scale. A farmer wouldn't boast about his thousand-head herd of cattle if he couldn't find them, and then if he did find them, two-thirds or more of them were mangy and diseased. But we have much glorying in shame today.

The low-level plain of appeal to get people to attend church or get something done is shameful, but every gimmick, contest and sensational idea is put into practice to "bring them in." The church becomes a carnival, a restaurant, a playhouse, a silly repulsive thing to the spiritually minded. But they glory in it! Religious papers promote such unholy techniques and then give news coverage to the churches of their glorious use. Hay, stubble, and wood are built on the

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YOU COULD IF YOU WOULD. . .
(Continued from Page 1)

liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" (I John 5:9-11). After considering the testimony of God concerning His Son (his works, teaching, resurrection, the testimony of those who saw Him, etc.) is it that you can't believe, or is it that you won't believe?

God also requires repentance on your part in becoming a Christian. God "now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). God gives two reasons why you should repent. "Or despisest thou the richness of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering: not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:4). When you consider how good God has been to you, can you not find reason to repent of your sins? The second reason why you ought to repent is found in Acts 17:31. Following the command to repent, Paul states, "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." If the love of God doesn't lead you to repent then perhaps a fear of God's judgment will.

There is no substitute for genuine repentance. It is either "repent or perish" Jesus said. Repentance must be in action not just in words. Someone has said, "A few tears yesterday which are all dried up today is not repentance." This repentance must be entire and it must be immediate. One known sin unrepented of can close heaven's door. A Jewish Rabbi once said, "Let every man repent one day before he dies and since he may die tomorrow let him take heed and turn from his evil today."

Perhaps you ask, "What is repentance?" "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Corinthians 7:10). Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of conduct. The people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, not only in being sorry for their sins, but in turning from their evil ways. The prodigal son not only changed his mind about his evil conduct, he changed his ways.

There isn't one thing that God

asks you to repent of but what is best for you. Are you saying "I can't repent" when you should rather be saying "I won't repent"? Every soul in hell will be repentant, but it will be too late!

You could be baptized if you would. This God requires of you in becoming a Christian. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). Please note that "saved" is after "believeth and is baptized." Peter on the day of Pentecost told the inquiring crowd, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins..." (Acts 2:38). Notice here please that "remission of sins" follows repentance and baptism. Peter leaves no doubt about the necessity of baptism as he writes in I Peter 3:21. "The like figur where-

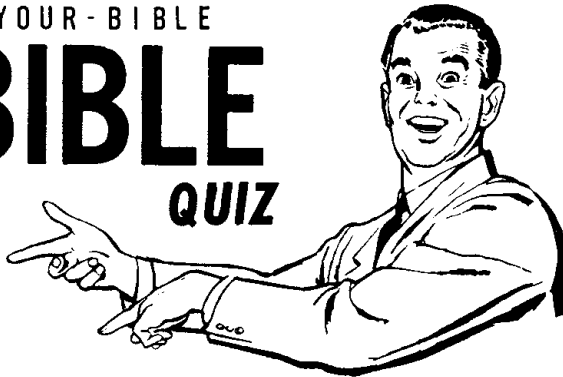
unto even baptism doeth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." He doesn't say that baptism alone saves us, but he does state that it does save us.

God's Word not only makes clear what the purpose of baptism is but it also shows how it is done. Consider just a few of the verses in this regard. "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water..." (Matthew 3:16). "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim because there was much water there: and they came and were baptized" (John 3:23). "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he bap-

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KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE

BIBLE
QUIZ



1. What were the names of the two spies, of the twelve Moses sent into Canaan, who gave a good report?
2. Why were the children of Israel condemned to wander in the wilderness forty years (why forty in particular)?
3. What did Joshua have a representative of each of the twelve tribes do when they crossed the Jordan on dry land?
4. According to the first Psalm, a godly man is like a tree planted where?
5. What kind of woman is the "strange woman" mentioned in the book of Proverbs?
6. What did Jesus say to one of the thieves crucified with him while hanging on the cross?
7. What man took the body of Jesus and buried it in his own new tomb?
8. With whom did Paul stay and make tents when he first came to Corinth?
9. What was the name of the chief ruler of the synagogue at Corinth who believed on the Lord and was baptized?
10. What writer said, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

"Let's Play Ball!"

(Something new and different...
A short story for boys and girls)

• By DAVID KIRK

ALMOST-ten-year-old Bobby Johnson was walking down the unpaved street that ran past his house on his way to the store. As he trudged along he was thinking about the new fielders glove he would like so much to have for his birthday which was the following week.

Bobby wore faded patched jeans, a faded shirt, and shoes with soles quite thin. His clothing, though patched, was clean. As he half walked and and half ran along he kicked up dust with his worn shoes.

Just before he crossed the railroad tracks, he saw his friend, John Henry. He and John had gone to Bible camp together the past summer and had become fast friends. They both enjoyed the classes at camp, and they especially liked the recreation period. They had played on the same baseball team together. John had a fielders glove and he let Bobby use it part of the time. Since the close of camp Bobby had wanted a glove to use the following year at camp and to play ball with the gang around home.

Seeing John, Bobby yelled, "Hi, John!" and ran to catch up with him. John wanted Bobby to go home with him to play, but he had to refuse because his mother had sent him on a hurried trip to the grocery store to get things needed for lunch.

After saying good-by to John, Bobby crossed the railroad tracts, and walked along the paved sidewalk trying not to step on the cracks in the walk, but still thinking about the fielders glove he would so much like to have for his birthday. Soon school would be out and summer activities would begin. Even though it was a block out of the way, he couldn't resist the temptation to go by the Sporting Goods store and take one more look at the much wanted glove hanging in the window. It was a good thing his mother had given him a grocery list for he would never have remembered the things she wanted, because, like most boys about ten, his mind was on other things, especially that fielders glove.



Bobby had received better training than most boys his age. He had gone to Bible school and church all his life. He listened when his teacher taught him about Jesus and other Bible truths. As his feet hurried along the sidewalk, he remembered his last Sunday's lesson, which had been taught by his favorite teacher, Miss Bonnie. The memory verse was: "Be ye kind one to another." Miss Bonnie had said: "Boys and girls, always be kind to everyone. Do good to all people. Especially be kind to the poor, and to older people you have a chance to help."

Bobby's face beamed as he thought of how much he liked Miss Bonnie, what a good teacher she was, and how she had been kind to him. About that time he came to a busy street crossing. He noticed an elderly lady standing at the curb, looking as if she was afraid to cross the street. Bobby noticed that she had a white cane, but thought nothing of that. He remembered what Miss Bonnie had taught about being kind, "especially to elderly people," as he looked at this lady standing by the curb.

He was more than a little embarrassed when he stepped to the side of the lady and said, "May I help you across the street?" She quickly responded, as she took his arm, "I'll be pleased if you will." What Bobby didn't know was that she had been standing there five or ten minutes, hoping someone would offer to help her across.

When the light changed, Bobby led the kindly faced elderly lady across the street safely. When they reached the other side, she turned to Bobby and asked his name, age,

and where he lived. Bobby politely replied, "My name is Bobby Johnson, I live in the last house on South Myrtle Street. And I'll be ten years old next Wednesday." She politely thanked Bobby, and using her cane to guide her, walked on down the street. Bobby said, "You are welcome," then hurried to get the groceries and return home so his mother would not be worried about him.

The Johnsons were poor people. Mrs. Johnson had been ill and Mr. Johnson had been out of work part of the time. Besides Bobby, there were two other younger children to provide for. This was why Bobby's mother and daddy were unable to buy the glove he wanted for his birthday.

On the morning before Bobby's birthday, shortly after he had gone to school, a sleek black car stopped in the dusty street in the front of the last house on South Myrtle Street. An elderly lady, assisted by a younger woman, got out of the car and came to the door of the Johnson home. When invited in, the elderly lady asked, "Do you have a son named Bobby?" When Mrs. Johnson said, "Yes," she told her how Bobby had helped her across the busy street a few days before. And she said, "I'd like to do something special for Bobby. Is there something that he would especially like to have?" After thinking a moment, Mrs. Johnson said, "Yes, he like so much to have the fielders glove he has seen hanging in the window of the Sporting Goods store."

The visitors noticed Bobby's younger brother and sister. After visiting a few minutes they left promising to return soon. In about an hour they returned. The younger woman came to the door of the Johnson home, carrying three packages—one for Bobby, and one for his sister, and one for his brother.

The next morning Bobby was awakened by his mother, father, sister, and brother's voices singing, "Happy Birthday to You." And great big tears of joy filled his eyes as he opened

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ANSWERS to "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE" BIBLE QUIZ

1. *Caleb and Joshua*; 2. *Numbers 14:33, 34*; 3. *Joshua 4:1-8, 19-24*;
4. *Psalms 1:1-3*; 5. *Proverbs 2:16-19*; 6. *Luke 23:39-43*; 7. *Matthew 27:57-60*; 8. *Acts 18:1-3*; 9. *Acts 18:8*; 10. *James 4:17*.

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YOU COULD IF YOU WOULD...
(Continued from Page 4)

tized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:38,39). "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life" (Romans 6:4). These verses simply verify the Greek meaning of the word for baptism, which means to dip, plunge or immerse.

The importance of baptism is impressed upon our minds when we realize that in every case in the book of Acts the repentant believer was baptized without delay. "And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes: and was baptized, he and all his straightway" (Acts 16:33).

There is no reason why you could not be baptized without delay IF YOU WOULD. I have seen people baptized under all kinds of conditions and to this day I have never seen harm come upon anyone who was being baptized. I have baptized seriously ill people, crippled people and elderly people, and none suffered even a cold from it. People have been baptized on cold days in icy water and have experienced only joy in doing the Lord's will.

AS A CHRISTIAN YOU COULD LIVE A MORE FAITHFUL LIFE IF YOU WOULD.

There will be temptations but there isn't one but what you could overcome if you would. "There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13). The world may allure us but we can have victory if we would—"and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4).

You could develop more in spiritual matters if you would. Paul writes, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I

press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14). In this same epistle he urges to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (2:12). Paul's prayer for the Colossians was "that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10). God expects much of us but He gives the help we need. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Most of us could be more faithful more fruitful if we would. We could pray more, study more and evangelize more if we would.

There lived in a certain town a very wise old man. One day some smart aleck boys decided they would trick the old man and make him look foolish. They caught a little bird

and their plan was to ask the man what they had in their hand. If he replied, "a bird," they would say, "Is it dead or alive?" If he said, "alive," they would crush it. If he said, "dead," they would let it fly away. They carried out their scheme, and as they asked the man what they had, he correctly replied, "bird." Then they came to the trick question: "Is it dead or alive?" To which the wise man replied, "Just as you would, son, just as you would."

So, in regard to your spiritual condition, it is "just as you would." □

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God's children never meet for the last time.

"While people often grumble because they can't have what they want, they should be thankful that oftentimes they don't get what they deserve."

O MAD WORLD!

*O Mad World!
I knew you not to be so senseless,
And so cruel,
But from now I am ever convinceless.*

*Thoughtless Herd,
Just like the cattle that live by instinct,
You are lured
From one thing to another before you think.*

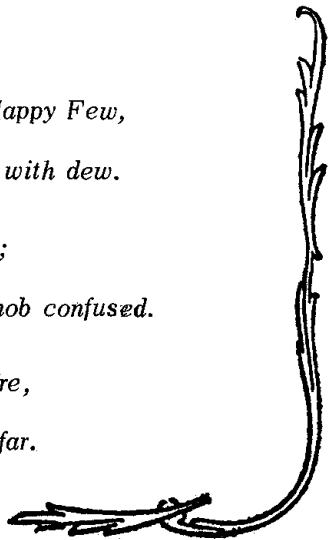
*Perfect Dream,
Of worlds unknown with people pure and true;
O very clean
Is this universe with skies of blue.*

*Could but I
Be taken away and landed there, Happy Few,
And to fly
Among the blossomed trees bathed with dew.*

*But alas!
To awake and find myself unmoved;
Left to pass
My troubled days with the racing mob confused.*

*Just to hope
With sustaining strength is my desire,
And to note
The good things when they seem afar.*

By A. BROTHER



THE MARK ON THE FOREHEAD

Two brothers, convicted of stealing sheep, were branded on the forehead with the letters "S.T.," meaning "Sheep Thief." One of the brothers was unable to bear the stigma, and tried to bury himself in a foreign land. But men asked him about the strange letters, so he kept on wandering restlessly, and at length, full of bitterness, died and was buried far from home.

The other brother said to himself, "I can't run away from the fact that I stole sheep. I will stay here and win back the respect of my neighbors and myself."

As years passed, he built a reputation for integrity. One day a stranger came and saw the old man with the letters on his forehead. He asked one of the local men what they signified.

"I happened a great while ago," said the villager. "I've forgotten the particulars, but I think the letters are an abbreviation of 'Saint'."

-Selected

JUST LIKE MY DOG

A LITTLE LAD of six was invited to lunch in the home of a neighbor. As soon as all were seated at the table, the food was served. The little boy was puzzled, and with a child's frankness asked, "Don't you have a prayer of thanks before you eat?" The host was uncomfortable and mumbled, "No, we don't take time for that." The lad thought silently for a while and said, "You are just like my dog—you just start right in."

-Selected

GLORYING IN THEIR SHAME... (Continued from Page 3)

foundation. People are getting their rewards. They glory in their shame.

Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera!

Beloved, rather than glorying in our shame, "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (II Tim. 3:5), let us obey from the heart "that form of doctrine" which was delivered to us (Rom. 6:17). Realizing as Jesus said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

-From NEWS AND TRUTHS

"LET'S PLAY BALL" (Continued from Page 5)

his package and saw the long desired fielders glove. Bobby loved his younger brother and sister and he was also happy that the kind lady had remembered them too.

Bobby stopped long enough to thank God for his new glove, and for his good teacher, Miss Bonnie, who had taught him to be kind. He then turned to his mother and said, "Now when they say, 'Let's play ball,' at Bible camp, I'll have a ball glove like the rest of the boys." □

THE WORK OF THE EVANGELIST—Eph. 4:11; II Tim. 4:5.

THERE IS MUCH lack of understanding concerning the "New Testament" evangelist and his work. Usually we have a "pastorized" preacher with his work and that of

the elder fused. Furthermore, scripturally unwarranted and artificial castes have arisen among preachers of the gospel. We hear much talk of the minister (located with a church), the evangelist (a professional revival preacher, or at least while he is holding the meeting), and the missionary (a preacher or religious worker on foreign soil—usually—and also including women; sometime ago there was a picture of a woman kneeling to be ordained as a missionary in a prominent religious journal which claims to be devoted to "New Testament" Christianity—something unheard of in the New Testament).

As we go to the Scriptures, including the book of Acts especially, we find the work of the evangelist or preacher, which we now itemize as follows.

(1) As his name suggests, he is a messenger of the good news.

(2) Souls that are won are organized into churches.

(3) He is to set churches in order, including ordaining elders (Titus 1:5).

(4) He trains faithful men, including other preachers, so that they may teach others (II Tim. 2:2).

(5) He confirms and strengthens churches that are established.

The evangelist is sent out by the local church (not a missionary society, evangelizing board, men's fellowship, or what-have-you—all unheard of in the New Testament), and he may work for an indefinite period with the local church in evangelism, etc., but not as "THE" minister or clergyman in the local church. The New Testament teaches the priesthood of all believers (I Peter 2:9; Eph. 4:11 and 12).

Let it be realized that the evangelist has enough authority vested in him by the Lord to get the job done effectively (Titus 2:15; I Tim. 4:11), and he should be duly respected among whom he labors. □

A MILE and A HALF FROM CHURCH

We're a mile and a half from church,
you know,
And it rained today, and we can't go.
We'd go ten miles to a dance or show
Though the rains should fall and the
winds should blow,
But the church is different, we'd have
you know.
That's why when it rains we just can't
go.

-SELECTED

GOLD, GOLD, GOLD...

Gold, gold, gold, gold;
Bright and yellow, hard and cold;
Molten, graven, hammered, and rolled;
Heavy to get and light to hold;
Hoarded, bartered, bought, and sold;
Stolen, borrowed, squandered, doled,
Spurned by the youth, but hugged by the old
To the very verge of the churchyard mold;
Price of many a crime untold—
Gold, gold, gold, gold!

-SELECTED

Dancing—
—“It’s Embarrassing and Unnatural”

Rare indeed would be the preacher who has not been asked, “Why is it wrong to dance?” The answer is many times discarded as just so much preacher talk. It is doubtful that any preacher could give a more vivid description of what is wrong than the following.

“The touching dances are too intimate. I don’t like to dance close to anyone except my husband. It’s embarrassing and unnatural to suddenly find yourself in the embrace of someone you don’t love.”

Sounds like some old-fashioned puritan completely out of step with modern morality, doesn’t it? Who said it? Barbara Streisand (*This Week Magazine*, February 6, 1966, page 2) a well-known singer and actress on Broadway, TV and the movies.

—Selected

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