

The Sword AND Staff

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

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

Who Wouldn't Run Away?

By D. VAUGHN ELLIOTT

257 E. 10th Street
New York, N. Y. 10009

• MARIJUANA, LSD, Sex!

"HIPPIES" ARE PEOPLE. Young people. Important people. Many think of "hippies" simply as people who don't take baths, who walk barefoot in the city, and who wear strange clothing. But a "hippie" is more. Being a "hippie" is a way of life. Every "hippie" is a sign of the times.

"Hippies" stand as a sign of the times for those who have eyes to see. They are not a disease in our modern society, but rather a symptom of the disease which has long infected us. Unmercifully, "hippies" are showing up our American way of living for what it really is. They do in the open what the establishment does in secret.

Some call it a generation gap. Others tell it like it is: a rebellion against materialism and hypocrisy. It is a sin gap. When the kids were little, they weren't supposed to sin. When they got bigger, they were supposed to follow in their parents' sins. Instead, they chose different kinds of sins: sins their parents didn't care for. They spoke out against their parents' sins and the parents spoke out against their kids' sins. They couldn't come to an understanding. Division resulted.

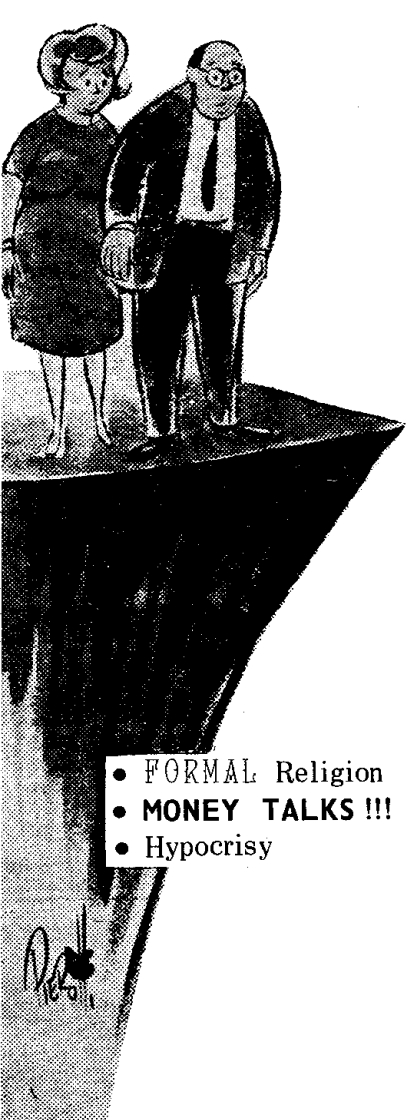
I see a hippie girl: unkempt hair, baggy pants, no shoes, no sign of personal attention. I see a hippie girl's mother: a wig, ermine eyelashes, blue eyelid paint, plucked-out eyebrows with new ones penciled in, fingernail polish, toenail polish, every sign of three hours before the mirror. Which one is worse?!!

I see a hippie boy. He likes the girls. He believes in the "new morality." He believes that sex is perfectly good, just as long as two people agree. He cares not for marriage. He is not tied down to one girl. The more the merrier. I see a hippie boy's father. He "believes" in the older morality. He is married. He is faithful to his wife—when the neighbors are looking. He goes on a busi-

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• Make Love, NOT WAR!

• PEACE NOW!!!

- 
- FORMAL Religion
 - MONEY TALKS !!!
 - Hypocrisy

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Proverbs of Today

You can't RIOT a wrong, but wrongs need to be "RIGHTED."

"The earnest man always stimulates others to earnestness, either of agreement or enmity."

The person who cheats actually cheats himself.

"Those that will be conscientious in keeping their promises will be cautious in making them."

Before we realize it our youth has taken wings and flown into the sunset.

"Sin is a snare that draws tighter with indulgence."

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

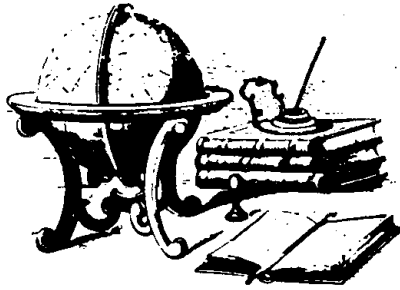
"A man's character is like a fence—it cannot be strengthened by whitewash."

Too many people are more concerned about filling their belly with food (overindulgence and pleasure) than in filling their souls with the love of God.

"You'll grow upright and scatter seeds of happiness with sunshine in your soul."

Some people tolerate and even like strong preaching, but it won't do them any good until they start putting it into practice.

"Half of the problems in living the Christian life come in half living it."



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

REPRINT OFFER MADE TO READERS

WE HEREWITH make an offer to any concerned and conscientious reader interested in the spread of the truth. If any article appearing in THE SWORD AND STAFF "strikes" you as needed and suitable for wide and general distribution, and you will finance the reprinting of it, we will print it in booklet form, and make it available without charge (FREE). In other words the concerned reader would pay for the printing (which we would do), and we would in from you (the reading audience) that the material is free and ready to be put to good use.

We have the print shop to do the job, but our operating funds are limited. Believing we have conscientious readers who have the means and who would like to share in such an undertaking, we make this offer. It would not be a profit-making venture, but a means of making vital material available FREE for a wider distribution.

Just let us know when anything (past writings or future in THE SWORD and STAFF) interests you along this line. We will co-operate.

THE GATEWAY SINGERS AND THEIR ALBUM

THIS SUMMER we were pleased to hear a singing group called "The Gateway Singers." There are six of them in the group. Sometimes they feature as a quartet, or a soloist, etc. The good thing about it is that they are New Testament Christians, and their lives back up their songs. Too many "Gospel Singers'" lives do not even back up what they sing. Their mailing address is Box 52, Center-ville, Iowa 52544 should you want to make an engagement for them to sing. They are available.

Also, this summer they made their first record at Nashville, Tennessee. It is a long-play album (plays stereo or otherwise), including 12 songs. Among them are, "Pity the Man," "Jesus is Coming Soon," "Had it Not Been," "Happy and Free," "Fill My Cup," etc. The record sells for \$5.00. You may order this album from The SWORD AND STAFF, Box 147, Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030. □

ANSWERS TO "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE" BIBLE QUIZ

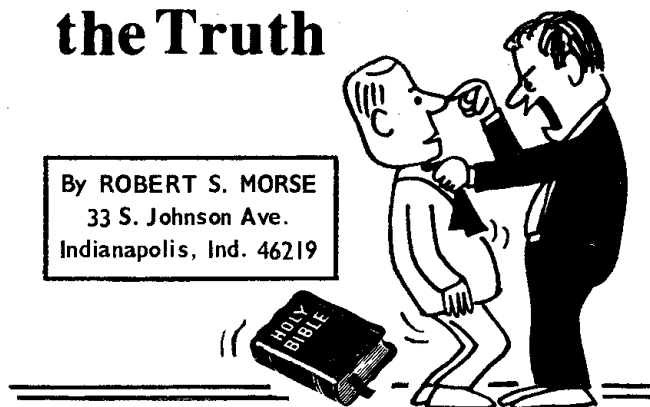
1. Numbers 22:1-7; 2. Psalms 133; 3. To be blessed, to become prosperous; 4. Malachi 3:8-10; 5. Luke 2:39, 40; 4:16; 6. John 20:24-29; 7. Philippians 3:5; 8. Romans 16:1; 9. James 4:17; 10. I John 5:1-3.

FREE BOOK OFFER STILL AVAILABLE

THE FREE Book offer, MORMON CLAIMS EXAMINED by brother Larry Jonas is still available. Just renew your subscription and send at least two gift subscriptions, and you will receive this book as a gift. □

An Enemy for Telling the Truth

By ROBERT S. MORSE
33 S. Johnson Ave.
Indianapolis, Ind. 46219



“INVADERS! TROOPS COMING!” The sentinel on the city wall blows his trumpet in alarm. But in the shops and stores there is disgust. “Right in the middle of my business! That sentry is a dirty alarmist.”

Ridiculous? But the Christian who sounds the alarm by telling God’s truth finds just such a reaction. “Am I become your enemy by telling you the truth?” Paul asks (Galatians 4:16).

Paul knew what it meant to be such an “enemy.” We see him as a young man sitting before a large synagogue of Jews in Damascus. Can we imagine such words as these? “Men, brothers, you can never be saved by the righteousness of the Law. It proves you sinners. But I announce good news: there is a Savior come, Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified and rejected though he is Messiah, the Son of God, and rose from the dead. There is no other by whom you must be saved. Repent then, and turn to God through him, or know that God’s Anointed even Jesus, will be your Judge unto eternal destruction. Without him you are no better than Gentiles. They will enter the kingdom of God before you.” He notes the pained expressions. Faces flush and eyes narrow. Every face becomes a portrait of rage. It is no accident that that night men try to jump the young preacher and he narrowly escapes. He had become their “enemy” for telling the truth.

The scene changes. A large crowd of well-dressed people fill the pews of a very fashionable church in 1970. After the choral anthem, the sounds of the beautiful pipe organ fade away. A young man stands behind the pulpit. It is his “trial sermon,” but he has the strange idea that he is to imitate such heroes as John the Baptist and Stephen. After reading the Scripture and making a friendly introduction, he begins to get practical. “I understand there are men here whose salaries run into five figures, but they give God less than they pay the paper boy. Did you ever hear of at least tithing? Ever read Matthew 5:20? Be assured that when you rob God, you rob yourselves of eternal life. I see too that you women follow the fashions. There’s no need for peeping toms anymore, is there? You put on a burlesque show in public for free with your short dresses. Have you never read I Timothy 2:9? I see your bulletin board advertizes a dance. I thought church

was to be a school in holiness. You have made it a school in hellishness. Has no one told you that sex thrills are for after marriage and that lasciviousness is sin? You may certainly evade the force of God’s Word, but you cannot avoid His law: that as you sow so shall you reap.”

As the preacher attempts to greet the departing members, sneering faces turn the other way. One old man inquires, “Say, young man, what college did you go to? You’d better look for a church down in the hills. You preach too *loud* for us.” The young man might well echo the words of Paul in Galatians 4:16. He had become their “enemy” for telling them the truth.

No one likes being the “enemy” to those he really loves and wants to help. Nevertheless the Christian must accept this role in order to tell God’s truth.

I. HE MUST TELL THE TRUTH TO FELLOW-CHRISTIANS.

The case of the Galatians proves that this is not always well-received. Once they welcomed Paul like an angel and overlooked his physical weakness. (Though Paul worked miracles of healing on others, he himself evidently had a revolting eye affliction.) They would gladly have plucked out their eyes and given them to him (Galatians 4:13-15). They “gratulated” Paul: “May God bless you!” But now that God’s truth had stung them, their love had cooled. They preferred other teachers that were not so hard on them. How distressing this was to Paul! “My little children, of whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you...” (4:19). This is the soul winner’s problem, for a parent can never mean as much to the children as the children mean to the parent. “Just so everything is well with them; just so they’re happy and living honorably for Christ.” It matters not greatly to the spiritual parent that he is regarded as an enemy.

Those who declare God’s truth have often been so regarded. John Chrysostom in the Fourth Century preached in a large cathedral in Constantinople. He was a Bible expositor that denounced worldliness in no uncertain terms. He even spoke against the sin of the empress Eudoxia. For this, charges were trumped up against him. “Again Herodias rages,” he responded, “again she raves and again she dances and demands the head of John on a charger.” Chrysostom was banished to a remote desert and died on the way.

Savonarola, in Florence, Italy, preached to crowds numbering up to 12,000, and never failed to expose the wickedness of people and priests. “I am like the hail. Cover thyself lest it come down upon thee and strike thee.” But Savonarola was too much of a truth-teller for Florence. He was tortured with rope and pulley, hanged before a great crowd and then burned to ashes.

When a preacher tells the truth about pagan holidays, the bare-knee cult, ungodly television, the sin of dating and marrying non-believers, and the blasphemy of using minced oaths—some wish to strike back as against an enemy. Rather, why not for God’s sake and your sake accept the truth and then decide to do something about it! Then join the ranks of truth-tellers, even though some

(Continued on Page 8)

WHAT THE Bible TEACHES

MEANING OF THE WORD "CHURCH" — "Called out." The church, t

How Denominationalism and the True Church Differ

- They differ as to origin.
- They differ as to foundation.
- They differ as to membership.
- They differ as to head.
- They differ as to name.
- They differ as to organization.
- They differ as to doctrine.
- They differ as to practice.
- They differ as to destiny.

DENOMINATIONALISM SAYS—

- "One church is as good as another."
- "One way is as good as another."
- "One faith is as good as another."
- "We are all going to the same place."

BUT, THE BIBLE SAYS—

- "There is one body—one church"—
Eph. 4:4.
- "There is one way"—John 14:6.
- "There is one faith"—Eph. 4:5.
- "Not everyone religious will be
saved"—Matt. 7:21.

CHRIST'S QUESTION TO DENOMINATIONALISM—

- "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and
do not the things which I say?"—
Luke 6:46.

Its Figures

- FLOCK OF GOD—Acts 20:28
- HOUSE OF GOD—I Tim. 3:15; I Pet. 2:5,6
- HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH—Gal. 6:10
- BODY OF CHRIST—Eph. 1:22,23
- KINGDOM OF GOD—Cf. Mark 14:25 and I Cor. 10:16

Its Establish- ment

- TIME—30 A.D., Day of Pentecost
- PLACE—Jerusalem
- LONG-RANGE PREDICTIONS:
Dan. 2:36-45; Isa. 2:1-4; Amos 9:11,12; Jer. 3:14-18
- PREPARATORY PROMISES:
Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:5
Matt. 16:18,19; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:46-49
- FULFILLED:
Acts 2
- THEREAFTER AN ESTABLISHED FACT
Acts 5:11; Col. 1:13; I Cor. 12:27

Its Nature

- DIVINE:
In ownership—Acts 20:28; I Cor. 6:19,20
In foundation—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20,21
In establishment—Dan. 2:44
In builder—Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28
- UNIQUE:
Christ has but one church—Eph. 4:4; John 10:16
Denominations are not the divine church
- INTERNATIONAL:
According to prophecy—Isa. 2:2; Zech. 8:23
According to fulfillment—Eph. 3:5,6; 2:11-22
- HOLY:
Originated with God—Dan. 2:44
Free from spots and wrinkles of men—Eph. 5:27
Christians warned about inferior workmanship—I Cor. 3:10-15
Holiness characterizes members—I Pet. 1:14-16
- TRIUMPHANT:
Prophesied—Dan. 2:45
Christ to triumph over all—I Cor. 15:24-26
That triumph realized—Rev. 19:11-21
- PATTERNED:
The Bible reveals that plan (see the Bible teaching of this
chart for proof)
Like Moses concerning the tabernacle, we are to build
all things according to the divine pattern—Heb. 8:5

Its Termin- ology

- INDIVIDUALS:
Christians—Acts 11:26; I Pet. 4:16
Disciples (learners of Christ) Acts 11:29
Saints (cleansed by Christ) Rom. 1:7
Sons of God (relationship through Christ) Rom. 8:14
Brethren (relationship in Christ) Rom. 12:1
- CONGREGATIONS:
Churches of Christ—Rom. 16:16
Churches of God—I Cor. 11:16
- UNIVERSALLY:
Church of the firstborn—Heb. 12:23
Church of God—I Cor. 15:9

SHE IS NOW AT WORK LOOKING

"Purifying herself"
I John 3:2,3

"Rescu-
Re

ES ABOUT THE Church

s the "called out" body of people over which Christ is head and Saviour

**Its
Member-
ship**

PENITENT, BAPTIZED BELIEVERS—Acts 2:37-41,47

"The Lamb's book of life," the true church's roll book—
Heb. 12:23. Only those whose names are written in it
will be saved—Rev. 20:15; 21:27

**Its
Work**

DEVELOP ITS MEMBERS SPIRITUALLY:

Through worship—

Teaching—I Pet. 2:2

Mutual exhortation—Heb. 3:13; 10:24,25

Prayer—Jude 20; I Thess. 5:17

Lord's supper—I Cor. 11:23-24; Acts 20:7

Singing—Col. 3:16

Through the oversight of elders—

Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:1,2; Heb. 13:17

Through corrective discipline—

I Cor. 5; II Thess. 3:6,14,15; Gal. 6:1,2

PROVIDE FOR ITS NEEDY:

Ordained—Rom. 12:13; I Thess. 5:14

Practiced—Acts 4:34,35; 11:27-30

EVANGELIZE THE LOST WORLD:

Commanded—Mark 16:15,16; Acts 1:8

Carried out by early church—Col. 1:23

The message told—Acts 8:1,4

Financed by tithes and offerings—I Cor. 9:1-14

Prayed for guidance—Col. 4:2-4; II Thess. 3:1,2

Special warnings concerning bearing the right message—

Gal. 1:8,9; II John 9-11

**CHRIST THE SOLE HEAD WITH ALL AUTHORITY—Eph. 1:22,
23; Matt. 28:18**

**HIS WORD DELIVERED THROUGH APOSTLES THE GOVERN-
ING LAW—Matt. 28:20; I Cor. 14:37; Acts 2:42**

OFFICERS—

EVANGELISTS—Eph. 4:11; II Tim. 4:5

Evangelize men and cities—Acts 8:5-40

Set congregations into order—Tit. 1:5

Return to strengthen and purify—Acts 15:36,41; Tit.
1:13,14; II Tim. 4:2-4

ELDERS—Acts 14:23

Oversee the congregation—Acts 20:28

Teach the congregation—Acts 20:28

Protect the congregation—Acts 20:29ff

DEACONS—I Tim. 3:8-13

**NO OTHER ORGANIZATION EITHER WITHIN OR WITHOUT
THE LOCAL CONGREGATION. Consider Phil. 1:1**

**Its
Organiza-
tion**

The Doom of Denominationalism

Denominational "plans" of salvation
are not obedience to the gospel. Con-
sider II Thess. 1:8,9.

Denominationalism adds to, takes
away from, and compromises the
Word of God in teaching and prac-
tice. Consider Rev. 22:18,19; Gal.
1:8,9; II Pet. 2:1-3.

Denominationalism deludes people
into believing something besides the
truth. Consider II Thess. 2:10-12.

Denominationalism does not wor-
ship according to the revealed truth.
Consider John 4:24; Mark 7:7.

Denominationalism has not been
planted by God. Consider Matt.
15:13.

Denominationalism with its factions,
divisions, and parties is listed as a
work of the flesh. Consider Gal. 5:
19-21.

THEREFORE—

Follow them not—Matt. 15:14.

Come out from among them—Rev.
18:4; II Cor. 6:14-18.

Beware of them—Col. 2:8.

Avoid them—Rom. 16:17,18.

Bid them not God speed—II John 9-11.

FOR THE RETURN OF HER LORD

others"
17

"Hopefully waiting"
Tit. 2:13

By DONALD G. HUNT

WHO WOULDN'T RUN AWAY?

(Continued from Page 1)



ness trip and makes special calls—on call girls. He wouldn't tell his wife for anything. He wouldn't want to hurt her. Which one is the worse?!

I see a hippie boy. He is on welfare. He can't stand "square jobs." He's satisfied to let others work for him. He figures there is more in this life than slaving away eight hours a day for more of that material stuff. I see a hippie boy's father. He works hard! So hard that he often comes home late at night; so hard that he is often away on business trips; so hard that he doesn't really know what is going on at home; so hard that the doctor told him he had better slow up or his high blood pressure and ulcers would get out of hand. He's a company man and you better know it. Which one is worse?!

I see a hippie girl. She ran away from home. She didn't even have enough respect for her parents to keep living with them. I see a hippie girl's mother. She ran away from home first: to the P.T.A., to the block party, to a friend's tea, to a Stanley party, to a rummage sale, to the local lodge meeting, to a meeting of the local society to help run-away kids, to bingo night, to the political campaign meeting, to a fund raising meeting, to the Daughters for a Better America meeting. Still not getting away from the drudgery of home enough, she decided to get a part-time job to help send the kids to college. Which one is the worse?!

I see a hippie boy. He doesn't believe in war. He wants peace. That's why he burned his draft card. That's why he ripped up an American flag. That's why he lay down on the street so traffic couldn't flow—because he is for peace. That's why he cheered when the Draft Center was bombed—because he is for peace. That's why he wishes the leaders of this nation would drop dead—because he doesn't like to see people killed. I see a hippie boy's father. He doesn't want war. He wants peace. That's why he wants the leaders to step up the war—so that they can win and get out. That's why he wants all the communists killed off—so we can have peace. He knows that communism is the cause of all our ills. He knows that America is God's land. He knows that capitalism is God's way. He knows—so he thinks—or does he think? Which one is the worse?!

The hippies have plenty to run away from, plenty to be disgusted about, and good reasons to be sick and tired of our degenerate society. They have legitimate complaints. So much of what the hippie opposes, the true Christian also opposes.

The trouble with many who call themselves Christians is that they are too much in love with this world.

They think that going on welfare when you could work is a wicked sin, but they are blinded to the wrong of a mother needlessly working. They don't see that working mothers have many times run away from their children. They don't understand that working mothers take jobs away from less talented men who have families to support. They don't see that this country would not have an unemployment problem if the mothers would stay home and be homemakers. (*This may be an over-simplification—Editor*). Can you blame a child for being disgusted with square jobs when he has seen them keep him from having a home?

The trouble with many who call themselves Christians is that they are too much in love with certain political views. They think America is God's country, the American way is the Christian way, and that if we protect America with arms we are protecting the gospel. They think that the political right is God's moral right and that all political left is bad and therefore hippies are bad. They see socialism on the left but they accept the racism on the right. They fear compromise with Communist ideals on the left but they approve a shooting war with the Communists on the right. They disagree with a welfare state on the left but they overlook the greed of the capitalists on the right.

The hippies have run away from the American way of living. Christians had better repent and run, too, if they haven't done so already. The trouble with hippies is not what they have run from—it is what they have run to!! Perhaps they have run to nothing worse. But neither have they run to anything better.

Is open fornication any better than secret fornication?



"Know-your-Bible" BIBLE QUIZ



1. What false prophet did the Moabites engage to "curse" the Israelites as they were approaching Canaan?
2. How is the blessedness of unity described in Psalms 133?
3. "The liberal soul shall be *made fat*" (Proverbs 11:25)—what does this expression "made fat" as used here and in the Psalms signify?
4. What prophet said that a man could rob God by withholding his tithes and offerings?
5. In what city did Jesus live and grow up?
6. Which disciple said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe"?
7. The apostle Paul came from what Israelite tribe and had been a member of what religious sect?
8. What local church was Phebe a "member" of?
9. What N. T. writer wrote, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"?
10. What practical definition does John give for love?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

Some would say that it is better because at least there is no hypocrisy. But which is worse: hypocrisy, or no shame? Hippie outings like Woodstock include cases of complete nudity. Hippie newspapers week after week feature full front-page nudity. But why go on? The establishment furnishes just as much, and nudist colonies have been around a long time. The bikini and the mini-skirt were certainly not hippie inventions. Neither were the Playboy Clubs. Whether committed hypocritically or openly without shame, fornication is still sin. The new morality is nothing but the old immorality dressed up with a few rationalizations.

Are drugs better than alcohol? Some try to present evidence that marijuana is not nearly as harmful as alcohol. That is a very clever half-truth. You could probably easily prove that marijuana is not as harmful as whiskey, but that is not the proper comparison. Just as there are many strengths of drugs, so there are many strengths of alcohol. Marijuana might be compared more properly with beer, since it is the weakest of all the drugs being used for "trips" today. It is the beginning point. The myth that people will smoke marijuana and not graduate to stronger drugs in continually breaking down by the simple process of giving potheads enough time to get interested in some other way of turning on. Did you ever try to find a hippie who has only smoked marijuana and had touched nothing else? Talk of a needle in a haystack! Hashish. LSD. Speed. Barbiturates. Amphetamines. Cough sirup. And yes, many are on heroin — the drug which was supposed to be only for slum kids. Are drugs better than alcohol? New York's East Village (the new home of hippies) cuts across the Bowery (the old haunt of drunken derelicts). Within just three years of drug-taking, the hippie drug addict is beginning to blend in with the older drunken bums. Often about the only way you can tell the difference between them is the age and the length of hair.

The hippies' way of life is no better than the older generation's way. Time will fail us to discuss homosexuality, panhandling, drug pushing, lesbianism, harlotry, filthy speech, disrespect for law, smoking, blasphemy, unbelief, devil worship, and much more. The hippies have not run to anything better. They have dropped out from America's Establishment, but they have not dropped out from the Devil's Establishment. They are sick of the American way of living, yet they continue sick IN the sinner's way of life. Their sin is sometimes a different kind of sin and that's what some people call a generation gap. Sin is sin. The respectable American businessman and the drop-out hippie are both in sin and lost without Jesus Christ.

The "hippie," like any other sinner, needs Jesus Christ. The problem with many hippies is that they equate Jesus with what they have seen of the established institutional churches and historical "Christianity." They see wars, prejudice, discrimination, materialism, and hypocrisy all in the name of Christ. So they turn away from Christ and look to Buddah. The grass is always greener...

Christians need to show "hippies" that they are defenders neither of a political establishment nor of the religious establishment. They need to show them that they are drop-outs from traditional churchianity, also. Hippies need to know the difference between present-day churches and the church of the Bible. The Bible is still true even though every man be a liar, and Christ's way is still a better way. Christians need to lead hippies to have faith in Jesus Christ, to repent of their sins, to be immersed into Christ, and to continue in a life of love for God and peace through Jesus.

Will "hippies" listen? Some are listening. From various parts of the nation come reports of hippies being converted to Jesus. Only a few; yet even to hear of a handful is encouraging. However, they are not only listening to Christians but also to the various denominations — to "faith-only" people in general. Hippies seem especially to be listening to those who believe in the present-day reality of the special baptism of the Holy Spirit. Many of them are having "the experience." It seems that many of these young people are "experience-bound." Their life has been dull and empty, with no meaning. They looked for the experience of sex and drugs to fill the emptiness, but to no avail. Now they turn to "spiritual" experience, expecting salvation by feeling and sanctifying power by overwhelming emotion.

With the aid of God, Christians must help these people to see that salvation is not via emotional experiences. The yogi and the Zen Buddhist strive for a mystical experience. Those who take LSD and similar drugs on the "higher" level are seeking for a mystical experience without all the rigors of yoga discipline. They are looking for "better living through chemistry." Those who, in the name of Jesus, seek the so-called baptism of the Holy Spirit, are seeking for the same mystical experience. Yogis, Catholic mystics, Zen Buddhists, LSD'ers, Joseph Smiths, Ellen Whites, Pentecostals, and drunkards with delirium tremors all have their "mystical" experiences. But what does that prove? Many, under these experiences, claim they meet God. But, which God?? Could it be the god of self? Could it be the God made after their own image? If not, then why do people have the same type of experience with entirely different interpretations?

Let us lift up the Word of God for those who will have ears to hear. God does not command us to "have an experience," nor does he promise one to us in the sense that these people are seeking. God tells us to hear His Word, to believe it, to repent of our sins, to be baptized in water, and to continue from there in all of the teachings of the Lord and His apostles. If we "experience" joy, peace, and love, praise the Lord! It is one evidence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. But to seek for a special mystical encounter with the spirit world so that we can "know" that we are one with God is not a part of the Gospel. Let us seek Christ as found in His Word and let experience take care of itself.

For a "hippie" to find Christ, he must not only leave

(Continued Next Page)

READERS'

... Response

JONESVILLE, VIRGINIA:

■ "I have been meaning to write you. I want you to know that 'Setting the Church in Order'—THE SWORD AND STAFF, July, 1970, is the best, most needed and interesting sermon I have heard or read in a long time.

"If you have an extra copy of this issue, I would like to have one. Also a copy of the issue that will contain the rest of the message. (I want to keep mine).

"Our subscription is up to date, but in case someone has neglected their's, I'm sending three dollars to help on expenses..."

GRETNA, VIRGINIA:

■ "I enjoy your paper so much, and the stand you take for Christ. God bless you as you labor for him."

AN ENEMY FOR TELLING THE TRUTH...

(Continued from Page 3)

in the church will count you an enemy for being their friend.

II. THE CHRISTIAN MUST TELL THE TRUTH ALSO TO THE WICKED.

This also makes him an "enemy" and brings on re- crimination and derision. "As he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, so also it is now" (Galatians 4:29).

Galatians was written to warn against a too-easy escape from persecution. You could escape it by being a Jew (Judaism was tolerated by the government) rather than speaking out and standing openly as a Christian. (Christians were an illegal and hated group.) Such a cheap deception would cut one off from the very family of Abraham. Was not Isaac persecuted? Genesis 21:8, 9, relates the instance Paul doubtless refers to in Galatians 4:29. Ishmael "mocked" Isaac. Perhaps he said some- thing like this: "So you're the little brat that gets all of daddy's promises. And you think you'll get this land and have the greatest nation of all and be a blessing to the whole world, do you? Well, shall I your servant bow down before his royal highness and kiss his feet?" To this the boy may well have replied, "It's true that God said, 'I will establish my covenant with Isaac'."

The believer with God's truth is like tea: the real strength is not drawn out until he is in hot water. Isaac

took his lumps. But remember: the fleshly son got kicked out (Galatians 4:30), while Isaac got the future. There is a future for you too, if you will accept some of the world's antagonism for the truth's sake.

Real Christians have often felt the sting of the world's mockery. A soldier was converted in the Third Century. In the Catacombs of Rome a heathen buddy pictured his reactions to the convert's Savior. He scribbled, "Alex- amenos worships his god" and drew a picture of a figure on a cross. The figure was a donkey.

You may be ridiculed for being a conscientious ob- jector to war, for going to church at every meeting, for shunning the public swimming pool, and for speaking out for Christ. But it is Jesus they ridicule. It is your honor to share in this.

If you cannot stand a little guff from the unsaved—or from church members—in order to be faithful to Jesus, how can you hope to meet Him when He comes again, the one who was crucified for telling the truth?

How about being His friend—even if you're an "enemy" to others? Find courage in Christ, and let His truth be known. □

WHO WOULDN'T RUN AWAY?

(Continued from Page 7)

the Establishment; he must leave sin. He must not only leave the "institutional church;" he must also leave mystical-experiential religion. Like everyone else, the hippie needs to believe and obey the nearly 2,000 year old message of the Apostles. □

Do You Belong To The Church
You Can Read About
In The New Testament ?



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