

The Sword AND Staff

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

• *"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)*



Just A Reminder

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READ II Peter 1:5-15.

In verses 5-7 Peter has given us a list of qualities that are to be incorporated into our Christian characters if we are to be fruitful in our knowledge of Christ. He shows that failure to include these qualities is indicative of spiritual blindness and disregard for one's initial salvation (vs. 9). He follows in verse 10 with an exhortation to be diligent to make our spiritual status certain, for diligence in these important matters is the thing that will prevent backsliding.

Peter addresses himself to mature Christians; therefore he frankly admits that he is taking advantage of what little time he has left on this earth to remind them of the truths they already knew, with the end in view that, even after his death, his words would continue to remind them. This, to a great degree, is the task of nearly every gospel preacher. We preach to Christians who have read every Bible verse many times, and who have heard much preaching on every Scriptural subject. It would be impossible to tell them some new thing. Yet we realize the need of continually being reminded of the truth we have already learned. The need for this is clearly demonstrated throughout the Bible. Did not Israel forget God and His law on numerous occasions? Could we correctly assume that the

church at Corinth had never been taught about division or fornication, or the proper observance of the Lord's Supper, or the proper use of the gifts of the Spirit? Since we feel certain that the apostle had given the necessary and proper teaching on these subjects, we must conclude they had either forgotten or were deliberately disregarding the teaching.

Frankly, this writer has very seriously wondered if certain preachers have so forgotten the stand they once took that they assume those who heard them in the past have also forgotten!

We could not, in this article, refresh our memories in every needful area without reiterating the entire tenor of God's Word; therefore we will mention a few things that seem especially pertinent at this time.

Reminder # One: Repentance is still a part of the plan of salvation.

Jesus Christ decreed, prior to his ascension, that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Lk. 24:46, 47). This decree first began to be executed when Peter stood on Pentecost and proved that Jesus is the Christ of God. When, with convicted hearts, his audience asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "REPENT and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." For years the emphasis has traditionally been placed on BAPTISM by those who teach the five steps in the plan of salvation: hearing, faith, repentance, confession AND BAPTISM!!!

Now, it is certainly not this writer's intention to minimize the importance of baptism; but I respectfully submit that it's time we re-emphasized repentance and show that if baptism is not preceded by genuine repentance, then it is not valid. Emphasis has been placed on how to persuade men to submit to baptism, but examination of the conversions in the book of Acts will reveal that, when people were brought to repentance, they didn't need to be conjoled or high pressured into baptism. They wanted to be baptized just as soon as they learned they needed to be.

We have no room to glory in the fact that we teach the "five steps in the plan of salvation" if the unholy lives of the church members prove that though we are piously reciting "repentance," it is not being practiced.

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Proverbs of Today

There is a motto of life that really works: if you want something done, do it.

"Fear God and all other fears will disappear."

Always remember this: problem people (including children) are people with problems, and they need help more than anything else.

"Sympathy is never wasted except when you give it to yourself."

The secret of being a good "boss" is to do your job without being "bossy" (people detest this).

"There is always something wrong with a man, as there is with a motor, when he knocks continually."

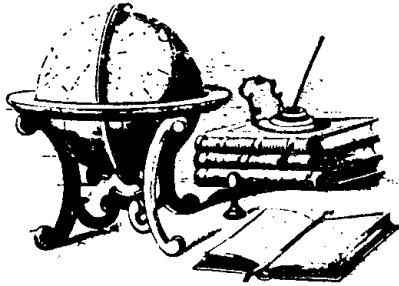
You may be teaching sound doctrine, but it will amount to little more than sound unless you are backing it up by example, consistently living a righteous and holy life coupled with benevolent deeds of kindness.

"Those who are forgiven of God should be of a forgiving spirit, and should forgive even as God forgives."

Many hide behind the terms "Restoration Movement" when they need to get down to business being the Lord's church.

"When young, consider that one day you will be old; and when old, remember you were once young."

"Christian unity" is determined by whether I am united to Christ, and consequently following his Word, and not by whether I support any man's organization of any kind.



EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

AN AUTOMATIC "CHAIN REACTION"

WHEN ONE HAS studied the Bible for years, and thoroughly familiarized himself with much of its content, a "chain reaction" is set off in his mind when he hears or reads a verse of Scripture. He automatically thinks of all other directly related verses (or at least this is a common experience with this writer). When we think on any one of the following verses, a "chain reaction" occurs and we automatically think of all the rest. They are parallel and equal each other in the subject they treat. Perhaps some of them throw a little additional light on the subject, approaching it from a different angle, yet talking about the same thing. Look up and study all of these verses in the light of one another and see if it is not helpful. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.

John 3:5 / Acts 2:38 / Acts 22:16 / Romans 6:3-5 / I Corinthians 6:11 / I Corinthians 12:13 / Galatians 3:26, 27 / Ephesians 5:25, 26 / Titus 3:5 / Hebrews 10:22 / I Peter 1:22, 23 / I Peter 3:21.

Don't be afraid to accept these Scriptures at "face" value. Such is the walk of faith. □

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TWO SCRIPTURAL INJUNCTIONS

● **BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD:** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God"* ROMANS 12:1, 2).

● **BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN:** *"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law; to the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak; I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some"* I CORINTHIANS 9:19-22).

ANYTHING in the world (I John 2:15, 16) that would violate the Christians' spiritual standards is prohibited—he is not to be conformed to this world, but to the image of the Son of God. However, just because something originates in the world (most everything does in our day to day experiences) does not mean that it is wrong. In fact, the apostle Paul, inasmuch as he could and not violate Romans 12:2, became all things to all men—that he might win them to Christ. He showed respect to their feelings and customs if they did not conflict with God's feelings and customs. In matters of indifference it makes no difference, but even in this the salvation of others should be our guiding principle (even as it was with Paul). □

JUST A REMINDER...

(Continued from Page 1)

Evidently repentance was a central theme of the apostles' preaching, for Peter repeated the command in Acts 3:19 and Paul emphasized repentance in his sermon on Mars Hill in Athens. His words on that occasion are worth remembering, "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by this man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead" Acts 17:30, 31 RSV.

Perhaps we have forgotten the coming judgment and thus find it easy to forget the importance of repentance; but Peter reminds that "the Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" II Peter 3:9 RSV. It is God's will that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4); however, God's Word makes it very clear that there can be no salvation apart from repentance; we can not be saved from sin and remain in the ways of this crooked generation.

No teaching is more firmly established in the Scripture than the simple truth that God *demands* that we rid ourselves of both the love of sin and the practice of sin if we are to be saved. The unrepentant heart only treasures up wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God (Romans 2:4, 5). We who preach are doing people a horrible disservice if we fail to soberly sound forth the warning of Christ, "Repent or perish!"

Reminder # Two; God's standards of holiness do not fluctuate as do the morals, fads and ideas of the world.

The teaching in Romans 12:1, 2, must still be our guide; "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service; and be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

With this and similar verses to guide us it would seem that we would be impervious to the deteriorating standards of modesty displayed by the world, but the sad truth is that nearly every change of style is copied to a degree by those in the church. As the world's hemlines began to rise there was a corresponding rise in the hemlines of the ladies of the church. Now, it's true that most Christian ladies have not gone to the same *extreme*, but many have followed the same *trend*, only at a slower pace.

It is not our desire in this article to attempt to catalog acceptable and unacceptable wearing apparel, but in all honesty we must express serious concern with the many areas of conformity so prevalent in the church today. How are we going to demonstrate to lost people the *good* and *acceptable* and *perfect* will of God if we allow the lost people to set the pattern for our apparel (to set a pattern which would conflict with our spiritual standards; in matters of indifference in dress, it matters not how we dress—*Editor*). Is not this a case of good being overcome of evil rather than the good overcoming evil? (Romans 12:21). How else can we explain the prevalence of long haired males in the church in *direct contradiction* to I Corinthians 11:14, "Doth not even nature itself teach you that if a

man have long hair it is a shame unto him?" Who but the God of nature has set this standard?

An attitude of weakness and permissiveness has silenced many who in the past would have opposed current trends. With this attitude is seen a growing trend to snub any who still oppose conformity to the world's styles and fads.

We can allow ourselves to become weak to the point that we would labor to justify the current loose standards, but we had better remember that on the day of judgment, God's standards will prevail, not the standards of the lost.

Reminder # Three: Every plant which the heavenly Father has not planted shall be rooted up.
Matthew 15:13.

The Pharisees had criticized Jesus' disciples for breaking the traditions of the elders. Jesus replied by showing that the Pharisees were guilty of violating *God's Law* with their traditions. He further accused them of paying lip service to God when in truth their hearts were estranged from Him; and of vainly worshipping God by teaching as doctrine the commandments of men. He further silenced them by showing that the things ingested would not cause spiritual defilement, but that the things spoken would. It seems that Jesus' rebuke so effectively silenced the Pharisees that His own disciples were aroused to sympathize with them. At any rate, they said to Jesus, "Do you know the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" Jesus replied, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up."

God had organized the Jewish religion and had given His law to govern them, through Moses on Mt. Sinai. That law was to serve without addition or subtraction by man until the Christ should establish the New Covenant. However, within the general context of Judaism two notable sects, the Pharisees and the Saducees, arose and attempted to sway the people to subscribe to their particular shades of religious thought. These sects were not ordained of God, nor did they meet God's approval (Matthew 23). Instead of contributing to the spiritual welfare of the people, they were stumbling blocks (Matthew 23:15). As such they would be uprooted by God.

This truth is no less true in our own time. Within the general context of Christianity have arisen a number of sects, cults and isms all teaching differing shades of religious thoughts. A gradual departure from the faith over a period of many years gave rise to Roman Catholicism with its many doctrines and traditions of men in violation of God's Word.

The Protestant Reformation in its turn sowed many plants not planted by the heavenly Father: and finally we see three distinct groups claiming to be the product of the Restoration Movement. It should be borne in mind that the New Testament Church was founded *prior* to any of the above groups and is *not* the result of apostasy, the Protestant Reformation or the Restoration Movement. The traditionalism, legalism and modernism of these groups is not in harmony with God's Word. Our energies should be expended in the building of the New Testament Church: in sowing the seed of the kingdom; in reaping a harvest of souls. Why should we carefully nurture and cultivate any plant that will eventually be uprooted by the Heavenly Father?

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IF ONE WERE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM, he is saved before his sins are washed away:

"Now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

IF ONE WERE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM, he is saved before he is born again (baptism is PART of the new birth):

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

IF ONE WERE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM, he is saved before he is saved:

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth 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" (1 Peter 3:21).

IF ONE WERE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM, he is saved sooner than the Lord promised he would save him:

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

IF ONE WERE SAVED BEFORE BAPTISM, he is saved before his sins are remitted, and therefore saved in his sins...

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

—THE LAMPLIGHTER



The Church's Worship

(A LESSON)

To "worship" in Bible times meant to "bow down" before a superior. This act is forbidden before images of men, even before an apostle of Christ or an angel (Acts 10:25, 26; Rev. 22:8, 9). Christ accepted this worship many times, since He is the Image of God and even angels must worship Him (John 9:38; 14:9; Hebrews 1:6). One of the last commands in the Bible is "Worship God" (Revelation 22:9).

While the mere **outward** act of worship before an image is idolatry (Daniel 3), acceptable worship before God requires the **innerperson**. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (Read John 4:19-24).

"Worship" in another sense means rendering **service** to God through such means as prayer, fasting, sacrifice, or praise addressed to God (Luke 2:37; Hebrews 9:9; Revelation 7:10, 15). Service of this category will occupy God's people in eternity (Revelation 22:3). As a practice of the church, it is translated "worship" in Philipians 3:3.

Worship service is seen in the practices of the early church as it met together. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). (Prayer meetings were frequent among the disciples of the Lord. See Acts 3:1; 4:24; 12:12; 20:36; 21:5).

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The most distinctive practice of Christians is "the breaking of bread" called the "Lord's Supper" (1 Cor. 11:20). This was ordered by Christ just before His death and was to be done "in remembrance" of Him to proclaim His death. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. This practice involves a "communion" (participation or sharing) in Jesus' body and blood (1 Cor. 10:16). The unleavened bread is a memorial of His body, and the "fruit of the vine" is a memorial of His blood (Matthew 26:26-29). We see the importance of this practice in Jesus' words about Himself as the bread of life (John 6:53). Read verses 48-58.

Acts 20:7 reveals a regular practice of the Lord's church in the days of the apostles' supervision: (1) It met on the **first day of the week**, the day of Jesus' resurrection (Luke 24:1; John 20:1), that is Sunday (not Saturday), and (2) it met **for the purpose** of the "breaking of bread," obviously a weekly observance. It was apparently this day that John called "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). This is **not** the Sabbath, which was the seventh rather than the first day of the week. The Sabbath had been ordered under the Old Covenant of the Law of Moses, which applied to Israel. This "handwriting of ordinances" God "blotted out" and "took it out of the way, nailing it to His (Christ's) cross" (Colossians 2:14). When the Law was set aside, so was the Sabbath, and it is nowhere commanded for Christians. Paul warns, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days" (Colossians 2:16).

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GIVING

The "fellowship" which the early church practiced was one of sharing material goods (Acts 2:42, 44-45). As a result, there was not a needy person among them (Acts 4:32, 34). This giving was strictly voluntary (5:4) and a result of love. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful

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"Making Christ Real Through the New Birth"



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WHEN ONE IS born again, experiences the new birth, then he is capable of making Christ real to others, and for the most part, he does it by showing the ones he associates with the new life he has from God by his actions. God is concerned about His children's conduct. We are admonished to be lights in Matthew 5:14-16. We are to have the qualities of salt, too, Matthew 5:13. We are to bring forth good fruits, Matthew 7:17.

Those who are born again are known as God's children, and children tell the world what sort of parents they have had. We often hear, "Do you want the world to speak well of your parents? Then behave yourself." This is doubly important with the child of God.

There is one book in the Bible that tells people how to become Christians, and there are twenty-one epistles filled with instructions for the Christians, instructing them on "how to behave themselves as Christians." From the preponderance of material given by inspiration for the church, it is quite evident that God is concerned about our conduct. If a preacher preached twenty-one sermons on Christian conduct to one on "The Plan of Salvation," he would have a proper ratio, but usually we hear twenty-one sermons on "How to Become a Christian," to one on "Genuine Christian Conduct Standards."

In this message I want to point out some of God's standards which will make Christ real, based on the new birth. We know these are approved of God and that we can not go wrong in living up to them, as His children.

I.

We can make Christ real, as His born again children, by walking in the Spirit. This was God's admonition as given to us in Galatians 5:16, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh." Then in verses 25 and 26 he says, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, and envying one another."

Then God, because He is our Father in the new birth, lovingly warns us about some things from which we are to abstain, Galatians 5:19-21. The Holy Spirit ends this catalog of "DON'TS" with "and things like these" or "and such like." I believe the Spirit of God is given to His children to open their eyes to discern anything that resembles this list of objectionables that will cause a person to not inherit the kingdom of God! If one cannot enter the everlasting kingdom as a result of bad conduct, there is only one place left for him to go and that is Hell.

These are divine standards, which we know God has given, and how we should rejoice to know them—both the acceptable and the soul-damning, life-wrecking sins from which we are to abstain. We should thank God that He cares enough for us to warn us before we go over the falls. Good mothers and dads warn and watch, too, their children.

In order to test the attention paid to signals on the railroad, some railroad officials put out the signal, "Stop and Investigate." Twenty-four trains went by it and did not stop; the twenty-fifth did. That is about the same ratio of God's children who pay attention to His warnings, but it should not be so! We can make Christ real to others by heeding his loving words.

II.

We can make Christ real, as Christians, born-again ones, by being faithful in attending His church regularly. Hebrews 10:25 is God's loving appeal: "Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some but encouraging one another, and all the more, as you see the day drawing nigh." What day is he referring to? It seems foolish to ask, because he is admonishing these people to assemble with those other Christians who have the habit of assembling. Whatever day they assembled on, we are to be there and to urge others to be there too.

Why should we? We are born-again Christians! We will DESIRE to be there, if His Spirit is in us. Christ died for the church (Ephesians 5:25 tells us). Should we think it is of importance? He certainly did. If he were here, would he attend the services? As Christians, we should remember we are like our Lord, Christ. Certainly we are not better than Christ.


Here is the average concept of the "run of the mill" church member. "I went to church this morning, but frankly I didn't get much out of it. The first objectionable thing I had to encounter was a mother with two unruly kids who had my favorite back-seat pew. Yes, I could have sat down front, but I don't want to be a fanatic. I like to get out fast after church too, you know. I am just about to have a nicotine fit by the time the services are over."

"I saw all the pretty girls showing the pictures of their 'boy friends' to all the other jealous girls. They could hardly wait to get out to go to the drug store for a coke."

"I noticed that old sister Brown had on a frightful purple hat that clashed with her gloves. I know she must

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**One
cancer
you can
give
yourself.**



**Horrible
Isn't it?**

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

WITHOUT THE SPIRIT...

We have been tricked into thinking that if we go through certain motions on particular days of the week, reciting rituals, fiddling with forms, and piddling with platitudes, this proves that we are alive and in tune with God. But Walt Disney Studios produced a mechanical Abraham Lincoln who duplicates in every lineament and feature the Great Emancipator. You purchase a ticket and take a seat before him and when the clock reaches the proper minute the robot gets up, steps forward and recites the Gettysburg Address.

A lot of awe-struck tourists think this is wonderful. But I've been accustomed for years to seeing men and women arising mechanically on Sunday when the clock strikes a certain hour and moving to a meetinghouse where they woodenly recite "the Lord Prayer." Then they retreat to their original position as if it were all over until the clock strikes again a week later. They are no more real than Disney's Lincoln. The spirit is absent from the latter and the Spirit is absent from the former. Regardless of what else one may have, if he does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his... It is just that simple.

—Selected

THE CHURCH'S WORSHIP (Continued from Page 4)

giver" (II Corinthians 9:7). Giving was to provide for the gospel preacher and elders also (I Corinthians 9:14; I Timothy 5:17, 18).

Christians are to give as God prospers them (I Cor. 16:2). This proportionate giving had no **upper** limit, and the poorest gave "beyond their power" (II Cor. 8:3). That there is a **lower** limit is seen in the fact that even the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day gave a tithe (that is, a tenth) of all they gained (Matthew 23:23). Far from condemning this practice, He required greater righteousness, not less. "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20). As Abraham gave a tithe to God's priest, Melchizedek so Christians (Abraham's seed) give at least a tithe to Christ, who is Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 5:9-10; Galatians 3:29).

JESUS' WARNING ABOUT TRADITIONS AND WORSHIP

The religious sects of Jesus' day rendered worship (in the sense of outer "reverence" in Matthew 15:9). But they had rules in addition to what the Scriptures taught. These in effect nullified the Word of God and made their worship a pretense. "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." See Matthew 15:1-9. Worship is acceptable only as it is Scriptural! —Robert S. Morse



"Know-your-Bible" BIBLE QUIZ

1. With the birth of what descendant of Adam does it say that men began "to call upon the name of the Lord"?
2. Which of Noah's sons looked upon his nakedness while he was drunk and "made light" of it (evidently) before his other sons?
3. Under the Old Testament what was the punishment for working on the sabbath day?
4. What town was given to David when he was an exile from Saul in the land of the Philistines?
5. What prophet was a "Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead"?
6. "The rod of reproof giveth wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to _____."
7. Which of the disciples accompanied Jesus when he went into the garden of Gethesemane to pray the night of his betrayal?
8. What man gave this advice in reference to persecuting the early church: "Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found to fight against God"?
9. "_____ that which is evil; _____ to that which is good."
10. According to the book of Revelation, what will happen in reference to those who take away from God's book?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

"Things That Happen"

(PHIL. 1:12)

**"The things that happen unto me"
Are not by chance I know—
But because my Father's wisdom
Has willed to have it so.
For the furtherance of the gospel
As a part of His great plan,
God can use our disappointments
And the weaknesses of man.**

(PHIL. 2:15-16)

**Give me faith to meet them bravely
Trials I do not understand,
To let God work His will in me—
To trust His guiding hand.
Help me shine, a clear bright light,
And not to live in vain—
Help me hold forth the World of life
In triumph over pain.**

—ANONYMOUS

JUST A REMINDER...

(Continued from Page 3)

Reminder # Four: Christ shall return!

We consider this reminder a fitting conclusion to what has already been written. While it is true that many readily admit this truth, perhaps we need to be reminded that when Jesus returns there will be a definite division made between the saved and the lost (Matthew 25:31-46).

Do we suppose that Jesus will be undecided about what constitutes right and wrong like many men are? Will there be such cross-breeding of sheep and goats that all goats will have a little sheep in them and all sheep will have a little goat in them and consequently the Lord will be confused and decide He can't distinguish between them? Will the prevailing ideas, doctrines and trends of men influence His thinking to the point He will be unwilling to judge? If some preacher decides he can no longer oppose a practice, does this mean the Lord will not oppose it on the judgment? These questions need no answer. We realize that God's standards of judgment have already been decided, and nothing man does, says or thinks will alter them.

"Forever, oh Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven" (Psalms 119:89).

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away: But the Word of the Lord endureth forever, and this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:24, 25).

Since it is true that God's standards of judgment are certain, then it follows that God expects us to know and measure up to these standards to be prepared for judgment.

May I close this message with the Words of our Lord to the church of Ephesus found in Revelation 2:5, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except you repent." □

"MAKING CHRIST REAL..."

(Continued from Page 5)

have gotten it from the Good Will Store."

Compare the attitudes expressed above with, "I met with the saints today to worship God. This is what I look forward to all week. I felt, with John of old, that I was 'in the Spirit on the Lord's day.' To commune with heaven's Sovereign in song, in prayer and around His table, affords joys not to be surpassed in this life. God's Word was presented in simplicity. I never tire of hearing that grand old theme, God's plan for our redemption. The sermons always seem too short. These worship experiences on the Lord's day always give me the spiritual strength to be an overcomer for the rest of the week. I am anxiously looking forward to the appointment I have with Him next Lord's day."

That is one way we can make Christ real to others, when we have experienced the new birth. His life in us cries out for fellowship with him and his children at the church assembly. No one but a born-again child of God really appreciates the assembly, and it is one way we can make Christ real by faithfully attending and enjoying the fellowship of the saints and of the Lord who made it possible.

III.

The third way we can make Christ real through the new birth is to practice the Rule of Love.

This has always been God's rule. Deuteronomy 6:5—"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." This is the crux of the statement in the New Testament as given by Mark 12:29-33. God's teaching on love is the same in the New Testament as it was in the Old. This law was not found in the Ten Commandments that so many people seem to think is the only law of God, but when the Lawyer asked Jesus as to the most important law of all, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:4-8. Love is the basis of all proper relationships between God and man.

The reason why many people never get any where in either realm of service, neither to God or to man, is because they have never been born again, receiving the Spirit of God into their lives, which produces LOVE! They love nobody but themselves! That is why they disobey their parents. They love themselves and their selfish desires, but they do not love their parents. This accounts also for their running with bad company. It is their desire, not the desire of their parents nor their God. That is why they are independable. They want to please themselves and do their "thing" no matter who is put out by it. That is the reason why they steal, lie and cheat. It is not because they love others, but because of their colossal selfishness. This accounts also for grown men and women deserting their own children and running off after some other woman or man. They do not love anybody but themselves, and they care nothing for the hurt

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"MAKING CHRIST REAL..."

(Continued from Last Page)

it causes others. This is the same reason why most people who claim to be Christians are absent from church. They do not love the Lord, nor the church for which he died. Did you ever hear of a Christian saying, "I was absent from God's assembly because I loved God and my fellowman so awfully much"? They are disobedient, dead-beats and they hate the very ones they cheat. The very first fruit produced by the Holy Spirit in our lives is, according to Paul, "LOVE"! Galatians 5:22. We show Christ to be real to us by the new birth, which gave us his Spirit.

God expects those who are born again to follow the rule of love, and He gives them the power to do it through His Spirit. He makes us love our God and love our fellow man. Can born-again people really love God and despise the church made up of others of like faith, the very group our Lord died for? Can we love God and despise those for whom he died, people...even neighbors?

It is the Lord who says in Jude 21, "Keep yourselves in the love of God." He admonishes again in I Corinthians 14:1, "Follow after love." I Corinthians 16:22 warns, "If any man love NOT the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema Maranatha." He appeals to us in this beautiful language, "The love of Christ constraineth us" (II Corinthians 5:4. Jesus spoke pointedly in John 8:42, "If God were your father, ye would love me." Paul anxiously testified to the Thessalonians, "The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God." II Thessalonians 3:5. "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue: but in deed and in truth," the loving and aged John said in I John 3:18. Jesus shortly before his departure, and in his last discourse sets the high standard of love in John 13:35, "By THIS shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye

have LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER." All of God's children ought to remember, "Love covers a multitude of sins."

A child may be painfully plain to others, but to a loving mother, she is beautiful. We ought to love people and look upon them as lost, but at the same time see them as the Lord would make them through the new birth. Jesus from heaven warned a fine church with these startling words, "I have somewhat (something big) against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" Revelation 2:4.

God expects us to live Colossians 3:12-16, "And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience: bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against any one: just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

We make Christ real through the new birth by showing the lost world that we have the fruit of the Spirit, being faithful to the assemblies, and walking in love. If you would live as God would have you live, your soul must have a regular diet and it must be fresh. Those who think they can get enough religion on Sunday, to run them through the entire week, need to remember that when the manna was kept over night, it became filled with worms, yet manna was a bread from heaven.

We can serve God and let the world know Christ is real to us only when we are completely surrendered to him. In Roman history it is recorded that when the people of Collatia surrendered to Rome, the terms were: "Do you deliver up yourselves, the Collatine people, your city, your fields, your water, your bounds, your temples, your utensils, all things that are yours, both human and divine, into the hands of the people of Rome?"

They replied, "We surrender and deliver into your hands ALL!" That begins in the new birth and through this change we make Christ real to others. That is the variety of surrender that makes God glad; makes happy servants, and shows forth Christ as REAL in our lives. □

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ANSWERS TO "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE" BIBLE QUIZ

1. Genesis 4:5; 2. Genesis 9:18-27; 3. Exodus 31:13-16; 4. I Samuel 27:5-7; 5. I Kings 17:1; 6. Proverbs 29:15; 7. Matthew 26:36,37; 8. Acts 5:33-40; 9. Romans 12:9; 10. Revelation 22:19.

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