

# The Sword AND Staff

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

• *"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)*

## TIME . . .



• By DAVID KIRK, Route 5, Box 128B, Galax, Va. 24333

"Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity" (Psalms 39:4, 5).

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away... So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalms 90:10, 12).

"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold NOW is the ACCEPTED TIME: behold, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION" (II Corinthians 6:1, 2).

FIVE PEOPLE were asked, "If good qualities could be given by an injection in the arm, what kind of a shot would you recommend for most people?" Each gave a different answer.

One said, "A shot of gratitude." Another suggested, "A shot of understanding." The third answered, "A shot of happiness." The fourth said, "A shot of dependability." And the last gave, "A shot of the proper sense of timing," as his reply.

Each answer emphasized a great need in the lives of most people. But what a well-ordered world it would be if everyone knew what to do, when to do it and would do his part at the proper time.

Time should be the most important thing in the world to you for it is your life.

*"I have only just a minute,  
Just sixty seconds in it,  
Forced upon me, can't refuse it;  
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it;  
But I must suffer if I loose it;  
Just a tiny little minute,  
BUT ETERNITY IS IN IT."*

Realizing that eternity is facing all of us, and that we prepare for it in the minutes of our life on earth, it should cause us fervently to pray:

*"LORD, MAKE ME TO KNOW MY END, AND THE MEASURE OF MY DAYS, WHAT IT IS: THAT I MAY KNOW HOW FRAIL I AM" (Psalms 39:4).*

The uncertainty of life, the certainty of death and the brevity of life, plus the knowledge that we pass this way but once, should cause us to give serious thought to preparing for the life beyond this earthly stay. How important to remember:

*"The clock of time is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop,  
At the late or early hour.  
NOW is the only time you own.  
Live, love, toil with a will;  
Place NO FAITH IN TOMORROW, for  
The clock may then be still."*

The Bible teaches the swiftness of the passing of time. "...Our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding" (I Chronicles 29:15). Job said, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope" (Job 7:6). To those who were making plans for tomorrow, James wrote, "Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a VAPOR that appears for a LITTLE WHILE and vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."

How utterly foolish for us to spend all of life making great plans for years ahead (without considering the Lord's will in the matters planned) when we do not even know if we will be alive at the close of this day!

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## Proverbs of Today

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*Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism are not to be considered as isolated steps, but are to be understood in the context of mercy and grace.*

*"Every time you give another a 'piece of your mind' you add to your own vacuum."*

*Young people who look with disdain upon older people are indeed very foolish—it is only a matter of time until all of us will be old.*

*"The smile on your face is the light in the window that tells people that you are at home."*

*Christianity is real and vital—is it in you and to you? What is your husband's, or wife's, estimation of your Christianity? What would your neighbors or friends say about it? This could tell a whole lot about you!*

*"The really happy man is the one who can enjoy the scenery when he has to take a detour."*

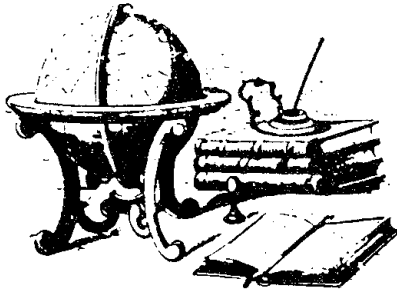
*Marriage is not a game we play until someone comes along we like better.*

*"It takes both rain and sunshine to make a rainbow."*

*God is love, and if we do not love one another, we are not of God.*

*"Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel that you've done a permanent job."*

*Christianity is not a bundle of prejudices sealed (and shielded) in a wrapper of emotionalism—it must be based in fact or it is not Christianity at all!*



## EDITORIAL

## COMMENTS...

GIVING,



AN ACT OF WORSHIP

THE NEW TESTAMENTS PRESENTS giving as an act of worship. In Acts 2:42 when teaching, the Lord's supper, and prayer are mentioned, giving is also included. Giving (sharing) is involved in this word fellowship in the original language. Fellowship is elsewhere used in the New Testament having reference to giving too (Philippians 1:3-5; 4:15-17). Paul instructed the Corinthians, and other churches, to lay aside on the first day of every week (note Greek) as they were prospered (I Cor. 16:1,2), even as the Lord's supper was partaken on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). This being an act of worship, the giving has to come from the heart (II Cor. 9:7)—which has first been given to the Lord. The fruit of giving is to be used in the preaching of the gospel and benevolent work (I Cor. 9:14; 16:1). It is a shame today when so-called churches stoop to begging money from the world (equivalent to asking sinners to partake of the Lord's supper, both being acts of worship). Then the element of worship is denied and distorted when so-called churches resort to all kinds of selling to "raise" money to pay their bills. The members have not yet fully given themselves to the Lord, and consequently they are not giving as they should. Let us worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. Amen! □

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### Robbing God

A Chinese preacher, speaking of robbing God, used this illustration: "It came to pass that a man went to market with a string of seven coins, and after seeing a beggar in great need who asked for alms, gave him six of the seven, keeping only one for himself. Instead of being grateful, the beggar followed the good man and stole the seventh coin also!"

What an abominable wretch! Imagine how vile and selfish must be the heart of such a man!

Yes, but would you, to whom God has given six days, steal the other also? Where do you plan to be next Lord's Day?

The Maryville Messenger

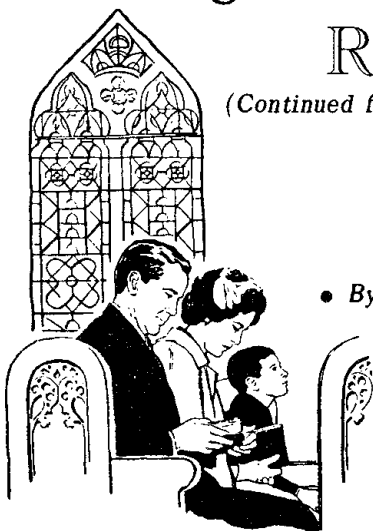
### ANSWERS TO "Know-Your-Bible" BIBLE QUIZ

1. I Chronicles 1:19; 2. Genesis 32:24-32; 3. I Samuel 18:1-4; 4. II Kings 5:1-4; 5. The Song of Solomon; 6. Matthew 26:6,7; 7. Matthew 27:3-8; 8. Matthew 27:57-60; 9. Ephesians 1:13,14; 10. Ephesians 6:21,22 and Colossians 4:7,8.

# Showing HONOR and RESPECT

(Continued from the Last Issue)

• By JAMES E. GIBBONS



## II. SHOWING HONOR AND RESPECT TO OTHERS.

### *All Men*

People who do not respect themselves cannot be expected to show honor and respect to others, but Christians will show honor and respect to all men. Remember I Peter 2:17 said to "honour ALL MEN." We read in Titus 3:2 where we are "to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto ALL MEN."

Did you get the force of these words?—"ALL men"! It doesn't make any difference if a man's skin is black, chocolate brown, beige, yellow, pink, or white—HONOR ALL MEN! There is no room for racism in Christianity. Honor all men—the rich, the poor; the male, the female; yes, even the worst sinner! All men are made after the image of God. Jesus died for all, and all are potential recipients of God's grace and may participate in God's plan of redemption. No man is to be called "common or unclean" (Acts 10:28, 34, 35). All become one in Christ (Galatians 3:27, 28).

### *Fellow Christians*

Fellow Christians are to be the objects of special honor and much respect. Paul wrote in Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." Then we read in Galatians 6:10 where we are urged to "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Christians are fellow-members of the family of God, which has been bought by the precious blood of Christ, and as such they should highly honor and greatly respect one another. Calvary brought them together, and they share a "like precious faith" (II Peter 1:1).

### *The Government*

The rulers of our nation, the government, and law-enforcing officials are to be held in honor and respect. The Christian does not fit into the context of disrespect and lawlessness. In a land of liberty, freedom of speech can be easily and quickly abused (by Christian standards). Again, I Peter 2:17 says to "honour the king." The preacher Titus, being instructed by Paul about what he should preach, was told to "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities, and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1). Romans 13:1-7 lays down principles which should guide Christians in

reference to human government and the laws of the land, and verse 7 concludes that section by saying, "Render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." Law-breaking, civil disobedience, and anarchy are no where advocated nor tolerated by Jesus. In fact, such is forbidden. Woe be to so-called religionists today who teach otherwise. Christians should be honest, law-abiding, tax-paying citizens. We have the responsibility of paying taxes (the Scriptures say so, Matthew 22:17-21), but we are not responsible how the tax money is used (Jesus and the early Christians paid taxes into the pagan Roman government).

The only laws Christians are exempted from obeying are the ones that are direct commands in conflict with the "laws" of Christ. These must never be respected nor obeyed. When the law officials in Jerusalem commanded the apostles to teach no more in the name of Jesus, Peter responded, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:28, 29). That must ever be our answer! We have a higher and more eternal allegiance than to man. Although there are some trends that are not good in our government's tolerance of evil (and by law—wrong which has been "legalized"), we are very thankful to live in a country where consideration is given to individual religious convictions. We do not have to go to war if this is a definite tenet of our faith; we do not have to swear in court if we believe this is wrong (to mention a few illustrations).

### *Father and Mother*

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise: That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3). This injunction is definitely one that is needed to be heeded in our day. But children are not going to honor their parents unless they are disciplined and the parents demand honor and respect. This is to be seasoned with love. And in old age the father and mother are to be honored (and not forgotten). This includes even taking care of their physical needs when necessary (Mark 7:9-13; I Timothy 5:3-8).

### *Husband and Wife*

The relationship of husband and wife is one that should be lived in mutual honor and respect. Having discussed the husband and wife relationship, and comparing Christ and his church to it, Paul instructed the Ephesians, "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband" (Ephesians 5:22-33). The apostle Peter urged the husbands to give "honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (I Peter 3:7). With divorce on the increase, and promiscuity becoming more of a common thing, we need extra emphasis placed on honoring the divine institution of marriage itself—and the fact that partners in marriage should show respect for one another, being especially kind, courteous, and considerate. Too many marriages are hell on earth instead of a little heaven.

### *Older People, Young People, Widows*

To Timothy Paul wrote, "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

(Continued on Next Page)

**SHOWING HONOR AND RESPECT...**  
(Continued from the Last Page)

The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity; Honour widows that are widows indeed" (I Timothy 5:1-3).

How all of these admonitions are needed today! When there is talk of a generation gap, with many young people having no respect for older people, and looking with disdain upon them—how these things are needed! There needs to be mutual respect among young people. With immorality on the increase, let young men behave themselves toward young women with the honor and respect they would show toward their own sisters (that is what Paul is saying). And, may the truly widowed be especially honored, even with material assistance from the church.

*Spiritual Leaders*

The leaders of the church (elders, preachers, etc.) are to be duly honored and respected for their work's sake by the general membership of the church. "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And to be at peace among yourselves" (I Thessalonians 5:12,13). Then Paul told Timothy: "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine" (I Timothy 5:17). (This honoring even involves material support for elders and preachers in their work).

But today faithful elders and preachers many times find themselves anything but honored and respected. They become the objects of hateful abuse by sinners and unconverted "church members." Such people should remember that to abuse God's representative is to abuse God Himself. Back in Old Testament times, some boys thought they would mock the man of God. They abused the prophet Elisha, evidently a bald-headed man, with these words: "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head." And, do you know what happened? Two old "she bears" came out of the woods and mutilated these 42 mockers (II Kings 2:23,24). God is not to be mocked, not even in the person of His servant.

However, in showing honor and respect to our religious leaders, no "Reverends" please! Be done with calling such men "Reverend," "Father," "Doctor," etc. The Scriptures do not support the use of such pretentious titles, it being contrary even to the very spirit of the New Testament. Not once does the apostle Paul or any of the New Testament writers make use of such vainglorious nonsense. "Holy and reverend" is God's name (Psalms 111:9), not that of man. The reading of Matthew 23:1-12 should settle this matter without question for anyone who has doubts about what we are saying.

*Masters and Servants*

To those socio-religionists who take a radical view toward the so-called "establishment," wishing to undo violently our social order, perhaps a restudy of the New Testament would be in order (if they believe it, but we have strong suspicions that they are more influenced by Marx than they are by the Master). Listen to these words of the apostle Paul, speaking of a social order we have never known in our day: "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of ALL HONOR, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let

them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort" (I Timothy 6:1,2).

The principles of Christianity would eventually eradicate slavery, but not all at once in violent convulsion. Among Christians the rigorous relationship of master and servant was reduced to that of loving brothers, joint-heirs of salvation. Many of the same instructions given to servants were also given to masters—"And, ye masters do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him" (Ephesians 6:9).

Actually the relation between believing masters and servants would be very much like the employer-employee relationships today. In these Scriptures about the master-servant relationship may we find a lesson of mutual honor and respect that should be between the employer and the worker. True Christians should never be swept up into a "class" struggle. Their religion of love and exemplifying Jesus would never allow it.

**III. SHOWING HONOR AND RESPECT TO GOD.**

This matter of showing honor and respect to ourselves and to others is all determined by the proper showing of it toward God. They are all tied in together. Jesus told the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:2-5). The unjust judge was pictured as not fearing God, nor regarding man. He respected neither, and it goes without saying that he did not properly regard himself either.

God is worthy of all honor, praise, and glory—never be ashamed to recognize and honor Him! It is He Who has made us—and He is the Source of all life. This Almighty, Self-Existent One has made all things and upholds them

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**"Know-your-Bible" BIBLE QUIZ**

1. What happened in the days of Peleg, son of Eber?
2. What happened to Jacob physically when he wrestled with an angel?
3. What son of Saul was a dear friend of David?
4. What dread disease did Naaman, the Syrian captain, have, and how did he get rid of it?
5. What book in the Bible does not mention God a single time?
6. Where was Jesus when the woman came with an alabaster box of precious ointment, anointing him?
7. What did the priests do with the thirty pieces of silver that Judas returned?
8. What man obtained the body of Jesus and had it buried in his own new tomb?
9. Speaking of Christians, what is called "the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession" in the N. T.?
10. What man is mentioned in Ephesians and Colossians, whom Paul said would tell them about his situation in prison?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

# READERS'

## ... Response



ORLANDO, FLORIDA:

■ *"I am writing to you...in need of a favor. Enclosed is a letter asking for co-operation of brothers in Christ to concentrate efforts against 'Faith Only' doctrine..."*

*"We wish to put the material received into a booklet that we pray would be effective in bring people to the light. Please help..."*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *The general letter follows, and may our reading audience take note—*)

Dear Brothers:

We are faced with a problem that cannot be overlooked. Perhaps you have the same problem in your area and can truly see the need of action, now! We're speaking of the "Devil's Deceptive, Soul-Damning Device"—Faith Only. We pray to God for more faith, but never "Faith Only."

When you hear, "I can swear because I'm saved," "I can steal because I'm saved," and, "I can kill because I'm saved," that's not faith... that's foolishness! They're not saved from sin, they are saved to sin.

The world looks at "Faith Only" people and sees no need of becoming a Christian.

Example:

One man gets "saved" (believes), but doesn't live like it—saved and going to heaven.

One man living the same way but has never been "saved"—lost and going straight to hell!

It just doesn't add up.

The immediate motivating force is the circulation of a pamphlet setting forth in a striking and plausible manner the so-called "Simple Plan of Salvation." This pamphlet with many other of a similar character, I believe, is cunningly adapted to deceive the ignorant and unwary. One tract teaches that obeying God's law and commandments is not necessary for salvation.

That these publications, in many cases, result in a lowering of moral consciousness and a loss of fear for disobedience, there can be no question.

The means employed by the friends of virtue for exposing and defeating these "devices of satan" should with God on our side, be even more fruitful.

Question: What do we want to do?

Answer: Deal the Death-Blow to this Devil's Deceptive Device!

We want to present to the leaders of Faith-Only congregations an attractive, intelligent, and effective booklet.

If we can find honest hearts and present the truth to them in a clear, logical manner, dealing with salvation

and its two sides, I believe we can have results.

If the leader is convinced his flock will automatically follow. Remember, in the Restoration Period how many, many people came out of their denominational shell to the light of Christians only?

The Booklet in General:

1. Shouldn't be offensive, putting them on the defense, but the truth has to be brought out in a logical manner that they can follow.

2. Should have Ephesians 2:8,9 and John 3:16, etc., explained fully and studiously.

3. Should have clear, to-the-point illustrations picturing salvation.

4. Should have some effective charts.

5. Should have many verses as proof.

The Booklet (more specific):

We ask that each interested brother draw from any source (tracts, books, papers, files, etc.) accessible, using only the ones he feels are of the very best quality. By briefing all of this down you have the cream of the cream. Then if you will send us your information we will put it together into a booklet having chapters; each subject a chapter.

Suggested Topics:

1. Origin of Faith Only Doctrine
2. A Harmonious Bible? (Romans and James)
3. Saved From Sin Not To Sin
4. Harm of Faith Only
5. The Cure—Bible Plan of Salvation
6. Etc.

If you are interested and will help, please send us a rough draft or outline on which ever subject you choose, one month from this publication.

A concentrated, prayerful effort, I believe, can break the backbone of this Devil's Tool!

Thank you and may the Lord bless.

Please address correspondence to: Stuart Fitzgerald or Ed Fitzgerald, 8617 Trevarthon Road, Orlando, Florida 32807.

WHITE MILLS, KENTUCKY:

■ *"I thoroughly appreciate your paper The Sword and Staff and read each article and praise you in your work."*

*"The reason I am writing this letter today is because of the Key 73 issue that is spreading throughout our churches as well as denominational churches. No doubt, you have already heard of Key 73 so I will not go into detail about the matter only to say that I strongly oppose any affiliation with the Key 73 Program."*

*"I have opposed the Key 73 Program in our various church meetings and ministers meetings in Kentucky and have a vast resource of material on Key 73."*

*"My hope is that I can persuade you to use your influence through The Sword and Staff to inform our fellow preachers of the evils of Key 73..."*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Key 73 Program is no problem among churches with which we immediately fellowship—we know where we stand and what our relationship is to those who do not stand on God's truth. We are reprinting much of your enclosed article. Maybe it will stir some thinking among some people. The article follows—*)

### THE KEY 73 STORY

For sometime now this preacher, as well as many others, has been a little disillusioned with the North American Christian Convention which is supposed to be a grand and glorious gathering of fundamental, Bible-believing, restor-

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# TIME (Continued from Page 1)

We are much like the rich fool that Jesus described: "The land of a certain rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself; saying, What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops? And he said, This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat drink and be merry. But God said to him, You fool! This VERY NIGHT your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared" (Luke 12:16-20). Notice this rich man was making plans to "eat, drink and be merry" for "many years," but he did not see the light of even another day. We know not what a day may bring, nor if we will be in this land of the dying ere it closes.

It is dangerous to presume we have plenty of time. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 29:1). We may be planning to get right with the Lord at midnight only to die without warning at 11:59 p.m.

*"To seek the Lord while in our youth,  
To search for knowledge and for truth,  
What better can we find to do  
Before the world obstructs our view  
And shuts us from reality  
And wisdom God would have us see?"*

*The longer we refuse God's way  
The dimmer is our sight each day,  
Until at last our eyes are blind;  
No joy at all in Christ we find!  
The final day will on us roll  
With hell, our self-appointed goal!"*

Perhaps the greatest danger to the soul is procrastination. Lot and his family lingered in Sodom. Had not the angels of the Lord taken them by the hand and led them from the wicked city, they would have been destroyed with the ungodly there.

Israel postponed entrance into the promised land because of fear and their bones bleached in the desert outside the land that flowed with milk and honey.

King Saul put off obedience to the Lord and when he sought forgiveness, he found out he was rejected of the Lord. Read I Samuel 15:24-26.

We must not be like Esau who "sold his birthright for a single meal." And "when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place of repentance, though he sought for it (the birthright) with tears" (Hebrews 12:16, 17).

The five foolish virgins who put off getting extra oil for their lamps until it was too late should ever warn us of the fate that awaits all who wait too long to prepare for the Lord's return. And not one of us know when the Lord will return, nor how much time we have to make preparation for it.

A family in Iowa was startled by the loud blowing of the train whistle, the screeching of brakes and the stopping of the fast train that passed by the yard of their house. They learned in an instant that they had waited too long to fix the broken picket to their yard fence to save the life of their small child who had crawled through the hole at the broken picket to his death in front of the train.

We may dream how truly wonderful to have a shot that would give us a proper sense of timing so that we would all live well-ordered lives. We know that no such discov-

ery is forthcoming. So we are wise when we seek God's help in all our plans, in the best use of the time we have here on earth.

Thus with the psalmist we should pray, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalms 90:12).

The proper way to begin each day of life is with God. In youth we are wise to listen to Solomon who wrote: "Remember NOW thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Our days should be lived in the fear of the Lord and in doing His will as Solomon also exhorted: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be bad" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

All of us need to listen to the words of Paul in Ephesians 5:15-17. "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

One of the queens of England lay dying. She cried out: "My kingdom for a moment of time." But no amount of power or money can buy even a king or a queen one moment of time when their appointment with death comes.

Let us not be guilty of being TOO BUSY to prepare our hearts and lives for service to God. None of us get too busy to die as the following poem teaches.

*Too busy to read the Bible,  
Too busy to wait and pray;  
Too busy to speak out kindly  
To someone along the way.  
Too busy with cares and struggles  
To think of the life to come;  
Too busy building mansions  
To plan for a heavenly home.  
Too busy to help a brother,  
Who faces the winter's blast;  
Too busy to share the burdens  
When self in the balance is cast.  
Too busy for all that is holy  
On earth beneath the sky;  
Too busy to serve the Master,  
But NOT TOO BUSY TO DIE!*

When our son, Paul, was small he would say, "I too busy," when told to do something. We can become too busy with the trivial things in life that we forget and neglect the really important things like making the necessary preparations for eternity. Let us not make the eternal mistake of not having time for God.

*"You've time to build houses, and in them to dwell,  
And time to do business—to buy and to sell,  
But none for repentance, or deep, earnest prayer,  
To seek your salvation you've no time to spare;  
You've time for earth's pleasures, for frolic and fun,  
For her glittering treasures how quickly you run,  
But care not to seek the fair mansions above,  
The favor of God or the gift of His love.  
You've time to take voyages over the sea,  
And time to take in the gay world's jubilee;  
But soon your bright hopes will be lost in the gloom  
Of the cold river of death, and the tomb.  
You've time to resort to woods, mountains, and glen,  
And time to gain knowledge from books and from men,  
Yet no time to search for the wisdom of God,*



*But what of your soul when you're under the sod?  
For time will not linger when helpless you lie,  
Staring death in the face you will take time to die:  
Then, what of the judgment? Pause, think, I implore!  
For time will be lost on eternity's shore.*

Another poem seems appropriate here for it is so true to life and teaches a much needed lesson if we will but listen.

*When as a child I laughed and wept,  
Time crept.  
When as a youth I dreamed and talked,  
Time walked.  
When I became a full-grown man,  
Time ran.  
When older still I daily grew,  
Time flew.  
Soon I shall find in traveling on,  
TIME GONE!*

Time is hurrying by so swiftly that we do not realize it until it is gone. How wickedly unwise to presume we have plenty of time to get around to God's will while serving the devil. How dangerous to delay! There's death and eternal loss in delay. Let us seek and ask God's help in the proper use of time lest we suddenly awaken upon the shores of eternity unprepared to meet God. □

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**SHOWING HONOR AND RESPECT...**

(Continued from Page 4)

by His eternal power. Just look into the heavens some star-spangled night, as each heavenly body goes its way in clock-like precision. Reflect upon this and also upon the excellence of our favored planet (still favored though under the curse of sin). God is good to us, and let us praise His Name.

God is worthy of all honor as seen in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; the Saviour! the Prince of Glory! Those symbolizing, no doubt, untold myriads are pictured in the book of Revelation as "saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (Revelation 5:12,13). Every creature, all nature, cries out in praise to the Lamb of God. Even those stubborn knees which now refuse to bow and confess in this present life will do so some day (Romans 14:11,12).

And, honoring God in this life must take a definite and concrete form. It is not enough to honor God, supposedly, with our lips and then do as we please. Jesus made it plain: "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

We must respect the Word of God, if we are to honor and respect God Himself. A child does not honor his parents when he is not obedient to what they say. Jesus accused the scribes and Pharisees of dishonoring God; yes, transgressing His commandments by disregarding them and replacing them by their own traditions. Then these condemning words continue: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of

men" (Matthew 15:3,8,9). This is the Lord's indictment against the denominations and sects of our day too. Be done with human creeds and traditions! (Such are the cause and perpetuation of denominationalism). May God's Word alone be our rule of faith and prevail! Only in this way can we ever hope to honor Him acceptably.

God the Father, to be properly honored, is to be approached through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus declared, "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him" (John 5:22,23). The apostle Paul also verified this by saying, "Unto him (God) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:21). (For any who would miss the point, please notice: God the Father cannot be properly honored now except through His Son, and this honor and glory is to be accomplished through the church).

Showing honor and respect to God is not a matter of a few isolated acts of homage and obeisance either. It involves the whole person with words and deeds. Colossians 3:17 reads, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Then in I Corinthians 10:31 we find these simple directions: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Everything that a Christian does constitutes and is dignified as a religious act, and it should be done in view of accomplishing the glory of God. By living our lives well, by performing the simple routines of everyday life conscientiously, by being aware of the constant presence of God—in all of this we are glorifying Him. Our lives are lived in the constant sight of God, and living life itself is an act of divine worship. Consequently nothing should ever be done that is questionable or that in any way would dishonor God.

Then, to add to the beauty of it, God honors those who honor Him. This has been true under both Testaments. Eli, the priest of God at one time under the Old Testament, had not restrained his sons from doing evil (and that with a high hand in connection with the house of the Lord). A man of God came to Eli, and included in his message were these words: "Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever; but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed" (I Samuel 2:30).

And, looking toward the New Testament, Jesus said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour" (John 12:26). It is like Paul said, "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (I Timothy 4:8b). God respects those people who respect Him, even in this life, and especially in the life to come. Romans 2:6-11 also bears this out: "Who (God) will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them which are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God." □

**READERS' RESPONSE...**

(Continued from Page 5)

ation movement people who profess to be Christians, and I'm sure many are. We say with pride, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak and where it is silent, we are silent." A body of people wearing Bible names and proudly proclaiming that the head of the church is Christ. This is all well and good, but a little inconsistent though, to say the least, when the North American brings in denominational preachers to tell us how to spread the gospel and they themselves have yet to obey it. This same inconsistency is not only a problem at the North American, but it is creeping insidiously into every major function of our churches. Even at the Kiamichi Clinic this year we sat before one denominational preacher or speaker after another.

It is hard for us to point out the treachery in the National Council of Churches and then look to various denominations that are involved with such a diabolical thing as this and use these individuals at the speakers stand over and over...

I was shaken and chagrined when reading a recent copy of the *Presbyterian Survey* in an article on "Key 73" to find a list of participating churches whose presumed purpose and goal is to take the gospel to every person in North America in 1973. While looking at the long list I began to wonder, "What gospel?" To name just a few of the churches that Ralph M. Small, Chairman of "Key 73" for the Churches of Christ and Christian Churches, evidently a self-appointed potentate, (who appointed him and his associates is beyond me; associates such as Paul Benjamin, Cecil Todd, Robert F. Yarnberg, Medford Jones, Curtis Hess, Max Ward Randall and a few others) and his friends (a small, vocal minority claiming to represent you and me without appointment, without authority from those of us who claim to be independent churches of Christ), would have us to be involved with (under) what seemingly is an ecumenical umbrella to spread the gospel in 1973, how about: The National Council of Churches who, according to newspaper columnist Tom Anderson, have adopted every resolution of the American Communist Party; The Presbyterian Church of the U. S., it was from this group that \$10,000 was given to the Angela Davis defense fund—a self-confessed Marxist; The Church of What's Happening Now (It is my understanding that this group includes homosexuals); The Billy Graham Evangelistic Assn.; African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; Christian Churches—Disciples of Christ; and, unfortunately (what a tragedy) the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ. Now my question is: "Who gave permission for the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ name to be used?" I was not polled and I'm sure you were not, either. How much power can various individuals usurp from the eldership of the local congregation?

Everyone who reads this article who is concerned should write to the committee for "Key 73" and ask for some straight answers. I'm sure they will tell you it was a mistake or that there was a slip-up for if this small, vocal minority had made it abundantly clear that they were representing only themselves, if this were so, the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ would not have been involved. If they did make it clear and other members of the denominational committee on "Key 73" disregarded their wishes then this should give some insight on what kind of people we have been asked to deal with.

In a tract produced by these self-appointed spokesmen for "Key 73" it is stated on page 2, and I quote, "Already over 80 Christian groups and organizations are involved in this Biblically oriented venture." Already they have prostituted their Biblical convictions, if they ever

had them, by referring to these groups as Christians. I've always been taught that you had to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (by immersion) and walk as Christ would have you walk in order to be a Christian. The whole goal of "Key 73" is more idealistic than Scripturally realistic. As Amos says, "How can two walk together unless they agree?" Paul says, "Now I beseech you, brethren, make them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" Romans 16:17, 18.

It is my prayer that you will write to the men involved and ask them to withdraw. Pray that their eyes will be opened. They can be contacted at this address: Key 73 Committee, P.O. Box 31150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231.

If these denominational individuals are sincere in spreading the entire gospel, let them repent from the error of their ways, give up their denominational names, be baptized by immersion for the remission of their sins and do things in Bible ways, called by Bible names. The only keys we need are the keys given by Christ to Peter. We don't need 73 keys and we don't need to wait until 1973 to spread the entire gospel. NOW is the time of salvation! The Lord wants us to bear Christian fruit, not religious nuts. Then and only then can we Scripturally walk hand in hand. (article attributed to John Butler Book)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: To start with, who needs such National conventions anyway? There is too much of the smack of denominationalism in their structure and the unofficial "official" position they hold in many people's eyes. We are content to operate through the local church and not organize the brotherhood beyond that—which is Scriptural. Amen!)

LYMAN, NEBRASKA:

■ "I first want you to know I enjoy *The Sword and Staff*. 'Would you please re-read the article 'Student Views on Sex, Morality.' Please read it through the eyes of one young person who is outside of Christ. Maybe this article could use a second chapter. P.S. They may not read the rest of the magazine.'"

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article appeared as a write-up in a daily newspaper, and we presented it for the information it contained, and did not profess it to be written by a Christian. Our 'Editorial Comments' told the source of the article. Perhaps we should have had it better labeled as to the source. Our article on 'Showing Honor and Respect' should not leave anyone in the dark as to the Christian position on the said subject.)

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Address Correction Requested

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