

The Sword AND Staff

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

•

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

That Which Is Beyond Us

By JAMES E. GIBBONS
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AS SPECIAL and favored creatures made after God's own image, there are many things about God and divine things we can know.

- We can know God, that He is, and many things about Him through faith, the Scriptures, and His creation (Ps. 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-22; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6; John 17:3; II Thessalonians 1:8).

- We can know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, manifested in the form of man to take away mankind's sins (John 1:1-18, 29; John 7:17; John 20:30, 31; I John 3:5; I John 5:20).

- We can know the will of God for man, what is expected of man (John 8:31, 32; I Timothy 2:4; II Timothy 3:15-17; Ephesians 5:17; II Peter 1:2-10).

- We can know about man's relationship with God, just where man stands before God (I John 2:3-6; 3:14; 5:18-20).

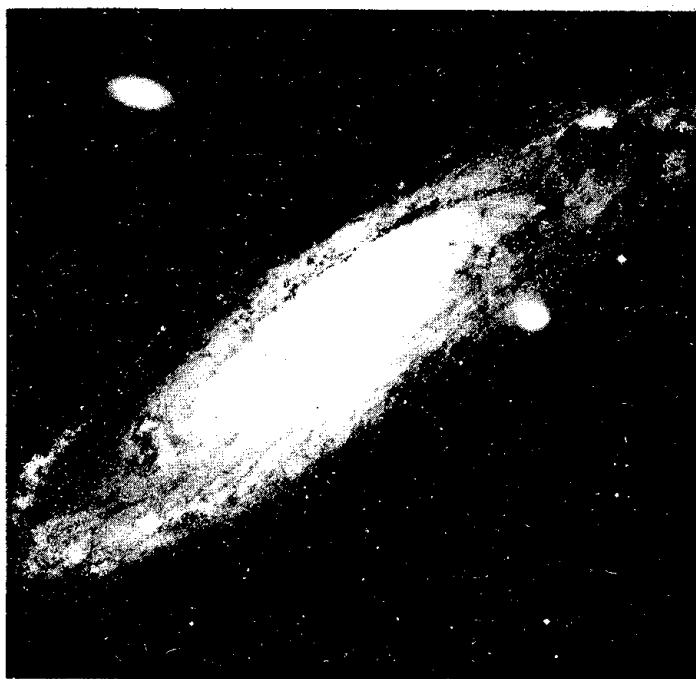
Yes, we can know many things about God and His plan for us, and, furthermore, as Christians, we are admonished to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18)—to keep right on learning and knowing more.

Although there are many things we can know (that which is essential), what we know is like looking into space, like looking at the ocean. The familiar is all around us, but it soon blends into the unknown. Too many times, instead of standing in awe before God, we have made Him over in our own image. His divine plan has become the work of man, as we try to reduce and confine the Divine to a human level.

We wish to point out some Scriptures which point out there is much beyond us as human beings.

I. "THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST" (Eph. 3:8).

Paul was overwhelmed, as he felt himself so unworthy, that to him was given the blessed privilege of preaching the "unsearchable riches of Christ." This same word "unsearchable" in Romans 11:33 is translated (KJV) "past finding out." It means that which can not be traced



out; that which can not be comprehended.

That which is "unsearchable" is the "riches in Christ." Riches signify wealth, fullness in abundance, plentitude. Paul had been talking about Gentiles becoming "fellowheirs" of the things of God through Christ.

The Amplified New Testament words it in this manner. Paul was given the privilege "to proclaim to the Gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable and exhaustless) riches of Christ—wealth which no human being could have searched out."

Oh, my beloved, God's storehouse of all the riches pertaining to salvation has never been, nor can it be, inventoried by man. What is in store for us as fellowheirs of the riches of Christ is so great it is incomprehensible. It is wonderful beyond imagination.

II. "THANKS BE UNTO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT" (II Corinthians 9:15).

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THE SWORD AND STAFF
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Proverbs of Today

Life is worth living only if you have something that is worth dying for.

"All work is honorable if it honors God and helps humanity."

It is wrong not to do right.

"Experience should not form doctrine, but doctrine should shape experience."

To be happy make others happy.

"A wise man learns from his experience; a wiser man learns from the experience of others."

What the church offers should be that which can not be found nor duplicated in any other organization.

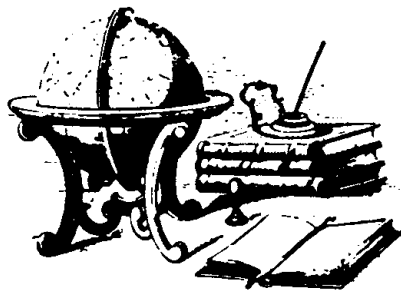
"When a force meant for a large expansion is denied the large expansion which its nature craves, it does not merely fail of the larger work which it is not allowed to do, but it loses its best capacity and power in the narrow field to which it is confined."

It takes definite preaching to bring about a definite commitment in those who respond to the gospel.

"God will forgive those who start late in life to serve Him, but He will not forgive those who quit early."

Where there is life there is hope, but perhaps, and even more so, where there is hope there is life—vital exuberant life!

"Scrapping will reduce any church or home to scraps."



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY—FOR ALL

• *"And these were his gifts: some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip God's people for work in his service (for the work of the ministry, K.J.V.), to the building up of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11, 12, N.E.B.).*

THE MODERN-DAY clergy and laity concept, the one-man pastor system, and the idea of having a man as "THE MINISTER" are all contrary to the Word of God (and carry-overs from a less enlightened age). God's plan calls for the elders (called "pastors" in the New Testament, and not referring to the preachers) to marshal the army of the Lord for activity (as overseers, bishops), not to be the only ones involved in the conflict. Instead of the church being full of members who must continually be "babyed" by a babysitter in the form of "THE MINISTER" (a Scriptural, but non-technical term used in an unscriptural way), Christians should be able to exhort one another and press onward with the cause of Christ. Christ came into the world to minister, not to be ministered unto—and the same should be true of his church, which is his body in the world today. But, alas, that is usually not the case.

Notice these Scriptures (have we neglected them?). Ephesians 4:11 and 12 tell us that the leaders of the church are to train the members for the work of the ministry (yes, that is what it says). Ephesians 4:15 and 16 say that every Christian, "speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Of the Roman Christians, Paul wrote, "I... am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another" (Romans 15:14). The members of the church at Corinth engaged in a mutual ministry, as they exercised their various gifts of the Spirit and abilities (I Corinthians 14:26). We are told to teach and admonish "one another in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs" (Colossians 3:16). Christians are to exhort one another, even daily (Hebrews 3:13; 10:25). We are to confess our faults to one another and pray for one another (James 5:16). And, didn't the apostle Peter say we were a "royal priesthood" (I Peter 2:9)? Don't we profess to believe in the "priesthood of believers"? (Perhaps there is more involved than we imagined; too often we flippantly toss around terms in our talk that we are not half-way ready to follow through with).

Yes, God has placed definite offices of leadership in His church, but that does not discount the truth of the Scriptures we have just pointed out. The evangelist is God's man to spearhead new work in

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THAT WHICH IS BEYOND US...

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Paul had been giving instructions concerning the gifts and offerings to be taken up for the impoverished Christians back in Palestine. He couldn't finish his words on this subject of gifts without exclaiming, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!"

This word "unspeakable" means that words fail when they are used in effort to describe or commemorate. They are inadequate to get the point across. And, of course, "gift" signifies that which is free, for naught, gratis.

God's unspeakable gift to man is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Human language can not begin to convey the fullness of this gift and the resultant blessings and glory for man. Oh, what Jesus went through to purchase our salvation, and what this means to us! Praise be to God!

III. "AND TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST, WHICH PASSETH KNOWLEDGE, THAT YE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD" (Ephesians 3:19).

What a command! This command is open-ended; it seems like a paradox. We are commanded to know something that passes knowing—"know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge." It is like the blue sky. We see it, know it's there, and enjoy it; yet it blends into space and into eternity, which is beyond our knowledge. The more we know the love of Christ, the more we find we don't know about it. How amazing! "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!"

Perhaps the best way to know the love of Christ is through experience. First, what the Lord Jesus Christ has done "hits" us intellectually. We think about it in our mortal minds. Then, as we surrender our rebellious natures to his love, to know cleansing and true forgiveness, it pervades our very souls and personalities. Love is the transformation and the fruit of the Holy Spirit, "because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost (Spirit) which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5; I Peter 1:22, 23; I John 3:14).

Love can not be confined to a human mold, and it be said: this is all of it. As we begin to comprehend a little of it, we find there is so much more involved than we ever imagined. May we seek to know that which passes knowing, and be transformed in the process.

IV. "WHOM HAVING NOT SEEN, YE LOVE: IN WHOM, THOUGH NOW YE SEE HIM NOT, YET BELIEVING, YE REJOICE WITH JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY" (I Peter 1:8).

John said, "We love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:19). Our love is a responding love, brought about in response to divine love. Obedient faith and a response to this divine love has brought us into a most wonderful relationship. The thrill and joy of forgiveness is beyond words—again, "unspeakable." When the Ethiopian came up out of the waters of baptism, he "went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:35-39). And men are still experiencing the same joy when they come to the Lord.

The epistle of I Peter was written to Christians in the midst of suffering. He reminded them that they had "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:4). Even though they were going through the fiery trials, they could "greatly rejoice" (verse 6)—even

with "joy unspeakable." Some of the greatest times of rejoicing have come to Christians during suffering—real things have been made more real to them. They know whether they live or die, there is no way a Christian can lose.

And this is joy unspeakable and full of glory. The joy in believing is a joy that can be found no where else in this old world, for it is not of this world. The best is yet to come.

V. "AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING, SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS" (Philippians 4:7).

Again John tells us, "Perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18). Fear is a negative attitude; love is a positive one. There can be no contentment with this kind of fear, because contentment is positive.

Paul said, "Be careful (full of care, anxiety) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). It was following this that he said "the peace of God, which passeth understanding" would keep their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

It is only when we let the love of God fully come into our hearts, and when we learn to unreservedly cast all of our burdens upon Him (nothing is too small to make a matter of prayer); yes, it is only then, and then, that this peace of God which passes understanding will keep our hearts and minds. We can stand as a tower of tranquility while the storms of life sweep about us.

It is a peace that passeth understanding—it is beyond us. My this peace be ours. It should rule in our hearts (Colossians 3:15). "O how sweet to trust in Jesus!"

VI. "O THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES BOTH OF THE WISDOM AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS JUDGMENTS AND HIS WAYS PAST FINDING OUT!" (Romans 11:12).

Let us get the full quotation as Paul ponders (and breaks out into glorious expression) the providential ways of the Almighty God: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Romans 11:33-36).

Many centuries before, Isaiah wrote along the same line of thought: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

Just think who God is, and then who we are. It staggers the imagination. He is Supreme Intelligence; He is infinite in all things; He knows the end from the beginning. Time means nothing to Him. But we are frail, insignificant, fallen creatures who's thoughts are even marred by sin, living out our few days in the face of death.

YES, there are many things we can know about God and the Lord Jesus Christ (that which is needful and

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What's Wrong With Gambling?

GAMBLING IS a real part of American society. It runs the gamut from playing marbles for keeps to pitching pennies, to matching for cokes or coffee, to the afternoon bridge club or Friday night poker game, to bingo games, to horse and dog races, to the gambling casinos in Las Vegas. It has been estimated that the "take" from illegal gambling every year runs as high as \$50 billion. This does not include "legal" or "innocent" gambling. *It is big business.* It's engaged in by children, sportsmen, housewives, business men and compulsive gamblers. It is found on the school yard, in the living room, church buildings, fairs, corner bookies and casinos, in stadiums and on the golf course, and now in state lotteries.

The question is: IS IT WRONG? This has been debated time immemorial. The honest soul, who is interested in pleasing God, must examine the testimony, and weigh it carefully to come to a righteous judgment. We often hear: "Where does the Bible condemn it?" But we must remember that we not try to justify what we do but rather do what is justified.

Gambling is defined by Webster as: "1. to play or game for money or other stake; 2. to hazard or wager; 3. to stake or wager in gaming." It is the wagering of material goods for the purpose of multiplying them. It is taking a chance at the expense of others.

But someone says, "Life is a gamble. A person gambles when he walks across the street. A farmer gambles when he plants crops." These are arguments used only to justify, and the person making them knows the difference. They do not fit the definition of gambling. In these elements we are largely in control and are not wagering at the expense of others. The farmer plants, based on the law of sowing and reaping. Gambling is wrong because it is against the righteous principles of the law of God.

II. GAMBLING IS A WORK OF THE FLESH (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21).

1. *It is idolatry*, an inordinate regard for money and material goods. Those who gamble are interested in gain for themselves without regard for the cost of others. This desire to obtain often becomes addictive. There has been estimated that there are six million compulsive gamblers who "can't quit," much like the alcoholic or dope addict. Gambling becomes his "god" so that all that is worth-while and meaningful is neglected to pursue the games of chance. He borrows, or steals, and even deprives his family to "feed" his god. No lover of God can engage in it.

2. *It is covetousness*, akin to idolatry (Col. 3:5). Covetousness is defined as "fixing the desire on, to lust after," hence, inordinate desire. Another has what the gambler wants and he wagers a small portion of its worth in order to have it. He has no intention of giving value in return. This is the reason why many buy chances on raffled items. Some justify it by saying it's for a good cause but they would not otherwise give to that same cause; they are prompted by covetousness.

3. *It is thievery*—by consent, just as dueling is murder—by consent. As a thief gambles his freedom to

steal the possessions of another, just so the gambler wagers in order to obtain the possessions of another without regard to his rights or welfare.

4. *It is extortion*, which is defined as wresting from a person by force or any other undue or illegal power of ingenuity. It denotes pillage, plundering, robbery; to seize or carry off by force. Gambling is just that. It is pillaging the possessions of others by ingenuity, hoping he is sharper than his opponent.

The works of the flesh are condemned and those who engage in them can't enter the kingdom of heaven because they are not led by the Spirit of God. We are told to "abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9); "Evil companions corrupt good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33); and, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).

II. GAMBLING IS AGAINST THE LAW OF LABOR AND EXCHANGE.

This is where a person actually earns what he gets by actual time and energy expended, whether mental or physical. It is trade for value received. But gambling

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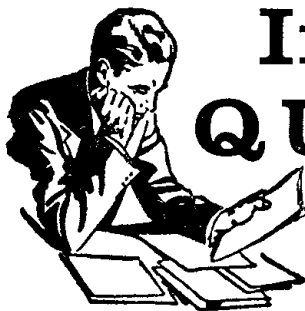
A HAT FULL OF ASHES? (1 Cor. 3:10-15)

*We are building for a future
As we live our lives on earth,
And only time will tell us
What our building will be worth.
God doesn't leave us here to wonder
What materials we should use;
He has told us in His Bible—
Let's be careful how we choose!*

*He has given us some choices—
Gold and silver—costly stones;
These are ready for our using,
And are gifts the Master loans.
We can build with deeds of kindness
Which will make our building strong;
When we use God's Word to guide us
Then we know we can't go wrong.*

*Let's not try to make a building
Where we strive to cut the cost—
Hay and stubble are not lasting
And in judgment will be lost.
When our works are tried by fire
Will we see our building stand?
Or will we stand there speechless,
A hat full of ashes in our hand?*

By AGNES WELLS
Myrtle Creek, Oregon



Inquirer's QUESTIONS Answered

• By James E. Gibbons

LOUISIANA: "What is the proper way of baptism; that is, whether to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38) only, or as Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:19?"

WE GAVE some information in an issue a few months back which has a bearing on this. As we pointed out then, the preposition in Acts 2:38 ("IN the name of Jesus Christ") and the one in Matthew 28:19 ("IN the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost") are two different words in the Greek language. "IN" of Acts 2:38 signifies by the authority of, it seems, and the "IN" of Matthew 28:19 means "into" and is so translated in many versions, as the American Standard Version (in other words, it shows what takes place in baptism—we are baptized INTO a relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: the three personalities through which the one true God works). These two verses are not saying two different things, but different aspects of the same thing. When we are baptized into the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, it is by the authority of Jesus Christ—not by the authority of John the Baptist, the Jewish leaders, or some denomination.

NORTH CAROLINA: "Please explain what Peter meant when he said 'while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doeth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 3: 20 and 21)."

A DESIRE for a deeper insight into the matter you asked is good. We do not judge God's standards by our way of thinking as human for "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise" (1 Cor. 1:27)

that we might learn to be humble in His presence.

A deeper insight into any verse of Scripture can be obtained by noticing the wording of various translations; also, by examining that verse in the light of the rest of the New Testament.

First, let us notice how various translations of the Bible have worded 1 Peter 20b and 21 (besides the King James).

AMERICAN STANDARD: "...while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water: which also after a truelikeness doth now save you, even baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

REVISED STANDARD: "...of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN: "...The few people in the ark—eight in all—were saved by the water. This water was a figure pointing to baptism, which now saves you, not by washing off bodily dirt, but by the promise made to God from a good conscience. Baptism saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

PHILLIPS TRANSLATION: "...the ark, in which eventually only eight souls were saved in the flood. And I cannot help pointing out what a perfect illustration this is of the way you have been admitted to safety of the Christian 'ark' by baptism, which means, of course, far more than the mere washing of a dirty body: it means the ability to face God with a clear conscience. For there is in every true baptism the virtue of Christ rising from the dead."

I think you can see what the figure

is here, but why is baptism important? Such Scriptures as Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:1-6; Galatians 3:27 will tell you (Read all of these references). Baptism is important because the blood of Christ is important. The blood of Christ washes away our sins (Revelation 1:5b), and we are justified by the blood (Romans 5:9). We cannot take away our own sins, but when we truly believe, repent of all our sins, and are baptized for the remission of sins, the blood of Christ washes away our sins. Only the blood of Christ takes away sins!

These thoughts may be new to you, for most denominations do not preach these things, but it is the Word of God. We are committed to teaching the Bible unencumbered by the traditions of men; committed to teaching all of the Bible.

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How To Boil A Frog

A FROG IS a cold-blooded creature, and can therefore adapt to extreme temperature changes if those changes occur gradually. If you drop a frog into boiling water, he will react immediately by jumping out. But if you set him in cold water and then warm it up very slowly, he won't because of water temperature try to jump. He just sits there 'til he's cooked.

But we are just as vulnerable. Right now, by degrees, we are becoming tolerant of situations against which we would have rebelled violently a few years ago. But the changes happen so gradually we hardly notice them.

The frog can't help himself, but we can!

For a junior or senior high school teacher to use profanity in a classroom 30 years ago was almost unheard of, and such would have met a storm of protest. But from occasional slang to "nice" cuss words to not infrequent coarse swearing has the situation gone, and we have grown tolerant. For school plays to allow profanity on the stage—it 'twarn't done, that's all, back when a dollar was still worth 75¢. But now, it's sophisticated, acceptable, humorous.

Naughty movies were scandalous and rare, by the world's standards in the 50s. How far away has virtue flown! Now, last year's "X" rated movies are being reclassified "R" for the drive-ins, and the indescrib-

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH GAMBLING?

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makes parasites. They live off the labor of others. The gambler produces nothing and adds nothing of value in return for his winnings. God decreed: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread" (Gen. 3:19; and, "If any will not work, neither shall he eat" (II Thess. 3:10). We are to "bear...one another's burdens," not add to them (Galatians 6:2). Gambling is based on the idea of getting something for nothing, but everything costs someone something, and if I get it for nothing, I have no right to it, except I get it by the grace of another.

III. GAMBLING IS AGAINST THE LAW OF LOVE.

Love looks to the welfare of others; gambling looks to the welfare of the gambler without regard for others. "Let him that stole, steal no more; but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need" (Ephesians 4:28). "Walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us" (Ephesians 5:2). "Owe no man anything but to love one another...love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill of his neighbor; love therefore is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8-10). Some buy into charitable lotteries claiming it is for the good being done, but I deny it. Such lotteries do not appeal to love, but rather to covetousness.

IV. GAMBLING IS WRONG BECAUSE OF ITS FRUITS.

Christ said we can judge a tree by its fruits (Matthew 7:15-20).

1. *It produces a loss of friends.* The person who loses at gambling resents the winner; he can't help it. Gambling being without regard for others, can't produce true friendship, which is based on love.

2. *It develops doubt and distrust.* Gamblers are ever under the fear of being cheated by crooked gamblers, loaded dice, marked cards, two-headed coins, fixed raffles and gambling devices.

3. *It makes fools of those who engage in it.* No one ever really wins but those who are in control of the gambling devices. There is a 70 to 1 chance of winning a horse race; a 200 to 1 chance of winning at bingo; and a 200,000 to 1 chance to win a lottery. Those who engage in it are foolish to work under such odds.

4. *It is a sin against society.* It destroys homes, being the cause of many divorces. Love can't thrive where the fruits of gambling are found. Where gambling exists it destroys self-respect, promotes financial problems and generally affects what makes a sound society.

5. *It undermines respect for law.* Organized crime controls most of the gambling and citizens engage in its illegal practices to the destruction of law and order. "Respected" citizens support neighborhood bookies and frequent the floating poker games. It destroys the respectability of sports from the High Schools on up. Next to poverty, it is the principle crime cause and produces grafters, embezzlers, forgers, confidence men, pick-pockets, burglars and bandits. It has caused children to steal from their parents, office boys to embezzle stamps and housewives to rob the grocery money, to say nothing of the accountant who embezzles company funds.

There is nothing good about it; it has contributed nothing to society and where it goes, other crimes follow. It is a sin against God and man.

Gambling is played for stakes where wagering has been done: from the top, it starts with organized gambling, including book making, slot machines, racing, gambling tables and the like. Its smaller brothers are raffles and games in the name of charity and religion, the office pool, bridge, pitching for pennies, and also matching for pennies, matching for a drink (or whatsoever), school carnivals, fairs, or whatever. But whether it is done in Las Vegas, the living room, the church building, the school house or by the state government, IT IS SIN, and the Christian can have no fellowship with it. We oppose it on a big scale as controlled by organized crime, but plant and water it in our own back yards. God forbid that the sanctified could do anything less than condemn this widespread iniquity.

—Morris D. Norman □

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READERS'

... Response

MISSOURI:

■ "Do not send *The Sword and Staff* paper to my address anymore. Period. I do not want it."

■ "My class and I are really enjoying the good reading in *The Sword and Staff*. Praise the Lord...Americans surely need to read this kind of educational material in our time of trouble in our nation. Thank God for publishers like you."

OHIO:

■ "I have just finished reading *The Sword and Staff*...I count your article on, 'The Awfulness of Sin,' one of the best I ever read. I think it should be put in cheap tract form for general distribution."

KENTUCKY:

■ "My subscription is past due by two years—Shame on me! This check should clear me for a while. Thank you for a very good and 'warm' magazine."

VIRGINIA:

■ "I am a member of the Lord's church and am so very thankful you started sending me *The Sword and Staff*. Enclosed find my check for a year's subscription to this wonderful magazine. I don't know when I have read anything as uplifting and truthful concerning the Bible as your magazine. I do pray that you will be able to continue and keep up the Lord's work."

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THAT WHICH IS BEYOND US...

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that which He wants us to know). We can know what he expects of us as His creatures, and we can know if we are right with him or not (know all essential to salvation). But in the midst of all that we can know, and do know, there is so much that we don't know—it is beyond us. There is that which is "unsearchable," "unspeakable," that which passes "knowledge," and "understanding."

It seems to this unworthy writer that much humility on our part is in order. There is no room for boasting. There is no occasion for vaunting ourselves. Let us bow the knees before God. Let us beware lest we become as the scribes and Pharisees. □

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

evangelism, not the man to find a church and settle down as “the pastor” or “the minister.” If a preacher (evangelist) cannot find him a church today, he feels like he is out of business. In the New Testament that is not how they operated. Churches did not “call” preachers, they sent them out. Then, new churches are to be trained and a qualified and functioning eldership is to be raised up. Yes, there is a place for evangelists preaching, even in association with local churches, but not as “THE MINISTER” who monopolizes the local scene all of the time. Elders must exercise their teaching prerogative, which overlaps with the preaching. Every member is to be trained to use his legitimate ability for God, which will involve the rank and file membership in preaching and teaching (public and private). The Hebrew writer rebuked his readers by saying they had been Christians long enough that all of them should be teachers (Hebrews 5:11-14), but they weren’t. That is our situation many times today, and most preachers are not training the churches for the “work of the ministry.” (We commend those churches who have a so-called “college level” training program for the whole church. That is more like the Bible way. The training of the whole church should be such a pre-concluded matter and common thing, that we would not even have to call our program a training program, and advertize it, because that is what the Great Commission, the church, is all about).

Beloved, all of this may sound radical to some of our readers. And it is... in the basic meaning of radical. Radical means thoroughgoing, getting back to the original, and “reaching to the center or ultimate source”—and, consequently, “extreme.” If we preach the gospel, let us also live the gospel. If we preach the New Testament church, let us also function as the New Testament church, getting back to the original pattern of things in everything.

Christianity is largely a “do-it-yourself” kind of religion—not that we can work out our own salvation in the ultimate sense, but in the sense that every member is responsible and is to get to work for Christ. You can’t hire someone else to do your religion for you. The work of the ministry is for all. Let’s get our thinking straight, our lives straight, and get straight to work. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

~~~~~  
**Have you noticed that the man  
who says that he is kept away  
from Church Services because of  
hypocrites seemingly is not influ-  
enced by them anywhere else?**  
~~~~~

HOW TO BOIL A FROG. . .

(Continued from Page 5)

able filth seen on the screen emits a moral stench that would have made Sodom smell like a rose garden. And the magazines to be seen on today’s newsstands! Stuff like this couldn’t be purchased by a pervert from under the counter.

And so we are being conditioned to change for the worse in all areas: television, clothing, political ideologies, religious theology, social trends, school discipline and curriculum—these and countless other areas are evolving into that which is dangerous, evil, unmanly and so very unwise.

Children of the light (true Christians) must pray for wisdom not to be caught up in this devilish trend, wisdom to oppose it. It may be all right to fight pollution of the physical environment, but let’s not get our priorities mixed up. Christ would have us wage all-out war against the REAL impurities!

—THE LAMPLIGHTER

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FACE IT!

Call out your fears and defeats,
And look them straight in the eye.
Some will make swift retreat
And some will shrivel and die.

Others you’ll have to fight,
But go to battle today
Conquer each fear with right
Triumphantly walk away!

—SELECTED

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STRANGE PEOPLE

PEOPLE who talk about prayer, but never pray.

People who wish to belong to the church, but never attend or support the church’s program.

People who say the Bible is God’s Word to man, yet never read it.

People who say that eternity is more important than time, but live for the present.

People who criticize others for things they do themselves.

People who stay away from church for trivial reasons, and then sing, “Oh, how I love Jesus.”

People who follow the devil throughout their lives, but expect to be saved.

HOW MANY OF US ARE
STRANGE?
—Selected—

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

GOSPEL *Ammunition*

FOLLOWING is a listing of booklets, tracts, and materials currently available from us. Also, back volumes of *The Sword and Staff* bound into books are available (timeless in value). Some materials are free. We believe you will find all of this very valuable to you in the cause of the kingdom, in the cause of truth, in the cause of righteousness. We invite you to submit your order today.

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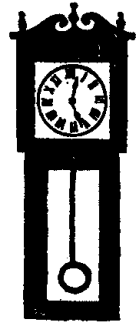
Thank You!

AS THE YEAR comes to an end, we wish to express our cordial feelings and sincere thanks to all who have participated in "Each 1 Send 3 in '73." Although this has been only partially successful, we have nonetheless added many new people to our reading audience and outreach. (We had hoped to become "self-supporting" in this project, and still press toward that goal). We are UNRESERVEDLY devoted to the restoration of simple, undenominational (NOT interdenominational), New Testament Christianity in our day. Many human traditions must be laid aside, and a greater level of spirituality reached, if we are going to be the Lord's church in truth. We press on toward that end. Thanks so much for your prayers and help.

James Gibbons

THE CLOCK

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop:
At late or early hour.



Each 1 send 3 in '73.

-Will You?

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