

The Sword AND Staff

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

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

THE GOOD SOLDIER *of Jesus Christ*

(II Timothy 2:3, 4; Ephesians 6:10-13)

By H. N. SOLLIDAY
Hamburg, Iowa 51640

THE APOSTLE PAUL knew soldier life. No doubt in Tarsus, where he was born and raised, a Roman garrison was located, giving him a first-hand opportunity to see much of the activities of Roman soldiers as they maintained their army maneuvers from day to day. Certainly Paul was able to draw on such knowledge for his references in II Timothy and Ephesians. It is in similar fashion that I draw on my experiences as an over-sea's soldier during World War I (1917-1919). I served under the "Old Regular Army" regulations, or "Articles of War." So, keep that in mind as we make this parallel between a good soldier of "Uncle Sam" and a "good soldier of Jesus Christ," from the time of enlistment onward. Take note of the following:

I. TO BE A "GOOD SOLDIER" ONE MUST ENLIST AS A VOLUNTEER.

I enlisted about five months before a "conscript" law was passed by Congress and under the spell of a "wave of patriotism" sweeping America at the time. I presented myself to a recruiting officer. I was subjected to a rigid physical and mental examination before being accepted.

So it is that to be a soldier of Christ one must present himself to Jesus Christ on his own free-will. There are no "conscripts" or "draftees" in the Lord's army—only volunteers. As one goes through the experience of regeneration, the Holy Spirit knows what takes place in the heart and mind. If the candidate for salvation has met the Lord's requirements, then of course, he is accepted. The terms, of course, are those of the "King of kings"; not of any mortal or earthly organization of mortals.



II. TO BE A "GOOD SOLDIER" ONE MUST DON A UNIFORM.

As soon as a recruit is moved into camp, he is told to send his civilian "things" home; that he will be supplied with army clothes and all the other personal needs (even razors, etc.). Why? Because he is "no longer his own"; he has become "Uncle Sam's" man.

Likewise the good soldier of Christ must don the uniform of Christ. Paul, an authorized recruiter, says, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 13:14); "I bear in my body the marks (uniform) of the Lord Jesus" (Galatians 6:17).

Therefore, the soldier of Christ is supplied with something that "marks" him as God's man, not a material suit of clothes as such, but of an obvious and unmistakable distinguishing nature.

When the world sees a man in a uniform, they know to whom he belongs.

III. TO BE A "GOOD SOLDIER" ONE MUST SUBMIT TO TRAINING.

Life for a U. S. A. army man begins in a training camp where he is sent after his enlistment. There the schedule

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SWORD AND STAFF
Post Office Box 147
Mount Airy, N. C. 27030

Subscription Rates: \$1.00 introductory rate for the first year; \$1.50 per year, regular; 5 additional gift subscriptions, \$1.00 per subscription; any number above this, 50¢ per subscription; other arrangements: send a list of names and addresses, and they will be sent free samples.

The Sword and Staff is published monthly by the Locust Grove church on the old Fries Road in north Galax, Virginia. James E. Gibbons is the editor. Second class postage paid at Galax, Virginia.

Renew your subscription when it is due—no notice will be sent. Thank you for doing this.

Proverbs of Today

Religion and Salvation are not necessarily the same thing.

"A chip on the shoulder indicates there is wood, a little higher up."

If prayers really go up from Christian women and girls (they mean business for God), their dresses will come down (they will dress decently).

"The road to success is marked with many tempting parking places."

A man right with God is a man right with himself and his fellowman.

"Life lived just to satisfy yourself never satisfies anybody."

Jesus died on the cross of Calvary because of the difference between right and wrong.

"Charity is injurious unless it helps the recipient to become independent of it."

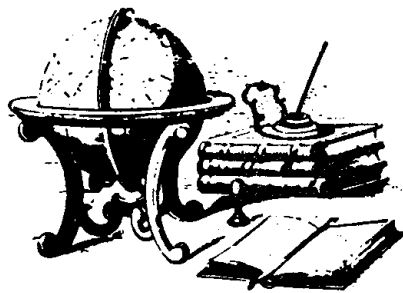
In soul winning first talk to God about lost sinners and then talk to lost sinners about God.

"A great many preachers seem to be much more interested in SALARY than they are in SALVATION."

Denominationalism is a sin that must be repented of like stealing or any other sin.

"Some people use religion like a bus: they ride it only while it is going their way."

Christ said that his house would be called a house of prayer of all nations, not a playhouse.



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

UPHILL ALL THE WAY

THE FOLLOWING WORDS were part of a letter we sent out with the April issue of this paper this year.

"We have never really 'pushed' subscriptions to this paper, but we now wish to enlist your concern and help. You have been blessed by our efforts, but have you renewed your subscription (we don't send a notice)? It would help if you did this, but we want more than that. We are urging that EACH 1 SEND 3 in '73—each one, when renewing his subscription, send in three new ones. An introductory subscription is just A DOLLAR (renewal, \$1.50). Considering that a dollar isn't worth much today, we are not asking much.

"If you appreciate this paper, and will co-operate with us in this matter, two things will happen. (1) We will be able to expand our outreach many, many times with the message the world needs to hear. Agreed? Amen? (2) You will make us COMPLETELY SELF-SUPPORTING in this vital work that greatly needs to be done, and that God has placed upon our hearts to do. Thereby we can give all our time and energies to that which needs to be done—thus, being more consistent and effective. God's cause is worthy of more than the feeble efforts we are putting forth."

We wish to say that a few have responded and are responding in a good way to this appeal, for which we are very thankful—and if we don't let you know right away personally, please be aware of the fact that we sincerely appreciate it. But the response is going to have to be much, much greater if we are even to start to accomplish our goals. Yes, it is uphill all the way.

Are we expecting too much and asking too much? Definitely not! We believe that God has reserved His thousands who have not bowed their knees to "Baal" (Romans 11:4,5)—the "Baal" of traditionalism and worldliness! We are praying that we will become financially sustained in this work. We are praying for help otherwise. The crying need and uncertain times demand it. The coming of the Lord is drawing near. □

A WAR IS GOING ON—GET INVOLVED!

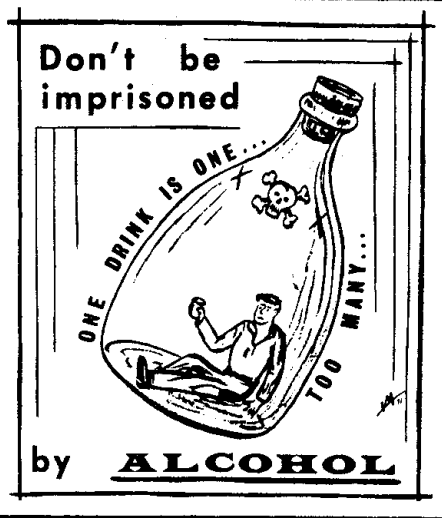
WE ARE in a life and death struggle with the forces of darkness. There is a war going on. Satan would have you believe that such a struggle is not taking place (he is the great deceiver). But Satan is manifesting himself in such a manner unparalleled in modern times. He is having his day under the sun. Whether it is in the homes of our nation, the schools and the school systems, the colleges and universities, the high and low places of government, the international scene, the entertainment world, and, yes, the apostate churches—HE IS THERE. His influence is being felt, and many are under his control. Where there is a spiritual vacuum, as there is today, the

(Continued on Page 7)

DRINKING

• "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (PROVERBS 20:1).

• "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (GALATIANS 5:19-21)



Signs of Alcoholism

By Dr. ROBERT V. SELIGER, M. D.

The Neuropsychiatric Institute of Baltimore, Maryland

DR. ROBERT SELIGER was one of the leading authorities on alcoholism. Before his death, he prepared this group of questions to help individuals to know whether they are alcoholics.

A person for his own sake should *honestly* answer these questions.

1. Do you need a drink at a definite time every day?
2. Do you prefer drinking alone?
3. Do you find yourself getting drunk every time you drink?
4. When you drink do you have loss of memory or black-outs?
5. Do you have the shakes after drinking?
6. Do you get the inner shakes unless you continue drinking?
7. Do you sneak your drinks?
8. Do you have week-end drunks?
9. Do you have mid-week drunks?
10. Do you crave a drink in the morning?
11. Do you hide your drink or protect the supply?
12. Do you desire food while drinking?
13. Do you lose time from work while drinking?
14. Has your initiative, ambition, or perseverance decreased?
15. Has drinking made you careless of your family's welfare?
16. Do you turn to an inferior environment while drinking?
17. Do you show marked moodiness as a result of drinking?
18. Is it jeopardizing your job, business, or career?
19. Has it made you irritable or belligerent?
20. Have you ever admitted to yourself or another that you were unable to control your drinking?
21. Has your drinking made you sensitive?
22. Do you become argumentative when drinking?
23. Is it endangering your health?
24. Is it making your home life unhappy?
25. When drinking do you wake up early in the morning?
26. While drinking are you restless in your sleep?
27. Do you drink to relieve feelings of inadequacy?

28. Has drinking made you harder to get along with?
29. Have you ever felt a religious need?
30. While drinking have you become extravagant in behavior?
31. Has your drinking pattern changed?
32. Do you ever have a remorse feeling while drinking?
33. Do you have any antisocial behavior?
34. Do you become jealous of your husband or wife?
35. Is it affecting your peace of mind?
36. Have you lost any friends as a result of drinking?
37. Have you lost any job as a result of drinking?
38. Do you continually seek occasions for drinking?
39. Has your life become alcohol centered?

NOTE: Any six "yes" answers DEFINITELY INDICATE ALCOHOLISM!

Face the facts squarely.

Admit what the facts tell you.

Seek help.

Beware of excuses for drinking.

Do not rationalize your drinking behavior.

It is not the amount one drinks when he drinks, or how frequently he drinks, which determines whether one is an alcoholic or not, but what happens when he drinks.

Dr. E. M. Jellinek, the No. 1 authority on alcoholism gives the general *pattern of alcoholism*:

Early Symptoms (Incipient alcoholism averages 10 years in duration):

- Breaking promises
- Lying about drinking
- Gulping drinks
- Drinking before a party
- Drinking at regular times
- Rationalization
- Irregular eating
- Blackouts

Middle Symptoms (Mostly a continuation of early symptoms, lasting 2 to 5 years):

(Continued on Page 6)

THE GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST...

(Continued from Page 1)

is fixed. Up at 5:30 a.m. at the sound of "first-call," he routinely dresses and by the time he hears "second-call" he hastens to line up in "company-front" formation along the company-street where, facing an officer, he is "called to attention" and answers to a roll-call, which is followed by "setting-up exercise" (to you, calisthenics), in turn, followed by breakfast. After "policing" the grounds (picking up all bits of paper and other trash), the company is marched to the drill grounds where the rest of the day is spent in drill, drill, drill, and more drill. In other words a recruit learns to do many things thought to be impossible before becoming a soldier. He learns to wash his mess-kit; work in the kitchen; do his own washing and sewing; shine his shoes onto a mirror surface; and many other "detail" jobs, to use the military term.

The schedule of the Christian soldier is also fixed. In I Corinthians 6:20 Paul says, "Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price." That price is the blood of Christ. Ephesians 5:15 reads, "See that ye walk circumspectively (routinely)...redeeming the times..." In his loyalty to Christ the life of a Christian is routine. After joining Christ, he learns to do many things he never thought he could do before becoming a Christian, such as praying, studying the Bible, regularly attending public worship; giving his tithe; testifying; giving up questionable worldly pleasures; overcoming bad habits; letting his speech be with grace (Colossians 4:6); etc., etc.

IV. THE ULTIMATE OF BEING A "GOOD SOLDIER" IS TO SEE ACTION.

In World War I this meant being in the "front-line trenches" in France. At some points of that line the American and German trenches were very close to each other, exposing the trenches to the use of trench-mortars; even hand-grenades in some cases. In rainy weather, or snow, you can imagine the extent of the hardships and suffering soldiers endured, to say nothing of what enemy shells could do to trenches when a "hit" was made. II Timothy 2:3 says to "endure hardness as a soldier of Christ." A strange psychology is experienced when a soldier faces enemy fire. A single soldier on his way to "the front" wonders if he will be able to engage heroically in death combat, or suddenly become a coward, seeking safety to the rear as quickly as he can get there. In the case of the vast majority, however, in the midst of the din, the roar, the pandemonium of explosions of many kind, the intense excitement, seemingly, all fear vanishes; they do the very thing they have been trained to do: Fight.

So it is with the "good soldier of Jesus Christ." After becoming a Christian, and after having become versed in the Scriptures, supplied with the gospel armor (Ephesians 6:10-13), he wonders whether he will be able to put it on, and engage in actual confrontation with Satan's host of unbelievers and do what Paul said, "fight the good fight of faith" (I Timothy 6:12), or whether he will become fearful and fail to give his testimony by maintaining his silence. However, it is the Holy Spirit who can make the difference in the soldier of the Cross, once he lets himself become "involved." To meet the challenge he (or she) becomes stout-hearted and some attempt is made to teach and warn the unbelieving souls around him of their true condition. To do that is not simple. Don't

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

(1 Corinthians 3)

By JAMES E. GIBBONS

Introduction:

1. Christ is the foundation. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:36; I Cor. 3:11)
2. Christ is the motive for building on the foundation. (John 12:32; I Cor. 2:2; Acts 20:7)
3. False motives in building: Preacher's personality; entertainment; contests; sports; sensationalism; bag-of-tricks; etc.
4. These do not really build—just wood, hay and stubble. (I Cor. 3:4, 12-15)
5. What does it take to build an enduring work on the solid foundation?

I. IT TAKES THE WORD!

- A. What This Word Is. (John 1:1-2; II Tim. 3:16, 17)
- B. What This Word Can Do. (John 12:32; Heb. 4:12; James 1:21; John 17:17; Romans 12:1, 2)
- C. How This Word Must Be Used. (Rom. 10:17; II Tim. 2:15; Eph. 6:17; II Tim. 4:1-5)

II. IT TAKES WORK!

- A. There is No Substitute for Work (James 2:26)
- B. Those Who Are to Work. (Eph. 4:11, 16; Phil. 1:1)
- C. How We Are to Work. (Eph. 6:15; Acts 8:4; Heb. 10:25; Matt. 5:16)

III. IT TAKES PRAYER!

- A. Church Born in Prayer Meeting. (Acts 1:13, 14; 2:41, 42; 4:31)
- B. Preaching and Prayer Cannot be Parted. (Acts 6:3, 4; Rom. 10:1)
- C. All Are to Pray for the Work. (Matt. 9:37, 38; etc.)

Conclusion:

1. It took centuries for God to complete His revelation to men—Are we willing to take the time to study His Word and use it?
2. It wasn't easy for God's only begotten Son to go to the old rugged cross—Are we willing to pay the price of self-crucifixion and get to work?
3. It takes determination and effort to humble ourselves and spend much time on our knees in prayer—Are we willing to at least do this?
4. Paul said: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." (I Cor. 3:6)
5. Let us build "gold, silver, and precious stones" (true converts) on the foundation of Christ and not "wood, hay and stubble" which will be burned by fire! □

let anybody tell you it is. The brethren of the first couple of centuries of Christianity had the kind of experience American soldiers did on the "front line in France" in 1918. They demonstrated courage they previously didn't know they possessed.

IN CONCLUSION to these provocations, no better summary could be furnished than II Timothy 1:8b and 9: "Be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." □

The Second Coming of Christ



By VICTOR KNOWLES, 390 Vernal Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401

THE YEAR was 1843. Expectant faces eagerly scanned the eastern sky. Waiting. Watching. For the Lord's return. Hours passed. Anticipation turned to anxiety. "Where IS He?" Shadows deepened. And as night fell, so did their hopes. For Christ had not returned to earth as William Miller, leader of Seventh-Day Adventism had predicted. Puzzled, Miller refigured his data, based on the prophecies of Daniel, and discovered his chronology somewhat off. A follower, Samuel Snow, then changed the date of the autumn of the next year. And when the Lord did not appear on October 22, 1844, yet another adherent of Miller, Hiram Edson of New York, claimed that in a vision it was revealed to him that the time had been right but the place was wrong! Rather than coming to earth, he explained, Christ actually entered a second compartment of Heaven and was there busily engaged in a cleansing process. A similar explanation would also be taken up by the Jehovah's Witnesses in 1914 when the Lord likewise "failed" to comply with their projections.

Jesus said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Despite this truthful revelation, men continue to claim to know what angels don't! Several years ago, a group of Americans went prepared with billowing ascension robes to the Mount of Olives, there to await the Lord's advent. Following their "disappointment," they turned their venture into a business enterprise and built the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem! And so, ever since Jesus' day, men have been foolishly setting dates for the Second Coming. It would seem that nineteen centuries of mistakes certainly constitute no argument for the truth of a theory, yet every now and then we read or hear of someone setting still another date.

Jesus IS coming again, make no mistake about it! Every writer in the New Testament heralds this: Matthew (25:31), Mark (8:38), Luke (21:27), John (14:3), Paul (I Thessalonians 4:16), James (5:8), Peter (I Peter 5:4), and Jude (14, 15). It is said that one verse in every twenty-five in the New Testament mentions or alludes to the coming of Christ. Over 300 times this fact is mentioned in the Bible. But as to the EXACT day and hour we know not. According to Mark 13:32, even Jesus didn't know. It is not for us to know the times and seasons which the Father has set within His own authority (Acts 1:7). One reason why the Second Coming is purposely

concealed may be to prevent ungodliness followed by last-minute "repentance." However, we CAN know that He is coming after several things are accomplished. The Bible states that before Christ comes:

1. False "Christs" and prophets would arise. Mark 13:21, 22.
2. A "falling away" would occur. II Thessalonians 2:1-3.
3. The "days of Noah" would be duplicated. Matthew 24:37-39.
4. Scoffers would come. II Peter 3:3-5.
5. The Gospel would be preached to all nations. Matthew 24:14; Colossians 1:23.

With the fulfillment of all of these it would seem that the only thing barring the coming of Christ is the fact that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

We can understand also HOW He is coming. Christ likened His coming to "lightning" (Luke 17:24). He will come quickly (Revelation 22:20); visibly (Revelation 1:5); in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11); with the angels (Matthew 25:31; II Thessalonians 1:7); and as a thief in the night (I Thessalonians 5:2). Some have said that He will come "spiritually" or "in the hearts of men"; in the same manner as he arose "spiritually" from the grave. Both of these ideas are foreign to the Scriptures. Every eye shall see Him!

Perhaps more important, WHY will Christ come? The Bible is clear as crystal here. The first time He came it was to save (John 3:17). The second time (Hebrews 9:28) it will be to judge the dead (John 5:28, 29; I Cor. 15:51, 52; I Thessalonians 4:16).

By the way, I have searched in vain for the so-called "RAPTURE." Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, listing every word in the Bible, does not contain it. In fact, the most prominent place I have seen it is on bumper stickers—"Warning! In case of RAPTURE this car will be unmanned." Amusing but unorthodox. Paul points out the danger of confusing divine truths with human terminology, "words which man's wisdom teaches" (I Cor. 2:13). The "rapture" ruptures under apostolic teaching! We could call Hell "the big burn" but we don't. Why call "meeting the Lord in the air" anything but that? Some fundamentalists are missing the fundamentals and stressing the incidentals. Perhaps they may be termed more correctly "Incidentalists." They would certainly be true to the Armstrongs' "wonderful world tomorrow" plan which explodes under apostolic teaching (II Peter 3:10) as will the world. The same could be said of those who try to change a Christ who deplored physical violence in any form into a cruel military leader storming the gates of Jerusalem, restoring the kingdom to Israel, and sitting on an earthly throne.

Additionally, the Lord is coming to separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46). He is coming to render vengeance on them that don't know God and haven't obeyed the Gospel (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). He is coming to reward the victors (Romans 8:18). He is coming to deliver up the kingdom to God (I Corinthians 15:23, 24) and present His church to Himself (Ephesians 5:25-27). If you are not a part of His church then read what you must do to be added to it in Acts 2:37-47.

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh!" □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SIGNS OF ALCOHOLISM...

(Continued from Page 3)

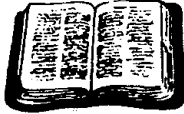
Minimizing drinking
Carrying a secret supply
Extravagant behavior
Irregular eating
Week-end bouts
Frequent intoxication
Nervousness
Missing Work

Late Symptoms (Advanced stages of alcoholism last until death, psychosis, or recovery):

Morning drinking
Solitary drinking
Benders
Irritability
Substitution of alcohol for food
Loss of jobs
Broken homes
Delirium tremens (D.T.'s)
Deficiency diseases

—SELECTED.

**The World's
Most Wonderful Book**



THE BIBLE is a unique book in that the more we read and study it, the more interesting it becomes.

George Muller said: "I have read the Bible through one hundred times and always with increasing delight. Each time it seems like a new book to me."

Some of the best educated and most intellectual people in history have accepted the Bible as the word of God; and in the following notable sayings the faith of a few persons of great eminence and distinction is unequivocally expressed:

W. E. Gladstone: "The Bible is stamped with a Specialty of Origin, and in immeasurable distance separates it from all competitors."

Queen Victoria: "That book accounts for the supremacy of England."

Sir Isaac Newton: "There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history."

Immanuel Kant: "The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity."

Robert E. Lee: "In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."

The Bible, the revelation of the will of God (II Timothy 3:16, 17), is truly "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalms 119:105).

Job, the great "man in the land of Uz" who "was perfect and upright" (Job 1:1), said concerning the laws of God: "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12).

The "judgments of the Lord" in the Holy Bible, being "true and righteous altogether," are "more to

be desired...than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psalms 19:7, 8, 10).

As Mr. Henry H. Halley says: "Every Christian should be a constant and devoted reader of the Bible; and...the primary business of the church and ministry is to lead, foster, and encourage their people in the habit...The Bible ought to have central place in the life and working of every church; and in every pulpit."

—Selected.

CHARLES SPURGEON ON "BAPTIST"

"I LOOK FORWARD, with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever."—*Charles Spurgeon, Spurgeon Mem. Lib., Vol. 1, Page 168 (And Spurgeon was outstanding Baptist of his day—denominationalism must be laid aside as we return to the church in purity).*

WORK UPON MEN'S IMMORTAL MINDS

"IF WE WORK upon marble, it will perish. If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble into dust. But if we work upon men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and love of their fellow man, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

—DANIEL WEBSTER

WHAT THEN?

When all the great plants of our cities
Have turned out their last finished work,
When merchants have sold their last silk,
And dismissed the last tired clerk;
When banks have raked in their last dollar,
And paid out the last dividend;
When the Judge of the earth says:
"Close for the night!"
And asks for a balance—What then?

When the choir has sung its last anthem,
And the preacher has made his last prayer;
When the people have heard their last sermon,
And the sound has died out on the air;
When the Bible lies closed on the altar
And the pews are all empty of men,
And each one stands facing his record,
And the Great Book is opened—What then?

When the actors have played their last drama,
And the mimic has made his last fun,
When the film has flashed its last picture,
And the billboard displayed its last run;
When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished,
And gone out in the darkness again,
When the trumpet of ages is sounded,
And we stand up before Him—What then?

When the bugle's call sinks into silence,
And the long marching columns stand still,
When the captain repeats his last orders,
And they've captured the last fort and last hill;
And the flag has been hauled from the masthead,
And the wounded afield are checked in,
And a world that rejected its Savior
Is asked for a reason—WHAT THEN?

—J. Whitfield Green

EDITORIAL COMMENTS . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

forces of darkness enter, and man truly becomes spiritually bankrupt. Churches, so-called, riddled by unbelief are powerless as a moral force to counteract it. It sounds like Paul could have been talking about "us" today (he is really talking about the ancient Gentiles), "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:22, 28). Thus, unbelief (all shades of it) today is followed by all kinds of corruption. Adultery, divorce, sexual perversion, vulgarity, obscenity, immodesty, revelling, drunkenness, drugs, witchcraft, satanism, dishonesty, communism—you name it! It's out there in the world every day. The tide does not seem to be going out. It's coming in!

Beloved, as a Christian (let me remind you) you are in the army of the Lord; you are a soldier of Jesus Christ. There is a war of eternal consequence going on. We are commanded to fight the good fight of faith. Paul told us, "For we wrestle (fight) not against flesh and blood, but against principalities (kingdoms), against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness (wicked spirits) in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). As a soldier of the cross, you are to engage in combat with the forces of darkness. Many so-called Christians don't seem to know there is a war going on. Many are casualties and don't know it! Others are traitors to the enemy.

We are at ease in Zion today. Although there is a war of eternal consequence raging, many, who are supposed to be soldiers, won't fight. They are too involved in self-indulgence and worldly pleasures. They don't act like a war is going on. We are against carnal warfare, but let us illustrate from it. During the II World War, to help the cause and hasten victory, this country put into operation an austerity program. There was rationing of many things, people worked longer hours, etc. People were made to realize there was a war going on and they backed the government. But the war in Vietnam didn't work out that way. They tried to fight a war without it being declared. The nation went on as in times of peace—no austerity program. Many did not back the government. There was no clear-cut victory—just sort of a stalemate. And that is just the way it is with many professed Christians and churches today. They are trying to live "normal" lives as if a war were not raging all about them. There is no self-denial. But Christians can't live like "normal" people. There is too much at stake—their own souls, the triumph of truth, eternity! They are soldiers of the cross.

Beloved, if Christians ever needed to be involved, they do today! We must! As children of light, soldiers of the cross, let us turn back the forces of darkness. There is no such creature as an "inactive church member."

"WELCOME ABOARD" TO NEW READERS

DURING the summer months many new people have been added to our mailing list—thanks to some friend subscribing. We welcome you to a fresh study of the Scriptures unencumbered by traditionalism!

Will Fashion Bottom Out?

LONDON (UPI)—A buttocks-baring dress, which designer John Bates said could replace the topless look, received an enthusiastic response from buyers attending a London fashion show Monday.

The dress, which had a clinging top in front, bared the back from the neck and showed about one-inch of the model's buttocks.

It was featured in the Jean Varon midseason collection, a spokesman said.

(Editor's Note: This appeared recently in the local newspaper. Thus from the country that gave the world the mini-shirt a new innovation is in the making. Christian women should once-and-for-all get it straight that such clothes designers are not Christians, and they cannot be taken up with the spirit of the age—Romans 12:1; I Timothy 2:9, 10; I Peter 3:3-5. We pity the poor woman who has her values so mixed up that she cannot determine what is modest!)

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd?
Or do you stay at home
And crab both long and loud?

Do you take an active part
To help the church along
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belong?
Do you ever go to visit
A member that is sick,
Or leave the work for just a few
And talk about the clique?

Think this over, member:
Are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an active member?
Or do you just belong?

—Selected

READERS'

... Response

ALASKA:

■ "Greetings in Jesus from the Far North. I have received your fine paper for a long time. It seems a shame that a fellow wouldn't take the time to tell you sooner but so time passes on...God be with you."

CALIFORNIA:

■ "Surely enjoy your paper and pray that you will be able to continue printing it. I try to read it through the day it arrives. Sorry that I don't get around to renewing my subscription as often as I should."

MINNESOTA:

■ "I want to thank you for a very fine paper. It has helped me in my spiritual walk. May God bless you in this fine work."

MISSOURI:

■ "We enjoy your paper very much...We don't know who sent it to us but really like it. Keep up the good work."

OHIO:

■ "I am very appreciative of THE SWORD AND STAFF. I find the articles very informative and Scriptural, and I enjoy reading the paper very much. I get a lot of helpful information from the paper."

WEST VIRGINIA:

■ "Please accept my donation for THE SWORD AND STAFF, and continue my subscription, as it has been very useful in helping me understand God's Word, and has aided in opening my mind to God's will for me."

VIRGINIA:

■ "I look forward to your magazine so much. It is truly one of the best I have ever read. May you be able to continue it for a long, long time."

SOUTH CAROLINA:

■ "Thank you for each issue of The SWORD and STAFF. I endorse everything you publish and admire your stand against all false doctrine."

NORTH CAROLINA:

■ "Please remove from your mailing list."



THE SWORD AND STAFF
P. O. Box 147
Mt. Airy, N. C. 27030

Gentlemen:

I wish to take advantage of your special introductory subscription offer of only \$1.00 for the first year.

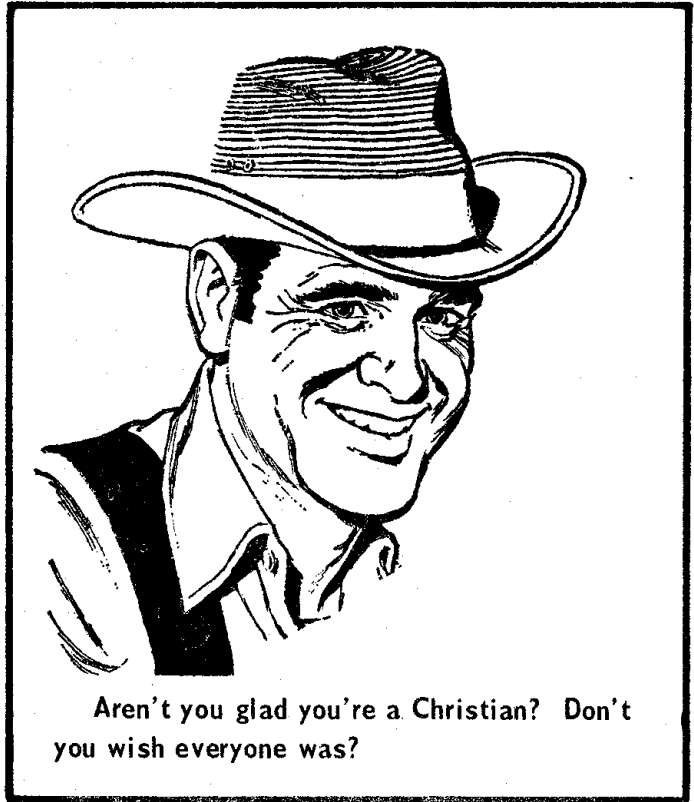
Name.....

Address.....

..... Zip Code

Also I would like to have the following bound volumes of back issues (Check if wanted and enclose the extra money).

- ☐ 1967-68 bound volumes of The Sword and Staff (one book)—\$3.25.
- ☐ 1969-70 bound volumes of The Sword and Staff (one book)—\$3.25.
- ☐ 1971-72 bound volumes of The Sword and Staff (one book)—\$3.25.



NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

THE SON OF GOD died on the old rugged cross because man could not save himself. If you are somehow thinking that your good points will outweigh your bad ones, and you'll be saved, forget about it. There is no way. It has already been tried. That is what the O.T. is all about. The ancient Gentiles also demonstrate to us the futility and despair of trying to find God by mere human wisdom. Because we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God we are lost (the wages of sin is death). There is none righteousness, no not one. But let us praise God for Jesus. "For he (God) hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21). "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5b). Note Acts 2:38. "Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Rom. 5:9—J.E.G.

Each 1 send 3 in '73.

-Will You?



Return Postage Guaranteed -
Address Correction, Please!

The SWORD AND STAFF
Post Office Box 147
Mt. Airy, N. C. 27030
U. S. A.