

The Sword AND Staff

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

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

THE AWFULNESS OF SIN and *It's Implications*



• By JAMES E. GIBBONS, 1535 Fairfield Drive
Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

I AM FEARFUL that very few of us really realize the awfulness of sin. This fact is seen when sinners fail to flee from the wrath to come when the gospel is preached. This is evident in the careless and faithless way that a lot of professed Christians live. We see it in their flirtation with the world, and then by them letting sin become their entertainment. How we see it when people are not conscious of a difference between the church and the world; yes, when we can live day-in and day-out with people of the world and never have a "burden" to mention Jesus to them.

And this is just the way the old devil would have it! He wants to sugar-coat sin, and make it look fascinating and fashionable; he wants righteousness and the stand-

ards of God to look old-fashioned, out of date. He wants you to think of sin not as something evil, or something awful, but as something very desirable. He is the great deceiver!

But we are continually warned: "BE NOT DECEIVED." "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? BE NOT DECEIVED: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9, 10; Also, notice 15:32, 33; Galatians 6:7).

Beloved, sin is an awful thing! I am convinced that it is probably a thousand times more awful than the most sensitive of us has ever imagined.

I. THE AWFULNESS OF SIN IS SEEN IN THE FALL OF MAN.

Just think! One sin, a single disobedience, made the human race a dying race! That one sin had the most far-reaching consequence. Adam and Eve, made after the image of God, were most favored by their Benevolent Creator in this Paradise on earth, Eden. And they had just one law. Having said they could freely eat of the trees of the Garden, God made one exception. They were prohibited to eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" in the midst of the Garden. God warned that they would "surely die" if they ate of that forbidden fruit (Genesis 2:16, 17). We know the sad story and the ensuing events. What tragedy! (an understatement). Later, removed by untold years and looking back, the apostle Paul wrote, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

Just think of the world's countless numbers whose mortal bodies have gone through this ordeal of death to return to corruption—all of humanity with two or three exceptions. And, too, directly or indirectly sin is the cause of all suffering and sorrow (through Adam or other-

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

Proverbs of Today

It is never right to do wrong, and it is never wrong to do right.

"How long one lives is not as important as what one does with that life and the quality of it."

I don't care how much you supposedly know; if you don't know God and the Word of God, your knowledge is very limited.

"It is better to die doing right than to live doing wrong."

The church can be no stronger or spiritual than the homes of its members.

"Silence is golden, then again sometimes it is downright yellow."

Make the most of your life before the most of your life is gone.

"Worry, like a rocking chair, will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere."

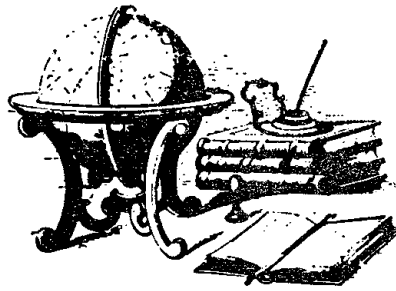
If you don't love the Lord enough to go to church, do you think that you love him enough to go to heaven?

"When parents do not control children in the home, it is difficult for the government to control them on the streets."

Christianity is something that in order to keep, we must give away.

"You may succeed when others do not believe in you, but never when you do not believe in yourself."

Rather than teaching children to "say" their prayers, it is better to teach them to pray.



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

THIS IS RIGHT!

RIGHT IS always right, and wrong is always wrong. Right is never wrong, and wrong is never right. "Right is right if nobody is right, and wrong is wrong if everybody is wrong."

Jesus died on the cross of Calvary because of the difference between right and wrong, and because we were in the wrong. You are not right until you are right with him. Becoming a Christian is the most right thing you will ever do, and if you want to die right you must live right.

And all of this is right, and not wrong! □

CORRESPONDING THE DATES

IT IS OUR DESIRE to stabilize our publishing efforts with THE SWORD AND STAFF—get it out every time (each month), and get it out on time. That is part of the matter underlying our appeal for "each 1" to "send 3 in '73", as well as to increase our reading audience and our outreach for good.

However, in the meantime, to catch the dates up with our publishing, we are making the present issue of the paper a little larger (12 pages) and labelling it "SEPTEMBER (October, November)." This will have no bearing on your subscription. Do not renew your subscription until you have received twelve full issues. We have had to do this a few times before (because of our situation), but it is hoped that we will not have to do this again. □

INTRODUCING THE GOOD NEWS QUARTET

THE PRIVILEGE was our's this past summer to hear a fine, young singing group called "THE GOOD NEWS QUARTET." The singing and simple sincerity of these young men thrilled us. They love the Lord, are members of the Lord's church, and it is their desire to be used more in singing for His glory. They are available for singing in churches around.

They have made a long-play record, which happens to be their first, and which is called "One More Day" (containing many good songs). This record is available at \$5.00 each, and should you wish to buy the record or engage them to sing, contact: Paul S. Morse, THE GOOD NEWS QUARTET, 57045 Mayflower Rd., Lot 68, South Bend, Indiana 46619. □

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wise). Job, who endured many dreadful things, cried out, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14a). Paul testified in Romans 8:22, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Not only did man suffer a shameful fall, but it seems that nature itself was thrown into disarray and degeneration set in.

And all of this because of one sin! Oh, it staggers the imagination! Can anything be more awful? Beloved, don't treat sin lightly.

II. THE AWFULNESS OF SIN IS SEEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES.

The apostle Paul called the Law of Moses, "the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2), and that is just exactly what it was. The Law of Moses was not God's final revelation to mankind, but it was given for a purpose. One of its purposes was to show the exceeding sinfulness of sin—just how awful sin is—so that man would really appreciate the Saviour when he came and so that man would know that he could not save himself by his own righteousness alone (Romans 3:19, 20); (Galatians 3:22-25). The wages of sin is death, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and all are under condemnation before God.

Paul had good reason for calling the Mosaic Law "the law of sin and death." Breaking that Law, in most cases, brought the swift penalty of death by stoning, "for the wages of sin is death." Let us illustrate.

Exodus 21:17 reads, "And he that curseth (to lightly esteem, vilify, revile) his father, or mother, shall surely be put to death." We further read, "If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: then... all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear" (Deuteronomy 21:18-21). (What if this were practiced today in our age of unruly children and teenagers?)

Blasphemy and taking God's name in vain are also

most awful things as witnessed in the Law of Moses. A son of a certain Israelitish woman was heard to blaspheme the name of God, during the Wilderness journey. God's instructions were: "Bring forth him that cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him... And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death" (Leviticus 24:10-16). Beloved, cursing is indeed an awful thing. If this law were enforced today, our population would be greatly decreased. God will not hold us guiltless by even calling His name lightly. To throw His name around in a non-religious, non-worshipping sense as to say, "O Lord!" is an awful thing to do.

When the Israelites broke the sabbath, what was the punishment? Stoning to death! (Numbers 15:32-36). This was also the case for those guilty of sexual immorality and adultery. The penalty for following false religion was death. And so the story goes for one sin right after the other—death!

Oh beloved, the conclusion is inescapable. God is trying to get a point across to our hardened hearts—sin is a most awful thing!

III. THE AWFULNESS OF SIN IS SEEN IN THE CROSS OF CALVARY.

Before we bring the scenes of Calvary before our minds, just think for a moment who Jesus really was anyway. The apostle John tells us that he pre-existed from eternity, and that there was not anything made without him making it (John 1:1-5; 17:5). Contemplate the vastness of the heavens, the things we see, and the things we don't see—he made all of this! Paul tells us that he is now "upholding all things by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3). Then, here is man, a little insignificant organic speck on this little island planet earth, who has sinned and "messed up" God's special arrangement for him. But this Almighty Creator, as it were, emptied himself of his deity to go through the process of human conception and birth in the person of Jesus, to experience life as a lowly mortal, and finally to suffer the worst humiliation and death imaginable at the hands of his creatures—all because of the awfulness of sin!

Paul speaks of the "offense of the cross" (Galatians 5:11). Death on a cross was a most shameful type of execution used by the Romans and reserved for the worst kind of criminals and slaves. It was not polite to mention it in decent society. The condemned ones were subjected to the most awful scourging and shameful maltreatment before the crucifixion took place. Men have actually died at this point before they were ever nailed to the cross. The cross was a cruel lingering type of death, men living up to a week as inflammation and unbelievable pain raked their whole bodies.

Such was the death that Jesus Christ, the mighty Creator, the sinless Son of God, and the altogether lovely One, experienced. Forsaken, suffering, and crying out in anguish, this awful ordeal was his. Why?! Because that sin is unbelievably awful. God loved fallen man, but God could not save man in his sins, sin being so awful. But in order to meet His sense of justice and mercy, in order to satisfy Himself, He suffered for us

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in His Son.

Beloved, man's sins, our sins, are so awful that they nailed Jesus to the cross! Jesus died on that old rugged cross because of the difference between right and wrong.

IV. THE AWFULNESS OF SIN IS SEEN IN THE DAMNATION OF A LOST SOUL.

The Bible teaches the doctrine of heaven and hell. You can't accept one and deny the other, and still profess to be a Bible-believer. Jesus taught the reality of both places. In Matthew 25, after depicting that Great Day of Judgment, Jesus declared, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46). The word "everlasting" in reference to everlasting punishment, and the word "eternal" in reference to life eternal, are the same in the original language. If hell is not eternal, neither is heaven.

The apostle Paul shows what an awful place hell must be as he speaks of it in conjunction with the second coming of Christ—"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (II Thessalonians 1:8,9). And, Jesus called hell (Greek: GEHENNA), "the fire that never shall be quenched." Then added, "Where the their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43,44). He said there would be "weeping and gnashing of teeth."

When we die, that's it! "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). As death finds you, so will the judgment. If you are not right with God when you die, you will never be. The book of Revelation pictures that final Day as having already come, and we read, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Revelation 22:11). When death has overtaken us, or the trump of the Lord has sounded, it will avail nothing to try to turn to God then. That's it! You've had it!

Oh, the tragedy of it! Oh, the finality of it! Doomed for ever to a devil's hell—and that is just what it is. Hell was originally prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). If we spend our lives for the devil, we can certainly expect to spend eternity with him.

Some may call God harsh and cruel, but we make the choice. Sin is an awful thing. It is more awful than we have ever thought. If we realized how awful it is, we would never question God and His wrath against sin and sinners.

IMPLICATIONS:

Yes, the awful fact is that sin is an awful thing, and the awfulness of sin has many far-reaching implications to us. Let us notice two of them.

1. It should make us really appreciate and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are a dying race through Adam. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and the wages of sin is death. We are under condemnation. The Law of Moses has proved to us that we cannot save ourselves by our own righteousness. The guilt of sin is still there,

and how great that guilt is! Even for one sin! We were hopelessly lost.

But we read such wonderful passages as these: "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 Corinthians 5:21). "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)" (Titus 3:5). "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Praise God for Jesus! Sin is just as awful as it ever was (make no mistake about it, Hebrews 2:1-3). But we have found freedom from the wrath of God through the love of God. The righteousness of the sinless Son of God is counted to be our righteousness when we repent and are baptized, turning to him. We are forgiven and justified because he died in our place. Our sins brought us under the condemnation of death, here and hereafter, but God has accepted the sinless sacrifice of Jesus in death in our place. Oh, how we love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:19)!

Some flippantly talk about the love of God today, but they don't believe in the wrath of God. Sin is not so awful to them. But if we don't believe in the wrath of God, in the awfulness of sin, regardless of how much we may talk about the love of God, it is not going to mean very much to us. We will have a hard time appreciating it.

But how thankful we are for the Saviour! How we love him! We have been saved from the wrath to come.

2. It should make us really hate sin—think how awful sin is!

We know how awful sin is! At least we have tried to
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TELL HIM SO

*If you hear a kind word spoken
Of some worthy soul you know,
It may fill his heart with sunshine
If you only tell him so.*

*If a deed, however humble,
Helps you on your way to go,
Seek out the one whose hand has helped you,
Seek him out and tell him so.*

*If your heart is touched and tender
Toward a sinner, lost and low,
It might help him to do better
If you'd only tell him so.*

*Oh, my sister, oh, my brother,
As o'er life's rough path you go,
If God's love has saved and kept you,
Do not fail to tell men so.*

—Author Unknown



Who is THIS PERSON?

By RICHARD SNYDER, Anaka, Minnesota 55303

• *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”*

—HEBREWS 1:1-4

IF THERE IS any passage in the Bible that tells more about my friend Jesus than these verses, I don't know where it is. Yes, I call him my friend because, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Men lay down their lives for their country, or their family, but here is one who laid down his life to offer far greater hopes to mankind. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Let us consider now this man Jesus. Jesus is the only begotten of the Father full of “grace and truth.” He has spoken and we must listen or receive the consequences. The Law of Moses was given to the Jews by the angels from God. The Gospel came by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. How much the more should we listen to God's Son!

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5).

The world and all that is therein was made by Jesus. The Word made life and this is the light of men. To take this light out of the world there would be no life in the

world. Everything that is good would be gone.

Jesus is the brightness of God's glory. Jesus is the excellence that man was made to be. Everything that He did and said was exactly what the Father would have done and said. He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). No one could convince him of doing wrong (John 8:46). Jesus did everything right. Observe the perfection of a flower, its color, its minute details, its aroma, its glory, and yet Solomon, the man who is attributed as having the greatest wealth and wisdom, was not arrayed like one of these. Behold, one greater than Solomon is before you now.

He is the exact image of the Father's person. Jesus had compassion on people who were without someone to follow. Hence he lived such as we should live, looking for, working toward eternal treasures instead of temporary treasures that are here today and not tomorrow. He knew the Scriptures well enough to turn away every try the devil made to cause sin in this life. The better you know and understand the Bible, and the more you pray, the better you will know Jesus.

Christ understood people well enough to know the desires of their hearts and minds—the necessary needs and the unnecessary wants. We can read about the feeding of the five thousand and the rebuke of the disciples concerning who would be the greatest in the kingdom. The same thing is true today. We need food and clothing but not worldliness such as fancy clothes, new cars, etc. that tend to exalt us above the brethren. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

It is easy to believe that Jesus calmed the sea because, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hath created all things, and for thy pleasure (by thy will) they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11). It is easy to believe that Jesus walked on the water because the “heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (II Peter 3:7). It is easy to believe that the Bible you now have is the inspired Word written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the first century because the King is upholding all things by the Word of his authority.

Man predicts an eclipse of the sun or the moon at such and such a time and place—with the aid of calculators and computers a total eclipse here, a certain percent there. Jesus makes it all happen. When men go to the moon, they do not shoot straight at it but go into orbit around the earth first and then shoot for a predetermined spot in space where the moon will be when they get there. Thousands of men working with a vast number of calculators and computers predict the moon will be there to land on because Christ controls not only the weather on the earth, but more than that. “He upholds all things by the word of his power.” It truly numbs the mind when we consider the magnificence of our Lord's authority.

Not only that but “when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word,

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JESUS' ONE

ITS FOUNDER — JESUS CHRIST

He is purchaser, Acts 20:28
He is builder, Matt. 16:18
He is head, Eph. 5:23
He is lawgiver, Heb. 1:2
He is savior, Eph. 5:23

ITS FOUNDATIONS — THE SON OF GOD

“This rock - the Christ” of God, Matt. 16:18
“The laid foundation,” I Cor. 3:11
“The tried foundation,” Isa. 28:16
“The sure foundation,” Isa. 28:16
“The apostolic foundation,” Eph. 2:20
“The chief corner stone,” I Peter 2:6

ITS ORIGIN — A.D. 33 IN JERUSALEM

After Hades tried but failed to hold its builder, Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:31
While SOME of the apostles LIVED, Mark 9:1
When Holy Spirit and power came, Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4
When the “word of the Lord” went “forth from Jerusalem”, Isa. 2:2-3; Luke 24:47-49

ITS DESIGNATIONS — BY APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

JESUS CALLED IT:
“My church,” Matt. 16:18
“My kingdom,” Luke 22:30; John 18:36
“The kingdom of heaven,” Matt. 16:19
“The church,” Matt 18:17
“The kingdom of God,” John 3:5; Luke 22:16

APOSTLES CALLED IT:
“The church,” Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22 (USED 62 TIMES IN N.T.)
“The church of the Lord,” Acts 20:28
“The church of God,” I Cor. 1:2
“Churches of Christ” (sing. CHURCH OF CHRIST), Rom. 16:16
“Churches of the Saints,” I Cor. 14:33
“Church of the Firstborn,” Heb. 12:23
“Body of Christ,” I Cor. 12:27
“The house of God,” I Tim. 3:15
“The household of God,” Eph. 2:19
“The household of faith,” Gal. 6:10
“The kingdom of God,” Acts 28:23,31
“The kingdom of God’s Dear Son,” Col. 1:13
“A kingdom which cannot be shaken,” Heb. 12:28

INDIVIDUALS CALLED:
DISCIPLES, Acts 6:1 (“Learners”)
SAINTS, Acts 9:13 (Character)
BRETHREN, Acts 6:3 (“Relationship”)
CHRISTIANS, Acts 11:26 (“Ownership”)
SONS OF GOD, Rom. 8:14 (“Relationship”)
PRIESTS, I Pet. 2:5,9 (Character)

ITS MEMBERSHIP — PERSONS WHO

Hear the word of the Gospel, Rom. 10:17; Acts 18:18
Believe the Gospel, Acts 18:8; Rom. 10:10
Repent of their sins, Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
Confess the Christ, Rom.10:10; Acts 8:37 (K.J.V.)
Are baptized:
Buried - Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12
In water - Acts 8:36-39, Acts 10:47-48
To wash away sins - Acts 22:16
For remission of sins - Acts 2:38
To be saved - I Peter 3:21
Into Christ - Gal. 3:27
Into the one body, The Church - I Cor. 12:13

ITS DOCTRINE — THE

Christ is the lawgiver: Eph. 5:24; Heb. 1:1-2
Christ is the mediator: Heb. 8:6; Heb. 9:14-15; 1
The Holy Spirit is the revealer: I Cor. 2:13; Eph.
The apostles’ teaching is its manual: John 16:13

ITS WORSHIP — “IN S

ON THE LORD’S DAY:
Sabbath ABOLISHED - in prophecy: Amos 8:4-
At Jesus’ death: Matt. 27:45
On the cross: Col. 2:14
Sabbath given ONLY to Israel: Neh. 9:13,14;
Sabbath (REST) for Christians is HEAVEN: I
Christ resurrected ON the 1st day: Luke 24:1,
Christ met with the disciples ON the 1st day: I
Disciples and apostles met ON the 1st day: A
John was “in the Spirit ON THE LORD’S DAY
FOR COMMUNION: Consider Jesus’ UNIQUE PF
Matt. 26:29 as cf. Heb. 10:24 “THE DAY” and
COVENANT,” I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:20-30;
FOR SINGING: (Of Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual
FOR PRAYING: Acts 2:42; MEN, WOMEN AND
FOR GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS: Ma
FOR TEACHING AND PREACHING: Acts 2:42;
Matt. 28:20 “TEACHING TO OBSERVE ALL
FOR FELLOWSHIP: Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:33

ITS WORK — SAVING

Preaching the Gospel: I Thess. 1:8; 2 Cor. 11:8;
Providing for its poor: Acts 4:34-35; I Tim. 5:16
Edifying itself: I Cor. 14:26
Training members to win souls: Eph. 4:11-12; Ma
Exercising corrective DISCIPLINE when needful:

ITS GOVERNMENT — ,

IN Heaven is its HEAD: Eph. 1:19-21; Matt. 28:1
FROM Heaven came its law: Eph. 1:22; Heb. 1:1
UNDER Heaven it serves: Eph. 5:23-24
TOWARD Heaven it worships: John 4:24

ITS ORGANIZATION —

Organically INDEPENDENT of EVERY other loc
Self-governing under Christ, the heavenly bishop:
WITH EVANGELISTS TO PREACH WITH ALL A
Titus 1:5; Titus 2:15; Heb. 13:17,17; I Tim.
WITH BISHOPS (Elders, Pastors, Presbyters) w
them: Acts 20:17,28; I Pet. 5:2-4; I Tim. 3:
WITH DEACONS to serve: I Tim. 3:8-13
WITH MEMBERS who minister in word AND in de

ITS UNIVERSALITY —

The commission of its herald is world wide: Mat
Its scope involves every race, color and tongue;
Its invitation is to all: Rev. 22:17
Its duration is age lasting: I Cor. 15:23-26
Its fellowship is for the obedient and “blood was
Its benefits are ETERNAL: II Pet. 1:10-11

“EVERY PLANT WHICH MY FATHER I

TRUE CHURCH

NEW TESTAMENT

John 16:13
2:42; Eph. 2:20

IT AND IN TRUTH"

7:19-20
9:11
1:22; John 20:1
4:13-15; John 20:19,26
7; I Cor. 16:1-2
v. 1:10
... "THAT DAY" of
10:29 "THE BLOOD OF THE
20:7
) Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16
REN TOGETHER: Acts 21:4-6; I Thess. 5:17,25
3; II Cor. 9:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; I Cor. 9:1-14
2:15; Mark 16:15 and DETAILED STUDIES: -
S!!!!"

DULS

3:8-11
5; Matt. 18:15-17; II Thess. 3:14

ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

ONGREGATIONAL

ch: Acts 14:23
5:4; I Pet. 2:25; Phil. 1:1
RITY and set in order the lacking things:
y, tend, oversee and rule the flock among
eb. 13:7,17
Cor. 12:24-27; Eph. 4:12-16

L NATIONS

8-20
16:15-16
I John 1:7

ANTED NOT—SHALL BE ROOTED UP!!"

ITS ENABLING GRACE — ETERNAL LOVE

Gives the lamb's body for sacrifice: Heb. 9:26-28
Gives the lamb's blood for atonement: Heb. 9:14
Gives the priest to intercede: Heb. 7:25
Gives the prophet to teach: Heb. 1:1-2; Acts 3:22-23
Gives the Spirit as our comforter and earnest: Eph. 1:13-14; Eph. 4:30
Gives the king to rule: I Tim. 6:15
Gives the judge to reward: Matt. 25:31-46
Gives Heaven as its hope: I Cor. 15:19; I Pet. 1:3-5

ITS UNITY — UNDENOMINATIONAL

The Savior prayed for it: John 17:20-21
To be accomplished IN THIS LIFE: John 17:18
The apostles pled for it: I Cor. 1:10
The apostles present the plan of it:
ONE body - - - unity of organism (parts)
ONE spirit - - - unity in life
ONE hope - - - unity in trust
ONE faith - - - unity in message
ONE baptism - - - unity in practice
As regards subjects - - - penitent believers
As regards action - - - burial
As regards design - - - salvation
ONE God - - - - unity in worship
The faithful perpetuate it; Eph. 4:1-3

ITS MESSAGE — THE GOSPEL

Facts To Believe:
Death of Christ: I Cor. 15:1-3
Burial of Christ: I Cor. 15:4
Resurrection of Christ and evidences: I Cor. 15:4-9
Commands To Obey:
Believe the ABOVE FACTS, (GOSPEL): Mark 16:15-16
Believe Jesus is God's Son: Acts 16:31
Repent of sins: Acts 17:31; Acts 2:38
Confess faith in Jesus: Acts 8:37 (KJV)
Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21
IN LIKENESS OF THE GOSPEL: Rom. 6:3-7
Promises To Enjoy:
Remission of sins: Acts 2:38
Gift of Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38; Acts 5:32
Eternal Life: Rev. 2:10; Rev. 22:14

ITS DESTINY — HEAVEN

By Heaven's wisdom it was purposed: Eph. 3:10-11
By Heaven's love it was purchased: Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28
By Heaven's grace it was kept: Rom 5:12; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 4:16
By Heaven's glory it hopes: II Tim. 2:10; Heb. 2:10; I Pet. 5:1,10
To Heaven it will go: I Pet. 1:14; Col. 1:5
In Heaven it will remain: I Thess. 4:17; I Cor. 15:24
In Heaven it shall rest: Heb. 4:8-11

ITS LIFE — DEVOTION

TO THE WORD OF CHRIST:
As the eternal word: Matt. 24:35
As the inspired word: II Tim. 3:16; I Cor. 2:13
As the life giving word: Matt. 4:4
As the infallible word: Ps. 119:160
As the Saving word: James 1:21
As the complete word: II Tim 3:16-17
As the sufficient word: II Tim. 3:16-17
As the powerful word: Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16
As the comforting word: I Thess. 4:14-18
TO THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST:
Toward His family: Luke 2:51; John 19:26-27
Toward His Heavenly Father: John 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; Luke 22:42
Toward civil government: Matt. 22:15-22; cf. Matt. 27:65-66 & 28:2
Toward His enemies: Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 23:34
Toward lost men: Matt. 18:11; Luke 15
Toward THE CHURCH ITSELF: Eph. 5:25

DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS

WORD TRIPLER *Studies*

SPEAK, EXHORT, REBUKE
(Titus 2:15)

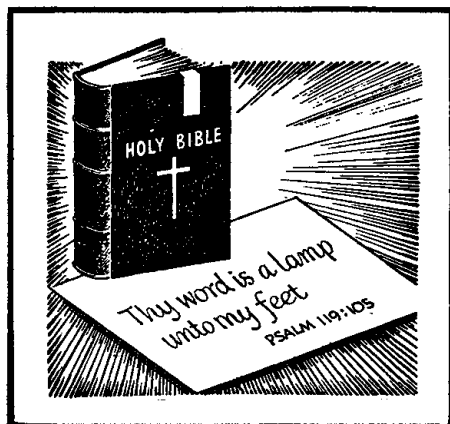
• "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

AS AN EVANGELIST of the New Testament kind, Titus was on the island of Crete to set the churches in order (Titus 1:5). The New Testament evangelist has the authority inherent in the Word of God to get his job done. People are to respect and pay attention to what he says.

Notice what Titus was told to do is intensified with each additional word. "These things SPEAK, and EXHORT, and REBUKE with all authority." The word "SPEAK" is the general word. "EXHORT" is a little stronger word, involving not only teaching, but urging these truths upon them. The word "REBUKE" is the most intensified, having to do with convicting them of their faults (with the idea of shame); to correct them.

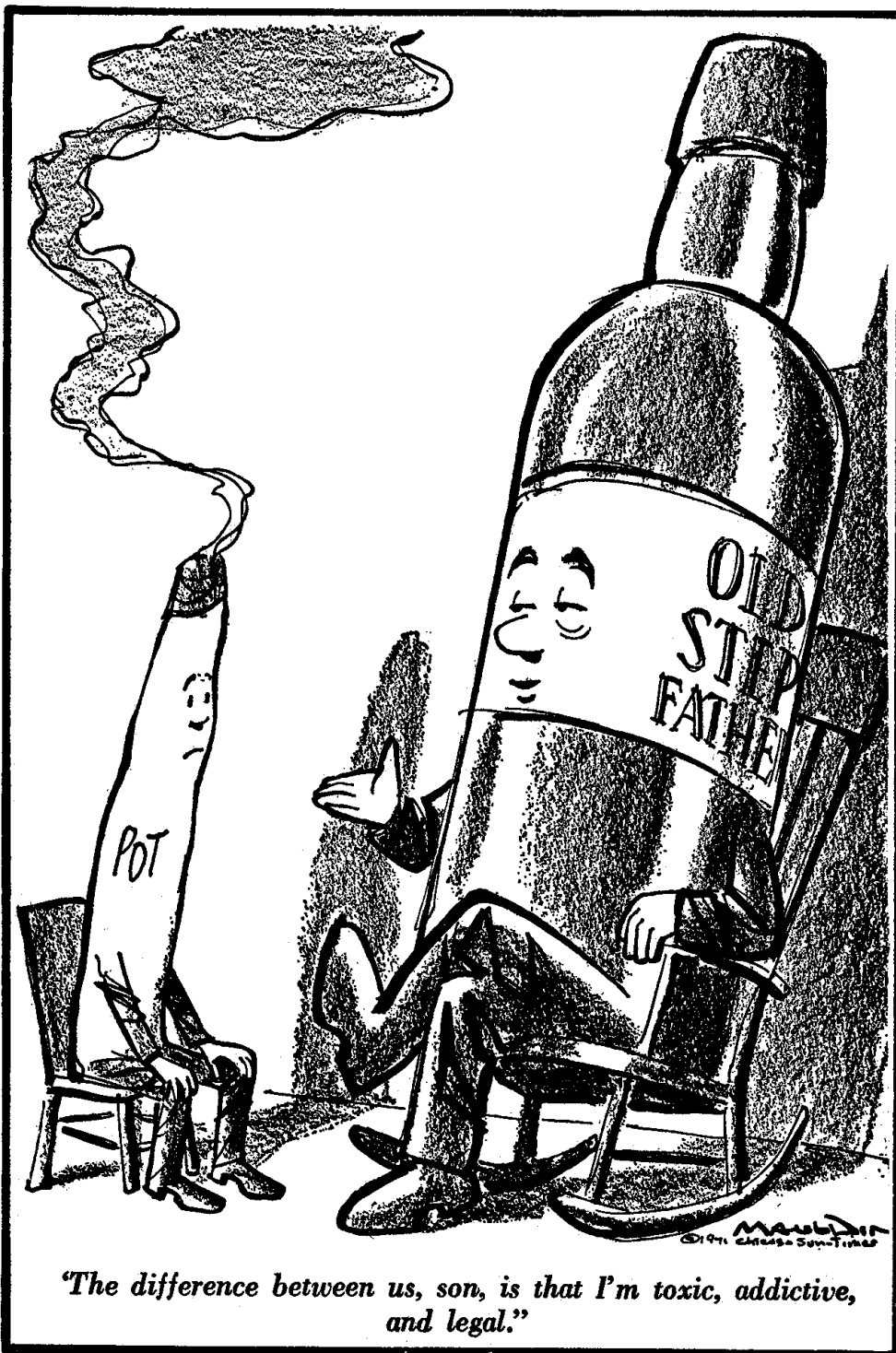
Thus, in this triplet of words the Holy Spirit shows us that God means business, and the evangelist is God's man to see that God's truth is obeyed. If the milder forms of instruction do not bring results, let the people know this is a very serious matter. Exhort. Rebuke. God's message is to be heeded by those who profess to be his followers.

Timothy received similar directions from the apostle Paul (I Tim. 4:11; II Timothy 4:1-5). □



OUR TASK--

TO TAKE THE
WHOLE GOSPEL
TO THE
WHOLE WORLD



True Learning

• *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

—PROVERBS 1:7

AS A NATION, as a people, and as a school, we need God. All true knowledge and learning must be in the context of an awareness of God. If God created us, if He created all things, then He knows all things. He is the source of all knowledge. He made us after His own image. We are rational human beings. And, as we said, all true knowledge and learning must be in the context of an awareness of God. Even scientists, in all their discoveries, are merely thinking the thoughts of God after Him.

God made us, and the very purpose of our living should be to know and do His will. God forgets nations that forget Him. God respects nations that respect Him. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Righteousness exalts the nation that exalts righteousness. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalms 9:17).

This nation was founded on religious principles. In the early days of our country religion gave birth to our educational system. The first school teachers in the little one-room schools were the preachers. Children were taught how to read so they could read the Bible. Freedom of religion, as spoken of by our forefathers, did not mean freedom from religion. It meant the state would not become involved in the internal affairs of religious groups, and would not take a stand favoring any particular denomination. Every man would be free to exercise his own conscience in the matter of religion.

Again we say, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..." (Proverbs 1:7). All true knowledge and learning must be in the context (or setting) of an awareness of God. Knowledge divorced from God is LIKE—

- shooting a gun into the dark;
- a running car with no one behind the wheel;
- a clock with no hands on it!

LET US PRAY.

—By JAMES E. GIBBONS:

(These thoughts were given as a devotion at a local PTA meeting).

The AWFULNESS OF SIN AND IT'S IMPLICATIONS (Continued from Page 4)

get this point across. It brings destruction to our souls—here and hereafter. It is the ruination of mankind. That being the case, it should be the most detested and hated thing imaginable. And, if we truly come to love Jesus and righteousness, we will hate, yea, loathe, sin. There are two sides to this coin. One side says to love righteousness, and the other side says to hate sin. They go together. It is said of Christ, "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity" (Psalms 45:7; Hebrews 1:9), and we are to be Christ-like. Paul wrote in Romans 12:9, "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." Jude used this imagery to make his point: "Hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 23). How we should hate sin and its contaminating influence! Even the very appearance of evil. Sin, we know, is that bad.

Oh, we are living in perilous times. The world is too much with us. So many professing Christians (and preach-

ers) don't really hate sin. They have compromised with the world (and you can see it in their lives and in their children). Someone's dirty joke, sin, becomes an occasion of laughter. Movies and television are so filled with sin and pollution, one way or another, that it is alarming to the spiritual mind. Jesus came to save us from sin, and if we hate it, how can we enjoy it being our entertainment (Romans 1:32; 8:6; Ephesians 5:11, 12)? Women dress immodestly (downright indecently) and make themselves up to look sexually alluring and suggestive—this is the style! Evil thoughts will send a man to hell, but who cares? (Matthew 5:28; I Timothy 2:9). It's quite obvious we don't hate sin today. Social drinking, dancing, smoking—you name it! Professed Christians don't hate sin, they don't realize how awful it is, or they would not engage in such sin-tainted things.

Beloved, we can't do wrong and get by. Sin is still as awful as it ever was in the sight of God. May we recognize it for what it is, abhor it, and cleanse ourselves of it. God has shown us grace and given us a chance. Let's come clean with God and forsake all sin (Titus 2:11-14; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1). Sin is an awful thing! □

One Solution

YEARS AGO a young man knelt with a preacher and prayed as he committed himself to give a tenth of what he made to the Lord. His first week's pay was \$10, and the tenth was \$1. As he grew older he became more prosperous and his tenth was \$100 a week, then \$200, and then \$500. He sent his old friend a wire: "Come and see me."

The preacher arrived at the man's beautiful house. They had a good time talking over old times. Finally, the man came to his point: "You remember that promise I made years ago to give a tenth of all I made to the Lord? How can I be released from it?" he asked.

"It's like this," the man continued. "When I made that promise, I had only to give \$1, but now it is \$500. I can't afford to give away money like that."

The old preacher looked at his friend. "I'm afraid we cannot get a release from that promise, but there is something we can do. We can kneel here and ask God to shrink your income so you can afford to give one dollar."

—S E L E C T E D

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Ephesians;
2. Philemon;
3. Colossians 4:7-9;
4. False;
5. Gnosticism and Judaism;
6. Epaphras, Onesimus, Philemon, Apphia, and Archippus—consult books of Colossians and Philemon to find these names;
7. Colossians 1:18;
8. Colossians 1:28;
9. Colossians 2:14-16;
10. The circumcision of Christ;
11. True, Colossians 2:18-20;
12. True;
13. A religious song to be sung to musical accompaniment—Psalms 81:2; Psalms 98:5;
14. Colossians 3:17;
15. Colossians 3:23;
16. Colossians 4:6;
17. Colossians 4:12;
18. The Laodiceans, Colossians 4:16;
19. Colossians 4:17;
20. True, Colossians 2:1.

TWO SUGGESTIONS

RENEW your subscription after you have received twelve issues (no notice will be sent). SEND your change of address when moving. Thanks a lot.

READERS'

... Response

TEXAS:

■ "Please remove my name from your mailing list... You will never be true witnesses for God by stomping on others beliefs. God's gifts through the Holy Spirit—all gifts—were good enough for Paul, they're good enough for me. I pray for you and truly feel sorry you won't surrender your tongue to Him and let the Holy Spirit pray to the Father as we "in the flesh" can never do so well."

NEBRASKA:

■ "Saturday I received the new issue of The Sword and Staff. I never cease to be amazed at the power and truth that is packed into each issue. Praise God! I just pray that you will be able to continue this wonderful work for a long time and that the people who receive it will study the Bible and prove these things to be so."

OHIO:

■ "I received my latest edition of The Sword and Staff and could put this off no longer. My intentions have been good, just did not take the time to take care of this matter. There must be others in this same state of not recognizing the warfare we are engaged in through our lack of urgency. I think the most frightening word in the kingdom of our Lord is apathy."

■ "I was given a copy of the July/73 issue of The Sword and Staff and was overwhelmed by the truths in it! I am a member of the Lord's church... Thank God for The Sword and Staff. It will really be an aid to many in their learning and witnessing!!..."

PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "We enjoy The Sword and Staff very much, and would like others to share it. Enclosed is our check for \$5.00. We would like to renew our subscription, and also have the paper sent to three new ones. Keep up the Lord's work."

IS IT LATER THAN YOU THINK?

SOMEONE has prepared a very interesting time table. It made a mathematical parallel of a life span with a 24-hour day.

If studied, it will cause you rather serious reflection. See what you have accomplished or left unaccomplished. How many years (hours) have passed?

- If you are 15 it's 8:51 a.m.
- If you are 20 it's 11:08 a.m.
- If you are 25 it's 12:25 p.m.
- If you are 30 it's 1:25 p.m.
- If you are 35 it's 2:59 p.m.
- If you are 40 it's 4:16 p.m.
- If you are 45 it's 5:43 p.m.
- If you are 50 it's 6:50 p.m.
- If you are 55 it's 8:08 p.m.
- If you are 60 it's 10:11 p.m.
- If you are 70 it's approaching midnight!

When the bell tolls for you at the midnight hour of death, on which side of God's judgment seat will you stand?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR LIFE NOW?

BIBLE QUESTIONS

(Over the Book of Colossians)

1. What epistle was written at the same time as Colossians and is its "twin" epistle?
2. What other epistle was sent at the same time as Colossians (and the above)?
3. Who carried the epistle of Colossians to the Colossians? (1) Tychicus and Onesimus; (2) Timotheus and Epaphras; (3) Marcus and Luke.
4. Epaphroditus had come from the church at Colosse to learn of Paul's state and now was a fellowprisoner with Paul in Rome. (1) True; (2) False.
5. What two false teachings seemed to confront the church at Colosse, as well as the other early churches, and was of much concern to Paul?
6. Underline the names of the persons who were members of the church at Colosse (or were from there):
(1) Epaphras (6) Philemon
(2) Tychicus (7) Apphia
(3) Onesimus (8) Archippus
(4) Aristarchus (9) Epaphroditus
(5) Marcus (10) Demas
7. "And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in _____ he might have the _____"
8. "Whom we preach (Christ), warning _____, and teaching _____ in all wisdom: that we may present _____ perfect (complete) in Christ Jesus."
9. Why does Paul say that others should not judge Christians in reference to religious eating and drinking, and whether they keep holy days or the sabbath or not?
10. What does Paul call baptism in Colossians 2:11,12? (1) The circumcision of Christ; (2) The answer of a good conscience before God; (3) The washing of regeneration.
11. By teaching philosophy and the traditions of men we do not hold the Head of the body in proper place (Christ), dishonoring him and severing ourselves from the Head. (1) True; (2) False.
12. The third chapter of Colossians concerns the resurrected life the Christian lives (as he has been raised through baptism). (1) True; (2) False.
13. What is the basic meaning of a PSALM in the Bible?
14. "And _____ ye do in _____ or _____, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by him."
15. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as _____, and not unto men."
16. "Let your speech be _____ with _____, seasoned with _____, that ye may know _____ ye ought to answer every man."
17. Who was one of the Colossians with Paul who was very much concerned about the home church, "labouring fervently" for them in his prayers?
18. What other church received a letter from Paul (it is not recorded in the N. T.), and the Colossians were to exchange letters with them so both would be read in both places? (1) The Thessalonians; (2) The Corinthians; (3) The Laodiceans.
19. What preacher at Colosse did Paul urge to take heed to his ministry? (1) Epaphras; (2) Archippus; (3) Philemon.
20. From the epistle it seems that Paul had never been to Colosse. (1) True; (2) False.

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

(Continued from Page 5)

and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three agree in one" (I John 5:5-8).

To believe that Jesus is the Son of God, to confess this belief before men, to change your mind about your sins and be baptized for the remission of your sins, and to live a life consecrated for Christ is the most right thing you can do (Matthew 16:16; Matthew 10:32; Acts 2:38; Revelation 2:7). Not to do this is the most unright thing you can do (Mark 16:16).

I can personally testify of a truth that Jesus will fulfill your life here in this world and in the next. If your will is not the same as God's will, you had better change your will.

There are three that bear record in heaven and three that bear witness in earth and they agree as one.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:1, 2).

The same is true today. The Spirit of God moves on the face of the water. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)" (Acts 2:38). The Spirit, the water, and the blood and you all get together when you are buried beneath the water and rise to walk in the newness of life (Romans 6:4) because these three agree as one. "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:13, 14).

Why not trust and obey? Yes, why not?

It is better for me to plead with you now while you can do this, than it is for you to be eternally lost and ask yourself why you didn't and not be able to.

*Jesus is calling
Jesus is calling today
Why should I linger
I will arise and away
Jesus is pleading
Why should I wander in sin
While to His glory
Glad He would welcome me in
Jesus is waiting
Open now standeth the door
Soon the night falleth
Closed are the gates evermore
Why should I linger
I will arise and away
They are so happy
Who do their Savior obey.*

A word about who has spoken; a word about who made the worlds; a word about the brightness of God's glory; a word about the exact image of the Father's person; a word about upholding all things; a word about "by himself he purged our sins;" and now a word about by inheritance Jesus obtained a more excellent name than

the angels.

I am now working in a machine shop that is owned by a man named Kurt. He has a son named Bill. There are, of course, foremen and the rest of us. Kurt and Bill make the decisions and tell the foreman what they want. The foremen tell us and we try to fulfill the decisions.

The same thing is true spiritually. God the Father and His Son have spoken, Spirit-inspired men have spoken, and the Church obeys.

By way of example, let us say I walk in tomorrow and announce that every hourly wage earner is going to get fifty cents an hour raise. Who would believe it? Nobody! If the foremen did, we would expect it. If Bill did we would know we would.

When Kurt dies, Bill by inheritance will receive the company. The foremen wouldn't, and neither will I. By inheritance Bill has a more excellent name than anyone but Kurt.

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" (Hebrews 2:1-3). □

IF YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN

IT MAY BE that you have been reading this paper and have never become a Christian. You have never accepted Jesus personally as your Saviour. God is speaking to you, telling you that you need a Saviour. Only one heart beat separates each of us from eternity, and we are so fragile in this body that we cannot retain this life indefinitely. It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We cannot save ourselves (take away our own sins). Moral goodness, although absolutely necessary after becoming a Christian, can never take away sins. Jesus lived a sinless life and died on the cross for us because mankind was incapable of saving himself. We must be born again (John 3:5). This takes place when we truly believe in Christ, repent of all sins, and, having confessed our faith in Christ, are baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins. The apostle Peter declared, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)" (Acts 2:38). When we do this, we are born again and God comes to live within us. Then we realize that it is "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)" (Titus 3:5). Thereafter we are to live for Him Who died for us, being a member of His body, the church, which is one and is not a denomination.


BELOVED, you are without hope for eternity if you are not a real Christian. Would you truly believe and obey the Lord? You will be happy! You will be thrilled! You will be eternally glad that you did! (If we can personally help you in this all-important matter, we will be pleased to do so—JAMES E. GIBBONS; Phone: 919-789-1044 — Amen!). □

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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**I Asked
'Why
Doesn't
Somebody
Do
Something'
Then
Realized
I
Was
Somebody**

KIND WORDS

KIND WORDS produce their own image in men's souls, and a beautiful image it is. They soothe and quiet and comfort the hearer. We have not yet begun to use kind words in such abundance as they ought to be used.

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