

# The Sword AND Staff

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

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

## SOME THINGS SATAN WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE

• By JAMES E. GIBBONS

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THERE IS a supernatural, evil spirit. Revelation 12:9 reads, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." And, as we have just read, he is called the Devil (*Diabolos*, meaning accuser, slanderer) and Satan (*Satanas*, meaning adversary, opponent, enemy). He is also Apollyon, the destroyer (Revelation 9:11). The Jews held the Devil in contempt and had a special word for him, Beelzebub (the scribes blasphemously tried to tag this label on Jesus, Mark 3:22-26). Etymologists are divided on the origin of this word (Greek *Beelzeboul*), some thinking it literally means lord of dung or of filth; and others, lord of flies, having reference to a heathen god of the Philistines (II Kings 1:2). Regardless, we can easily see it is a special word of contempt reserved for the depraved prince of darkness with whom we have to deal. And, he is a prince, a king, with a kingdom of fallen angels under him. This is implied in Revelation 12:9, and the apostle Paul declares it in Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Furthermore, hell ("everlasting fire") was originally "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41)—it is waiting; his doom is sealed.

There is the Holy Spirit of God who is declared to be "the Spirit of truth" (John 16:13). Only truth comes from

Him, "For the fruit of the Spirit is in ALL goodness and (ALL) righteousness and (ALL) truth" (Ephesians 5:9). God cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). Jesus declared, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). But in contrast with God, the Devil is the unholy spirit. All that is destructive, false and evil comes from him. To them under the power of sin, Jesus said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). We can see a direct confrontation between the Devil and the Spirit of truth when Peter said to Ananias, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost (Spirit), and to keep back part of the price of the land?" (Acts 5:3). Then Paul prophetically told of some who would be "giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Timothy 4:1,2). Yes, God's Spirit only presents truth (and all of the truth), and it sets men free; whereas the Devil is the father of all falsehood, lies, enslaving men.

The Devil cannot be redeemed, and he knows it. The nature of his rebellion, depravity and sin is total; it is so great that it is beyond God's plan of redemption. In fact, he is the avowed arch-enemy of God and all that is good. He wishes to destroy God's creation, and especial-

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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.

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## Proverbs of Today

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*If your religion doesn't work in your everyday life, it doesn't work.*

*"When sex is devalued and deformed, as at the present, the quality of our lives declines and the social fabric unravels."*

*When we determine what is right we will at the same time find out what is wrong.*

*"Happiness is a contagious disease, often spread by a smile."*

*An excessive and obsessive preoccupation with prophecy borders on the occult.*

*"The smallest deed is better than the grandest intention."*

*Your salvation is not determined by how you feel, but how you feel is determined by your salvation.*

*"People with a lot of brass are seldom polished."*

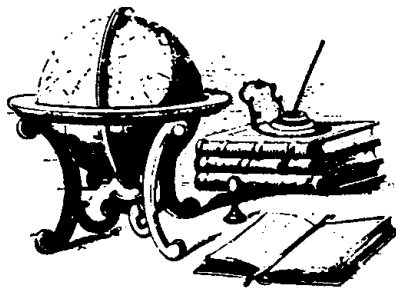
*The devil is a liar, and the only reason he tells the truth is to trick you into believing a lie.*

*"Truth invites criticism, welcomes investigation, and walks unafraid."*

*I have found that people with contradictions in their lives often try to find contradictions in the Bible.*

*"Sitting in a church house doesn't make one a Christian anymore than sitting in a hen house makes one a hen."*

*You can aim to do good all your life, but you'll never hit anything unless you pull the trigger.*

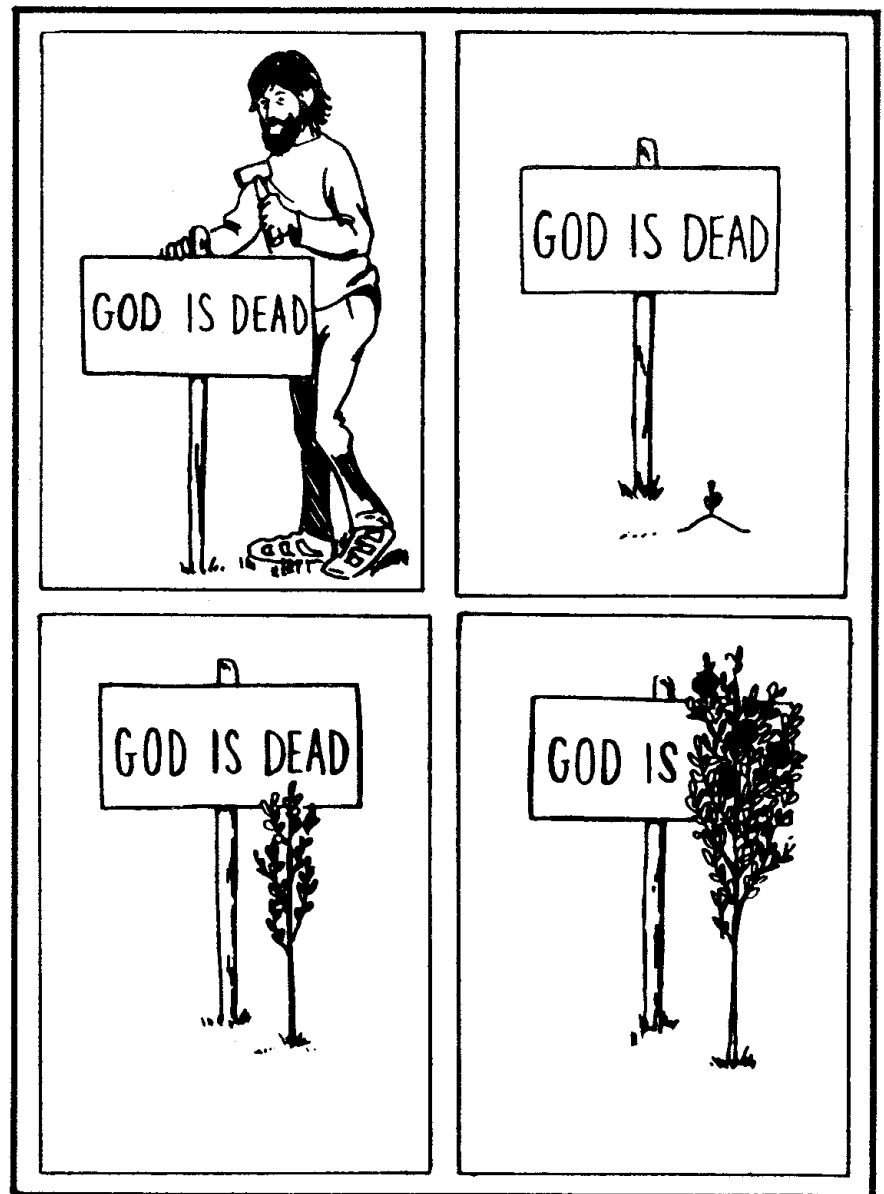


## EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

### NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

SINCE THE revival of THE SWORD AND STAFF in 1967, the price of paper and printing supplies have gone up many times (and especially within the past year). Because of this, we deem it necessary that the following subscription rate schedule go into effect immediately: **Introductory subscription** (first year): \$1.00; **Regular subscription** (renewals): \$2.00; **Bulk subscription** (bundles to one address): .80¢ per copy a year.

No renewal notices are sent out, so when you have received the paper a year, or the equivalent, please renew your subscription.





## **SOME THINGS SATAN WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE (Continued from Page 1)**

ly the object of his attack is the crown of God's creation, man—made after the very image of God. The Devil knows that he personally cannot be saved; he knows that hell awaits him. He also knows that he cannot prevail against God personally (He is Almighty), so he seeks to destroy the image of God in a lower order of God's creation, man. He works havoc now among mankind, and he would like for man to suffer the same fate with him throughout eternity. And the chief way Satan is accomplishing his purpose is through the lie. The only reason he tells the truth is to get you to believe a lie. He wants you to believe a lie. He is the great deceiver. This article concerns some things Satan would have you believe.

### **I. THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT TRUSTWORTHY.**

Our original parents were placed in the beautiful garden home by their benevolent Creator. For their own good, one law of a negative nature restricted them: they could not eat of the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil" in the midst of the garden (Genesis 2:17). They would die if they ate of that tree. Along came Satan in the form of the serpent. Eve, newly created and perhaps naive about what other creatures were supposed to do and not do, was not alarmed when the serpent began to talk to her. She even carried on a conversation with it, telling all that God had said about the tree and what would happen. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4, 5). Thus doubt was placed in the mind of Eve about the Word of God—it was not trustworthy. God didn't mean what He said. She believed the Devil's lie. What a sad and tragic story follows!

Yes, one of the things Satan would have you believe is that the Word of God is not trustworthy. He would have you doubt; he would have you question: Do we have the Word of God? Do we really know that the Bible is the Word of God? Can we really go by the Bible? Can we take it literally? Does it mean what it says?

Sometime ago this writer suddenly found himself on the opposite end of a religious discussion, with all of the other participants marshalled as one man on the other side (although of different denominational backgrounds). I simply maintained that the Bible was not the cause of denominational divisions, but the opinions and traditions of men in addition to the Bible were to blame. I urged that we follow just the Bible alone; that the Bible makes just Christians. But no one agreed with me. "We just don't see the Bible alike!" "It's just a matter of interpretation!" came at me from all angles. I responded, "Are you saying that God gave us a book that we can't understand? Are you blaming God?" "No, but..." came the disconcerted replies. Then this one lady, who happened to be a Methodist minister's wife and displaying an air of final authority as if to settle the matter for good, asked, "How do you know that we have God's Word? After all, it has been handed down through the ages, coming through the hands

of many people. And, I don't believe all of the Bible. Paul was a good theologian, but I don't agree with him on everything." Thus, for this person, and any other holding such a view, this matter was settled. The Bible was a questionable book; it was not trustworthy. We could not appeal to it to settle our religious differences. They had to just hang there unresolved, and denominational traditions, it was implied, were just as valid as the Bible.

(This doubting attitude is one that is not uncommon in so many old-line denominations today, and the above matter brought to my remembrance my experience in leaving denominationalism several years ago. I happened to be a Methodist, and my plans were to be a Methodist minister. As a young man I began to study my Bible. My studying of the Scriptures brought me to the conclusion that sprinkling was not baptism and some other things were not Scriptural in Methodism. I finally approached the local Methodist minister and told him that I just could not be a Methodist minister. He wanted to know why. I began by telling him that Jesus said to "search the Scriptures" (John 5:39), and I had done that. No where could I find, among other things, sprinkling taught in the New Testament. I could never "sprinkle" anyone and call it baptism. I was not ready for the reply that I got. It was a real shocker for a young and innocent Bible believer: "WOULD YOU PUT YOUR LIFE BETWEEN THE COVERS OF A BOOK?!" That is what the preacher said to me!)

But, beloved, we have God's Word! We have God's truth! There is not a question mark in the mind of this writer. My confidence is not in the fallible ability of man to transcribe it faithfully through the years and centuries. My faith is in Almighty God. Jesus declared, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Peter said, "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (I Peter 1:25). The same God Who made heaven and earth is able to communicate His Truth to man, and keep alive and preserve it to all generations—in spite of fallible man (and even through fallible man!) By faith I accept this truth and His truth.

But the Devil wants you to believe the Word of God is not trustworthy—WHY? Here is why! He knows what the Word of God teaches. Listen. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). "But the fearful, and UNBELIEVING, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). The Devil knows that if you do not trust the Word of God you will be powerless to become a Christian because saving faith comes from the Word. Without faith you cannot please God. You are an unbeliever, and all unbelievers will be cast into the lake of Hell-fire. That's what the Devil wants—for you to suffer the same fate with him throughout eternity!

Oh, my beloved, don't believe the Devil's lies. Believe the Word of God. Believe every word of God, taking God at His Word. Don't try to water it down or explain it away. Jesus said that man should live "by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). He also said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him:

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# SOME THINGS SATAN WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE (Continued from Last Page)

the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

## II. THAT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS NOT NECESSARY.

After the great confession had been made by Peter in the region of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus began to condition his disciples for the ordeal of the crucifixion which was ahead. He told them how he must "suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me, for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men" (Matthew 16:21-23).

Peter didn't like what he heard. Surely the Son of God was not going to die on an old rugged cross. Peter at this point didn't understand the plan of God; he thought as a man thinks. Surely there was some other way Jesus could accomplish his mission without the crucifixion. Actually, he was voicing the thoughts that Satan would have all of us believe. The death and the blood of Christ are not necessary. There is some other way that will work. Thus, Jesus rebuked him, and said, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

Since the fall of man, efforts of every kind have been made by man in attempt to be right with God. Living without law, law, philosophy, morality—you name it. It has been tried, and man has failed. In spite of all of man's trying, Paul had to sum it up in Romans by saying, "There is none righteous, no, not one" (3:10), and "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (3:23). In the ultimate sense, the only way fallen man can be righteous is for God to count him righteous by His grace; thus, the need of Jesus. When man sinned, he came under the sentence of death. Early in the history of mankind, the animal sacrifice system came into being. The blood sacrifice of the animal was given in the place of the man, the life being in the blood (Leviticus 17:11), and this symbolized the animal taking the place of man in death. Of course, the animal sacrifice could never take away the guilt of man's sins, but it prefigured the reality of something better to come (Hebrews 10:1). In the fullness of time, Jesus made his appearance on the human scene, lived a sinless life, and finally died on the cross of Calvary. Because he was sinless, God allowed his life to be counted in the place of ours. He allowed his righteousness to be counted for our righteousness, "For he 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). Since God's pattern of things says "without shedding of blood is no remission" (of sin), and the life is in the blood, the merits of the sinless life of Christ are counted to be ours through his blood. Revelation 1:5 (later part) reads, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." Paul reflected in Romans 5:9, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

The Devil knows all of these things. He knows that we cannot take away our own sins. He knows if he can make us downgrade the death of Christ, if he can keep us away from the blood of Christ, we will be lost for all eternity. And that is just what he wants. Thus, he offers all kinds of substitutes for the blood of Christ—even ones that have been tried and found wanting in ages gone by;

anything to accomplish his destructive purpose. And, humanity falls for his line.

Man's experience under the Old Testament Law was calculated to prove to man once and for all that he could not be good enough within himself to save himself. Paul wrote, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (Romans 3:20), and "no man is justified by the law in the sight of God" (Galatians 3:11). The Law just served as a sentence of death for no one could keep it perfectly. Thus, Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8 and 9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest anyman should boast." And, "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). Paul counted all things but nothing that he might know Christ, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Philippians 3:9). Being a good moral person (although commendable), will not take away your sins. You can't be that good; but, oh, the people who think heaven will be their home because they are simply "good." Don't believe the Devil's lie. That's why Jesus died on the cross, because we can't save ourselves.

The revival in our day of witchcraft and the occult is really amazing—yea, startling—and all of it is not fake either. The Devil is hard at work in every avenue available. Man is a spiritual creature, and his spiritual vacuum must be filled with something (even if it comes from the world of darkness). Many modern day revelations are really just that, revelations, but they are not from the Lord (Although we believe the major thesis to his book is totally

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## I KNOW I'LL CRY WHEN HE CALLS MY NAME

*No tears in heaven—how can it be?*

*When Jesus died for a wretch like me.*

*O, He loved me so! Took all my blame—*

*O, I know I'll cry, when He calls my name.*

*He will dry all tears from every eye;*

*The very thought is what makes me cry!*

*His own life's blood covers all my shame—*

*O, I know I'll cry, when he calls my name.*

*Undone, unfit for heaven above,*

*My sins made right through Jesus' love.*

*Unfit for heaven: No wealth, no fame—*

*O, I know I'll cry, when he calls my name.*

*No tears in heaven for evermore,*

*But I'll shed sad tears at heaven's door*

*For the love of Christ who bore my blame—*

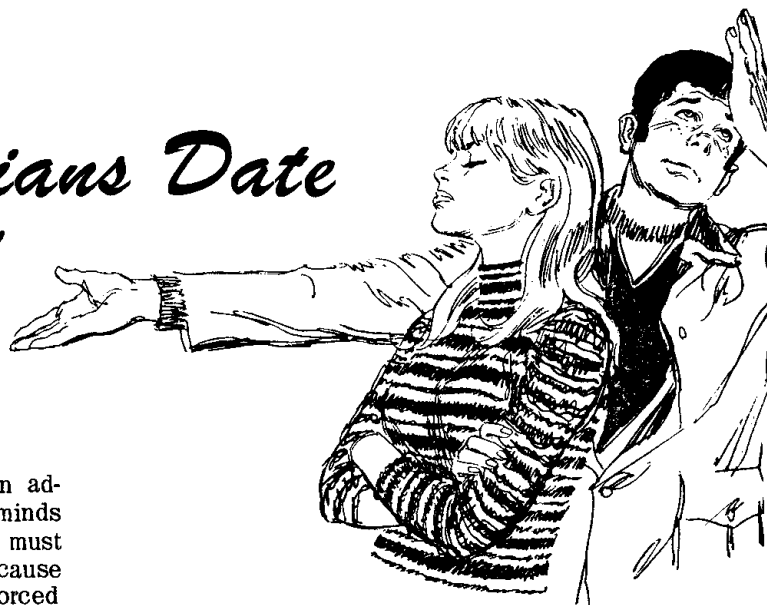
*O, I know I'll cry, when he calls my name.*

By ED HENRY

ANOTHER STUDY OF AN OLD QUESTION:

# "Should Christians Date Non-Christians?"

• By KENNETH L. STREVER  
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PERHAPS YOU thought this question had been adequately settled once and for all years ago. In the minds of many of us it was; but apparently this question must be brought to the forefront again. Why is this? Because many who have children of dating age are being forced to answer this question, and a number of "Christian" young people have dated non-Christians; included in this number would be preachers' children.

Some Christian parents have followed the trend of un-Christian parents and have abdicated their responsibility and acquiesced to the wishes of the child. We admit that this does reduce tremendously the emotional trauma at the time of decision-making. It is easier to go along than to have an emotional confrontation during which tempers may flare and harsh words may fly. What parent enjoys being cast in the roll of a bully, a tyrant, "unfairly" restricting the activities of his child and binding "crazy" rules on the child? What parent enjoys seeing the glaring eyes and sneering lips of his own child directed at him because he would dare to say "no"? So, it's easier for the moment to say, "yes," or to shrug off responsibility and say, "You do what you think best." But, is the "moment" the only consideration to be taken into account? Once the parent begins acquiescing, how does he again regain control and avoid total disaster? Would it be reasonable for me to give consent for my child to date a non-Christian and then with great show of strength deny the right to marry? We must also give due consideration to the spiritual caliber of a young person who would defy parental authority or who would find un-Christian companionship desirable!

## I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE QUESTION.

Why should this question even merit discussion? Isn't dating just a harmless pastime that young people engage in to amuse themselves? Some would seem to have you believe it is of no more significance than this; but reason forces us to look deeper.

Dating is normally a definite part of the process leading to marriage. This is not to imply that a person will marry someone just because he dates that person; but we must admit that many, many times dating *does* lead to marriage.

We believe that underlying every courtship and marriage must be a deep, meaningful friendship. The fault of many marriages is that the parties dated and married, but never became friends. This is not said facetiously, but seriously.

Our effort here is not to discuss the casual friendship that leads no further, but the deeper degree of friendship

that would motivate two people to date. Dating should not be allowed to deteriorate to the status of a silly pastime, but should be regarded as a very possible and probable step toward marriage. It is high time that Christians abandoned the worldly, Hollywood-inspired concepts of dating, love and marriage; and look to God for guidance.

The question needs to be asked, then: "What basis for a deep meaningful friendship exists, or can exist, between the real Christian and the non-Christian?"

The apostle Paul discussed this matter in II Corinthians 6:14-16. "Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and iniquity, or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?"

While we feel that this passage applies to more than marriage, we certainly believe that marriage is included. What more binding yoke or partnership is there than marriage according to God's standards? God intends that this union be permanent, broken only by death. Since dating is undeniably a step toward marriage, it must also come under the searchlight of this passage. Now then, tell me please: What *does* a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What basis is there for even a meaningful friendship? Are there common goals in life; can the Christian join the pursuit of materialism? (Matthew 6:24, "You cannot serve God and mammon"). Are there common interests; can the Christian enjoy the worldly amusements? (Philippians 4:8). Are there not religious convictions that stand between?

Numerous Bible verses make it clear that faithful Christians will be persecuted by unbelievers. "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (II Timothy 3:12). Jesus plainly shows in Matthew 10:34-38 that His standards will divide even family members. This being true, how can there even be a basis on which the Christian and the non-Christian could start a family?

We suspect that many people are deceiving themselves into thinking there can be unity between the people of God and the people of Satan. This can only be if the Christian ceases to uphold the standards of Christ; ceases

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## **"SHOULD CHRISTIANS DATE NON-CHRISTIANS?"** **(Continued from Last Page)**

to wield the Sword of the Spirit against the forces of evil; and when he does this HE HAS SWITCHED SIDES! This is repeatedly confirmed in Old Testament history.

Many young people blindly start down the dating path, deceiving themselves into believing they can terminate the relationship before it reaches the point of no return. Thus they blind themselves to the power of both the emotions and the physical attraction. Parents who should know better have contributed to their delinquency by giving, at least, tacit approval.

### **II. THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.**

The answer to the question must lie in Scriptural truth—if we are Christians. The answer can not be found in the flaring emotions of the person involved; rational decisions are not made in the midst of emotional upheaval! Nor can the answer be found in parental weakness. Fear has gripped the hearts of many parents when confronted by this decision: fear that they will be despised by the child for saying, "no"; fear that their opposition will serve to provoke the child into rebellion and deliberate commission of the very thing they wish to prevent. So, the parent remains silent and the child does it anyway, and where are the parents now? Right where they would have been if they would have said "no." EXCEPT if they had said "no" they would have at least delivered their own souls.

Modern day "advice givers" have brainwashed (brain-polluted would be a better word) parents into believing that opposing a wayward child only makes the child more determined to do wrong. This is true only if and because parents have failed to teach the child to accept a "no" answer from an early age.

Many of the young people of the world do have the attitude that they should be allowed to do "their thing" without any opposition: if they tear up the family car, Dad isn't supposed to complain, just to have it fixed! If they wish to assault the ear drums of the neighborhood with their "music" no one is supposed to register displeasure; just take it and be quiet. If they wish to scrawl obscenities on walls of schools and other public places or shout obscenities on the streets for all to hear, then then parents, school officials and the public in general is supposed to smile benignly and let it pass without rebuke! It never seems to occur to them that if they have the right to do as they please, then so does everyone else. Ah, but can't you just hear them howl if some adult would kick the front out of their blaring amplifier and then say, "Don't holler at me; I'm just doing my thing." Why are they so self centered, inconsiderate, rude and hateful? Because this is the way they have been trained (or, not trained at all)! Parents, you can't wait until your child is a teenager to teach him respect, consideration, and obedience. You have **STARTED TOO LATE!**

We realize that citing Bible verses will not convince the rebellious person. The child who rebels against parental authority has already rebelled against God. "Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1-3). The rebellious child would twist this verse to read, "Children obey your parents if you agree with their instructions." Pity such ones on the Day of Judgment.

Perhaps, though, there are still some parents and chil-

dren who love God and wish to obey His Will; who will study and appreciate Scriptures that apply to our theme.

Read again II Corinthians 6:14-18 and note the instruction of verse 17, "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate" and the promise of verse 18, "And I will be a father to you." This promise is conditional upon our obedience to the command.

Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Romans 8:7,8, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

Does the non-Christian have a carnal mind? Certainly! Then how can the Christian be a friend of one who is God's enemy?

James 4:4, "Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

John 15:19, "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

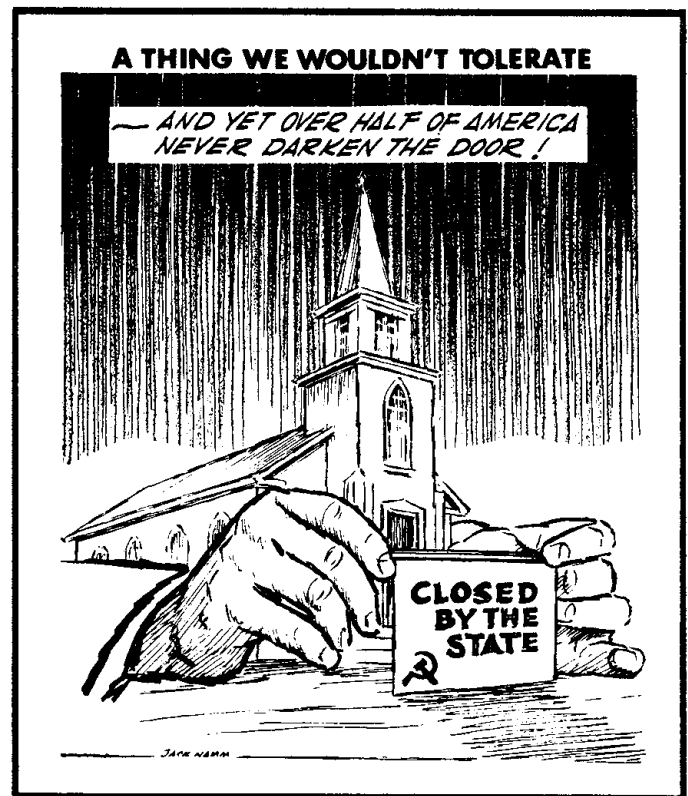
In the light of these truths how can there be a "love affair" between the saved and the lost?

Acts 2:40, "And he testified with many other words and exhorted them saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.'" (How can you save yourself from this crooked generation and be bound to one of its members at the same time?)

I Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals."

Ephesians 5:11, "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." (Obey this verse in the presence of your un-Christian friends and see how long they want you around!)

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# New Government to Prohibit Organized Religion

Can religion exist regardless of the political climate? Discover the answer in this speculative news report by Norman Fox.

(Feb. 30, 1991, Anyland) The new totalitarian government that recently came to power in Anyland has announced its policy toward organized religion. Put briefly, such religion will not be allowed, effective immediately.

The government explains that the structure of every denomination constitutes "an organized system of authority over a body of Anyland citizens." This places the churches in competition with the new regime which maintains itself as the only source of governing power in the nation. All visible aspects of the denominations are under orders, therefore, to disband or face prosecution. The order is expected to affect:

- Church buildings. Government officials have not indicated what uses will be made of the buildings, but they are the property of the new regime.

- Financial assets. The extensive investments of religious organizations have been entirely nationalized (taken over by the new government).

- All office facilities occupied by church hierarchies, national committees, area supervisors, etc. The men and women who have been in positions of leadership at these levels are no longer to be considered authoritative, since they technically do not have a constituency.

- Seminaries, Bible colleges, and other educational arms of the denominations. Since no formal education system other than the state's will be allowed, these institutions must be dissolved.

- Publishing houses and printing facilities. Since there is "danger" in having anyone other than the government capable of producing printed or recorded matter, all publishing will be nationalized.

Observers believe that the ultimatum is directed more against organization than against religious faith as such. No prohibitions have been issued against personal Bible reading, prayer, or such "internal" aspects of spiritual life. In fact assembly for religious purposes has not been singled out as illegal, unless it relates to some organized authority structure. It seems that one of history's oldest lessons has been learned: Some form of faith will be maintained by believers even if it is supposedly outlawed.

Some have noticed that the only religions that will survive under the new guidelines may be primitive Christianity, the form that existed before the historical development of denominations. Original Christianity is not dependent on church buildings, and generally has no reason to invest in tangible earthly assets. It knows nothing of hierarchies or any organization above or outside of autonomous local congregations. It is capable of training and perpetuating itself without educational systems external to the assemblies. And its only indispensable literature is the Bible itself; thus publishing houses are luxuries, not necessities.

Such religion, it would appear, will continue to exist regardless of the political situation in Anyland. □



## HONESTY IS A BY-PRODUCT

A MAN PAID his bill at a hotel. "Do you want a receipt?" asked the clerk. "That won't be necessary," replied the guest, "God has witnessed the transaction." "But I don't believe in God," said the clerk. "In that case, then, please give me a receipt," said the guest.

There is no "secret" to our present wave of dishonesty! Honesty is a by-product of belief in God and obedience to Christ. When men consider God either "dead" or too indifferent to observe their evil ways, they are sure to be dishonest. When anyone feels that this life is all there is, and that there is no judgment day coming, dishonesty is sure to be manifested in some form.

Remember that God sees every move you make, and you will want to be honest. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). You may try to get by now with some form of "situation ethics" and argue "everyone is a little bit dishonest." This is a lie, because genuine Christians are absolutely honest. Rationalization will not get you by at the judgment.

Nowhere does honesty manifest itself any more clearly than in the way we handle the TRUTH. Jesus said, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). "But that on the good ground are they, which in an HONEST and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15).

### GENUINE HONESTY:

1. Tells the truth—Romans 9:1
2. Desires the truth—Psalms 25:5; Acts 8:30, 31
3. Hears the truth—John 18:37, 47
4. Evaluates the truth—II Thessalonians 2:10-12
5. Believes the truth—Luke 8:15
6. Admits the truth—John 12:42, 43
7. Obeys the truth—Romans 6:3, 4; I Peter 1:22
8. Defends the truth—Philippians 1:17
9. Wants MORE truth—Acts 13:38-45

—By HAROLD BUCKLES



**SOME THINGS SATAN WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE (Continued from Page Four)**

wrong, *Revelation: The Divine Fire* by Brad Steiger is really an eye-opener of some things that are going on today). Whether the late Edgar Cayce, Sybil Leek, Arthur Ford or any of the modern day occult cults, they all have one thing in common: REINCARNATION! Evidently this is a communicated doctrine straight from the Devil. After death, according to this doctrine, we come back to earth many times to live over and over again, with the idea of purifying ourselves to go to higher plains in eternity. But the teaching is totally false! The Bible says: "And as it is appointed unto men ONCE TO DIE, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The Devil knows that if he can get you to believe you will have another go around, even many times, you will be lax about eternity. That's exactly what he wants. He wants you to shun the blood of Christ now and die in your sins, thinking all is well. He knows that once you die, that's it. There's not another chance. You will suffer the same irrevocable fate with him throughout eternity.

The New Testament ties in the blood of Christ with baptism and the Lord's supper—not in a sacramental way, but in a spiritual way entered through faith and repentance. We are baptized for the "remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Our sins are "washed away" in baptism (Acts 22:16). It is in baptism that we are putting off the body of the sins of the flesh" (Colossians 2:11,12). (Never mind trying to explain these verses away, just accept what they say; God is speaking). The blood of Christ is the only thing that washes away sins, so in baptism we get the benefit of the blood—our sins are washed away (Note also Romans 6). Baptism was esteemed to be so important in the early church that they took people and baptized them the same hour of their profession of faith (Acts 16:33). The blood of Christ in a sense is in the Lord's supper because here we "commune" with the body and blood of Christ (I Corinthians 10:16). If we do not truly commune with the Lord (fail to enter into discernment), we become guilty of his body and blood (I Corinthians 11:23-29). It is very sacred and important. In fact, the early church observed the Lord's supper every Lord's day (Acts 20:7).

Therefore, it comes as no great surprise to find an assault against baptism and a neglect of the Lord's supper in the denominational world today. This is the Devil's doings. It seems that most denominations will go out of their way to deny what is taught in Acts 2:38. Baptism is "put down" as a work of human righteousness, and it is heralded forth that we are saved by "faith only." The Devil really doesn't care what you believe or do religiously if he can keep you away from the blood. Most denominations "sprinkle" and when they do immerse, it becomes a questionable practice because they deny it is for forgiveness. You can "pray through," have all kinds of "religious" experiences (real and imagined), see visions, or most anything else—just so you stay away from the blood of Christ. The Devil will be happy in his morbid sort of way. He knows you can't be saved without it because you can't save yourself. Oh, beloved, don't believe the Devil's lies. Let us accept God's grace and righteousness while it is still called "today."

**III. THAT YOU CAN DO WRONG AND GET BY.**

Satan was the author of this shoddy and fatal scheme that Ananias and Sapphira threw together as recorded in

Acts 5:11. They had noticed Barnabas and others selling their houses and land, and bringing all of the proceeds from it to the apostles to be used in relieving poor Christians. Their lower nature also was alerted to the praise that came to these liberal Christians. So they schemed. They would sell a certain possession they had, and pretending they were giving all of it to the church, keep back part of it secretly. They wanted the glory of giving all but also the pleasure of keeping back part for their own selfish designs. Ananias would go alone first to take their sizable gift to the church. Sapphira would wait about three hours, then make her grand entrance. The word would be out by then, and she with her husband could could bask in the limelight of praise and glory for what they had done. No one would ever know they were lying about their giving (they thought!). Upon Ananias' arrival, the apostle Peter, with the gift of discernment only the Holy Spirit could give, wasted no time in his interrogation. In rapid succession the questions fly at Ananias,

**Woe unto Them!**

WOE UNTO THEM who preach much about the NEW Testament church but have very little to say about the NEW life in Christ!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach the necessity of following the teachings of the Spirit but have nothing to say about the necessity of teaching the personal indwelling of the Spirit!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach that we must follow the Bible WHOLLY but do not preach HOLY living!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach much about being "doctrinally" RIGHT but have little to say about RIGHTEOUSNESS!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach that we must NOT ADD to the worship when they have yet to ADD worship (learn how to worship)!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach that the doctrine must be PURE when their hearts and lives are not pure!

WOE UNTO THEM who proselyte when they themselves are not walking in the LIGHT!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach that we must walk in the LIGHT then turn around and LIGHT up their cigarettes!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach against denominationalism when they denominate themselves with an exclusive denominational label!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach against falling short of following God's plan for the church when their wives' dresses fall short several inches from being modest!

WOE UNTO THEM who think they are the only ones who can explain the Bible when there is much about their lives that needs explaining!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach that we must love the truth when they have not themselves learned the truth of love!

WOE UNTO THEM who preach much about the "church of Christ" but have little to say about Christ!

WOE UNTO THEM who baptize sinners but do not convert them to Christ!

WOE UNTO THEM who set themselves up to criticize everyone else but will not tolerate criticism of themselves!

(Let us always remember Matthew 7:1-5; Matthew 23; and II Peter 2:19). □

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“Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost (Spirit), and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God!” Ananias dropped dead! In about three hours the dreadful scene was repeated with his wife. They thought they could do wrong and get by. The Devil led them to believe this. He would have you believe the same thing.

The children of Israel were headed for the promised land. Although unwelcomed and unwanted, they made their way through Edom and now were passing through Moab. Balak, the king of Moab, hired a false prophet by the name of Balaam to curse the Israelites. Overlooking the vast throngs of encamped people from his elevated position on the mountains, Balaam opened his mouth. He spoke. Words of blessing for the children of Israel came out—no curses. Three time he tried this, but each time it was the same. He could not prevail against God’s intentions for these people. Failing here, Balaam had a most extraordinary idea. He knew that the God of the Israelites would not tolerate sin, that He was a jealous God. He knew that He would not allow His people to do wrong and get by. Therefore, he gave this counsel to Balak. Get the Israelites involved in worshipping the Moabite god, enticing them with the Moabite women. So the record reads that they “began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel” (Numbers 25:1-3; also read Numbers 31:16; Revelation 2:14). About 24,000 Israelites died because of their sins before this sinful spree was over.

Beloved, you can’t do wrong and get by. That’s a fact. Everything will catch up with you in the Day of Judgment. The Devil knows this; he knows about Revelation 21:27, “And there shall in no wise enter into it—HEAVEN—any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life,” and other Scriptures. The Devil knows that the wages of sin have not changed. He knows that if he can get you fooled into thinking you can do wrong and get by, you will never repent of it. He knows that if you die in those unforgiven sins, you will go straight to Hell. That is what he wants!

Therefore, the New Testament is full of warnings to Christians. Listen. “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:7, 8). “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). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10). “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matthew 25:46). You can’t do wrong and get by!

THERE YOU HAVE IT! These are some things Satan would have you believe, and all of them are lies. God is truth; the Devil is falsehood. One is our salvation; the other our damnation. We can make our choice. But, for our own good, let it be the truth. The apostle Paul solemnly wrote, “Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (II Thessalonians 2:10-12). Beware! □

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**“SHOULD CHRISTIANS DATE NON-CHRISTIANS?”**  
(Continued from Page 6)

Romans 12:9, “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.”

Common sense would tell us that an unwholesome home situation will result if the Christian hates the evil speech, conduct and entertainment of the non-Christian partner while the non-Christian hates the righteousness, zeal and evangelistic spirit of the Christian; with the innocent children torn between the two.

I Corinthians 7:39, “A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives; If the husband dies she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

Since the qualification “only in the Lord” applies to the remarriage of a Christian widow, it certainly would apply to the first marriage of a Christian. (The same principle must apply to men.)

I Corinthians 9:5, “Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife” (N. A. S.).

Why would Paul bother to use the Greek word for “sister” (King James) to describe the kind of wife he had the right to “lead about,” if it were unimportant whether or not she was a Christian? It is obvious Paul was convinced he had the right to marry “only in the Lord.”

Read Galatians 5:17-26. You don’t need a very vivid imagination to see the terrific conflict that can arise if one marriage partner is working the works of the flesh while the other is producing the fruits of the Spirit. Cf. Ephesians 5:1-11.

Consider also Paul’s important teaching concerning Christ and the church in Ephesians 5:22-33 in which he draws from God’s pattern for the home as illustration. “Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord, for the husband is head of the wife.” “Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church.” “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies,” etc., etc.

I Peter 3:7, “Likewise you husbands live considerately with your wives bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life in order that your prayers may not be hindered.”

In the early verses of the chapter Peter deals with the problem of the Christian wife with an unbelieving husband (no doubt a situation where one had become a Christian, and the other declined—Editor), but in this verse he comes back to the Christian home where the mates are “joint heirs” praying together with unhindered prayers.

Possibly, some who read these words will not agree with the application we have made on all these verses. But if you are a Christian who wants to date non-Christians, or a parent who wants to permit it, there are two

(Continued on Page 11)

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... Response

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"Easter"

1. THE ABOVE WORD appears only once in the King James Translation of the New Testament. To all English speaking people it is a very familiar word. It is considered a "moveable day"; and it always comes sometime in the first part of the year—always on Sunday; the rule governing it being, "the first Sunday after the first full moon after the 20th of March."

2. The date of its origin is very ancient. "Easter probably derives its Teutonic name from the festival of the goddess Ostra (in Anglo-Saxon, Estre) which the Saxons of old were wont to celebrate about the same season of the year at which the Christian festival of Easter occurs. In the ancient church the celebration lasted eight days. After the eleventh century, however, it was limited to three; and it later times, generally, to two days. Many of the popular observances connected with Easter are clearly of pagan origin."

3. The use of this word by the makers of the Authorized Version has been criticised by many eminent scholars. Here are quotations from a few of them: "The occurrence of this word in the Authorized Version of Acts 12:4, is chiefly noticeable as an example of the want of consistency in translation."—Smith's Dictionary. "Perhaps

(Continued on Next Page)

BIBLE TEST

(Take this test without using your Bible or any other source than your memory. After you have finished it take your Bible and find the answers. Count off one and a half points for each wrong answer. How is your knowledge of the Bible?)

1. Which is NOT one of the Minor Prophets: Amos, Hosea, Uzziah, or Zephaniah?
2. Give the husbands of these wives: (1) Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist) \_\_\_\_\_; Sarah \_\_\_\_\_; (3) Priscilla \_\_\_\_\_; (4) Rebekah \_\_\_\_\_; (5) Sapphira \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which has more chapters—Ruth or Hezekiah (careful)?
4. In what book would you expect this statement to be found, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying"?
5. To what two preachers did Paul write letters?
6. Which Gospel has events not found in the other three, and does not record most of their material?
7. Christ was a priest after the order of \_\_\_\_\_ and not after the order of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Name three of the Judges.
9. Name six of the Apostles.
10. Name six of the twelve tribes of Israel.
11. Place the following in the order of their historical occurrence. ( ) Abraham; ( ) Solomon; ( ) King Saul; ( ) Cain; ( ) Jeremiah; ( ) Luke.
12. What was the "exodus"? ("Second book in the Bible" is not the answer).
13. In what book is the story of Abraham found?
14. Who was the Hebrew heroine who saved her people from the hatred of Haman?
15. Jesus was born in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, but grew up in \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The Ten Commandments are first found in the book of \_\_\_\_\_; they were given by God to \_\_\_\_\_ from Mount \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Paul was reared in the city of \_\_\_\_\_; converted in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
18. What Apostle is famous for his confessions of his faith in Jesus?
19. How many books of the New Testament were written by Peter? By James? By John? By Luke?
20. What chapter in the Bible has the most verses? \_\_\_\_\_ How many?
21. Jesus was crucified just outside the city of \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ was a woman who sold purple that Paul met by the side of a river; \_\_\_\_\_ was the chief companion of Paul on his first "missionary" journey.
22. Identify the following as either FRIEND or ENEMY of Jesus: (1) Pharisees \_\_\_\_\_; (2) Lazarus \_\_\_\_\_; (3) Chief Priests \_\_\_\_\_; (4) Nathanael \_\_\_\_\_; (5) Judas \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Identify the following as either FRIEND or ENEMY of Paul: (1) Epaphroditus \_\_\_\_\_; (2) Silas \_\_\_\_\_; (3) Hymanaeus \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Which is NOT a mountain: (1) Olivet; (2) Zion; (3) Sinai; (4) Kedron; (5) Hermon?
25. Underline the three places that were NOT cities: (1) Joppa; (2) Jordan; (3) Caesarea; (4) Galilee; (5) Aenon; (6) Antioch. —James Sloan—

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“EASTER” (Continued from Last Page)

there never was a more unhappy, not to say absurd, translation than that in this verse. The form Easter, inserted here by our translators, they borrowed from the ancient Anglo-Saxon service books. Every view we can take of this subject shows the gross impropriety of retaining a rendering every way exceptional and palpably absurd.” —Adam Clark. “There never was a more absurd or unhappy translation than this. The original is simply ‘after the Passover.’ The word Easter now denotes a festival observed by many churches in honor of the resurrection of the Savior. But the original (word) has no reference to that; nor is there the slightest evidence that any such festival was observed when this book (Acts) was written—Barnes. “After Easter—Literally, After the Passover. It should so have been rendered. Easter is the name of the festival which many Christians keep in commemoration of Christ’s resurrection. But no such name then was in use, except that the Pagans kept a festival in honor of their goddess EASTRE, or Venus, in the month of April. And about the same time of the Passover.”—Jacobus.

4. To the above testimonies we may add that the Revised Version, Living Oracles, Twentieth Century, John Wesley’s Translation, all, use the word Passover instead of the word Easter. And furthermore, the Greek word, which Luke used is found twenty-nine times in the New Testament. It means Passover; and twenty-eight times it is translated Passover by the King James translators. Why they used the word Easter (in Acts 12:4) is a puzzle. One authority says it was because of a special order from King James.

5. The word Passover is used frequently in the Old Testament, and refers to a certain feast of the Israelites. See Exodus 12:1-20. This feast was held in the first month of the Jewish year; that month was called Abib. See Deuteronomy 16:1. The selected lamb was to be killed on the fourteenth day, at even, and roasted and eaten that same night. That day was the first day of the seven-day period of the unleavened bread. And as it is generally considered that the Jewish month Abib began about the middle of our month March, we can conclude that this Passover was held right at the last of our March and first of April. And as we learn from the New Testament that when the Savior was crucified and when he arose, was during the time of the feast, we can discover almost the very day of his death. And knowing the day of his crucifixion, we can fix the date of his resurrection.

6. And now, having determined the time of the Savior’s death and resurrection almost to the very day, we can almost as nearly fix the date of his birth in the following manner. It is written that when he was about thirty years of age he was baptized in the river Jordon. See Luke 3:23. And it is generally understood that the Lord’s public life lasted three and one-half years; so his life on earth was thirty-three and one-half years. Now, if the Lord was crucified in the spring—probably last of March or first of April—then we count backward the thirty-three and one-half years, to his birthday—which would be just six months (and the thirty-three years) before the time of his death. And as we reckon that he was crucified in the year 34, last of March or first of April, then by arithmetical process we fix the date of his birth late in September or early October. And such a date agrees with the fact that the shepherds were keeping watch in the night over their flocks. See Luke 2:8-11. And not likely they were out as late as the twenty-fifth of December. The

fact is they were seldom out after October.

7. From the above statements we are warranted to conclude that the day commonly called Christmas is not the “birthday” of our Savior. We all know that the day of our birth is a “fixed” day. So likewise is the day of one’s death a “fixed” day. By the word fixed is meant not a moveable one. For example, Labor Day is a moveable day—it may be September 1, or it may be as late as September 7. But Decoration Day is stationary—a “fixed” date. So were the Savior’s death and his resurrection day—a fixed day—just as fixed as was his birthday. So the rule of Easter—the first Sunday after full moon after the 20th of March—cannot be applicable,—it cannot be correct, only once in a while. We conclude by saying. Why not teach our children the truth? Though we cannot know the exact dates, yet, we can know that the present dates of Easter and Christmas are not true dates of our Savior’s birth and resurrection. They are not scriptural dates. —W. F. Cline

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“SHOULD CHRISTIANS DATE NON-CHRISTIANS?”  
(Continued from Page 9)

questions I would ask you:

Is your decision based on a thorough and honest study of the Scriptures and prayer for guidance, or is it based on a lack of these and human weakness?

Is your decision designed to produce temporary happiness in this life or is it designed to produce eternal happiness following the Day of Judgment?

Think about it!

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“THEY” SAID IT

“THEY” have been saying things ever since I can remember, but nobody knows who “they” are. People who have taken the time to trace down some things have found that it is impossible to find “they.”

Usually “they” happens to be the person who says it. I once knew a fellow who was always saying, concerning things the church desired to do, “they” object to it. IT WAS FOUND THAT THE “THEY” WAS HIS WIFE AND NONE OTHER. So it is not always known whether a “they” is singular or plural, but the impression is always left that “they” constitute a big majority! I have never known any report to come from “they” to amount to very much. It is the coward’s way of trying to block someone without it being revealed WHO is doing the blocking.

It is trying to ride behind some imaginary person. It is dishonest! —Selected

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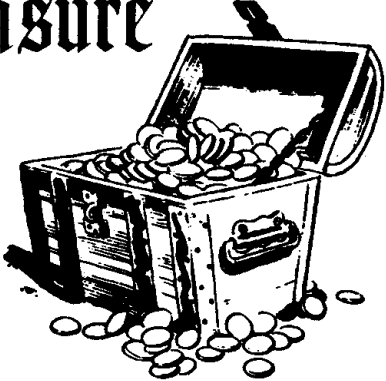
THE BIBLE: ALL WE NEED

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I still my firm conviction keep:  
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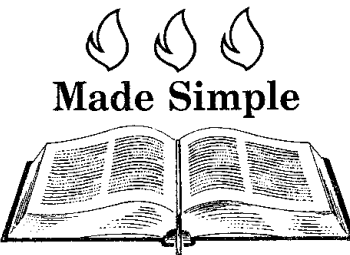
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