

The Sword AND Staff

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

•

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

• THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS BY JOHN VanVOORHIS, PAW PAW, WEST VIRGINIA 25434

(The picture below is a model of Herod's temple as it stood in the days of Jesus)

• READ I Corinthians chapter 3; especially notice verses 9 and 10: "For we are God's fellow workers; ye are God's husbandry (margin reading: 'tilled ground'), God's BUILDING. According to the grace of God which was given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder I laid a foundation; and another buildeth thereon. But let each man take heed how he buildeth thereon."

THE CHURCH AT CORINTH, having been constructed on a perfect foundation (3:11) by the efforts of a wise masterbuilder, was now being torn assunder by strife, divisions, contentions and being destroyed by the agency of carnal-minded men. The schism that had denominationalized the Corinthian brethren into name-calling factions (some of Paul, some of Apollos, some of Cephas: see 1:12) was not the work of these faithful proclaimers of the gospel, to whom the Corinthians had pledged their loyalty, but to false and deceitful workers (II Corinthians 11:13), who liked to think of themselves as every bit the equal of the apostles of Christ in matters of building the temple of God. Blinded to their need for a Divine blueprint and unwilling to account themselves as but "stewards" (4:1) of the mysteries of God, they set about to build according to the wisdom of this world as best suited their fancies.

This particular disease is not a rare dilemma, isolated to the city of Corinth in centuries past, but is a reoccurring plague afflicting the church in countless cities throughout its twenty centuries of history. Everyone, from "Learned Divines," (Doctors of Theology, no less!) down to the snake-handling, mountain preachers have proclaimed, "Here a cure, there a cure," for the disease of human institutionalism. However, these have only added to the plague rather than bring relief. Though a disease of epidemic proportions, there is a cure! Let man return to the "Great

Physican" and receive an injection of the "simplicity and purity that is toward Christ" (II Corinthians 11:3) and man will be cured!

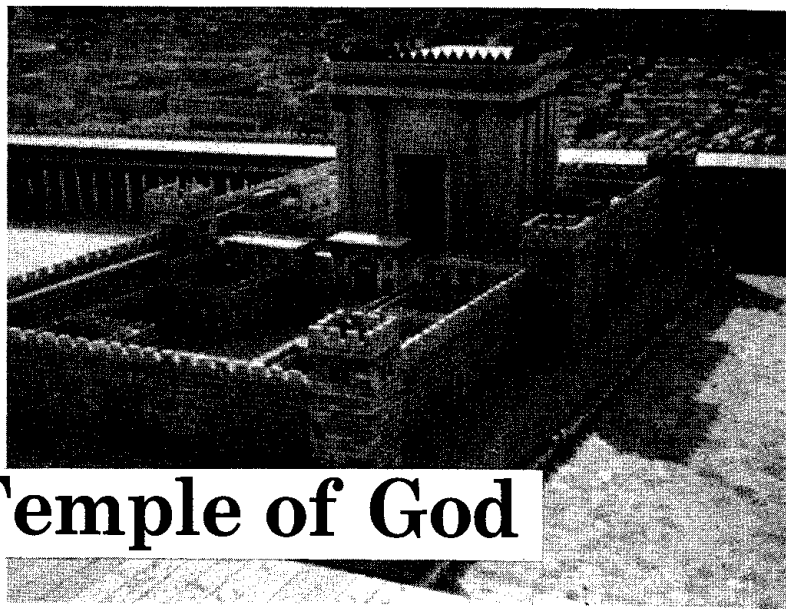
The Church Belongs to God Not to Man

Will man ever learn the lesson, "Ye are God's building" (3:9), "ye are the temple of God" (3:16)? When will man cease to descend to the plains of Shinar to there find the bricks of "human opinion" with which to erect his towers of denominational Babel? And when will he go to the mountain top of Zion, there to erect "the mountain of the Lord's house" out of the living stones of God's eternal truth? (See Genesis 11:2-5; Isaiah 2:2,3). Though a thousand towers of Babel be built through human plans with the hope of eventually "topping out" in heaven, all will fall far short of the goal because "the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His..." (II Timothy 2:19). "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalms 127:1). Twenty centuries should be sufficient to teach mankind that the holy temple of God, the church, cannot be defiled with the doctrines and commandments of men without God destroying us (3:17). To build on such a foun-

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The Church is God's Building—

The Temple of God



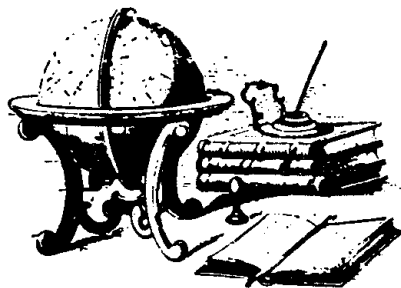
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EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

NO OUTSIDE ADVERTIZEMENT ACCEPTED

FROM TIME TO TIME we have inquiries concerning our advertizing rates in THE SWORD AND STAFF. So we herewith state our policy again in this matter. Because of the nature of this paper, it is our established policy (as things presently stand) to accept no outside advertizement of any kind—commercial, paid or otherwise. □

Proverbs of Today

The cross of Christ is to be borne (spiritually), not worn (literally, as in jewelry or fetish).

"Only fools and the dead never change their opinions."

It is a mark of maturity (and security) if you can laugh with others when they laugh at you.

"The 'higher life' is found in the valley of humility."

If we do not take a firm stand on God's Word that means we are infirm, spiritually speaking.

"You may not be able to do as much as some, but you likely can do more than some others, but for sure, you can do your best."

Choose a date fit for a mate, and with a Christian it must be only another Christian.

"He who tolerates the devil soon endorses him."

Christianity has not been tried and found wanting, but is wanting to be tried.

"When once infidelity can persuade men that they shall die like beasts, they will soon be brought to live like beasts also."

He who walks with God never walks alone.

"Hot heads and cold hearts never solved anything."

EDITORIAL

By-Ways

AN UNEXPECTED TRIP TO BIBLE LANDS

FEBRUARY was almost over, and such a thing that was about to happen had not even entered this writer's mind. A long distance telephone call in the night: I answered. Would I be interested in a trip to Palestine and Bible lands? Well...yes, BUT at least one 'little' technicality stood in the way—namely, almost \$1,000 for the expense of the tour. Would I go if the person calling paid the way? Well...YES! One condition was attached to this generous offer: Anonymity on the part of those making this trip possible.

Another problem: Just three weeks to get ready and to obtain a passport. The tour would leave New York City March 10th, led by Miller-Hunt. (The tour would include Rome, Israel, and Greece).

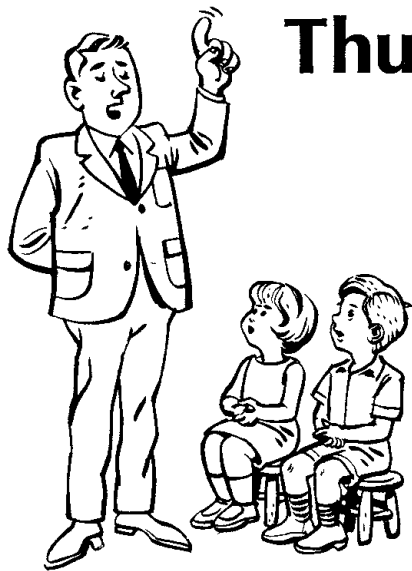
Although not quite psychologically ready for such a trip, I made it. It proved more valuable and worthwhile than I had ever imagined. I am thankful to those who made this possible to me. I would recommend it as worth your time and within the realm of good stewardship to make such a tour. What one experiences personally can not be put down in words.

IMPRESSIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Having lost sleep a few nights before leaving on the trip, and having not slept a wink on the all night, transatlantic flight, this writer was somewhat in a suspended state of stupor. However, I began to "perk" up with the tour of Rome; especially when trying to take a picture of the Coliseum at a distance and at the same time dodging Roman traffic. It was moving to know that in this very

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The Sons of Thunder



• By DAVID R. MILLS, 2714 Bonanza, Lawrence, Kans. 66044

JAMES AND JOHN were probably the youngest of all the apostles. In fact, Jesus may have called them the Sons of Thunder because of their childish attitudes and actions. Your parents probably haven't called you the children of thunder but they have no doubt felt like it at times. Did you ever lead a herd of stampeding kids through the house? or send a lamp crashing to the floor during an argument? or scream at your brother or sister? or slam a door in anger? Sometimes James and John acted just like that too.

James and John had violent tempers. One time some people wouldn't let them come into their town. James and John raged, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven and destroy them?" (Luke 9:54). They actually got mad. Did you ever get mad? even when Johnny hit you in the stomach while playing football? or when a bully called you a sissy for going to church? What about the time Betty cut the hair off your favorite doll?

James and John shouldn't have lost their temper. The Bible says Jesus rebuked them. Jesus told them they were being naughty and shouldn't get mad any more. John listened to Jesus because later he gives some good reasons for not getting mad and hating people. John learned that "whoever hates his brother is a murderer" (I John 3:15). That is pretty bad but there is something even worse. John found out that when you hate somebody you can't love God! (I John 4:20).

Now you want to love God and you don't want to be a murderer, but you know it is a hard job to control your temper. Here are some rules to help you.

1. Don't argue, Proverbs 17:14. Arguments end in anger and fights.
2. Speak kindly and softly, Proverbs 15:1. It is like water on a fire.
3. Delay showing your anger, Proverbs 19:11. By the time you count to 150 you probably won't be so mad.
4. Obey the Golden Rule, Matthew 7:12. You wouldn't

be mean to yourself, would you?

5. Be good to your enemy, Romans 12:20,21. It will cool your anger too!

Anger was just one of the problems James and John had. They were selfish too. Mark 10:35-37 tells us they wanted the best seats in the kingdom. They wanted the best seats because that would make them like captains on God's team. They were like you when you pushed to the front of the line, took the biggest piece of cake, or hung on to the newest basketball on the court.

John learned that Jesus didn't approve of selfishness. Jesus left heaven and gave His life for us (I John 3:16) so that he could share heaven with us. Jesus wasn't selfish. So when you are selfish, God's love and unselfishness is not in you (I John 3:17).

John also learned that the best way to overcome selfishness is by sharing (I John 3:18). You start sharing and see the rewards and friends it brings, and you will be on your way to overcoming selfishness. Jesus said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving" (Acts 20:35).

Another problem? Yes, James and John had another problem. They were snobbish. They thought they were the only ones good enough to do the things they did (Luke 9:49,50). Perhaps you have done the same kind of thing too. You may have said Jack couldn't play on your team because he couldn't hit the ball very well. Maybe you laughed and made fun of somebody who was fat, had crooked teeth, or walked with a limp.

Jesus doesn't want children to be snobbish. Jesus loves everybody. John learned to love everybody too. In fact, John is known as the Apostle of Love.

Being temperamental, selfish, and snobbish causes a lot of thunder that Jesus doesn't like to hear. But if you have trouble with one of these, don't give up. James and John had trouble with them too. If you want to overcome these problems, do the same thing they did—walk with Jesus. Read your Bible and pray every day and maybe, sometime, you'll be like James and John—leaders in the church. □

PSALM FOR THE INNER CITY

*I am the Lord your God.
I am with you even in the inner city.
I own the buildings on every block.
I am the Lord your God.
I hear your prayers above the traffic roar.
I see you through the smog.
I am the Lord your God.
From the suburbs to the strip,
I am with you.
I am the Lord your God.
I sent my Son among your kind.
He died outside a city.
I am the Lord your God.*

SELECTED

Christianity Without Denominations

TO WHAT denomination did Peter, James, John, the 3,000, Cornelius, the eunuch, Lydia, the Corinthians, and the jailer belong? They were members of the body of Christ, which is the Lord's church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24), yet they were not members of any denomination. All who were saved became members of this body, the church, by virtue of the fact that God added them to it—Acts 2:47. Yet, they belonged to no denomination. They had been called out of the "power of darkness" or the world, and translated into the "kingdom of God's dear Son" which is the Church (Colossians 1:13, 14, 18), but still they were not members of any denominational church.

Just so, today, if a sinner believes in Christ, and is baptized, just as the 3,000, the eunuch, Lydia, Cornelius, the jailer, etc., such would make him a Christian, but nothing more (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 8:36-39; Acts 16:14, 15; Acts 16:30-34; Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:26, 27). This would not make him a member of any denomination.

If a great number should do this, would they not be Christians? Should this number come together on the first day of the week for worship, Acts 20:7, call themselves by the same name as did the apostles and early Christians, accept and teach the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, select such servants as the Bible authorizes, and observe the same commands in the same way as the apostles and early Christians did, and as are set forth in the Bible—they would be simply New Testament Christians, members of the body of Christ, or New Testament church, assembling for worship without being members of any denomination on earth.

This is exactly what the church of Christ is, and contends for. If you want to be simply a New Testament Christian—no more and no less—then investigate and be a member of the church of Christ. If you want to follow the Bible strictly—without addition or subtraction—then come to the Lord's church alone. —Selected ☐

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EDITORIAL BY-WAYS

(Continued from Page 2)



(Picture taken by the editor of the ruins of the Coliseum staying in Rome)

place early Christians had suffered untold torture and martyrdom. Just as impressive, but in a totally different sort of way (to say the least), was to see the pope's headquarters—the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica. Ancient ruins were much in evidence in this city, but just as interesting were the modern Romans.

My feelings experienced in Israel may be summed up by three words: Excitement, inspiration, and depression (sometimes experienced separately and sometimes mingled). The first morning out as we were driving north from Jerusalem toward Samaria, although everyone was very tired, excitement was in the air. You could feel it. Yet a strange feeling of deep depression kept haunting me. Could this be the promised land? The land "flowing with milk and honey"? This undoubtedly was the most rocky, roughed country I had ever laid eyes on. The top soil was the same as all gone. Man-made rock terraces struggled to hold on to strips of soil, some no wider than a foot. There were no trees. Then I thought, we are not looking at the same land seen by the children of Israel in ancient times. Hundreds, even thousands of years, have passed. We are looking at a cursed land. The Bible had spoken of such. (However, valleys and coastal regions were more productive looking).

The place identified with Golgotha and the Garden Tomb proved to be the peak of greatest emotional and inspirational impression to me. We were all standing, looking at what was thought to be the place where our Lord was crucified. Arriving spring had made the hill green, but it looked uninviting with its jagged rocks on the side

(Continued on Next Page)

and the Moslem cemetery on the top. The sounds of a busy bus station near by, buses coming and going, filled the air. After a little while, our group began to move on. I lingered taking pictures. Thoughts bombarded my mind, and a tidal wave of emotion swelled up in me. If not here, somewhere very near here, the Lord Jesus, the very Son of God, had been crucified...because of my sins! About that time I heard a rooster crow. The scenes of Peter denying the Lord all flashed before me. As Peter denied the rooster crowed, and the Lord passing by turned and looked upon Peter—"And Peter went out, and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:62). I thought of myself; how unworthy I was; how that during my lifetime one way or another I had denied the Lord. I, too, "went out, and wept bitterly"! It was very real!

I don't believe that anyone kept his composure at the Garden Tomb. But "death cannot keep his prey—Jesus, my Savior!" The blossoming flowers of spring in the Garden were beautiful, refreshing, and in keeping with the thought of resurrection. Praise God for the empty tomb!



(Picture of the Garden Tomb outside of old Jerusalem taken by the editor)

ROCKS AND WATER

Two words will never mean the same to me again when I read the Bible, or, at least, they will be more meaningful—rocks and water. As we have mentioned, Palestine is a land with a superabundance of rocks. Consequently, it seems, all buildings are made out of rock. And how the ancients moved these huge rocks and worked them into beautiful structures never ceased to be a marvel to us. They were no dummies.

Water is a very precious commodity in this land, the Jordan River and wells being the main sources of water. South and east of Jerusalem you don't have to go very

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Unspotted from the World

THE STORY is told of a young girl going on a tour of a coal mine who came dressed in a spotless white dress. Her companions rebuked her but she maintained it would be all right. "As long as I don't actually mine the coal I will not soil my dress," she said. Then she asked the miner who was to guide them if she could wear a white dress into the mine. He answered, "There is nothing to keep you from wearing a white dress into the mine, but there are several things that will keep you from wearing one out!"

So it is with a Christian partaking of worldly activities. It is not always necessary to actually engage in the practice to be influenced by it. When a Christian associates with worldly companions in worldly practices, even though he is just a witness, still he may be influenced by it and his resistance to these temptations may be weakened. When your companions start drinking, dancing, gambling, cursing, mixed swimming, or any such worldly practice, it is time to part company. The influence of sin is very subtle and you may find that even being a witness to these acts will cause you to weaken in your opposition and eventually to become a partaker. It is for this reason that the apostle Paul made the following statements:

"Abstain from every form of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22). "But I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple unto that which is evil" (Romans 16:19). "Who, knowing the ordinance of God that they that practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but consent with them that practice them" (Romans 1:32). And, "Be not deceived; Evil companions corrupt good morals" (I Corinthians 15:33).

Do not wear the "white dress of Christianity" into worldly places and practices and expect to remain unspotted.

—D. Harkrider □

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THE CHURCH IS GOD'S BUILDING—THE TEMPLE OF GOD *(Continued from Page 1)*

dation is vain (Matthew 15:9). Though there be "ten thousand instructors in Christ" there is only one way to "father" man into the kingdom of God and that is through the gospel (4:15).

I. THE FOUNDATION AND THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH ARE DIVINE.

Paul said, "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (3:11). This certainly is understandable. But has man taken heed to how he has built upon this foundation? Many religious teachers act and teach as though God had little or nothing to do with the establishment of the church. Many in fact believe and teach that God never planned the establishment of the church until after Christ was rejected by the Jewish leaders! Amazing bit of theology in light of the prophecy of Zechariah 6:12, 13. Listen to this! "Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, behold the man whose name is the BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the TEMPLE OF THE LORD; Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." The BRANCH, CHRIST JESUS (See: Isaiah 11:1ff; Jeremiah 23:5; Acts 13:22, 23) was to rise up and BUILD the TEMPLE OF THE LORD. In fulfillment of this promise, Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church..." This makes the founder of the church and its foundation both Divine. If Zechariah prophesied the coming establishment of the church, then why do men treat the church so lightly? It is because they fail to apply this prophecy to the church.

Hardly anyone who has an acquaintance with this Scripture can fail to see that the BRANCH refers to the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. The problem seems to lie in the identification of the "TEMPLE" that he was going to build and when he would build it.

A. Can We Identify the Temple of God as the Church?

There are several temples mentioned in the Scriptures. There was the O. T. temple built at Jerusalem by Solomon and promised by God (Deuteronomy 12:5, 11-14; I Kings 8:15-20). This temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B. C. (II Kings 25:8, 9). A second temple in Jerusalem was erected during the days of Zerubbabel (this temple stood in the days of Zechariah's prophecy) but was desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes (168 B. C.), later attacked by Pompey (63 B. C.), and stormed by Roman troops and Herod the Great in 37 B. C. Herod "restored" this temple, beginning his work of rebuilding in 20 B. C., continued construction was going on in Jesus' day and was not completed until 64 A. D. just before its destruction by Titus in 70 A. D. Jesus predicted its destruction in Matthew 24:2, saying, "Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Jesus spoke of his own body as a "temple," John 2:19-21. Is this the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy? Hardly could this be contended from the language of the prophecy.

We also have the bodies of Christians spoken of as "TEMPLES OF GOD" in I Corinthians 6:19, 20. The bodies of Christians are the dwelling place of God through the Spirit and collectively make up the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Individual congregations of Christians, called out of the world by Christ and belonging to Him, are called in the New Testament, the "temple of God." This is how Paul uses the expression in I Corinthians 3:23. We also see this usage in Ephesians 2:19-22 when Paul refers to the church as the "household of God; built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ the chief corner stone. In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy TEMPLE in the Lord; In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." This temple is the "spiritual house" spoken of by Peter in I Peter 2:5-9 in the which Christians are living stones, serve as a "holy priesthood," are a "royal or kingly priesthood," and make up a holy nation. Note that Christ is spoken of by Peter as fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament in that he is the "chief corner stone" in Zion, the "head of the corner," the king of the "holy nation."

This "TEMPLE" is the house of God, the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, referred to by Paul in I Timothy 3:15.

THE CHURCH is a TEMPLE of Divine ORIGIN, has a Divine FOUNDATION that cannot be altered! Christ is the BUILDER of this TEMPLE and must build (through the agency of men) according to the Divine plan.

B. Many Claim the Temple of Zech. 6:12-13 Is Yet to Be Built.

They say it will not be built until the second coming of Christ or when Christ comes to set up the millennial kingdom. It will be a literal, physical temple built at Jerusalem and will excel the glory of Solomon's temple. Prophecies such as Amos 9:11, 12; Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1, 2 as well as the prophecy of Zechariah apply to this temple. If this is true, then Christians will keep the feast of Tabernacles and offer animal sacrifices in obedience to the law of Moses as the Jews of old, when this "temple" is built! (See Zechariah 14:16-21).

Jesus opens our understanding of the Scriptures as he did the disciples of his day, teaching that Isaiah's and Micah's prophecy was fulfilled in the beginning of the church at Pentecost (See Luke 24:45-49). The power to restore the kingdom to Israel—of which authority was reserved to the Father—was going to be received by the apostles in Jerusalem not many days from the ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:3-9). Peter further declared on the day of Pentecost that this same Jesus had been made both "LORD and CHRIST" (Acts 2:36) following his ascension. According to Zechariah, when Jesus built the temple was when he would "sit and rule upon his throne." Peter, later in speaking of the "times of the restitution of all things," said that all the prophets from Samuel and those that followed after, foretold of "these days" (Acts 3:19ff). "These days," referring to the announcing of the gospel for the remission of sins and the inauguration of the kingdom of God, then were fulfilled with the beginning of the church.

James in Acts 15:13-17 declared that the prophecy of Amos concerning the building of the "tabernacle of David" found its fulfillment in the gospel visitation upon the Gentiles by the ministry of the apostles, Peter and Paul. Shall we not then conclude with Jesus, Peter and James that the TEMPLE OF GOD referred to the church that Jesus built?

Because of the "Pre-Millennial" doctrine of a future glorious "temple" and "kingdom" men have come to re-

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Smoke Cigarettes?



WHY?

WHAT DOES SMOKING cigarettes get you, anyway? If you're lucky, and if you smoke about a pack a day, in a year's time you'll suffer a \$150 hole in your wallet.

If you're not quite so lucky, you may experience an unpleasant cough, loss of stamina for athletics. These problems can hit you right now—while you're still in your teens—and increase your chances of having disabling illnesses such as heart disease, bronchitis, emphysema. If you start smoking when you are young, these ailments may not hold off until you reach 40 or 50. They can begin affecting you earlier than that.

HOW SMOKE HARMS YOU

Here's how cigarettes contribute to disease and death: cigarette smoke paralyzes the cilia (tiny hairs lining the bronchial tubes) that sweep foreign particles out of the lungs. Without this protective action, healthy lung tissue can be injured, even destroyed, by particles in the smoke which remain in the lung.

A SMOKER'S CHANCES

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. today. Chances that cigarette smokers (as compared with nonsmokers) will die of lung cancer rise sharply the more they smoke. And even with surgery, the most effective treatment for lung cancer we have, only five per cent are saved. That's one patient in twenty....

These are some of the physiological facts—what smoking does to you. What is it that smoking does for you?

Puts you in the "in" crowd? Think about that a bit. Are you really more popular because you smoke? There's so much more to becoming part of the crowd—your personality, abilities, and individuality, for instance. Look around, too. Notice how many leaders in your school are nonsmokers. They aren't afraid to act on their own; nor do they need cigarettes as a status symbol, do you?

Makes you more grownup? Think about it. Perhaps it does make you feel more grownup at first, because all the

ads and TV commercials tell you how sophisticated smoking is supposed to be. But, again, look around you. Many, many people have stopped smoking in recent years. Ask them why. A wise person weighs the facts about cigarettes and has the courage to say "no, thanks" to an obviously harmful habit.

TAKE IT FROM THE DOCTORS

They say cigarettes are lethal. And they ought to know. Your doctor will tell you that smoking can no longer be considered a reasonable gamble. Scientists have produced lung cancer in dogs who smoked in a two and a half year test.

Don't take it (the habit) from parents who smoke. Smoking might have been the thing to do when they were teenagers. But that was before the harmful evidence about cigarettes was known. Now, many of them are hooked. But many others have stopped, and still more wish they could and are at least trying to quit.

WEIGH THE FACTS WELL

You have a great advantage today. You know the facts. Your parents didn't. Even if you have started to smoke, you can still quit. If you let the habit really hook you, quitting will be much, much harder.

You've got only one life. There's so much you can do with it. Why blow it—in smoke?

FACTS ABOUT CIGARETTE SMOKING

1. *The greatest single cause of preventable death in the U. S. A. today is cigarette smoking.*
2. *On the average, the life expectancy of a man 25 (nonsmoker) is six and a half years greater than that of a man who smokes one or more packs a day.*
3. *The death rate from lung cancer for cigarette smokers is ten times that of nonsmokers.*
4. *Of 25-year-old men, on the average, twice as many heavy smokers (2 packs a day) as nonsmokers will die before 65.*
5. *Male smokers (10 or more cigarettes a day) between 45 and 54 have death rates from coronary heart disease three times those of nonsmokers.*
6. *Emphysema, a relatively rare disease a few years ago, is now a major cause of disability. It is acrippler and a killer. It causes the lungs to lose their elasticity. If the disease is unchecked, the effort to breathe eventually becomes a constant, agonizing struggle.*

—AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FULL SALVATION

*Empty heart and empty hands, Lord,
Empty lives we bring to Thee.
Nothing more have we to offer
In exchange for grace so free.
Oh, fill us now with Thyself, Dear Lord—
We accept Thy matchless gift!
We embrace Thy full salvation,
And a song of praise we lift.*

Anonymous

EDITORIAL BY-WAYS

(Continued from Page 5)

far until you are in the desert. The northern part of the land is a little better endowed with rainfall.

ORANGES AND BANANAS

We were a little surprised to see oranges and bananas growing in Israel, and in good supply. They are not mentioned in the Bible. However, I understand this kind of fruit is more of a recent transplant, dating back to the Middle Ages.

Although a small land, it is varied in altitude and consequently somewhat in climate, thus making for variety in the types of crops grown. Olives and figs are ancient standbys in the land. Snow may be on the mountains in Jerusalem in the winter at times, but tomatoes are grown only 24 miles away at the north end of the Dead Sea (irrigation used).

WALLS AND EMPIRES

The ruins of different and successive, ancient civilizations can be seen in the land, clearly identified.

Cities on the tops of mountains, like Jerusalem and Samaria, were enclosed by unbelievably high walls made from the stone of the land. They had enormous gates that would close, and this was for protection during the time of war.

I never ceased to be amazed at the troublesome lengths the ancients would go to kill one another (and moderns) or to try to save their own necks. Masada (meaning stronghold) in the rocky, barren wilderness on the west bank of the Dead Sea is a good example. Fortified by Herod the Great, who trusted no one, but never used by him in that capacity, this lofty desert "acropolis" became the last holdout of a band of retreating zealot Jews from the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Romans. They found enough food and water already stored there to sustain them for ten years, and the Romans, in the face of such a protective defense, could not scale the mountain fortress after them. For three years they stayed there, and for three years the Roman army was encamped around the base of this mountain. To deter their escape, the Romans built a wall over three miles long around Masada. Their compelling desire to shed blood finally prompted them to master the summit. However, what they found disappointed the Romans. The Jews, realizing their time was running out, had already committed suicide rather than be killed by their adversary.

Each little country around the Mediterranean Sea in ancient times, it seems, took its turn in usurping authority and lording it over its neighbors. War and empire seemed to be the way of all nations, and cruelty was the accepted way of life. Somehow a person just had to live with it.

Yes, to what lengths the ancients would go to kill and inflict pain upon one another! I thought, there's got to be a better way. And there is. Jesus told us all about it—love. Sad to say, but the world has yet to learn it.

THE PAGANISM OF THE PAGANS

There is much to be said and written about this land of Israel and our tour of it from Dan to Beersheba (we almost made it to Beersheba, but time was running out in

the day, so we turned north to Hebron). I will postpone that to another time.

Two days were spent in Greece, including a visit to Mar's Hill and the ruins of the acropolis of Athens and a visit to the excavated ruins of Corinth (both cities fields of labor of the apostle Paul). The marvels of ancient architecture and sculpture were even more obvious and pronounced than in Israel.

In spite of all the marvels and in spite of the awareness that this was the intellectual center of the ancient world, my conviction that the human mind divorced from its Creator-God becomes very bankrupt and depraved was further and unquestionably confirmed. The futility, the utter paganism, of the pagans was very obvious. Even in Corinth, the excavation of the very temple of the goddess Aphrodite (which stood in the time of Paul) was in process. One thousand temple prostitutes served the misdirected and depraved appetites of men with religious sanction. Greek philosophy, it seems, did not introduce one to the God of Heaven, the Almighty. What beautiful temples! What paganism! Paul said that when "the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Corinthians 1:21).

I am thankful to have made this trip and know that the rest of my life will profit from it.

More later.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE CHURCH IS GOD'S BUILDING—THE TEMPLE OF GOD

(Continued from Page 6)

gard the church as a mere "stop-gap" program of God; an "after thought," an "unplanned" venture of God to win the Gentiles until the Jews would be ready to receive Christ as their Messiah. Hence, they feel the real important message of the gospel (and O.T. prophecy) has to do with the future. Don't be overly concerned with the church because God didn't really plan it. Man in his wonderful wisdom has been left to build "churches" as suits his own fancy! If you've been *born again* by "faith alone" (Just as Oliver Green, "Faith plus nothing equals salvation!") you can belong to any old man-made institution, call it the church, and God will "rapture" you and present you in the "Millennial Kingdom" a righteous saint!

Remember, dear reader, THE BRANCH would build the "temple of the Lord." The founder and the foundation are Divine therefore man must "TAKE HEED HOW HE BUILDS" upon that foundation. Are you a part of the true TEMPLE OF GOD or a man-made "tower of Babel"?

II. CHRIST MUST BEAR THE GLORY OF THE TEMPLE.

Zechariah 6:13 says, "He shall bear the glory..." Paul said, "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but GOD..." (I Corinthians 3:7). In Ephesians 3:21 we read, "Unto him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations forever and ever." Paul to the Colossians stated: "And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in ALL THINGS he might have the PRE-EMINENCE" (Colossians 1:18).

A. The Church, First and Foremost, Is a Holy Temple (3:17).

A GLORIOUS CHURCH or one that gives God glory must be characterized by holy people. It should be holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27). I Peter 1:14-16

says, "As children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the time of your ignorance, but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, 'Ye shall be holy, for I am holy'." A quick check of your center-column references will show you that what was "written" appears in Leviticus 11:44. There it referred to the **PRIESTHOOD OF ISRAEL**. Those who were set apart for the service of the **TEMPLE OF GOD** in Old Testament times. They had to be holy because they belonged to God's service, they served in **GOD'S TEMPLE**. It is important then that those who are a part of the **CHURCH**, sanctified (set apart) by the blood of Christ, do service for God as a "holy priesthood" (I Peter 2:5).

Why then will man let down the bars of teaching concerning holiness of life, when this is what it is all about? Why don't we hear more preaching concerning purity of life like Paul preached to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 6:9-20)? Yea, why don't we hear preachers demanding holiness of life of members of the church? Why do we not see practiced discipline to free the church from sinning members as Paul taught in I Corinthians chapter 5? Isn't Christ still concerned that a little leaven will leaven the whole lump? **IF CHRIST IS TO HAVE THE GLORY OF THE TEMPLE THEN INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS MUST GLORIFY CHRIST IN THEIR LIVES AND BY THEIR LIVES!**

B. To Be a Christ-Glorifying Church, Men Must Cease to Take the Glory for Themselves.

The problem at Corinth revolved around men who **WANTED** the glory for themselves rather than give the glory to Christ in the church. They thought that they could improve on the plan of God for the church. Men are trying this today. The church was established with a simple organization, work and purpose. When men feel that the church is not sufficient, they will add all types of *appendages* to the church to carry out the work that God gave the church for! Why will men send support to "Bible Colleges" to educate the "ministry" for the church, to build buildings and buy land for the "colleges" but will not support with the same or more emphasis the work of the local church? Why will men support an "Orphanage" or "Old Folks Home" thousands of miles away but will not give one dime to support the needy of the local body of Christ? Why will men support a "Missionary Society" or "Evangelizing Fellowship" to preach the gospel but will not support the local evangelist so that he will not have to do other work for a living? Why will men spend "thousands" to support a "revival organization" and refuse to support the church? **AND WHO GETS ALL THE GLORY IN SUCH CASES?** Is it not the man-made organization and not the church?

III. CHRIST MUST REIGN UPON THE THRONE.

Again, Pre-Millennialism has effected the thinking of men concerning the kingship of Christ. Zechariah predicted that the **BRANCH** would be both **PRIEST** and **KING** at the same time. He would be **HIGH PRIEST** of his temple and **KING OF THE KINGDOM** at the time he would "build the temple of the Lord." Pre-Millennialism teaches that Christ is Priest but not King. Men have failed to give Christ the authority in the church he deserves because of this thinking. Christ has been de-throned and men have replaced him with popes, synods, conferences, conventions and congregational governments! Man-made churches reject the Bible as the authority for the organization of the

church and have chosen to observe whatever suits their fancy when it comes to church organization. The Bible, Christ-given to rule the church, guide it, build it by the pattern given therein, becomes secondary to the wishes of those who have de-throned Christ as head of the church. The "MUST" qualifications of a Scriptural eldership become the "maybe's" and the "setting in order of things lacking" by "ordaining elders" becomes "Let's choose whoever we want by popular vote." The work of "oversight" is taken out of the hands of "elders" and given to a "Pastor" or an "Official Board" or the "Ladies' Aid" or to "Humpteen" committees. When a preacher comes along and says, "Why not do it God's way?" they say, "Well, we **ALWAYS** have done it this way, and we ain't gonna change now!"

It doesn't matter what Christ said, we must keep in touch with the times. Let the women preach. Let's **elect** some women "elders" and balance things out for the liberals! (If she's not the husband of one wife, she can be the wife of one husband, can't she?). If it doesn't matter if women usurp the authority of man then who will think twice about the fact that she is usurping the **AUTHORITY OF CHRIST!** Is Christ really ruling on the throne of his church?

IV. CHRIST MUST BE THE PRIEST OF HIS TEMPLE.

The priest of old was an intermediate between God and man. He served in the function of presenting sacrifices and offerings on behalf of the people before God. But many are prone to forget one of the important functions of the priests. They instructed man in the laws of God. If we are to build a holy temple for God today, we must not only recognize Christ as the one who has offered himself as an atonement for our sins and to whom we look for the salvation of our souls, but we must be willing to submit ourselves to the fulness of his teachings.

Man needs to return to a study of God's Word as never before. We talk of "restoring" the first century church, but few are really willing to make the Scriptures the complete rule of faith and practice regardless of that which we speak with our lips. It is reminiscent of the words of Jesus, "They draw nigh unto me with their lips but their heart is far from me." Individuals in the church are satisfied to feed once a week on what the preacher says rather than study daily to see if it be so. Most preachers are willing to preach "weakly" like the people want rather than give them what they need. Too long we have mouthed "Speak where the Bible speaks," "Bible names for Bible things," "Scripture for everything we teach and practice," and have then gone our merry way, **SPEAKING WHERE THE BIBLE DOES NOT SPEAK, USING NAMES NOT FOUND IN THE BIBLE, AND TEACHING AND PRACTICING THINGS THAT THE BIBLE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT!**

Isn't it time we recognized Christ as the High Priest and Instructor of God's Will for man? □

TRYING TO SEE HOW CLOSE

"The **ATTITUDE** of so many is that in matters of right and wrong, they want to get as close to wrong as it is possible to get before quitting. This is so dangerous that it is not worth the risk. It is like walking along the edge of a cliff and trying to see how close one can get to the edge and still not fall off. There is too great a chance that we will fall off to take the risk. It is not worth it."

How Can I Know That I Have The Holy Spirit?



• By DAVID R. MILLS

ONE OF THE WINDS of doctrine used by cunning and crafty men today to toss the child of God to and fro concerns the Holy Spirit. Those entangled in the "charismatic" or "tongues" movement try to make Christians feel cheated out of the Holy Spirit and even concerned about their salvation. The best reinforcement against this assault is a personal, Biblical assurance that the Holy Spirit abides in the heart. John wrote, "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (I John 4:13). Therefore this message is intended to help you answer, in the light of the Scriptures, the question, "Do I have the Holy Spirit?"

Of necessity, the questions that follow are personal but they must be if you want to know whether YOU have the Holy Spirit. Only you can answer the questions that follow—no one else but God knows. So I beg of you—be honest with yourself. You have nothing to lose in being truthful and everything to gain. (I recommend that you find a pencil and paper and write the questions exactly as you find them in this message and answer each one with a "yes" or "no." This will make the final answer all the more convicting or comforting to you).

The first three questions will help you determine whether you have met the conditions for receiving the Holy Spirit.

1. HAVE I BELIEVED AND DO I PRESENTLY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD? YES—NO—

The Holy Spirit is promised only to those that believe. "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...)" (John 7:38,39).

2. HAVE I TRULY REPENTED AND BEEN BAPTIZED? YES—NO—

On the day of Pentecost when the first gospel sermon was preached, the Holy Spirit was promised only to those who repented and were baptized. "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" (Acts 2:38).

3. HAVE I OBEYED GOD? YES—NO—

Peter said, "We are his witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32). Only the obedient believer receives the Holy Spirit.

First summary question: **HAVE I MET THE CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT? YES—NO—**

The next few questions are intended for you who have met the above conditions but want assurance that the Holy Spirit is still active in your life. Since the Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30) and quenched (I Thessalonians 5:19), and God can take the Spirit from you (Psalms 51:11), these questions are important.

1. DO I HAVE REAL COMMUNICATION WITH GOD? YES—NO—

Communication is a two way street. It involves both speaking and listening. For real communication to exist, both lanes must be clear.

Consider prayer: **IS GOD HEARING AND ANSWERING MY PRAYERS? YES—NO—** When you pray, the Spirit makes intercession according to the will of God. Certainly, God hears and answers prayer that is according to His will. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26,27). If "ye ask, and receive not" it is "because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3).

Consider Bible study: **DO I LISTEN TO GOD? YES—NO—** The natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him (I Corinthians 2:14). Would Paul say to you, "I could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal" (I Corinthians 3:1)? If you are receptive to the Holy Spirit, He will convict you of sin when you err (John 16:7-9) and He will comfort you and bear witness of your sonship when you are obedient (Romans 8:14-16).

2. AM I MORTIFYING THE DEEDS OF THE BODY? YES—NO— Victory over sin without the help of the Spirit is impossible. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Romans 8:13).

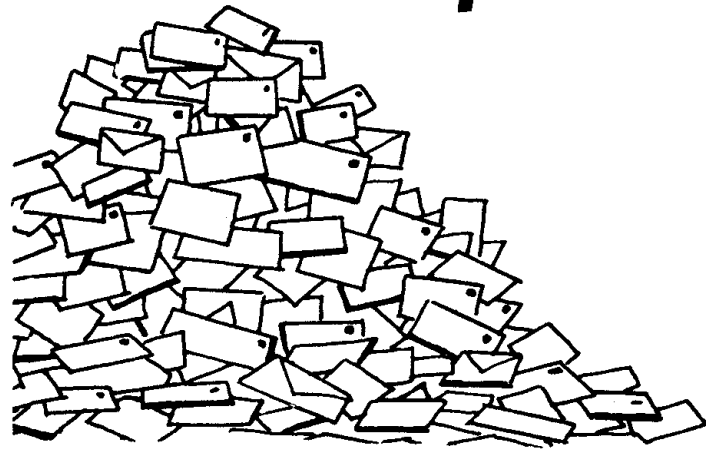
3. IS MY LIFE BEING FILLED WITH LOVE, JOY, PEACE, ETC.? YES—NO— If the Holy Spirit is in your life, He will bear fruit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22,23).

4. DO I HAVE A REAL HOPE AND ANTICIPATION OF HEAVEN? YES—NO— The Holy Spirit causes

(Continued on Next Page)

READERS'

... Response



NORTH CAROLINA:

■ *"I would like to renew my subscription. It has been a great help in my life. In fact, I can say I have gained a s much, if not more information on the subject matters much needed for today, as I gained four years in Bible College."*

■ *"I am currently involved in a series of sermons on the subject of the Holy Spirit and was reading your booklet entitled 'THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MADE SIMPLE.' I found this to be very good and at the same time truly 'simple.' I would like for you to send me 50 copies of this booklet if you have them and if you will put a bill in the package I will get you a check in the mail. I want these to pass out to those present for the services."*

■ *"Please take B—— C—— name off your mailing list to THE SWORD AND STAFF."*

TEXAS:

■ *"I have never heard of THE SWORD AND STAFF, but what I have read I am interested in learning more about you. Please send me more information on your background and of what denomination you are, etc. etc. Thank you!"*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I thank you for your inquiry. You want to know more about us. That's okay, but I had rather talk about Jesus. Our aim is to represent Jesus and His teachings alone, forgetting about denominational parties and traditions, which gender strife and not love and godliness. This paper is not the voice of any denomination, party or faction. We are much like a voice crying in the wilderness. We are committed to examining the Word of God anew, unencumbered by human tradition. If you are a traditionalist you will not like THE SWORD AND STAFF).

INDIANA:

■ *"Please send me some copies of the booklet 'The Subject of the Holy Spirit Made Simple.' I was quite confused on this subject, and deceived by 'so-called' tongues speaking people. I was also told by a 'Pentecostal' minister, that unless you speak in 'tongues' after you've been baptized, you don't have the Holy Spirit."*

"Fortunately, by the grace of God, I met some 'true' Christians, who called themselves nothing but Christians,

which we are, and began studying the Word of God and seeing real good film strips, and it has really helped me tremendously. I really believe God is guiding us in the truth, because we really are hungry for the truth."

■ *"Just a note to tell you I appreciate your work and especially the fact that you present God's Word and not man's. May God bless you."*

OREGON:

■ *"I am sorry (though not surprised) that among other things THE SWORD AND STAFF is suffering from financial difficulties. I sincerely appreciate the paper and although I know it is not much I will seek to be diligent to send \$5 every month... Thank you for your faithful work in publication."*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you so very much and thanks to those who are renewing their subscriptions, some enclosing gifts).

HOW CAN I KNOW THAT I HAVE THE HOLY Spirit?

(Continued from the Last Page)

a Christian to abound in hope. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13). If you abound in hope, your affections will be on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:2). If you abound in hope, your treasures will be laid up in heaven (Matthew 6:20, 21).

Second summary question: IS THE HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVE IN MY LIFE? YES—— NO——

Now you can answer personally and Biblically the question: "Do I have the Holy Spirit?" In order to have the Spirit, the conditions must be met and His influence permitted to be active in your life. Only you know if these two things are true. Now write down this final question: DO I HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT? YES—— NO——. Answer that question honestly in the light of the Word of God, and after your answer write these words from Romans 8:9, "IF ANY MAN HAVE NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE IS NONE OF HIS."

I am confident that at this moment, unless you have hardened your heart, the Holy Spirit is either convicting you of sin or comforting you and bearing witness of your sonship. □

Blest be the tie that binds...



our hearts in Christian love!

Vital Material

(PUT TO USE)



FOLLOWING is a listing of our own booklets, tracts, and other materials that are now available from us. Some of these things have a nominal charge and others are free. Also listed are the bound volumes of back issues of *The Sword and Staff*, which would make a valuable addition to your library and your Christian life. You may place your order, using the following price list.

- ☐ *The Subject of the Holy Spirit Made Simple*—25¢ each; 5 for \$1.00; or, 100 for \$18.00.
- ☐ *The Meaning of Suffering in the Life of the Christian*—10¢ each; 100 for \$8.00.
- ☐ *Objections to the Necessity of Baptism Answered*—8¢ each.
- ☐ *Salvation and Church Membership Chart*—8¢ each; 15 for \$1.00.
- ☐ *Martyrs in the Coliseum (Picture 11 x 17)*—20¢ each; 10 for \$1.50.
- ☐ *Are Visions, Dreams and Religious Experiences Proof of Salvation?*—6¢ each.
- ☐ *His Church is Marching On (Song on Sheet with glue on back to stick in back of your hymnbooks)*—5¢ each.
- ☐ *The Letter That Was Never Answered*—5¢ each.
- ☐ *The Origin of Religious Misunderstanding and False Teaching*—5¢ each; 100 for \$4.00.
- ☐ *Once in Grace, Always in Grace?*—5¢ each; 100 for \$4.00.
- ☐ *Every Sunday? (Concerns Scripturalness and need of weekly observance of Lord's supper)*—3¢ each.
- ☐ *Lessons in Happiness from the Garden of Eden*—3¢ each.
- ☐ *A Question About the Sabbath*—2¢ each.

FREE

- ☐ *Are You Sanctified?*
- ☐ *I Saw Him Standing There (or The Old Gospel Preacher)*
- ☐ *In Style With the World, But Out of Style With God*
- ☐ *Dedication (Poem Plaque)*
- ☐ *A New Day (Plaque)*
- ☐ *Drinking (Leaflet with a punch about alcohol)*

BOUND VOLUMES OF SWORD AND STAFF

- ☐ 1967-68 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*—\$3.25.
- ☐ 1969-70 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*—\$3.25.
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Gentlemen:

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

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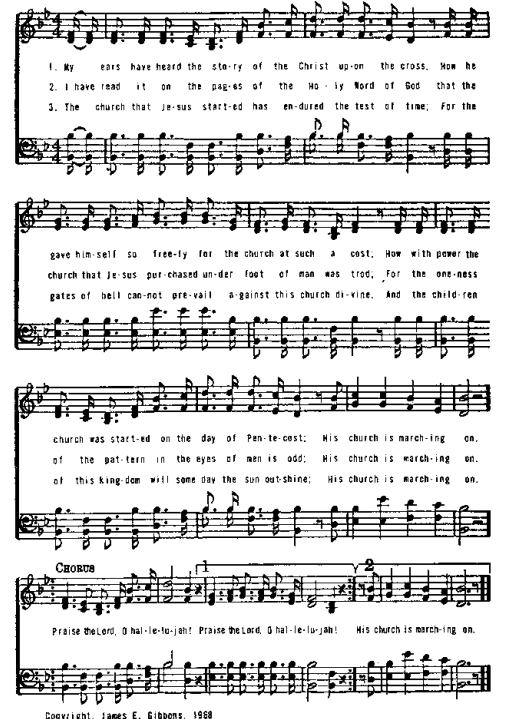
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- ☐ 1971-72 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff* (one book)—\$3.25.

SING! AND THRILL TO THESE TRUTHS!

HIS CHURCH IS MARCHING ON
(Battle Hymn of the Republic)
James E. Gibbons William Steffe



Copyright, James E. Gibbons, 1968

THIS SONG ("His Church is Marching On") has gone into several printings, and thousands of them are in use about the country. Sing it! Feel the excitement and thrill of its truths! The words, by the editor of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*, are set to the familiar and forceful tune, "Battle Hymn of the Republic." We have the song printed on gummed sheets (glue on back) to stick inside the covers of your hymnbooks. The price on our new printing is still the same, just 5¢ a copy. Order a supply for your hymnbooks from us today.

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