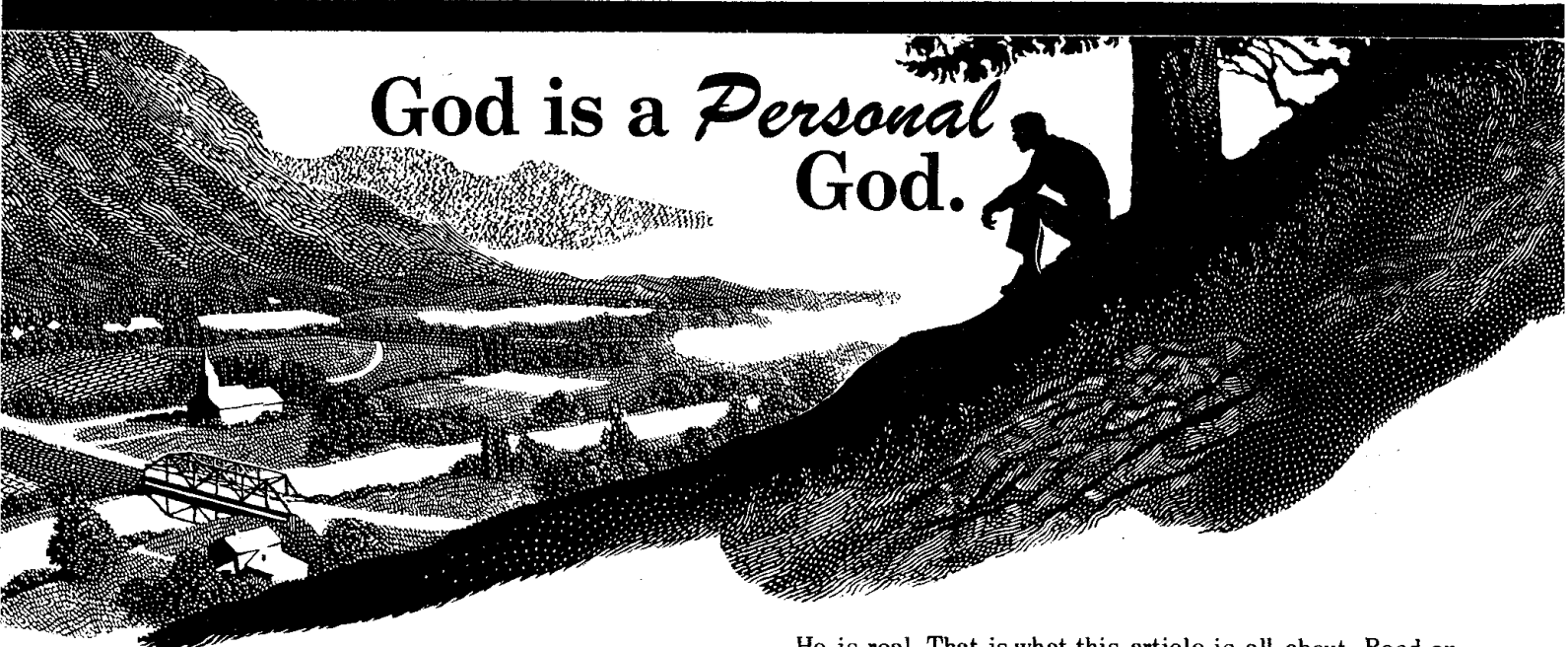


The Sword AND Staff

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

•

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



God is a *Personal*
God.

• By JAMES E. GIBBONS

1535 Fairfield Drive, Mount Airy, N.C. 27030

SOMETIME AGO I was talking to a man about the Bible and religion. Wanting to get across to him the reality of God, I said, "I believe that God is a personal God." To which he immediately responded something like this: "That's just what I believe too! Religion is a personal matter. It's no one else's business what I believe. It doesn't make any difference what you believe." What a mouthful! I sort of stepped back and gasped. That was not what I meant or believed at all.

Then others have reduced God to a set of rules. That is the extent of their concept of God. They are so wrapped up in rules and laws for the mere sake of a sick legalism that they have lost God as a person. And if they do see Him as a person, instead of a loving, benevolent, heavenly Father, He is something far different. Too many times God is relegated and confined to the pages of the Bible, and its historical past, but is not a living, vital and healthy part of the "believer's" everyday life. He is not a personal God that one daily turns to, talks to, and trusts as a dear friend; yea, a friend who cannot be surpassed in endearment.

I would like to say that God is a personal God who wishes to be, *and increasingly be*, involved in your life.

He is real. That is what this article is all about. Read on.

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES PRESENT GOD AS BEING PERSONAL.

Although the Old Testament Scriptures were calculated to show the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the "sterner" side of God in relation to this sin, God as a personal being shines through. And, although God was more selective in dealing with certain individuals, we find in them classic examples of Him being personal.

The Patriarchal Age

God's great creation seemed to be incomplete, so He made man. He was made after the very image of God (Genesis 1:26). Being spirit, although clothed with a body, man could relate to God Who is Spirit. It seemed natural for Adam and Eve to talk and commune with the God Who had made them. When God talked to them in the Garden in "the cool of the day" (Genesis 3:8-10), He was doing what He had done many times before, no doubt. What a blessed and envied relationship they had with the Lord God before their fall into sin! ("Lord God" as found in Genesis in the King James translation is Jehovah Elohim, *Jehovah* showing God as the kind and benevolent Creator and *Elohim* stressing His great power).

The early descendants of Adam and Eve, although fallen creatures, many times enjoyed great and personal relation-

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Proverbs of Today

We need to put life into the church and the church into life.

"It takes a person who is wide awake to make his dreams come true."

A church that is not trying to win the lost has lost the way.

"We cannot make Christ mean anything to others until he means everything to us."

Many people's philosophy of life is "live and let live" when really it should be **LIVE AND HELP LIVE**.

"It doesn't take much of a man to be a Christian, but it takes all of him."

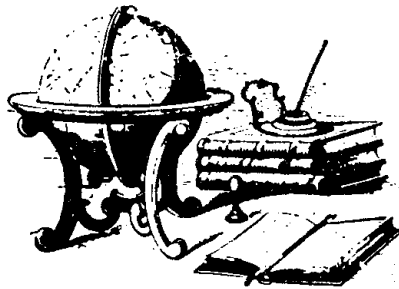
Any "understanding" of any verse of Scripture that makes it contradict any other verse of Scripture is really a misunderstanding.

"People cannot change truth, but truth can change people."

The Lord has an over-all plan for our lives, but the more we trust and surrender to him, the more he will work it out in detail.

"Those who think it permissible to tell white lies soon grow color-blind."

Lasting happiness is the by-product of an unselfish life.



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

A CHALLENGE TO THINK

(THE FOLLOWING LETTER appeared in the local newspaper *The Mount Airy News* (June 24, 1976) under "Letters to Editor." The caption above the letter read, "CHURCH CLOSING CHALLENGED." We herewith present the letter, and offer an open and frank challenge to honest and sincere minds. Maybe you are a traditionalist and have never thought about such a thing. You could care less. Well, we herewith prod and challenge your mind to start thinking!)

THE LETTER

Dear Editor:

The closing and locking of the doors of Imogene Methodist Church by the Conference, because the members refused a higher budget for 1976 is of such vital concern to the Christian concept, that I feel I'd like to bring this to the Surry Board of Missions and the public at large.

We are faced with the closing and locking of our church doors, with the consent and knowledge of the District Superintendent, Cecil Marcellius. Mr. Marcellius wrote us a letter saying we could only use the church for home comings and/or funerals, provided we first got permission from the Surry Board of Missions or our present pastor, and then only if we used neither lights nor heat, except for funerals held in winter. Then we might use the church provided we just use a limited amount of heat.

Our members think this is wrong and strictly against the teachings of Jesus and we're not willing to accept this kind of deal. We were also informed by Mr. Marcellius that the church property would be sold with the proceeds going to the conference.

This church was built on the land donated by the C.F. Payne family in the early 1920's and they have a father and children buried in the church cemetery. Also some other older members with family members buried there want to be buried there also.

The membership at Imogene is largely older people on Social Security and young people in school or who are not working, and we've just been barely able to meet our budget as it stands now. And so many of our people have now left and gone to other churches because of the talk of locking our church that it would be impossible to meet our present commitments. In view of this, why can't the conference just refuse to send us a pastor and let us try to rebuild from what we have left.

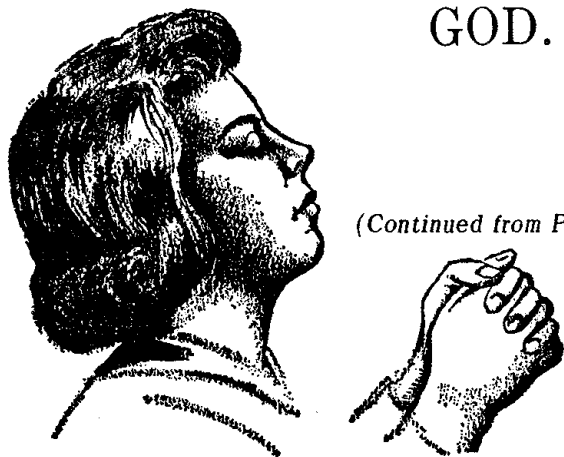
Sincerely,
Mrs. Sarah Payne

WHEE! We don't know all the circumstances (that's not our concern), but all we can say is: **THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY!** And there is—the New Testament way, the God-appointed way!

In all kindness, it looks like people would begin to "wise up!" These denominations with "church" governments and organizations not found in the Word of God do not represent God's way of doing things. In fact, the Methodist Church with its Bishops and District Superintendents is as much out of harmony with the Divine plan as the Catholic Church (actually their organization is a mimic of the Catholic's).

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GOD IS A PERSONAL GOD.



(Continued from Page 1)

ships with God in the form of the old patriarchs.

I think about Enoch. Genesis 5:24 reads, "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." How personal God was to him! Like the old preacher, letting his imagination run out of bounds a little, said: God and Enoch were very good friends. They were out walking in the cool of the day, and the day was drawing to a close. So God said to Enoch, "You just go on home with me to-night; it's closer to my house than it is to yours." "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

I think about Noah. I think about Abraham, and many others. They surely had a close walk and personal relationship with God. God was real and really meant something to them. Although the rest of the world was bent on going the wrong way (like a mighty wave), they held to God's unseen hand. "Seeing" and loving Him who is invisible, they were loved by Him, and found victory over the visible world. What men of faith!

The Mosaical Age

"No man hath seen God at any time" (John 1:18) in the complete sense of the word, for "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24). Yet God allowed Moses to witness His glory in some way in a very personal sense (Exodus 33:18-23). "And the Lord spake unto Moses, face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" (Exodus 33:11). Moses seemingly enjoyed a personal relationship with God unequalled by any other man. Through such a man God gave the Old Testament laws, and Moses walked in the light of His Presence. Deuteronomy 34:10 declares, "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." What a privileged man!

God had his judges, prophets, and kings to whom He revealed Himself. The prophets were men in the very close circle of God's Presence. They had the very latest message from heaven and represented God to man.

God was very personal to David in a real and in a spiritual sense. No doubt speaking from experience, Psalms 1:2 tells us that the godly man's "delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth meditate day and night." Then we read Psalms 42:1 and 2, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" How precious and dear was the Lord God to David! God means something special and is indeed personal to anyone who can write like that. It is no wonder that God describes David as "a

man after mine own heart" (Acts 13:22).

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT PRESENTS GOD AS A PERSONAL GOD.

The gap was bridged between the Invisible God, Who is Spirit, and man in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. John testified: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1, 14). In Jesus we see that God is very personal, and personally concerned and involved with humanity. His heart of concern and compassion went out to all kinds of people under all kinds of circumstances in all walks of life.

Jesus showed that God was personal by his teachings. One might think that the Almighty Power Who made the vast expanse of the universe, the stars, the galaxies, etc., was impersonal, but Jesus taught otherwise. He taught men to pray to God, and call Him "Father"—that God even knew man's needs before he asked (Matthew 6:7-9). He taught men to ask, seek, and knock and they would receive, find, and have things opened to them (Matthew 7:7-11). God is so personal that He knows how many hairs are in your head (Luke 12:7). He hears and notes every word that you say (Matthew 12:36, 37). God even knows every thought that you think (Luke 16:15), and thoughts will enter into judgment (Matthew 5:27, 28). (In the light of all this, it is no wonder a Christian is admonished, "Casting all your cares upon him; for he careth for you" I Peter 5:7).

Surely the death of Christ upon the cross shows that God is personal. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Jesus came to save people from their "sins" (Matthew 1:21), not sin in a general, vague sense. Sin is personal, and the wages of one sin is death. One sin brought the downfall of the human race. The personal guilt and shame of sin is there. Because of this the suffering of Christ was real and personal as he drank that "bitter cup." He personally bore the sins of fallen humanity—the world. What anguish! What suffering! Think of the inhuman treatment, the scourgings, and the climatic crucifixion—GOLGOTHA, the place of the skull. Then don't think that sin is a joke. Your sins and mine put the nails in the hands of Jesus. Don't think that a person can be saved as a "good moral man" after all that Jesus has done, and we haven't done! Don't spurn and neglect the church that Jesus purchased with his own blood. The personal feelings and heart of God are tied up in it all.

Then salvation is a personal matter. It is not personal in the sense that every person can do as he pleases about it (one person "saved" in one way and another person in another way). But it is personal in the sense that every accountable individual is personally responsible before God for his sins. In that great day of final judgment "every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). That being the case, the Lord Jesus commissioned the gospel to be preached to "every creature" (Mark 16:15, 16). Everyone personally on his own volition must believe, repent, confess, and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30, 31; etc.). No one can do this for you. Having done this, we are forgiven and enter into this glorious personal covenant relationship with God. We have been "born again." We are His children.

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GOD IS A PERSONAL GOD.

(Continued from Page 3)

When we are "born again," it is a birth of the Spirit (John 3:5). We are new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). Because of the new birth, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6). Yes, with repentance and baptism every person is promised the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 5:32). By means of the Holy Spirit God actually takes His abode in the Christian. That being the case, we recognize that our body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (I Corinthians 6:19). As Paul asserts in II Corinthians 6:16-18, "...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them (the world), and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you; And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Can anything be more personal than this? What a precious and glorious relationship!

Our lives are to be ones of personal surrender and explicit trust in God. We trust God, not only for salvation, but on a personal day to day basis for everything. Nothing is too small to make a matter of prayer. Not only does God have a common plan of salvation for all in accepting Christ, He has a plan (HIS WILL) that is to be individually worked out in each life. He can work this out only as we unconditionally submit to Him, follow His teachings, and pray for His personal leadership. Paul wrote: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). We are taught that we ought to say, "If the Lord will we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:15). Certainly that is personal involvement. God is a personal God and concerned about His children. We mean something to God, and He should mean something (yea, everything!) to us.

I could go on almost endlessly telling you that God is a personal God (wonderfully personal!). We have noticed a few illustrations from the Old Testament Scriptures and a few from the New Testament. These could be amplified and elaborated upon much more. I could point out that Jesus in our high priest in heaven, personally representing us to God the Father, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15,16). This is a wonderful truth among many other wonderful truths. But I think I have established our point: GOD IS A PERSONAL GOD.

A lot of people don't realize this. Their lives are dried up spiritually because they have not entered into this vital and personal relationship with the Father of their souls. They supposedly have become Christians, but really have never been converted. They have never personally surrendered in explicit trust to God. God is not real to them on a day to day, hour to hour, or moment to moment basis. Talking about God and the Bible makes them uncomfortable. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is foreign to their thinking. There is no personal concern about getting rid of bad habits and sin. Evil does not bother their consciences. They have not experienced the thrill, joy, and pleasure of the most wonderful relationship possible.

Stability of soul and contentment of mind are its by-products. The world has nothing to compare with it. If you have missed out on this, you will miss heaven too.

How about it, my friend? Is God real to you? God is a personal God. □

IF LIFE HANDS YOU A LEMON, THEN MAKE LEMONADE

WE OFTEN hear and use the statement: "I got a lemon" or "Someone gave me a lemon." We refer, of course, to some disappointment, failure or setback.

Think of the lemon for a moment. In it's original state it isn't very useful. Few like to eat it as we do some other fruits. It wouldn't be good to fry, or broil, or bake. But we can extract the juice, add some sugar and water and make a delicious and refreshing drink. So the lemon is an example of something seemingly not very good at first but turned into something good by the proper additions and process.

Certainly, we realize that everything that comes to us isn't good, but most often we are too hasty in assessing a thing or circumstances. We'd like everything to be a bed of roses but we don't want the thorns.

Paul said all that live godly shall suffer persecution, II Timothy 3:12. Jesus has told us about the thorns with the roses; the bitter with the sweet. James, also, told us that the trying of our faith worketh patience, then shows the value of patience (James 1:3,4). We are reminded too that our problems are common to others and that God will provide a way of escape from our temptations (I Corinthians 10:13).

There are many things like cocoa, onions and pepper or the lemon that just are not good alone but can be made a part of something very good.

When the trials of life seem too great, add faith and love then witness a great change. Our Lord promised, "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord (Romans 8:28). If love is added to a trying circumstance, then God can help us develop that same situation into something good.

Paul often turned defeat into victory by adding faith, love and prayer. Though he suffered much he counted it a joy to be counted worthy to suffer in God's cause. This shows us that our attitude has much to do with whether or not something remains bitter or is made sweet. Paul also shows that weakness could be turned into strength (II Corinthians 12:10).

Has someone hurt you or disappointed you? Shall we then sour on the world? Let's take those sour lemons and add sweetness and volume to change the undesirable into something good. Take the hurts, disappointments & failures and add love for God and our fellowman, faith, prayer, the attitude of obedience and bring to ourselves and others something good for something that was undesirable.

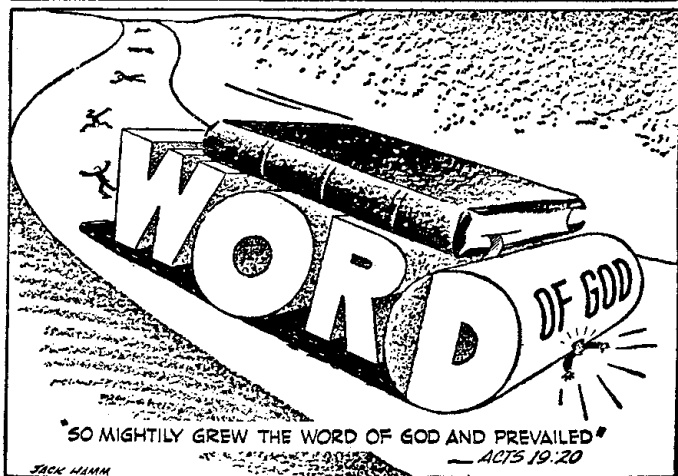
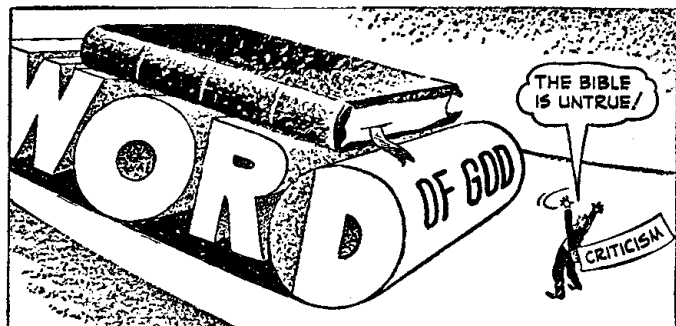
—JACK HILLIARD □

HAVE YOUR CHILDREN IN



BIBLE CLASS EVERY SUNDAY

Making God a Liar



• By DAVID KIRK, 121 IRON RIDGE RD., GALAX, VA. 24333

• 1 John 1:10—"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him (GOD) a LIAR, and his (GOD'S) word is not in us."

SINCE God's Word declares: "For ALL have SINNED, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), for a man to say that he has NOT SINNED is to make God out to be a liar.

"God is not a man that he should lie" (Numbers 24:19). "In hope of eternal life, which God, who CANNOT LIE, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).

ALL LYING originates with the Devil. Jesus said to the Pharisees: "Ye are of your father the devil... He... abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him... he is a LIAR and the FATHER of it" (John 8:44).

To make God out to be a liar is to become a liar and deceiver. The fate of all such is "the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8. Needless to say, lying is a most dangerous practice. It will be costly at the judgment.

There are other ways that men attempt to make God out to be a liar. Let's consider some of them.

When man claims to be SAVED BY FAITH ONLY, he makes God out to be a liar, for God's Word says: "Ye see then how that by WORKS (i. e., works of faith) a man is JUSTIFIED (word translated *justified* means "to judge, declare, pronounce righteous and therefore acceptable"—Thayer's Greek Lexicon) and NOT by faith ONLY" (James 2:24).

Jesus said: "by thy WORDS thou shalt be JUSTIFIED..." (Matthew 12:37). Man is also saved by confessing Christ (Romans 10:9,10); by godly sorrow that worketh repentance (II Corinthians 7:10); by grace (Ephesians 2:8); by mercy

(Titus 3:5); by baptism (I Peter 3:21); by the blood (Rev. 1:5); etc.

We conclude that one who teaches that man is saved by FAITH ONLY is making God out to be a liar. What do you think?

When one teaches that baptism has NOTHING to do with salvation, that it does not save (through the blood of Christ), he makes God out to be a liar for the apostle Peter writes of Noah and his family: "...eight souls were SAVED by water. The like figure whereunto even BAPTISM DOTH ALSO NOW SAVE US (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh—'not the removal of dirt from the body,' NIV) but the answer ('but an appeal to to God for a good conscience,' NASV) of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:20, 21).

Baptism must have something to do with the salvation of man for Jesus said: "He that believeth and is BAPTIZED, shall be SAVED, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Because the latter part of this verse does not say "and is not baptized" should not be taken as a denial of the necessity of baptism for salvation, for Jesus said: "He that believeth not is condemned already..." (John 3:18). No matter what a person did or does, he cannot be saved without faith in God and Christ. And by the same token is it possible to claim that we have faith in Christ while denying the necessity of doing what he commands us to do to be saved? You be the judge!

Salvation is in Christ, is it not? Baptism brings one into Christ. See Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27. This being true, where is the assurance of salvation for those who have not been baptized?

According to the apostle Peter, repentance and baptism are "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), the same as Jesus blood was "shed for many FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS" (Matthew 26:28). This being true, does one have the assurance of the remission or forgiveness of sins prior to repentance and baptism? "Let God be true, but every man a liar..." (Romans 3:4).

The Lord sent Ananias to tell Saul what he was to do (Acts 9:6). The message of Ananias to Saul, in part was, "...arise, and be BAPTIZED and WASH AWAY THY SINS, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Since Saul's sins were washed away in baptism, how can we sincerely hope to be saved without baptism?

If we say we KNOW God and do not keep his commandments, we make Him out to be a liar, for I John 3:3, 4 reads: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we KEEP his commandments. He that saith I know him, and KEEPEth NOT his commandments, is a LIAR, and the truth is not in him."

God's commandments are many. To pretend that we know God while refusing to keep his commandments is to make ourselves liars and to show that God's truth is not in us, and at the same time making God out to be a liar. This is dangerous way to treat our souls (and God)!

To say that we love God and at the same time hate our brother is to make God out to be a liar for I John 4:20 reads: "If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar..." Love is best seen in the death of Christ upon the cross; perhaps it is best described by Paul: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

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MAKING GOD A LIAR

(Continued from Last Page)

Love never fails. . .” (I Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV).

Those we love we desire to be with, do we not? How then can we profess love for brethren and regularly forsake the assembly of the people of God?

When we love brethren we will seek to do as Paul instructs in Ephesians 4:32: “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

There are many other ways that we may be guilty of making God out to be a liar, but may we avoid all of them. Instead may we seek to live our lives always in harmony with God’s wonderful will. This, I’m confident, will bring us in favor with God, and, “If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:31,32).

God is truth. His Word is truth. Jesus is the truth. No lie is of God. Jesus said: “If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31, 32). God help us to believe and follow the truth and to never be guilty of making God out to be a liar. □

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

Let’s not just make bold statements, but elaborate.

The churches of the New Testament were local, autonomous churches. Each was a complete entity, carrying on its own business independent of other churches (save for the bonds of love) Local churches were started by evangelists who went on to establish other local churches. The local church was left in the hands of qualified men called elders (also called bishops). They were to govern the local church, and that was the extent of their authority (in other words, the elders of one local church had no authority over another local church).

Let’s notice the Scriptures more in detail on this.

First, observe that elders were ordained in every local church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). These elders were over the local church. Notice what Paul said as he spoke to the elders from the local Ephesian church (Acts 20:17, 28): “Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” Peter further varifies this by saying, “Feed the flock of God which is AMONG YOU, taking the OVERSIGHT thereof. . .” (I Peter 5:2). Paul addressed the local church at Philippi with its “bishops (elders) and deacons” (Philippians 1:1). And to the local church at Thessalonica Paul further said, “And we beseech you brethren, to know them which labour AMONG YOU, and are OVER YOU in the Lord, and admonish you” (I Thessalonians 5:12).

Next, to show the fallacy of the denominational system of one bishop over a great number of churches,

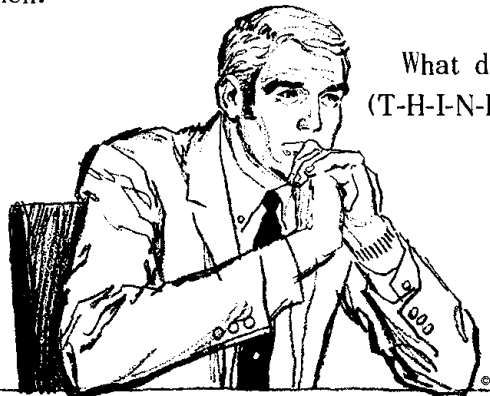
let us show you that the New Testament position is just the reverse — several bishops over one local church! We, in essence, have already done this in showing that the elders are over the local church. But we need to establish by Scriptural references that the elder and bishop, in New Testament terminology, were the same office (we have already made it clear that elders were over the local church).

Paul, in writing to Titus, urges him, in setting churches in order, to “ordain ELDERS in every city” (Titus 1:5). He then proceeds to give the qualifications to be met before a man is set aside to the office of elder; then he says, “For a BISHOP must be blameless” etc. (verse 7). So, here the terms elder and bishop are used interchangeably, referring to the one and same office. In Acts 20:17, Paul had the elders of the church of Ephesus meet him at Miletus. He gave them the charge which has already been partially quoted (Acts 20:28ff). Here he tells them that God had made them OVERSEERS of the flock of God. The Greek word for “overseer” here is EPISKOPOS, identical with the word in Titus 1:7 translated “bishop.” Here again it is revealed that the elder and bishop refer to the same office. Thus, when Paul gives instructions to Timothy (who happened to be in Ephesus) about men desiring the “office of the bishop,” it makes sense (I Timothy 3:1). He is talking about the elder of the local church, not some denominational concept of the bishop. Hence, when Paul wrote a letter to the local church of the Philippians and addresses the bishops, he is talking about the elders (Philippians 1:1).

Therefore, the Scriptures are very clear on this matter; yea, abundantly clear. There is no Scriptural authority for any organization or man (called bishop, or what-have-you) to be over many local churches in an organizational setup, controlling and directing their local affairs. In fact, such an arrangement is in direct conflict with the Scriptural pattern. It violates the Scriptures.

And how does this relate to the letter in *The Mt. Airy News*, and/or any resultant action?

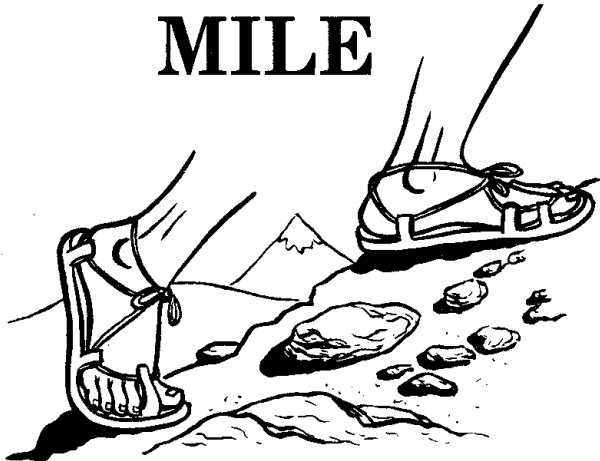
This all depends on whether a person wants to follow the Bible alone as his rule of faith and practice, or continue in the unthought out traditions of men.



What do you think?
(T-H-I-N-K...think!)

□

The SECOND MILE



• By GARY FLOM, Box 1061, Torrington, Wyoming 82240

• *“Whosoever shall compel you to go one mile, go with him two” (Matthew 5:41).*

THESE WORDS brought to the mind of the Jew a very distasteful picture. The Roman soldier under sanction of his military law could compel any Jew to carry his burden for one mile. The Jews hated this with a passion because the Roman was a despised Gentile. These words of Christ must have clashed in the mind of the Jew as he listened to Jesus. They probably stood in bewilderment, thinking that Jesus should have suggested the opposite.

The word “compel” that Jesus used had a long history of tyranny behind it. The word had a Persian origin. The noun form for “compel” was “angaros.” This was a man appointed by the King of Persia who was stationed throughout his kingdom as a modern day “reporter.” This courier had authority to compel anyone or anything into his service if he needed to send a message back to his king.

Hence the verb that Jesus used means “to compel one to go a journey, to bear a burden, or to perform any other service.” This word is used of Simon of Cyrene as he was compelled to carry the cross of Christ.

Though we don’t have literal Roman soldiers to force into service today, nonetheless there are many compelling necessities of life. The word “must” belongs in our lives as truly as it did in theirs.

The principle that Christ laid down in these words apply very much to us today. Christ divides a man’s life into two parts: (1) The compulsory and (2) the voluntary. Or we could say, the things we must do and the things we choose to do. These are the first and second miles. Life is full of its “first miles,” those things that are forced upon us. We might call them the compulsions of life. It is these “compulsions” that we want to notice in this message and see if we can convert them into second mile experiences.

WORK is one of life’s compulsions. Underneath every necessity is work. Behind everything worthwhile is work. People can face this Roman soldier in one of two ways. He can bear his load for ONE mile grudgingly, complaining all the way, or he can do as Jesus said, volunteer for the SECOND mile.

Some people go to work like the Israelites under the hand of the Egyptians. If the person ever gets to the job, he will perform the barest of requirements, while hating the one who made him do it. Life is miserable for anyone who fights the first mile compulsions. The only way to keep from being a slave to the compulsory first mile is to volunteer for the second mile.

Antonio Stradivari was asked about his daily task of making violins; he said: “If my hand slack I should rob God, leaving a blank instead of violins. For God can not make Stradivarus without Antonio.” Whenever a person glorifies his work in this way, he has gone the second mile. He has translated duty into privilege. The first mile is DUTY, the second mile is PRIVILEGE. No man will be happy in life who does not find his “duties” a “privilege.”

Such a worker gladly welcomes the necessity of work as he meets it along life’s road. He can say to this Roman soldier and mean it: “O work, you are my best friend in disguise. God sent you to me. You come with a stern face, but your heart is full of strength and courage and good cheer. You demand that I travel with you that one hard mile. Then, my task for the limit of my strength is that I am twice as willing to work as you are to make me.”

Work treated like this looses the frown of compulsion and begins to smile at us. All the slavery of work has vanished for the second mile man. He walks arm in arm with work as good friends and will be sorry when the second mile is done.

LIMITING CIRCUMSTANCES AND RESTRICTED POWERS are yet another Roman soldier. There are many who have had their fondest aspirations snuffed out by broken health. Their aspirations faded when the stern Roman said: “You must live your life confined here in this small plot of ground.” Life becomes unbearable for those who live only in this first mile. Many have let the thorns of bitterness grow in their life. This person has the “one mile” spirit and he may even take his own life if the burden gets too heavy.

There is only alternative to the “first mile” and that is to volunteer for the second mile. We can say: “Old Roman, you need not think that I am going to do only what you command. I refuse to lie here and die. I am going to make my life so beautiful that passers-by will stop and take inspiration from it. You require me to live here, but I will go twice as far as that. I will not only live here, but I will make it worth while living here.”

Paul had learned the spirit of the second mile and he recorded it for us in Philippians 4:11-13, “Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am...” The secret that Paul learned in these varying circumstances of life is the secret of the second mile.

History loves to record the names of men and women who conquered the malice of their fate by this spirit of the second mile. Men and women, who in spite of some handicap, soared above those without handicap. To name but one familiar to all of us is Fanny Crosby who lost her eyes at six weeks of age by a doctor’s faulty medical advice. Had she let the compulsion of this Roman soldier weigh upon her heart, she would have built up extreme bitterness toward this doctor. But she refused to be so confined. She went on to be a teacher of the blind and married a blind musician. Between the two of them, he

(Continued on Next Page)

THE SECOND MILE

(Continued from Last Page)

supplying the music, she the words, we today have some of the most beautiful hymns ever written. She met the limitations of life with the second mile attitude.

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE is another compulsion. We know that there are certain things a Christian MUST do if he is to go to heaven. The doing of them will not insure heaven unless they are done in the second mile spirit.

The Old Testament scribes and Pharisees were first mile followers of God. They were careful to fulfill the law exactly. They gave exactly 10% of their increase because this was commanded. The letter of the law was fulfilled exactly but the spirit was completely ignored. They prayed the required three times a day, but no more. Jesus when he looked at these one-mile followers said that our righteousness must exceed their's or we will not make it to heaven (Matthew 5:20). In other words, the Christian is to be more willing to serve than God is to demand. He is to go the second mile, he is to forgive 70 X 7, he is to turn the other cheek, he is to pray for those who spitefully use him. He is to volunteer for the second mile.

The essential word for the second mile is LOVE. This simply means a superabundant willingness to serve, for this is what love is all about. A man becomes a Christian when his sense of joy in the service of God overflows both his rights and duties. Duty is never worthily done until it is performed by a person who loves it so much that he would gladly do more if he could. Some people say of their duties: "I Must" or "I have to," while others say "I want to." The first man is a slave to his duties, for he is walking the first mile, while the second has an abounding sense of privilege and he is walking the second mile.

These two are seen in most every congregation. "Do I have to go to every service?" This person is looking for the extent of his duty. He wants to know exactly how FAR he must travel. Others want to know exactly where the line is between the world and the church, so they can walk the line just inside the will of God. These people are trying to be followers of God and walk in the "first mile," and this is not possible.

To be pleasing to God we must have a willing and joyful spirit that delights in the law of God. God is looking for "second mile" followers. Paul wrote of the second mile spirit in II Corinthians 9:7 when he said: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." We must purpose or volunteer for the second mile. And when we do it will take the bitterness out of the first mile. The Christian life is one of real joy because he is willingly walking the second mile. It is because of man's unwillingness to go the second mile that he finds it so difficult to go the first.

Paul knew the joy of the second mile. In I Timothy he wrote: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service." Paul was glad to serve Christ for he was living in the second mile. Was Paul's first mile bitter? It most certainly was. One only has to read II Corinthians II to see the beatings, imprisonments, and miseries that were imposed upon him. Had Paul had the "first mile" spirit, he would have become a discouraged and bitter man. But as bitter as the first mile was for Paul, he volunteered for the second mile and he found joy in service.

Titus was another man who served God with a second mile attitude. In II Corinthians 8:16, 17 we read these words: "But thanks be to God, who put the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus. For he not only accepted our appeal (the first mile compulsion—GJF) but being himself very earnest, he is going to you on his own accord" (he volunteered for the second mile). When the compulsion to go was placed upon Titus, he volunteered of his own accord. He took the sting out of the duty by volunteering. This is what God is looking for in Christians.

The old law made of its followers one-mile followers. Living righteously in that time was fulfilling the obligations and fleeing from the prohibitions of the law. The list of rules and regulations enabled one to keep a perfect check on his good and bad deeds. Then he could place the figures on the balance, and if the good outweighed the bad he was blessed. So when the rich young ruler came to Jesus he could say: "I have kept these things from my youth up, what lack I yet" (Matthew 19:20). Then Jesus asked him to go the second mile and he went away sorrowfully. What Jesus asked of the young ruler was the second mile because there is no command in the law for a person to sell all his possessions. The young ruler would have needed to go beyond that which is commanded (first mile), to be a follower of Christ, but he was not ready. Oh, how sad!

If a boy adopted into a strange home becomes unruly, the home will set down some regulations to help the boy become more orderly. If the boy obeys, this does not make a true son of the family. BUT, if one day his love for the father and mother should be so laid upon his heart, that he is flooded in spirit with loyalty for his family, then a new life begins. He could take the list of rules and tear them up, saying: "Because I love you I will do all these and much more besides because of my love for you." At this point he will have been "born again."

Brethren, we become true sons of God only when we too are willing to go the second mile. We become a child when we begin to walk the second mile, not the first. Jesus told the story of a servant working for his master in Luke 17:1-10. In verse 10 he gave his conclusions: "So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do (the first mile—GJF) you should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' Are you living the second mile." □

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AFTER DEATH, WHAT THEN?

*Death is an appointment all must keep,
And after that the Judgment Seat.
The dead in Jesus will have no fear;
For to them Christ will in clouds appear.
Changed into His likeness they shall arise
And meet the Lord in the skys.*

*The Christ-rejecting worldly throng
Will be in His presence, but not for long.
Their names not found in the Book of Life;
They will find no place with the Lamb's wife.
Fearful, unbelieving, idolatrous... liar—
Their part shall be in the lake of fire.*

By DAVID KIRK
121 Iron Ridge Road
Galax, Virginia 24333

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REPENTANCE--

The Turning Point

• By HAROLD BUCKLES

God does not want you to perish (be lost), but to repent (II Peter 3:9).

Christ said that repentance was a vital part of salvation (Luke 13:5).

The lack of repentance is one reason why some will not be saved (Matthew 11:20-24).

All men are commanded to repent, therefore repentance is something that is possible for you or anyone else to do (Acts 17:30)—*God commands no impossible things.*

For all believers:

If you are a lost sinner, *repent* and *be baptized* for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

If you are an erring Christian, *repent* and *pray* for forgiveness (Acts 8:22).

Repentance is the turning point when a soul quits resisting God and begins to work *with* Him.

1. DEFINITION OF REPENTANCE.

Repentance means change of heart or mind which brings about a complete change of conduct.

Pertaining to salvation, this is brought about by a godly sorrow for sin (II Corinthians 7:9, 10).

—Mere reformation or “changing your ways” is not repentance. Reformation follows repentance (Matt. 3:8).

—Fear is not repentance. Felix trembled (Acts 24:25), but he did not repent.

—Not conviction. Many are deeply stirred, but do not repent (John 12:42, 43).

Jesus gave a Bible example so that we would be absolutely certain as to what repentance is, and what it involves (Matthew 21:28-31)—*change of heart produced a change of conduct.*

Concerning the salvation of one's soul:

REPENTANCE IS A CHANGE OF WILL CAUSED BY A SORROW FOR SIN, LEADING TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR. THIS LEADS TO A COMPLETE REFORMATION OF LIFE FOLLOWING THAT ACCEPTANCE (II Corinthians 7:9-11).

2. NEW TESTAMENT PREACHERS PLED FOR REPENTANCE.

- (1) John the baptizer (Luke 3:8).
- (2) Christ preached repentance (Luke 5:32 and Luke 13:3, 5), and he COMMANDED it to be preached to the end of time—to ALL nations (Luke 24:47).
- (3) Peter preached repentance to the Israelites (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 5:31).
- (4) Peter preached the same identical message to the Gentiles (Acts 11:18).
- (5) Paul preached repentance to both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 17:30, 31; Acts 26:19, 20).

3. IF YOU ARE DESCRIBED HERE, YOU NEED TO REPENT.

- (1) If you are lost, and you do not want to go to hell (Luke 13:3).
- (2) If you have not been baptized scripturally (Acts 2:38; Acts 19:1-5).
- (3) If you have lost your first love (Revelation 2:4, 5).
- (4) If you are resisting God (Revelation 2:16).

- (5) If you are guilty of spiritual adultery (Rev. 2:20-22).
- (6) If you are indifferent to Christ, his church, yourself, or others (Revelation 3:2, 3).
- (7) If you are LUKEWARM towards spiritual matters (Revelation 3:15-19).
- (8) If you are UNGODLY, a backslidden Christian (Acts 8:13, 22).

4. WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED TO INDUCE MEN TO REPENT.

- (1) The goodness of God leads all men to repent (Romans 2:4 and II Peter 3:9; I Timothy 2:3, 4).
- (2) Point out the consequences of remaining in sin (Luke 13:3-5).
- (3) Preaching, telling men of the coming judgment of God (Acts 17:30 and 31; Compare Matthew 12:41 to Jonah 3:4, 5).
- (4) Rebuke—“Thou art... Repent therefore...” (Acts 8:22).
- (5) Christ's evaluation of preaching repentance (Luke 16:27-31)—*If you think preaching, teaching, and godly example are not enough, you will have to wait and argue with Jesus!*

5. SOME VERY OBVIOUS CONCLUSIONS.

- (1) All of heaven awaits our repentance (Luke 15:7, 10, 32)—*Would you like to make heaven glad?*
- (2) What should be done when a Christian is overtaken in sin (II Timothy 2:24-26; Galatians 6:1, 2).
- (3) How Paul was afraid he would find some Christians (II Corinthians 12:20, 21).
- (4) Some would not repent—even at the preaching of Jesus! (Matthew 21:32).
- (5) Some cannot be renewed to repentance (Hebrews 6:6).
- (6) Esau found no place for repentance (Hebrews 12:16, 17).

“Be zealous, therefore, and repent” was WRITTEN TO A CHURCH! (Revelation 3:19).

No unrepentant person will be found in Heaven!

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Can You Sleep When the Wind Blows ?

A DIFFERENT YOUNG MAN asked a farmer for a job as a farm hand. When the farmer inquired of his qualifications, the young man answered, "I can do whatever has to be done, and I can sleep when the wind blows." Even though the farmer was mystified by the phrase, "sleep when the wind blows," he did not press the question, and hired the young man.

Some time later the farmer awoke in the night to learn that a violent storm was brewing. He got up and tried unsuccessfully to arouse the farm hand, then with considerable annoyance went to check things for himself. He found the barn locked, the chicken coop properly closed, a wagon-load of hay covered with a tarpaulin which was secured down, and all else in a condition of safety from the elements. Then the farmer remembered the young man saying, "I can sleep when the wind blows!" The farmer then realized what he meant.

That poses the question to you and me: CAN WE SLEEP WHEN THE WIND BLOWS? Do we know what it is like to go to bed, lie down upon one's pillow, and enjoy peaceful sleep without worrying about the possibility of dying and going to a devil's hell? I know what it is like to go to bed at night with the conscious thought burning within me that if tomorrow's sun should never shine I would be lost forever. I know, also, that no one can be happy under those circumstances. I also know that God never intended that God never intended that we carry that kind of burden with us through life. God wants us to enjoy peace of mind and peace of soul. However, peace is not for the person who is at variance with God. That person cannot sleep when the wind blows. If he can, he is a foolish person.

If being able to sleep when the wind blows has any appeal to you, then this is what you must do. If you are not a Christian, the first order of business is for you to "obey the gospel," that is, become a child of God. This means you must come to believe in God and in Christ as His Son (Hebrews 11:6). God requires that you turn from your sins (Luke 13:3) in humble repentance. God expects you to confess your faith before men (Matthew 10:31,32), and then submit to baptism (Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21), so that God will save you, wash away your sins, and make you a member of His body (I Cor. 12:13).

If you are a Christian, you must rid your life of every sin by repentance and prayer (James 5:16). But one also must involve himself in God's work and in Christian living. For only the faithful can dare "sleep when the wind blows."

—Jerry Shaw □

NOTHING SHOULD BE "SECULAR"

WHATEVER POSITION a man or woman occupies should be one in which Christ is the Lord of life.

A Christian cannot be a mere teacher; he cannot be a mere lawyer; he cannot be a mere carpenter. He must be a Christian businessman; he must be a Christian teacher; he must be a Christian lawyer; he must be a Christian doctor; he must be a Christian carpenter.

Whatever his vocation may be, and whatever his sex, color, or location, he must recognize, accept, and practice the Lordship of Christ in respect to his calling. He must bring Christ to bear upon his life work. "The secular" does not exist in the life of the Christian. Everything is sacred.

—Selected □

"BLESSED (FORTUNATE, HAPPY) ARE THEY THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS..." (Rev. 22:14).

HOW TO BE MISERABLE

- Think about yourself; talk about yourself.
 - Use "I" as much as possible.
 - Mirror yourself continually in the opinion of others.
 - Listen greedily to what people say about you.
 - Expect to be appreciated.
 - Be jealous and envious.
 - Be sensitive to slights.
 - Never forgive criticism.
 - Trust nobody but yourself.
 - Insist on consideration and respect on everything.
 - Demand agreement with your own views on everything.
 - Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown to them.
 - Be on the lookout for a goodtime for yourself.
 - Shirk your duties if you can.
 - Do as little as possible for others.
 - Love yourself supremely.
 - Be selfish and self-centered in everything.
- This RECIPE for MISERY is guaranteed to be infallible one hundred percent. —Selected □

AND as someone has said: "THE PERSON ALL WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF MAKES A MIGHTY SMALL PACKAGE." □

Follow-up to a news item that appeared in the Nov.-Dec. (1975) issue of this paper...

GAS STATION ATTENDANTS ARE HELD IN HOAX

CHICAGO (ASSOCIATED PRESS)—A report that motorists had helped themselves to gasoline while ignoring cries from two bound service station employees has been discounted by investigators.

Police said that Dec. 12 robbery of the station, which drew national attention, was an inside job and the story told by the two attendants was part of the plan.

The case has been solved with the arrest of four former employees of the South Side station, police said Friday. Two others are being sought.

After the December holdup, attendants Kenneth Harris, 19, and Michael Fry, 19, told police they had been bound by two robbers and that customers ignored them, helping themselves to gasoline and cigarettes without paying.

When the station was robbed again on Feb. 2, police said they suspected a hoax in the December stickup. Both times, it was later determined, attendants on duty had cooperated with the supposed robbers in looting the station, police said. The loot totaled about \$12,000.

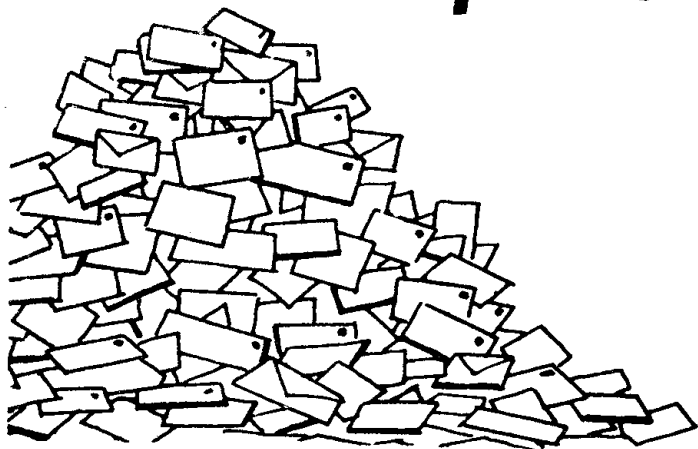
Two other attendants, Eugene Lyles, 20, and Duron Robinson, 27, were on duty Feb. 2 when, they told police, three men drilled into the safe and stole about \$7,000 and locked them in the washroom.

Their story was suspicious, police said, because the washroom does not lock from the outside and it would take at least an hour to drill into the safe.

—Minneapolis Tribune, February 14, 1976

READERS'

... Response



VIRGINIA:

■ "I receive THE SWORD AND STAFF and am thoroughly enjoying it. I especially appreciate the recent article by Benjamin Alexander, "MY TONGUES EXPERIENCE." Keep up the good work of publishing a true-to-the-Bible publication!"

■ "First off, may I say that I have found only one thing wrong with your paper—it isn't a weekly paper. I would love to get this paper in the mail every week for I thoroughly enjoy reading it. I thank God that we still have some who will tell people the truth and not just what they want to hear.

"Thank you so much for not taking our name off your mailing list when our subscription ran out. As you know that was almost three years ago. I am sending a check to cover those three years and a renewal for one year. Also, I want you to send me the 1967-1968 bound volume of THE SWORD AND STAFF.

"Thank you again and I pray that God will richly bless you."

TENNESSEE:

■ "Please take me off your mailing list. I do not agree with the material you write on. It is false teaching and hardness of heart that permits blind leading as this. I suggest you read Matthew 12:31, 32 and be careful what you print. Let all things be done to edify and lift Christ up and he will draw people to himself."

OHIO:

■ "Please continue our subscription to THE SWORD AND STAFF. We greatly enjoy the truths written therein. May God bless you richly for this great printing ministry you have undertaken."

ILLINOIS:

■ "The enclosed check is to renew our subscription to THE SWORD AND STAFF. We really enjoy your publication and praise God for your steadfastness to His Word.

"Keep up the good work of printing the truth. We enjoyed Ben Alexander's article as we have heard him speak a couple of years ago. He really has a powerful message."

IOWA:

■ "It's really a relief to get a Christian (true to the Bible)

paper in the face of all the rotten printed word and falseness in the world."

■ "...Thank you! And the 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' tracts are the best I have found."

NEBRASKA:

■ "Please remove my name from your mailing list...I did not subscribe to it and don't know where you got my name. So please don't send me any more. Sometimes I don't even read it."

MINNESOTA:

■ "After checking my records I discover I never sent money to you for a subscription to THE SWORD AND STAFF last year. I sent for a sample copy. I want you to know I greatly appreciate your magazine and I am glad you continued to send it to me."

■ "We were sent THE SWORD AND STAFF by someone and we've found it much help as we struggle in starting a new congregation. It has been a spiritual blessing to us.

"Do you have extra copies of all of brother Ben Alexander's articles such as you ran in the March-April issue, 'My Tongues Experience.' How may I obtain these?"

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Write to Ben Alexander, P.O. Box 67, Corbett, Oregon 97019 for copies of booklet, "My Tongues Experience"—50 copies for \$1.50; 100 for \$3; 500 copies for \$15.00. This concerns his pseudo-experience before taking N.T. position for today.)

OREGON:

■ "I am writing to express my thanks for the very fine paper that you put out. This must be one of the finest that I have ever seen and it stands for the truth and the 'old paths' in a way that few indeed seem strong enough to do in this day of 'weak-kneed' wishy washyness..."

■ "I have found your pamphlet, 'The Subject of the Holy Spirit Made Simple' a valuable study to share with those that are confused on this subject. Please send me...copies...Thank you very much. God bless your work."

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Satan's Auction

IT IS SAID that Satan announced once upon a time that he was thinking of retiring from business, and would offer all his diabolical inventions for sale to anyone who would pay the price.

On the day of the sale, the tools were all attractively displayed, despite the ugliness of most of them. Malice, hatred, jealousy, sensuality, deceit, and all the other instrumentalities of evil each was marked with its price.

Apart from the rest lay a plain wedge-shaped tool, much worn, and priced much higher than any of the others. Someone asked Satan what it was.

"That's Discouragement," was the reply.

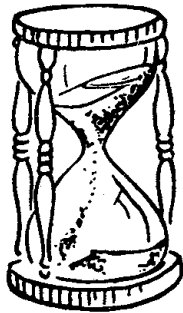
"Why have you priced such a simple tool so high?"

"Because," Satan answered, "it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside a man's consciousness with that when I could not get near him with any of the others; and once inside I can use him in whatever suits me best. It is much worn because I have used it on nearly everybody, and few, very few, know that it belongs to me."

—Selected □

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Time is Running Out!



EACH 1 SEND 6 IN '76!

TIME is running out in our lives. Time is running out for the world. Judgment is coming. Soon it will all be over. Would you help us get out God's message while it is still called "today"?

You can do this by helping us increase our outreach with this paper. Please help us increase our mailing list. If each subscriber would send six new subscriptions (only \$1.00 a piece) when renewing his subscription, just think how our reading audience and influence for good would be increased! A dollar (six in all) isn't much to ask in this day in which we live. Would you send your six today? (And when was the last time you renewed your subscription?)

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ What Must I Do to Be Saved?—6¢ each.
- ☐ Are Visions, Dreams and Religious Experiences Proof of Salvation?—6¢ each.
- ☐ The Origin of Religious Misunderstanding and False Teaching—5¢ each; 100 for \$4.00.
- ☐ His Church is Marching On (Song on Sheet with glue on back to stick in backs of your hymnbooks)—5¢ each.
- ☐ Every Sunday? (Concerns Scripturalness and need of weekly observance of the Lord's supper)—3¢ each.
- ☐ Sequel to the Lord's Supper "Every Sunday" (Answers objections to weekly observance of the Lord's supper)—3¢ each.
- ☐ Are You Sanctified?—3¢ each.
- ☐ Too Busy!—3¢ each.
- ☐ A Question About the Sabbath—2¢ each.
- ☐ I Saw Him Standing There (or The Old Gospel Preacher)—FREE.

➔ **BOUND VOLUMES OF SWORD AND STAFF**

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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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NOTICE: COMBINED ISSUES

BECAUSE of the problem we had with our mailing permit, we got about five months behind in publishing. And because of our situation in the light of this, it seems almost impossible to get caught up. It seems like the only logical thing to do is to combine two issues as one to solve our problem. Therefore two issues are combined in this current paper. The paper is normally a twelve-page, bi-monthly publication, which it is and will continue to be since we have gotten our mailing permit problems solved. Thank you for your consideration.—JAMES GIBBONS.

NOTICE the valuable printed materials and bound volumes of this publication available. Many are using these materials to good advantage, and many have made the bound volumes a functional part of their libraries. Perhaps you should do the same. We will be glad to fill your orders. Thank you.

BIBLE LANDS TOUR COMING UP IN MARCH

AN EXCITING 11-day Bible Lands Tour is scheduled for March 15-25, 1977. This tour will take in Egypt, Israel, Moab, Ammon, and Edom of the Bible. The editor of THE SWORD AND STAFF will be one of the tour hosts in cooperation with Miller and Hunt, leaders. You can see how others value such a tour (an educational and religious experience of a lifetime) in view of the fact that over half of the people we have "signed" to go so far are people who have been before. Why don't you go with us? You'll be glad that you did. Write today for information, including cost.

THE LAST BROADCAST by Victor Knowles. Price: 6¢ each in any numbers.

Each 1 send 6 in '76.
-Will You?



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