

The Sword AND Staff

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

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



In this article, which we consider very timely and needed, we will deal with the subject under three continued headings: (1) The Bible Teaching on Marriage, Family, and The Home; (2) The Threat of The Crumbling Home Today; and (3) The Crumbling Home—Threat to The Church.

THE BIBLE TEACHING ON MARRIAGE, FAMILY, AND THE HOME

A. Marriage Is A Divine Institution.

Marriage is the oldest of human relationships, and it affords the greatest joy, pleasure, and contentment of human relationships. The love and security of marriage and the home provide the greatest haven of comfort from the turmoil and storms of life. Surely God was good, kind, and benevolent to set up such an institution. Marriage is a divine institution. Read Genesis 2:18-24.

God said that it was not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18). Adam named all of the animals, and all of the animals passing before him made it obvious that he needed someone like himself; he needed a companion, a helper. Thus God said, "I will make him an help meet for him." "HELP MEET" meaning helper "as agreeing to him,"

The Threat of The Crumbling Home to The Church

• By JAMES E. GIBBONS—1535 FAIRFIELD DRIVE—MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA 27030

WHAT DOES the word *home* mean to you? To most people the sound of the word produces deep warm feelings. Many think of a loving mother, a caring father... brothers and sisters. The mere sound of the word produces deep-down feelings of love, security, and acceptance—WHERE WE BELONG. To us it is the ideal essence of that which is good, wholesome, and desirable. It is no wonder that many of our hymns speak of coming to God as coming home. It is no wonder that many of them speak of the hereafter as the heavenly home.

So, you can see the title of this article is packed with emotion and conflict—to think of the threat of the home crumbling (and furthermore a threat to the Lord's church)! It is very disturbing.

or "his counterpart"—she was not an inferior being to Adam. Hence God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and from his side took a rib from which he made woman (2:21). Someone has pointed out that she was not made from the foot nor the head, for she was neither inferior nor superior to man; she is a counterpart, a compliment, the same kind, to be beside man. And thus God brought her to the man (2:22). In essence, God performed the first wedding. Marriage is divine in origin, and woe be to the person who tries to belittle, change, or corrupt it in any way! The wrath of God can only be upon him.

Because God has instituted marriage we read: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall

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Proverbs of Today

You may be on the right track, but if you just sit there you'll be run over.

"Thinking well is wise; planning well is wiser; doing well is wisest and best of all."

People who have been wronged, not people who are in the wrong, have a right to talk about their rights.

"Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself."

Many times self-consciousness is inverted pride.

"Give to a pig when it grunts and a child when it cries, and you will have a fine pig and a bad child."

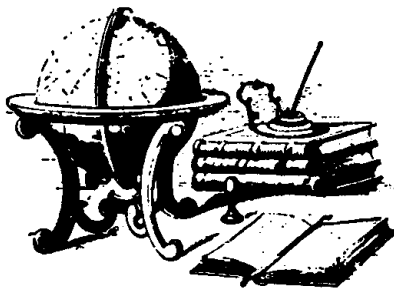
When you are supported by people, (\$) you end up supporting those people (what they stand for)—Beware of becoming a compromiser!

"Whose bread I eat his song I sing."

I have found that people who are always talking about their rights many times have little respect for the rights of others.

"Something to think about: Count your obligations; name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord wants done."

It is never smart to be a smart-aleck.



EDITORIAL

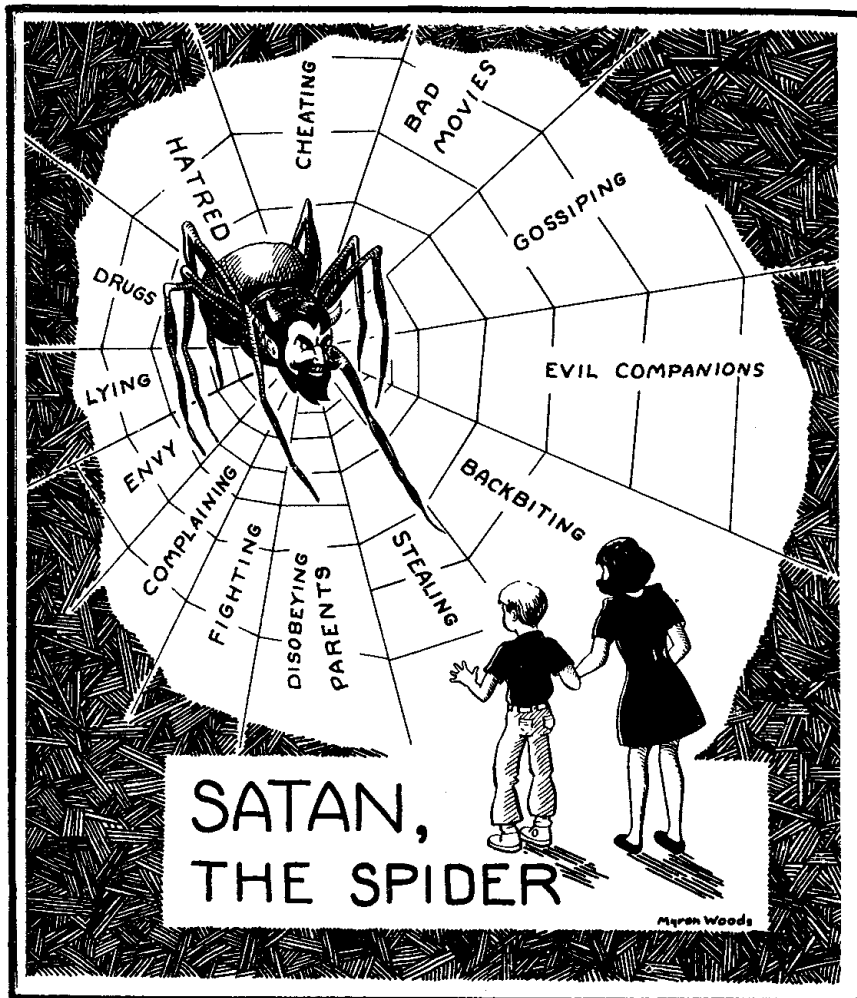
COMMENTS...

HELP US MEET THE CHALLENGE OF TODAY—HELP!

WE ARE LIVING in a time when the truth of God needs to be brought to man's attention perhaps as never before. The population of the world has multiplied by leaps and bounds until it has been called an explosion. In the midst of this population explosion unbelief, modern pagan philosophies, and apostate religion abound. Also, it seems that Godless communism is gaining grounds every day. Evil men and wickedness wax worse and worse. We gasp in amazement at how all of this degeneration has accelerated just in the last decade. A sin-sick world is headed full speed for a head-on collision with its Creator in judgment...unprepared. And, it is a shame that of all the mass hords of humanity in the world today only a few are even exposed to the simple, soul-saving truth of God.

In view of the world situation and the gospel, it seems the Lord has been able to use this unworthy writer best in publishing (or, at

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THE THREAT OF THE CRUMBLING HOME TO THE CHURCH



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cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (2:24). The words *leave* and *cleave* capture our attention. In marriage there must be the leaving of a couple from their parents to start a new home. Then the word *cleave* suggests a very close and adhesive relationship. A man is to cleave to his wife, not the wife of someone else. Also note it does not say "wives." God's original and perfect plan called for one man and one woman. (A man by the name of Lamech was the first to break this rule, Genesis 4:19). God wants each to be united to only one in marriage.

They would be *one flesh*. In other words, marriage was consummated in the sexual union (But the apostle Paul brings out in I Corinthians 6:15-20 that sexual union is more than of the flesh—it is spiritual and a union of the personalities; to be joined to a prostitute is to distort your personality and sin against yourself, inviting all kinds of psychological problems).

Although Adam and Eve were fallen creatures when they had their children, their attitude toward their offspring is very praiseworthy. We read, "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord" (Genesis 4:1). They still recognized God and gave Him credit for their offspring—"I have gotten a man from the Lord." Later on with the birth of Seth it is recorded that Eve acknowledged that God was responsible for that too (Genesis 4:25). A lot of present-day descendants of Adam and Eve don't acknowledge this or even seem to know it. They look upon it as some mere biological thing that has taken place. But how we need to recognize God, and build our families and homes around that all-important truth. After all, the home originated with God.

B. Everything About Marriage Is Honorable.

The Bible says so: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). The sexual union in marriage is a most holy and sacred relationship—there is nothing sinful or degrading about it. What makes sex sinful is a departure from God's plan of marriage into adultery, fornication, or perversion. God created male and female, as he finished his creation, and He said that everything was "very good" (Genesis 1:27, 31).

Roman Catholics have tried to make it appear that being married is less holy than being single (perhaps because of their belief in original sin—the belief that the guilt of the sin of Adam and Eve is inherited, and thus passed on in sexual union with the birth of another human being)—thus they practice celibacy in their priesthood and religious orders. But the apostle Paul foretold a falling away from the faith with such apostate teachings and

practices (I Timothy 4:1-4). In this departure from the faith (marked by a false asceticism), they would be forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats..." Catholics could point to I Corinthians 7:1 where Paul wrote, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman" (in defense of their position, but they don't respect the Scriptures that much). However, to say that Paul is making a "blanket" statement here is a gross misunderstanding. Later in the chapter (7:26) he tells us why he said that: "I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be." The unmarried person was less encumbered in the event of persecutions, which were then common. Each person, being single, could look out for himself (or herself) better being alone, rather than having to worry about a mate and children.

Then to sum it up, the writer of Proverbs 18:22 thought marriage was a pretty good thing. Listen: "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." Yes, everything about marriage is honorable.

C. Marriage Is A Lifetime Proposition.

The Pharisees, tempting Jesus in Matthew 19:3-6ff, asked, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus referred back to where marriage had been divinely instituted in Genesis 2, and then said, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put assunder" (verse 6). In other words, whenever a man and woman are joined together in marriage, it is for a lifetime—"until death do us part." In further elaborating upon this, in view of the question of divorce, Jesus continued, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (verse 9). Here Jesus gives the one exception to the rule, *fornication*. If a mate is guilty of overt unfaithfulness in the marriage relationship, a divorce may be gotten and another marriage entered into without it being wrong. However, if the mate guilty of unfaithfulness genuinely repents, it is understood that the other will forgive and try to make a go of it. Such is the nature of Christianity. But if the mate persists in his (her) pernicious ways, and will not straighten up, and a divorce is gotten with the eventuality of another marriage, the innocent party is not in the wrong in doing this.

Since we are living in a time of loose attitudes toward marriage, and a time of easy divorce, let us point out other Scriptures on this subject. Paul writes: "For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is freed from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man" (Romans 7:2, 3). The same truth is brought out in I Corinthians 7:39). Listen: "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth: but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

If the mate dies, the other is permitted to marry again—but "ONLY in the Lord." What does "ONLY IN THE LORD" mean? Of course we know this expression has reference only to a Christian. The surviving Christian is

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THE THREAT OF THE CRUMBLING HOME TO THE CHURCH *(Continued from Last Page)*

at liberty to marry again, if he (she) so chooses, but only to another Christian. In fact, Christians initially are to marry only other Christians (Notice II Corinthians 6:14). Paul made the statement that he had the right "to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other" preachers if he wanted to (I Corinthians 9:5). Notice he said "a sister, a wife." Paul had the privilege to be married to a Christian lady (a sister in Christ) in he so chose.

So, remember these truths in view of our decaying society today: Marriage is for a lifetime (so don't enter into this important relationship lightly). Fornication is the only Scriptural grounds for divorce that will allow another marriage without it being wrong in the sight of God. The ties of marriage are dissolved in death, and the surviving mate is at liberty to marry again (if that is his or her wish). The Christian must marry only another Christian.

D. Marriage, The Home, And Family Relationships.

Our thoughts would be incomplete without at least briefly considering the relationships involved in marriage, the home, and the family. Ephesians 5:21-6:4 furnishes a good over-all picture of this. In fact, the context of this Scripture is enlarged to include other relationships (6:5-9), i.e., masters and servants, etc. The verse that governs all human relationships in the church (whether they be in the home, business, or the church as an organized unit) is verse 21. It reads: "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Yes, God has placed some to be heads and leaders, but that doesn't nullify this injunction—all are to have the humble, submissive attitude. Although some are over others, they are not to lord it over others.

First, considering the relationship of husband and wife, Paul writes, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (5:22-24). God has created the husband to be the head and leader, and this submission is pretty complete. If you don't want to submit to a man, you better not get married. A lot of modern thought is out of harmony with the Bible.

Paul continues: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it... So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church..." (5:25, 28ff). What a great admonition to love!

Many men like to hear the first part about the wife being in subjection to the husband, but really don't get the full force of the part about the husband loving his wife. It is to be as Christ "loved the church" and as they love their own bodies (after all, they are now "one flesh" with their wives in marriage). With this kind of love no man is going to be abusive of his wife. He will not lord it over his wife. The man who must be always asserting his headship must feel inadequate, insecure, and uncertain. He must have doubts about himself. But the name of the game is love, and if the husband and wife really

love one another it will solve many problems before they appear. They will be kind and considerate. If there is any doubt about your love, please prayerfully read and consider I Corinthians 13.

The relationship of children to their parents is touched upon in Ephesians 6:1-3. This reads, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." So children should obey, and children should honor their parents. There is no room for gainsaying or being a smart aleck here. A child that will not obey his parents will not obey God, nor will he obey the laws of the land. The "honour" suggests not only respect, but material assistance in their old age if they need it (Matthew 15:4-6; I Timothy 5:8—note context).

Finally, the relationship of the parent to the children is brought out—"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (6:4). Child abuse should never be found among Christians. Children are to be brought up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord." This involves nurture (as it says), instruction, and chastening. Proverbs 22:6 is true in any Bible age. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." How we need parents who will really accept the God-given responsibility that has been placed in their hands. If you want your child to turn out right, he must be brought up right.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first article in a series concerning the home. We have just examined some basic Bible teachings about the home. With that foundation to go from, in the next issue, the Lord willing, we will consider problems facing the home and the church in our society today).

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Daniel spent a night in the lions' den before he would go through a day without praying.

NOTE: To enjoy and get the most out of life (as well as being a productive, useful person) stay alive as long as you live.

Prayer Is Asking

• By GERALD DAVEY
2305 Garfield
Loveland, Colo. 80537



I AM an impulsive buyer. When I buy shoes, the whole transaction takes less than ten minutes. I know what I want—a low-quarter shoe in black calf, size 11D, like other I have worn before. I have my old shoes wrapped up and I walk out. I do not “shop” in that sense of the term. Rather, I buy. And that is what prayer is. Prayer is asking something definitely from God.

Notice Matthew 7:7,8 which says: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.

Prayer then is asking. One who prays is expecting to receive. That is what the Bible says prayer is, really; asking, seeking, knocking. Real prayer is asking for something.

In James 4:2,3 the Scripture says: “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

In my most recent study on prayer I found there are two principle words in the Greek New Testament translated “ask.” One is the word *EPEROTAO* which means to ask, to inquire as asking questions. But the word used about prayer is *AITEO* which means to ask, to crave, to desire, to call for, always meaning asking for something. I have just counted about thirty times that this word is used about prayer in the New Testament. And it is properly translated ask.

Oh, the drouth of real prayer! In this day of water conservation, watering, restrictions and seared, browned, water starved crops, drouth is a dreadful word. Stop! What about the pitiful state we are now in because of good old fashioned prayer. Some of the Lord’s church is powerless; some Christians are unhappy and loved ones unsaved because we do not effectually, scripturally get a hold of God in prayer. When we remedy the prayer life of the people of God, we remedy what is wrong with Christians and churches and open the way for every needed blessing.

Following are two very distinct facts about asking in prayer:

1. *Through the gospels Jesus gave examples of asking in prayer. People really asked for what they wanted and got a answer.*

The publican in the temple prayed: “God be merciful to me a sinner,” and he went down to his house already saved, forgiven (Luke 18:4).

Peter, about to sink in the waters of Galilee, cried out, “Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30).

Blind Bartimaeus by the roadside cried out, “Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me” (Mark 10:47). And then more definitely still he prayed, “Lord, that I might receive my sight” (Mark 10:51). And he did receive his sight.

The Syrophenician or Canaanitish woman prayed: “Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil” (Matthew 15:22) and again, “Lord, help me” (Matthew 15:25). And she kept praying and asking it until she got what she asked; that is, until her daughter was healed.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: These examples of people personally calling upon Jesus when he was on earth make nice illustrations, but cannot be used to equate prayer in every particular.)

In fact, the only “prayer” I recall mentioned in the New Testament that is held up to scorn is the prayer of the Pharisee in Luke, chapter 18. He “prayed” in public long and loud, but he did not ask for a thing. That is the kind of a prayer that God hates!

We are so weak and sinful, and God is so strong and mighty and gracious, that the only possible relationship that would be righteous and proper between us and God is that we should be asking and he should be giving. When poor, self-confessed sinners begin to call on God for what He so graciously and lovingly offers, then that is proper and legitimate prayer.

Do you really ask God for things when you pretend to pray? Too many people are not impulsive buyers (in prayer its all right). They only “window shop” when they pray. They do not go after anything and they do not bring anything home.

Prayer is not a lovely sedan for a sight-seeing trip around the city. Prayer is a truck that goes straight to the warehouse, backs up, loads, and comes home with the goods. Too many people rattle their trucks all over town and never back up to the warehouse. They do not go after something when they pray. They do not ask, and therefore they do not receive. Much of our so called praying is not asking, and so it is not really praying. Check your local prayer meeting night for one night. See if there are hungry souls asking for God’s answers.

2. *Prayers reveal the real “us.”*

In public prayers in many faithful churches people are accustomed to giving often-times a well-planned, pious, homiletical sermonette. It can be spiced with praise, adoration, thanksgiving and theology. It is addressed more to people often-times than to God. Its aim, I suppose, is to create a reverent atmosphere, to comfort the people, and edify them. But quite often it never asks the Giver of all. This is not meant to be a wholesale criticism of my dear brethren. But how sad God must be over our weak prayer services. Too often in our public prayers we have a tendency to be indefinite and to follow a form and to say words which are customary instead of really

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PRAYER IS ASKING

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beseeking God for definite things.

Oh dear reader, I beg of you in Jesus' name that when you come to pray, you ask things of God! Bring your wants and wishes before God and make definite requests and expect definite blessings.

One man told of a time he got a spiritual red face. His three year old daughter taught him a shocking lesson. In prayer at the table she wailed till near the end of his prayer and began to say, "Amen! Amen! Amen!" It seemed strange. He was puzzled. How did she know when he was drawing near the end of the prayer?

On careful examination he found he was saying approximately the same thing in every prayer. Like a phonograph record his prayers went through pious phrases and and platitudes but had become a commonplace form with no heart-cries to God. And the three-year-old girl, who was naturally hungry and glad when prayer was through, could anticipate the close of prayer. She knew just what was coming next because the father had said the same thing so many times.

We, like this man, often drift into a kind of prayer formalism. We are no better than the Pharisee, a hypocrite. Of course, we are very well-meaning hypocrites as all Pharisees are, but nevertheless there can be a fundamental insincerity. Shame, shame on us that we don't really ask anything worthwhile.

Under any other definition of prayer, there might be some place for form and ceremony, but not since prayer is asking. Since prayer is really asking something from God, then it must come from the heart.

No wonder that in Isaiah 44:3 the Lord says, "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty." Real asking comes from a thirst of the heart.

Mark 11:24 says, "What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that you receive them, and ye shall have them."

One old country preacher prayed long and loud. He said, "Lord, come down and meet with us today in this church house. Lord, come right through the roof right now. I'll pay for the shingles!" Either that was a very figurative way of expressing what his heart desired, or it was not prayer at all. But at least his request was asking for something.

Too many of our prayers are like the incantation of a witch doctor or the rites of some modern cult. That is, they may have rythm or eloquence, or beauty and good form, but they are not genuine when they have no request whatsoever. We may even have to have an organ playing to meditate (effectively we think). If you need this to pray we are not praying at all but rather seeking a form of aesthetic beauty, something to appeal to the senses.

When a lady orders groceries, she does not quote poetry.

When the dispatcher gives orders to a trainsman, they are not written on engraved stationery. He does not use classic illustrations or ponderous words.

When a beggar asks for a half dollar for a cup of coffee and a doughnut, he does not talk about the glowing sunset and the beautiful day.

Brother or sister, test yourself. Come to God asking for what you want, unselfishly, and go home with it! Learn really to pray by asking definite things of God. □

A DYING (M)EMBER

A STORY is told of a certain preacher who was greatly distressed over a member of the congregation. The absent member was sorely missed and the preacher went straight to his home and found him sitting before the fireplace. The absentee, somewhat startled by the intrusion, placed another chair for his visitor, and braced himself for the expected rebuke. Not a word was spoken, however, by the preacher. Taking his seat before the fire, he silently took the tongs and lifted a glowing coal from the midst of its fellow embers and laid it down by itself on the hearth. Remaining painfully silent, the member watched the blaze in the ember die out. Then he said, "You need not say a word, sir, I'll be at every service from now on."—Selected

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A DEAD CONGREGATION

A PREACHER found himself working hard with a struggling congregation in the West. Some of the members told him that they were surprised that he had ever come there—that it was a dead congregation. Then one day the community was astonished when they read a funeral notice in the paper. The church had died, and the funeral service would be held Wednesday evening at 7:45.

Curious, the whole community flocked out to the service. There was funeral music; there was a funeral sermon in which the minister told of all the good the church had done in the distant past. There was an open casket up near the pulpit.

Following the service, the minister invited the people to file by the casket and view the remains of the dead church. What did they see that made their faces turn red? A mirrow was placed in the bottom of the casket and they saw themselves. THEY WERE THE DEAD CHURCH!

Be at the worship services regularly! —Selected □

LIFE'S VALUES

*Not for all the money in the world,
Or the gems and jewels, too,
Would I trade my hope of heaven
And the home I have in view.*

*I don't want the broken body,
That a life of sin can bring,
But will gladly work and labor
For the One I call my king.*

*You can have your many pleasures
And your worldly fame and wealth,
But I'll take the Christian living
And the things that lead to health.*

*What is fortune that is fleeting
Or the worldly life and fame?
I'd be ready in the judgment
When the Master calls my name.*

BY AGNES WELLS

Personal Purity



• By DARYL LANE — 620 LIBERTY — SALISBURY, Md. 21801

TO TIMOTHY Paul said, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: KEEP THYSELF PURE" (I Timothy 5:22).

Purity is related to a word that appears more often in the Bible than pure or purity. That word is HOLY. Does that word scare you? What does it mean? It literally means to be separate. It means to be like the Lord. Are you trying, striving (honestly and consistently) to be like Jesus? In all that you say and do? That is quite a big job for us to do.

Getting back to PURITY: One of the main words for purity in the Greek New Testament is KATHAROS. Can you see any other word in that? How about a girl's name? Kathy? Catherine? This word in Greek was to show that something was pure and not mixed with foreign elements. That could be something you would eat or drink; or something you would have, as gold not mixed with other metals. So we can see how it would be used in a moral sense too.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary gives this definition of purity: "Quality or state of being pure. a. Freedom from foreign admixture or deleterious matter. b. Cleanliness; freedom from foulness. c. Freedom from guilt; innocence; chastity. d. Freedom from sinister or improper motive. e. Freedom from foreign words or idioms, or from barbarisms."

We are going to take these definitions and try to make this message on "Personal Purity" something you can understand and that will be helpful to you.

I. PERSONAL PURITY MEANS FREEDOM FROM FOULNESS.

What is the longest you have gone without taking a bath? What is the dirtiest you have ever gotten? What is the best way to get clean when you are really dirty? Let us consider some Scriptures that tell us about being dirty and getting clean.

Isaiah 64:6, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken

us away."

James 1:21, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

II Corinthians 7:1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Revelation 22:11, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

PURITY: "Quality or state of being pure; a. Freedom from foreign admixture or deleterious matter. b. Cleanliness; freedom from foulness. c. Freedom from guilt; innocence; chastity. d. Freedom from sinister or improper motive. e. Freedom from foreign words or idioms, or from barbarisms."

Understanding these Scriptures, we see that man is dirty and needs to be cleaned up. We can praise the Lord that there is cleansing in and through our Lord.

John 15:3, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

James 4:8, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

I Corinthians 6:11, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Personal purity means freedom from the foulness of sin.

II. PERSONAL PURITY IS FREEDOM FROM GUILT.

The guilt of past crimes is not held against you if you are in Christ. Have you ever been accused of a crime? Wouldn't it scare you to think of being condemned? We all have sinned, the Bible declares; and we will all admit it, knowing our own hearts and actions. We are dirty in the sight of God because of our sins. We have nothing to be proud of when we stand alone, and before God we are guilty. As Christians we have been pardoned and made "innocent." No longer are we standing in the judgment hall condemned. We are free and we can SHOUT IT! We can praise him for ever and ever.

Titus 3:5, 6, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Hebrews 9:14, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

I Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doeth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

We can be clean and holy. We can have a clear con-

(Continued on Next Page)

PERSONAL PURITY

(Continued from Last Page)

science. God has spoken in His Word. Personal purity is freedom from guilt.

III. PERSONAL PURITY MEANS BEING FREE FROM SINISTER OR IMPROPER MOTIVES.

God expects his children to be sincere, honest and up-right. Listen to Philippians 1:10, "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ." A Christian is to be Christ-like. He is to be holy and pure in all manner of life. The Christian's attitude is not, "How worldly can I be and still be a Christian?" But rather it is, "How godly a life can I live for him?"

What is your outlook on life? Who are you really trying to please? Are you willing to be pure in all of life?

There is filth all around us, but as Christians we need to abstain from even the appearance of evil. Let the worldly, carnal-minded individual have the filth and dirt of this world. But as Christians let us set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:1-7).

Some may try to say we are too holy or that we are too good, but listen, friend, can you be too much like Jesus? He has called us to sanctification and to abstain from every lustful desire. Some might say we preach opinion when we cry out against modern day amusements and entertainments, but I'll have you know the Bible declares that we are to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul (I Peter 2:11).

Let some think us a little strange, that we run not with them: to the same excess in living; let them talk, but let us be pure in all of our motives and actions before God and man.

IV. PERSONAL PURITY MEANS BEING FREE FROM FOREIGN WORDS OR IDIOMS OR FROM BARBARISMS.

Have you heard someone with an accent? Have you heard someone who has just learned to speak English? They sound a little different, don't they? The Bible teaches us that our speech is to be free from "foreign" accents. Paul said, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29). No corrupt or impure words are to come out of our mouths. Also we want to make sure our speech is that which is kind, good and true. We don't need minced oaths either. Some of you should look up the meaning of those words you use instead of swearing. The use of minced oaths is quite contrary to the spirit of the New Testament teaching. Jesus said in Matthew 5:37, "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." I'm afraid sometimes we have said a whole lot more than what Jesus told us to say.

Another thing we need to be careful of is our language concerning the church, God's work and workers. Zephaniah 3:9 reads, "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent." Away with impurities of speech that talk of Bible School Superintendents, Presidents, Doctors and a host of others.

Let us seek to hold our tongues, for death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21).

CONCLUSION: We all need PERSONAL PURITY. We must have it, or we will not be pleasing to God. Blessed

are the pure in heart and they that follow peace and holiness. We all need to be pure like Jesus and walk in his footsteps of gentle forbearance, mercy and love. Make sure you are a Christian. Examine your own faith, practice and life. Study God's Word and hide it in your heart, keeping and honoring His Word. Pray for purity and power to be pure. Show to others your clean speech and high ideals. Let your light shine for Jesus. Support his work with your time, talent and money. Be steadfast and faithful to King Jesus so that you will be like him and will be with him for ever. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FISHERS OF MEN

A RADIO COMMENTATOR recently said, "Today's Christians are no longer fishers of men; they have become keepers of the aquarium." Too often we must agree that this is true. It appears that many Christians have lost the fire and enthusiasm for soul-winning which was characteristic of the first church. Luke states that they "went everywhere preaching the Word" (Acts 8:4). The evangelism of a handful of zealous disciples spread the gospel throughout the world in about forty years.

If the church is to continue to grow, we must love souls enough to go to them with the good news of Jesus. Some lack real dedication to this wonderful work. Our attitudes are often similar to that expressed by the young man who was courting his girl friend and said, "I'll do anything for you." "Will you work?" she asked. "Woman!" he exclaimed, "I said anything, not everything!" If we are content to pay lip service to Christ, we cannot possibly bring others to him.

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature..." Are we doing it? Are we bringing lost souls to their Saviour? Brethren, are we "fishers of men" or "keepers of the aquarium?"

—The Gospel Impact

MODERN "WONDERS"

"LO, THIS ONLY have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

Man is always trying to figure out some easy way to do his work, some short-cut. We have witnessed many WONDERS.

1. Horseless carriages (autos, etc.).
2. Fireless fires (microwave cooking, etc.).
3. Iceless iceboxes (gas or electric refrigeration).

And now we have a NEW one to consider:

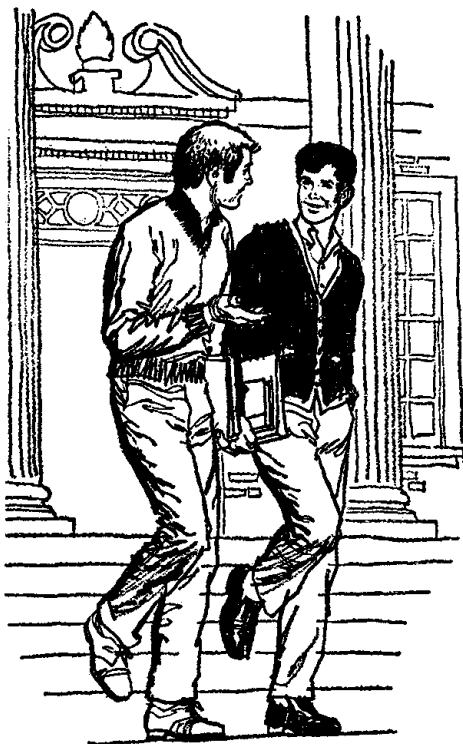
4. Preachless "Preaching," or Bibleless Bible Study. One man arose to preach—at least he was supposed to do so. He took one Bible verse. Then he LECTURED for 45 minutes, never once referring to the text, or to ANY OTHER Bible verse again!

The Bible standard is "Preach the Word" (II Timothy 4:2)... We need BCBV preaching—Book, Chapter, and Verse.

No one is so well versed in the Word of God, yet, that they can lay aside the WORD, and merely deal in philosophical speculations. Paul pressed on toward the mark for the prize (Philippians 3:14). This is the very opposite of those who think they have advanced beyond simple Bible preaching and study. —Harold Buckles □

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This Is Academic Freedom?



RECENTLY, in the state of Indiana, a judge ruled that it was a violation of the separation of church and state to use a biology textbook in the classrooms of the Indiana public schools if it supported the creationist point of view.

This is academic freedom?

In a college classroom at Kansas State College in Pittsburg, Kansas, two young ladies began to question the evolutionary teaching of the Botany professor. Because some of the questions proved difficult for him to answer, other students picked up this line of thought and it began to trouble the professor greatly. The professor tired of attempting to answer questions which denied the theory of evolution, so, one day he said, "All right, everyone in this class who does not believe in evolution, stand up!" The two young ladies stood up. Both of them were excellent students. Both of them failed.

This is academic freedom?

The highest court in the United States of America, under the leadership of former Justice Earl Warren, deliberated for some time and decided that it was improper to have prescribed Bible reading in the public schools of our nation. To my knowledge, they did not say that the Holy

Bible could not be read in the public schools, but many liberal principals, teachers, and school boards and their superintendents have interpreted the Supreme Court's ruling thusly: There will be no Bible reading of any kind in the public schools.

This is academic freedom?

Does the liberal believe that the Bible is the infallible, God-breathed Word of God? He professes not to believe that such is the case. But, the liberal doesn't want the Bible in the public schools.

Now consider this: If the liberal's right, and the Bible is not God's Word, why do they mind having the Bible in the classrooms? What could it possibly hurt to have "just another book" in the classrooms?

But, they do mind. WHY? Because the Bible is God's Word and they are opposed to God and His Word. For the liberal, it is fine to have such books as *Catcher in the Rye*, *Fanny Hill*, *The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft*, etc. in the public schools, but not the Holy Bible.

This is academic freedom?

A student at Central High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was in an English class that was asked to write an essay on any subject. He chose to write on his conversion to Christ. He is an excellent student and he wrote a fine essay. The teacher chose to read his essay before the entire class and, after reading it, denounced the student before the class, ridiculed his essay and literally tore his paper to shreds. Then, she demanded that he write another paper on an "acceptable" subject.

Is this academic freedom?

What is academic freedom? I believe it ought to be, at the very least, the freedom to pursue all possible answers to any legitimate question.

For example, the question of origins: Since evolution is an unproven theory, true academic freedom should give every student the opportunity to be exposed to the wealth of material and teaching which supports the only reasonable alternative, which is creationism. But, this is not being done (with a few exceptions) on any academic level. From kindergarten through graduate school, our tax-sup-

ported institutions are giving our young people a steady diet of evolution.

On page 395 in Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, 6th edition, this statement is found: "Great is the power of steady misrepresentation." I can think of no work to which that statement could be better applied than the book in which it is found.

The power of evolution is seen in that our young people cannot study history without the "evolutionary" history of man. They cannot study grammar without studying the "evolutionary" origins of language. The philosophical influence of evolution has been woven into the garment of our entire educational system.

So, we have "academic freedom." Our schools can have courses on E. S. P. but not on Prayer. Our schools are free to give instructions on every form of sexual activity, but nothing on Biblical morality. Most students are apt to learn more about the Eskimo life style than they are about Christian ethics. There are public schools in this nation where students can meet to smoke, but not to pray or study the Bible.

Teenagers, I am convinced that the Bill of Rights is just as much for the Christian as it is for the anti-Christian. If some have a right not to pray, then students who want to, have a right to pray. If some students have a right to read books with vulgar profanities in them, then those students with genuine moral convictions against polluting the sacred chambers of their minds with immoral verbiage have a right to decent literature, yes, even the Holy Bible.

Young people, I am saying that you do have academic freedom in America which is afforded to you by the Bill of Rights and the U. S. Constitution. It is time that you and your parents demanded your rights. Demand fair treatment of your sincere convictions in the classroom. You have a right to genuine academic freedom, so, claim it!

—Bruce Foster in *Sword of the Lord*

"SUCCESS consists of getting up just one more time than you fall down."

PRISONER INTRODUCES PREACHER

A WELL KNOWN PREACHER of Atlanta was asked to speak to a prison camp. The prisoner who introduced the preacher said: "Several years ago two boys lived in the same community in north Georgia, attended the same schools, played with the same pals, and went to the same Sunday School. One boy decided to drop out of the Sunday School because he thought he had outgrown it, and felt it was 'sissy stuff.' The other boy kept on going because he felt it meant something to his life. The boy who dropped out of Sunday School is now introducing the boy who didn't."

—Selected

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THE MISSING LETTER

ONE WORD in each of the following sentences is missing its first letter. The answer is always the first letter in a word. Add the letter and correct these sentences.

1. Paul gave testimony to God's race.
2. Do not cast earls before swine.
3. He went into the orders of Tyre and Sidon.
4. When the ranch puts forth leaves, summer is near.
5. Jesus said, "O fools and low of heart to believe."
6. Peter said, "Thou art in the all of bitterness."
7. Philip the evangelist had our daughters that prophesy.
8. Under the old law we we hut up unto the faith.
9. Cornelius said, "Aman stood before me in right clothing."
10. Ark is one of the books of the New Testament.
11. The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged word.
12. They did not glorify God when they new Him.
13. He is a living precious tone.
14. His head and hair were white as now.
15. The Lord is not lack concerning His promise.
16. A meek spirit is of great rice in the sight of God.
17. In the days of Caesar a great earth was experienced.
18. When Augustus was emperor of Rome axes became heavier.
19. Paul instructs Christians to be rooted and rounded in love.
20. The voice in the midst of the four beast said, "a measure of heat for a penny." (copied)

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS (Continued from Page 2)

least in a good way). The Lord has placed a print shop in our hands. The potential for good is almost unlimited. This expensive equipment needs to be put continually to use. However, we don't have big trusts and financial endowments backing us. We survive on a month to month basis. It takes several hundred dollars even to get out one issue of this paper (we mail between 7,000 to 8,000). When one issue goes into the mail, it is our policy not to print another one until the bills for the one that has been mailed are paid for. The paper is supposed to go out bi-monthly, and, the Lord permit, that is the way it will be. The editor is unselfishly devoting his time and energies to this printing endeavor, but we need the faithful and continued backing of those sympathetic to our Scriptural aims.

It is now out of a sense of desperation, in view of the world situation, that we now mention what we

hesitate to and don't like to mention, but our needs won't go away. Here is what you can do. Please renew your subscription when you think it is due (no notice will be sent). If you can, enclose a donation for the cause above the renewal amount. Make your check out to "Church in Mount Airy" if you want your returned check for income tax purposes. Anyone knows a dollar doesn't pay for all of our expenses such as they are today. But we gladly send the paper free to those who cannot afford it. However, we need regular supporters if we are going to be consistent and expand in this publishing like we should have been doing (and like the challenge of the times in which we live demand), instead of hobbling along on one leg. Please write us. We will put you on our mailing list for our newsletter, telling about what we are trying to accomplish, our efforts, and our situation. We will tell you how some churches and individuals are using this paper. We believe our cause is worthy of your support. Write to: **James E. Gibbons THE SWORD AND STAFF, P. O. Box 147, Mount Airy, N. C. 27030.** □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A PREACHING/TEACHING PUBLICATION

ON THE FRONT page of this publication under the caption, THE SWORD AND STAFF, it says, "Preach the Word," and "Feed the flock." That is what this paper is all about. We do not accept outside advertizing (paid or unpaid), nor news items. This is a preaching/teaching publication. We are much in sympathy with rallies and different church features of faithful brethren that we receive. But the purpose of this publication is not in that category. It is to preach, to expound the Word of God. □

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THE BIBLE CONTAINS:

THE BIBLE contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are unchangeable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. CHRIST is its Grand Subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given to you in life, will be opened in the Judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." (II Timothy 3:16)

—Author Unknown

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

READERS'

... Response



TENNESSEE:

■ "Please take me off your mailing list..."

GEORGIA:

■ "Thank you so much for sending THE SWORD AND STAFF. Some thoughtful person sent in our name and we enjoy it so much, that we would like to renew our subscription and also ask you to send an introductory subscription to my parents..."

NORTH CAROLINA:

■ "I am a Bible College student as is my wife. For some time I have been aware of the necessity of acquiring material for illustration files (talks, sermons, etc.) Your paper offers a wide variety of such material, and we would like to have back copies as described... I believe that covers from 1967... and a subscription for one year..."

"Thank you very much and may God bless you continually in your ministry."

VIRGINIA:

■ "I have been enjoying THE SWORD AND STAFF for several years now, even though my subscription ran out long ago. I appreciate the wisdom and the faithful way you present the truth of God's Word. Please accept my apology for not taking care of my obligation before this time. May God bless you in your work."

MICHIGAN:

■ "It is now approaching midnight—but I find myself unable to go asleep until I have completed this correspondence. My husband and I are newly baptized Christians and I find it hard for enough hours in the day to read the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was with much excitement and much anticipation that we were given a copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF. Consequently, I often find myself awake—reading and studying until I can no longer keep these eyes open. Having just completed reading Volumes 7 & 8, I can't wait to be able to continue. It is so refreshing to read true Christian literature!

"Following is our order for the complete set of bound volumes which you have available..."

■ "I am a new convert. I am in the process of reading a borrowed copy of your paper. I am finding it very interesting... I am very happy with what I read in your magazine. Thank you and God bless you and your paper."

ILLINOIS:

■ "Just received your sample copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF. I am enclosing check for \$1.50 for my first year subscription even though your introductory offer is \$1.00 for first year. Your sample copy alone is worth that much. More power to you."

CALIFORNIA:

■ "A dear friend of mine is giving as a gift THE SWORD AND STAFF magazine. There is none better. I in turn would like to make a gift of the introductory offer to..."

OREGON:

■ "Our sympathies and understanding go out where your production problems are concerned, but please just don't quit publishing. There is too much in print now that uphold the falsehood man perpetrates and not nearly enough available that upholds the truth consistently. So many simply don't know what truth is and don't care that they are ignorant. You keep saying what God wants and He will take care of the rest of it."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN? ...

1. A farmer who failed in life because he quit early Wednesday evening for services?
2. A business man who ever lost his business because he closed on Sunday and Wednesday evenings?
3. Anyone who was "too tired" to go worship on Sunday, who was also too tired to go to work on Monday?
4. A Christian to ever be strengthened by engaging in recreation when he should be worshipping God?
5. A strong spiritual Christian who neglected the assemblies of the church?

—Selected □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE GREAT PYRAMID OF CHEOPS

IN THE LAST issue of this paper we said the Great Pyramid of Cheops was 451 feet tall. That is, roughly speaking, correct for today. But it was originally about 481 feet tall before the removal of the facing & top stone.

MARK THIS DATE: MARCH—1979!

MOST Christians would be thrilled at the prospects of taking a tour of Bible lands. Such a tour is planned (the Lord willing) for March, 1979, with the editor of this paper being one of the tour host. Plans are for the trip to include Rome, Greece, Asia Minor, and Israel (exact details to be made available later). Such a tour adds a deeper dimension to a person's faith and Bible knowledge, as well as being a great spiritual and educational experience within itself. It is an experience of a lifetime.

Most of us need a little time to plan ahead (for financial reasons and otherwise). Well, you have almost two years to get ready for this tour. Mark the date "MARCH—1979" and work toward that end. Write to us (THE SWORD AND STAFF), and when details have been worked out with the tour company and printed material is available, we will send it on to you. □

Place An Order Today!



BELOW IS a listing of the booklets, tracts, and materials which are currently available from THE SWORD AND STAFF. If something is not listed here, that means it is presently out of print. This literature has been widely used. We believe that you will be pleased with the Scriptural soundness and helpfulness of each item. Place an order today. And while you are at it, order the bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF. You have the publication material in more of a permanent form this way. More and more people are seeing the value of doing this.

- ☐ The Subject of the Holy Spirit Made Simple—25¢ each; 5 for \$1.00; 100 for \$18.00.
- ☐ The Meaning of Suffering in the Life of the Christian—10¢ each; 100 for \$8.00.
- ☐ The Letter That Was Never Answered—6¢ each.
- ☐ The Last Broadcast—3¢ each (HALF PRICE).
- ☐ The Origin of Religious Misunderstanding and False Teaching—5¢ each; 100 for \$4.00.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Christianity Without Denominations—FREE.

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THE SWORD AND STAFF for the last two years (1975-1976) is now available in bound volume (book) form.

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"And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."
—I CORINTHIANS 12:26

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