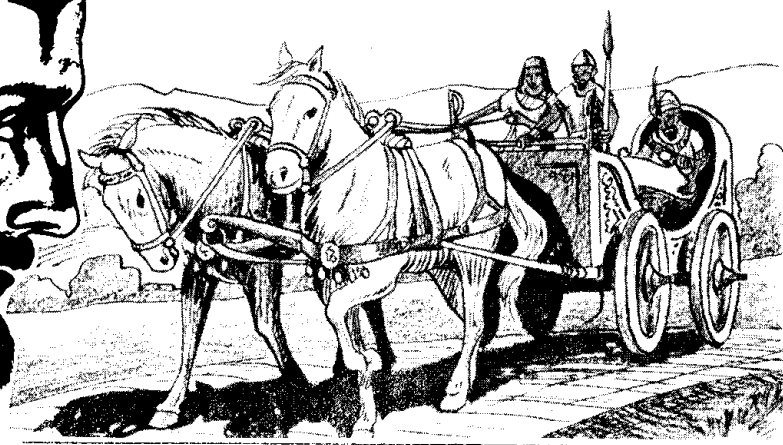


The Sword AND Staff

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

•

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



The Man With An Open Will

By James E. Gibbons

IN ACTS 8:26-40 the word OPEN is spoken of, or implied, several times in connection with Philip. OPEN means that which is not closed; that which is accessible.

It is evident that Philip was a man who was open before God. The fact that he was chosen to be one of the seven suggests that he was a man with an open will (Acts 6:3). He was so zealous for the Lord that when the church was scattered, he was among the number who went everywhere preaching the Word (Acts 8:4, 5). His life and will were open to the Lord, and he was ready to be used in every way by the Lord, it seems.

Playing upon the word OPEN, it is the aim of this article to show you how things will "open up" to the person who fully surrenders and submits himself to the will of God.

I. PHILIP FOUND AN OPEN ROAD.

First, in leaving the scene of persecution, Philip found an open road from Jerusalem north to Samaria (Acts 8:5). Here he had great success in preaching the gospel. After this he was commanded to "arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth from Jerusalem to Gaza" (Acts 8:26). Another road opened up which seemed to take him through deserted places, but the rapidly ensuing events in the conversion of an Ethiopian nobleman proved the wisdom of his going there. Things really began to "open up."

As we have already pointed out, Philip had already found an open road of service. He had been one of the seven selected to take care of the needy in Jerusalem (Acts 6:3, 5). Possibly his work had been that of a deacon, which he had done well, and now he was up for advancement in the Lord's work (I Timothy 3:13). As we

have noted, he was among those scattered abroad, who went everywhere preaching the Word (Acts 8:4, 5). With the experience behind him of having preached to cities and individuals, in Acts 21:8 he is called "Philip the evangelist." Surely he was open to the Lord, and was used by the Lord.

Sometimes people are heard to say that if they had the opportunities, if they had the abilities, if they had the money...what they would do for the cause of the Lord! Someone exclaimed, "If I only had a million dollars, think of the good I could do!" What are you doing with what you have already, my friend? That is what God has given you to use, and that is what you must give an account for (Matthew 25:14-30). Ability plus opportunity equals responsibility. The question is: do you really have an open will to God? Ask, and He will provide an open road of service (Matthew 7:7, 8). Like they say, "Where there is a will, there is a way." God can use the most humble of us in a mighty way if we will but let Him.

II. PHILIP FOUND A MAN WITH AN OPEN BIBLE.

Here we have a very captivating scene. Riding along in a chariot, freshly returning from Jerusalem, was the Ethiopian nobleman. Philip, apparently on foot, runs along in the dust beside him, overtaking the chariot. One glance and he sees the man has an open scroll. The Ethiopian intently is reading aloud from the book of Isaiah, seemingly, oblivious to the world about him. In spite of the rough movement of the chariot, the book remains open.

(Continued on Page 3)

THE SWORD AND STAFF

Post Office Box 147
Mount Airy, N. C. 27030 U. S. A.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

- Introductory—\$1.00 for the first year; • Regular—\$1.50 for renewals.
- Bulk—.80¢ per subscription a year when sent in bundles of five or more to one address.

NOTE: The subscription is regarded as the minimum offering needed to help with the expense of printing and mailing this paper. the "payment" for booklets, tracts, and other material is regarded as an offering. Subsidizing gifts are also needed above this and welcomed. We are tax deductible. Make your check out to "Church in Mount Airy."

THE SWORD AND STAFF is supposed to be published at least bi-monthly (this is determined by subscription renewals and support) or more frequently if the finances allow it. The paper is sponsored by the **CHURCH IN MOUNT AIRY**, 1006 N. South St., Mt. Airy, N. C. Office of publication is at 1535 Fairfield Dr., Mt. Airy, N. C. Telephone (919) 789-1044. James E. Gibbons edits the paper.

NO RENEWAL NOTICE will be sent—renew when you think it is due. Thank you.

Proverbs of Today

Nothing works like work when it comes to getting the Lord's work done; short cut methods result in short cut results.

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows."

Faith is not only believing in God, but taking God at His Word.

"Don't think you are necessarily on the right road because it is a well beaten path."

Many routes that we consider to be short cuts really end up being ruts.

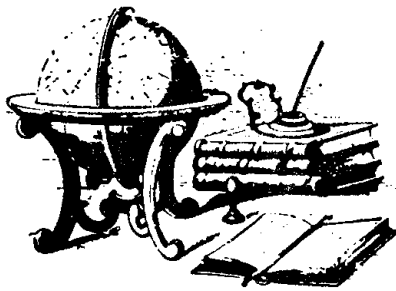
"Some people that you don't like would be more likeable if you knew them better."

God doesn't always help people who help themselves, but He will always help those who admit they are helpless and want Him (and then try to get things done).

"What we call life is a journey to death, and what we call death is a passport to life."

What many call being "born again" is really a miscarriage as far as the Word of God is concerned.

"A man shows his character by what he laughs at."



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

ON THE PROPER NAME OF THE CHURCH

WHAT IS the proper name for the church? Perhaps shallow thinking and abuse demand that we look a little deeper into this matter. In our zeal to do away with denominationalism, and restore New Testament terminology, let us be sure that we are actually doing this.

Of course, by proper name we mean a name like your given name—a designated "label" which has limitedly been set aside for use, being spelled with a capital letter. A proper name would be like **John Doe**.

A few years ago a paper came across this writer's desk which had an article that asked the question: Which is the Proper Name for the Church, Christian Church or Church of Christ? Correspondence ensued, and we pointed out that in reality, Scripturally speaking, the church does not have a proper name. When you find the expression "churches of Christ" in Romans 16:16, it is spelled with the little letter "c" and not a capital. Likewise, when Paul wrote to the "church of God which is at Corinth," again "church" is begun with a little letter. No where in the New Testament are such designations used as proper names, but as unbridled expressions. Check it out yourself.

Yes, "church of Christ" is a very fitting way to speak of the church because the church belongs to Christ, but this is not a wooden, artificial label to be used exclusively. It is discouraging to hear Christians (even preachers!) talk about "Church of Christ doctrine," "Church of Christ preachers," "Church of Christ people," "Church of Christ" this and "Church of Christ" that. Evidently, they belong to the "Church of Christ Church" (Before us we have a clipping from

(Continued on Page 10)

NOT ALL OF THE ANSWERS

WE DO NOT PROFESS to have all of the answers, but we believe that we should be able to give (and give) a Scriptural answer for that which we believe and practice in the name of Christ. If we don't know why we believe, and what we believe, do we actually believe? If we class ourselves as believers, and cannot give a Scriptural answer, we are nothing more than "second hand" Christians (if that).

We are living in a time of much falling away from the church of the New Testament. Among those who profess to be the undenominational church of the Scriptures there are differing degrees of faithfulness and apostasy, it seems (and so it was with the early church—read the epistles; such is the nature of man). Some are sectarian and others are in traditional ruts, not knowing what or why they believe to any great extent. Let us lay aside indifference and prejudice and with increased vigor search out the Scriptures anew.

Diligence, longsuffering, and humility are in order. There is a lot of unfinished work to be done. But let us love the truth. Amen. □

THE MAN WITH AN OPEN WILL



(Continued from Page 1)

And, let us emphasize today, the Bible is an open book for all the world to read. At least that was God's purpose in giving it to man. It is called a revelation. A revelation is something that is revealed, not concealed, and is plain enough for all to look upon and understand (at least, that which is essential). It would have to be if God intended for all of mankind to understand it, for most of us are not scholars and learned men. The good news of salvation must be simple enough for all to understand, and it is.

The problem comes when men do not have the Bible open, literally and otherwise. The Scriptures are used very little in some religious circles today—just “watered down” literature. Then, the Catholic Church in times past has withheld the Bible from its membership — only the priests could explain it, they said. And, in reality, the traditions and creeds of men are fetters that keep the covers of the Bible bound and tied in denominationalism. Jesus warned the scribes and Pharisees, “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in” (Matthew 23:13). You better search the Scriptures and not listen to what some denominational preacher says.

Yes, let us keep the Bible open. May we like the Bereans search “the scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11). If you will only stick to the Word of God, you can know the truth and be saved from your sins (I Timothy 2:4). Let us use the Bible as our textbook in the classes of the church. It will furnish our every spiritual need (II Timothy 3:15-17), and we will not be ignorant of it, having reason to be ashamed (II Timothy 2:15). If you want the things in reference to God to “open up” for you (and to you), keep the Bible open.

III. PHILIP FOUND A MAN WITH AN OPEN HEART.

Things are really now beginning to get exciting! Listen: “And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias (Isaiah), and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:30,31). What a combination! There is no better combination than an open Bible and an open heart. There is excitement in the air. Something of eternal consequence is about to happen!

Most definitely having an open heart is a prerequisite to becoming and being a child of God. Jesus taught, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of God” (Matthew 5:3). How we need to recognize our spiritual need! And our “eye” must be “single” (Matthew 6:22,23). We must be open and sincere without the adverse admixture of deceit, hypocrisy, or anything else. We must become as little children (Matthew 18:3,4); that is, humble, believing, and teachable. These conditions are absolutely necessary before we can enter the kingdom. The OPEN HEART is

a “must.”

If we have an open heart, and will to know God's will, we can know it (John 7:17). Let us open the Bible with an open heart, then the truth will “open up” to us in an amazing way—it can be understood. But the seed (the Word) must fall on good and honest hearts to produce anything (Luke 8:15).

IV. PHILIP WAS A MAN WITH AN OPEN MOUTH.

Notice the situation as it has unfolded and developed. The Lord has led Philip, a man with an open will, down an open road to a man with an open Bible whose heart also was open. Now the next logical thing that should happen, happens. “Then Philip OPENED his mouth, and began at the same scripture (Isaiah 53), and preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:35). And what good news that was (and is)! Jesus was the lamb slain mentioned by Isaiah in anticipation. Jesus was the one who has borne all our sins—even the sins of the Ethiopian! (And preaching “Jesus” involves preaching baptism too, as the Ethiopian wanted to be baptized in response to what Philip preached, verse 36; i. e., Romans 6).

Yes, it is good to open our mouths when we have something worthwhile to say. However, someone has said: let your speech be better than silence or be silent (good advice!). Paul admonished, “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). Again he said, “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how to answer every man” (Colossians 4:6). What a potential for good is the sanctified and open mouth of the Christian.

How we need to speak up for Jesus. Too many are afraid to speak up for Jesus in our day and time. The devil has them back in a corner, and they are tongue-tied when it comes to telling others the most wonderful story that can be told. As someone has said, we are too much like the Arctic River—frozen at the mouth. But God has ordained that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). That is where the Christian fits in. Let us “speak up” for Jesus as he “opens up” the opportunities. Let us seek opportunities. The man with an open will, will open his mouth.

V. PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN FOUND OPEN WATER.

“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believeth with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:36-38)

This area is earlier described as being “desert” (verse 26). Some have seized upon this, belittling the idea of there being sufficient water in such a place to immerse a person. They think of it as being dry and sandy. However, that is not always the meaning of the word. In the gospel account, Jesus said to his disciples, “Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while” (Mark 6:31), and “they departed into a desert place by ship privately” (verse 32). When in the “desert place,” Jesus fed the multitudes, having them to “sit down by companies upon the green grass” (verses 35 and 39). The word DESERT simply

(Continued on Next Page)

THE MAN WITH AN OPEN WILL

(Continued from the Last Page)

and basically means a deserted, private place removed from people. It was in such a place the encounter with the Ethiopian took place.

They found enough water (possibly in the form of a small lake, pond, or reservoir) for them to go down into. And that is how detailed records of baptisms are described in the New Testament. That is how Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13, 16). Paul writes that we are "buried" and "raised" in baptism (Romans 6:4, 5; Colossians 2:12). Everything in the New Testament, including the definition of the Greek word for baptism, points positively to baptism as being immersion. It is performed in "open" water. By that we mean there was sufficient water to immerse a person in. The water was not poured or sprinkled on a person from a small container.

The man with an open Bible and an open heart enters into the open water and is immersed into Christ by the man with an open will. Philip had told him he could be baptized if he believed with all his heart, and he therewith confessed, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (verse 37)—that is the confession the sinner makes in coming to Christ (note Romans 10:9, 10). He was not told to "pray through," nor did a church "vote" on whether he should be baptized or not. He simply, honestly, and sincerely obeyed the Lord who said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16a).

VI. THEY FOUND AN OPEN HEAVEN.

Our exciting episode has now come to its grand climax. We read, "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39). The joy of seeing a soul turn to Christ is only surpassed by the actual experience of turning to Christ. Philip the man with the open will, has been greatly used by the Lord. Perhaps even the clamor of the wheels of the chariot reflected the feelings of the passenger as he boarded again and with a decided difference "went on his way rejoicing."

And, he had great reason to rejoice! His sins had been forgiven, he had received the Holy Spirit, and heaven was open to him in life and in death (Acts 2:38; 3:19; Revelation 2:10). Heaven was open to hear and answer his prayers now (I Peter 3:12). Paul wrote, "For through him (Jesus) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Ephesians 2:18). And, as we said, heaven would be open to him at the end of the road in death (Revelation 22:14). His life was now filled with unsurpassed meaning. It is in getting ready to die that one really learns how to live.

What a blessed assurance it is to know that heaven is open to every child of God after death. In dying upon the cross, having suffered the awful ordeal for us, the Lord Jesus said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Then with the resurrection he has opened up heaven itself (I Peter 1:3, 4; John 14:1-4). What a blessed assurance we have as we commend our spirits to the Father too (because of Jesus)! Paul, setting us an example, could look forward in confident hope to the grand finale (II Timothy 4:7, 8).

THE MAN WITH AN OPEN WILL — yes, that describes this man Philip. May we let it be a fitting description of each and everyone of us. When we fully surrender ourselves and open up our wills to God, letting them coincide with His divine will and eternal purpose, then things will begin

to happen. There is no greater service than to be used in the work of God—any phase of it! This world (this life) is passing away. Let us build for eternity. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

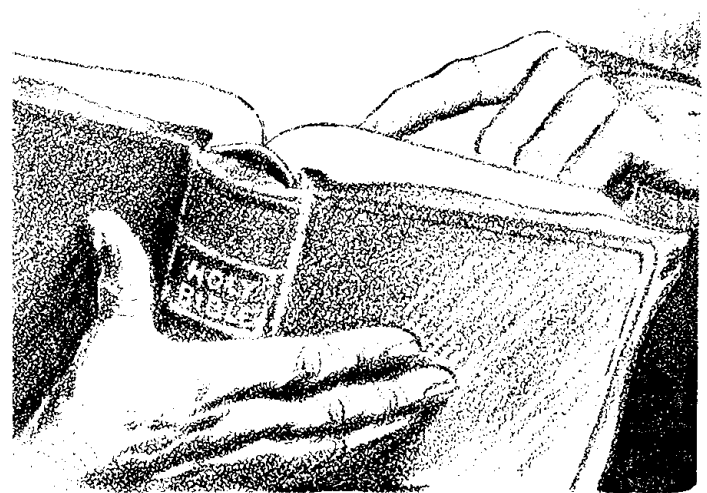
IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

MANY people can hear a statement long enough that they become convinced that it is in the Bible. Many of the statements that sound like Scripture are not. Given below are 30 quotations. Read them carefully and check the ones that you feel are in the Bible.

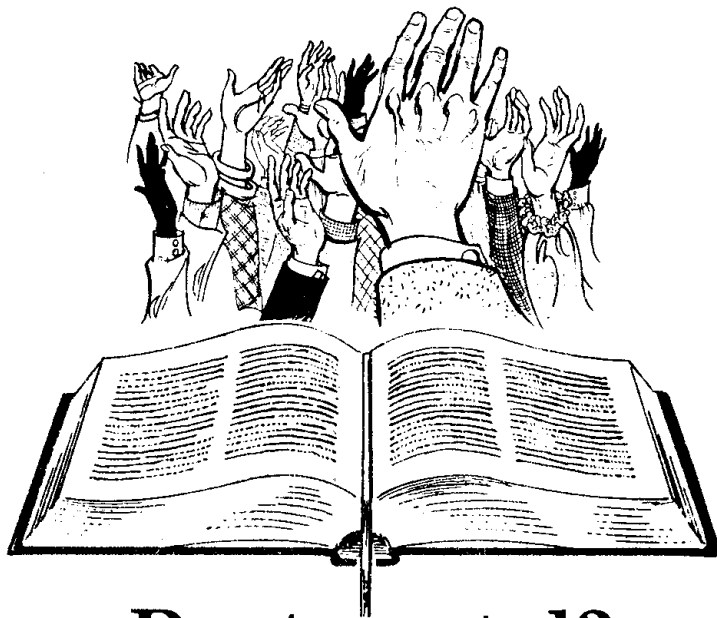
- ☐ 1. "I am escaped with the skin of my teeth."
- ☐ 2. "All men are created equal."
- ☐ 3. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop."
- ☐ 4. "Cleanliness is next to godliness."
- ☐ 5. "Spare the rod and spoil the child."
- ☐ 6. "Give the devil his due."
- ☐ 7. "God's mill grinds slow but sure."
- ☐ 8. "Blood is thicker than water."
- ☐ 9. "Lord, what fools these mortals be."
- ☐ 10. "The time is out of joint."
- ☐ 11. "Bread is the staff of life."
- ☐ 12. "Familiarity breeds contempt."
- ☐ 13. "God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform."
- ☐ 14. "God is in His Heaven, all's right with the world."
- ☐ 15. "God helps those who help themselves."
- ☐ 16. "To err is human, to forgive is divine."
- ☐ 17. "Charity begins at home."
- ☐ 18. "All's well that ends well."
- ☐ 19. "As you make your bed, so must you lie in it."
- ☐ 20. "Sweet are the uses of adversity."
- ☐ 21. "Beauty is only skin deep."
- ☐ 22. "The gift without the giver is bare."
- ☐ 23. "Better half a loaf than no bread."
- ☐ 24. "United we stand, divided we fall."
- ☐ 25. "A liar will not be believed even when he speaks the truth."
- ☐ 26. "Confession is good for the soul."
- ☐ 27. "There is none so blind as those who will not see."
- ☐ 28. "Honesty is the best policy."
- ☐ 29. "Neither a borrower nor a lender be."
- ☐ 30. "Stolen waters are sweet."

ONLY two of these quotations are from the Bible (almost of them are truthful—Editor). Can you go back and find them now? They are given in Job 19:20 and Proverbs 9:17. —From WORDS OF LIFE. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Are the PENTECOSTALS



Pentecostal?

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

THIS WRITER remembers as a boy his first knowledge of and association with so-called "Pentecostal" type churches. To say the least, it was different. Everyone prayed aloud at the same time. Sometimes prolonged shrills and shouts would go up during the praying, and even the preaching. During the services people would let out excited, unintelligible sounds (usually entranced, it seems), which they called speaking in "tongues." We have seen people run up and down the aisles of the building shouting and dancing, while others fell over "passed out."

These words are not written to belittle (let us respect any person's religious sincerity, although we may disagree with him), but to question as an intelligent and sincere Bible believer. The adherents of these practices strongly affirm that they are duplicating what happened on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2; thus, they call themselves "Pentecostal." But, really, are the "Pentecostals" Pentecostal? This question is even more relevant today, because so-called "Pentecostalism" is no longer confined to such denominations. Through the covert proselyting actions of Full Gospel Business Men's International and other means, it has crossed denominational boundaries. A more modern label is placed on it: "Charismatic Movement."

We sincerely believe that what these people are claiming and doing does not duplicate what happened on the Jewish day of Pentecost when the church was established. Let us tell you the reason why as we examine what happened on that day in Acts 2 long ago.

THE PHENOMENON

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).

There you have it, the phenomenon of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit sometimes called the "baptism of the Holy Spirit." This is actually how it happened on the day of Pentecost. And please notice the physical manifestations of it. First, there was the sound like a rushing mighty wind; second, cloven tongues as fire sat upon each one who had received the outpouring; third, everyone who had received the baptism spoke in other tongues.

Do these things happen with those who claim to be "Pentecostal" today? What about the first two manifestations? What about the rushing mighty wind sound that filled the whole building where they were staying? What about the cloven tongues as fire? In all honesty, this writer has never talked to a person who claimed that the "wind" and "fire" came when he had his so-called Holy Spirit experience. The "wind" was not heard, nor was the "fire" seen. And in Acts 2, more than the people present in the building saw and heard it—even unbelievers (Acts 2:33). So, on the first two counts those who claim to duplicate the experience of the day of Pentecost do not measure up. Therefore, how can they call themselves "Pentecostal"?

Then, what about the third thing, the speaking in "tongues"? A close examination of this will prove very enlightening.

To get right to the point, the speaking in tongues was not some unintelligent sound or gibberish. Listen. "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? . . . we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:5-11). Those on the day of Pentecost were miraculously endowed by the Holy Spirit to speak in other human languages they hadn't learned before. This is very plain. It was not some unintelligible sound spoken in emotional frenzy.

So, on the third manifestation and count, the so-called "Pentecostals" also fail to measure up. They are not duplicating what happened on the day of Pentecost. They may be sincerely imitating, seeking, but not duplicating. It is a misnomer to use the term "Pentecostal" in reference to them. (We write these words in honesty and kindness).

THE APOSTLES

In trying to make the phenomenon of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that happened on the day of Pentecost a universal experience to be sought after and received by all Christians, some revealing Scriptures have been skipped over by these advocates. Effort has been made to say that the 120 disciples, and even the 3,000 on the day of Pentecost, received the special baptism of the Holy Spirit. An examination of the first two chapters of Acts will be very helpful, and, we think, prove otherwise.

(Continued on Next Page)

ARE THE "PENTECOSTALS" PENTECOSTAL?

(Continued from the Last Page)

First, let us examine Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." On this day everyone who had been a recipient of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, spoke in "tongues." If we can pinpoint who was doing the speaking, we can know assuredly who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And this is no problem to do.

The first clue we find about the identity of those speaking is furnished by those who heard them speak. They said, and asked, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?" (verse 7) Galileans were speaking, distinguishing them from Judean and foreign Jews. It is altogether likely that in the number of the 120 were Judean Jews, for Jesus had followers from the southern part of Israel (this would eliminate the 120 as being the ones speaking). But, who were strictly Galileans? Remember, as Jesus ascended into heaven, the angels questioned the apostles, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing into heaven?" (Acts 1:11). So, we know for a certainty the apostles were Galileans, and Galileans were speaking in other languages, and those speaking had received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

To be more specific, what Galileans were speaking? The King James translation has them being "men" in verse 13 (and this again would eliminate the 120 disciples wherein it seems were women—1:13-15). And to be more exact, in responding to the charge, "These men are full of new wine," it reads, "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice" (2:14). (Here we see who is doing the speaking, Peter and the eleven). And when the multitudes were convicted by the preaching, they cried out to "Peter, and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (2:37). Why cry out to "Peter and the rest of the apostles"? Why address "men and brethren"? It is very simple. They were men and Jewish "brothers," and they were the ones speaking.

To make it further emphatic, just before his ascension Jesus explicitly told the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father (outpouring of the Holy Spirit). Read Acts 1:1-8, and check out the antecedents. Everything points back to the apostles. And the same is true in Acts 1:26 with the unbroken thought going over into the second chapter. "And they gave forth their lots: and the lot fell upon Mathias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles, and we read on that "they" received the special baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Really one of the basic misunderstandings of Pentecostalism is not to realize the unique place of the apostles in the plan of Christ. Jesus especially selected the apostles and used them in being His official eyewitnesses (1:8, 21, 22; 2:14, 32; 3:15; 4:33; 5:29, 32). The kingdom came with power (Mark 9:1) as Jesus used the apostles to get things rolling on the day of Pentecost. Christ through them got the church going and guided the church in its early days. They could confirm the truth with miracles, signs, and wonders. Their spoken and written words were inspired directly by the Holy Spirit (they were Scripture). And, in reference to other things that transpired on the day of Pentecost (pertaining to this), we read, "And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles" (2:43). As time progresses we further read, "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus..." (4:33). Again, "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the

people..." (5:12). The signs and wonders were done by the apostles, not the 120 or the multitudes, because the apostles were the ones who had received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to enable them to do their unique work. There are no more apostles in the church today since their work has been accomplished. There are no more apostles than there is another Christ, for Paul wrote that we "are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20).

THE GIFTS

To get an overall grasp of the picture, a study of Hebrews 2:3 and 4 is very helpful. Listen. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him: God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" This should really make things fall in line to the person who has an open mind.

Here we are warned not to neglect our great salvation. The Hebrew writer tells us the Lord first spoke of this great salvation, and then it was "confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Who were the ones who heard the Lord and were entrusted with this great job of confirming the truth? Who were especially chosen to be his official eyewitnesses in ushering in the New Testament age and emphatically confirming it to be the truth of God? (If you don't know the answer, back up two paragraphs in this article, and read that paragraph again). Who confirmed the truth, "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with

(Continued on Page 8)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"WHO TORE DOWN THE WALLS OF JERICHO?"

A PREACHER entered a classroom while the lesson was in progress and asked the children, "Who tore down the walls of Jericho?" A child answered, "Not I!"

The preacher turned to the teacher and asked, "Is this the usual standard in this class?" The teacher answered, "This boy is honest and I believe him. I really don't think he did it."

Leaving the room in disgust, the preacher sought out the deacon in charge of teaching and explained what happened. The deacon said, "I have known both teacher and child for some time, and neither of them would do such a thing."

By this time the preacher was heartsick and reported it to the elders. They said, "We see no point in being disturbed. Let's pay the bill, charge it to the upkeep, and forget about the whole thing." —SELECTED □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SLOW POKES IN THE CHURCH

THREE TURTLES decided to have a cup of coffee. Just as they went into the cafe, rain started to fall; so the biggest turtle said to the smallest turtle, "Go home and get the umbrella." And the little one said, "I will if you won't drink my coffee." "We won't," promised the other two. Two years later the big turtle said to the middle turtle, "Well, I guess he isn't coming back, so we might as well drink his coffee." Just then a little voice called from outside the door: "If you do, I won't go!" Some folks are almost this slow when it comes to the things of God. HOW ABOUT YOU?

—The Lamplighter

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Satan's Version



of the Great Commission

By Charles Sattenfield

"AND JESUS CAME to them and spake unto them, saying 'All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I command you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world' " (Matthew 28:18-20, ASV).

THE NEW TESTAMENT PLAN for evangelism in the Lord's church is the Great Commission. The church which follows it will be a mighty instrument in the hands of God.

Since Satan knows this better than we, he has always tried to pervert the Great Commission. He doesn't deny its validity openly, but he seeks to distort and misrepresent it.

Satan's first attempt to distort the Great Commission has to do with the English word "go." In the Greek language, "go" is a participle aorist verb denoting "action contemporary with the action of the leading verb." (*New Testament Greek*—J. Gresham Machen, New York, The McMillan Co., 1946, p. 277). The Greek word is *poreuthentes* which comes from *poreuoma*. In Matthew 28:19, it is best translated "as you go" or "while going." The thrust of the Great Commission is to make disciples while we are in the process of going into the world. The command is not to "go" but to "make disciples."

Satan today, would have us believe that evangelism is to be some special project or special mission. He wants us to limit our outreach to Sunday morning worship or to a special time set aside on the calendar. That is far from the teaching of the Great Commission. Jesus, by no means, wants evangelism to be limited in this or any other way. Evangelism is to be an every day thing, a life style, not just something we do at special occasions. The emphasis

of the Great Commission is not to "go and do," rather it is to "do as we go." In other words, as we are in the routine of going into our own little world, we need to "make disciples."

As we read our New Testaments, we notice this method being put into practice by the early Christians and by our Lord Himself.

Jesus very seldom went out of His way to evangelize. In fact, many of His would-be disciples came to Him to be taught. Instead of Jesus seeking them out, they sought Him. Andrew and John were seeking Jesus (John 1:35-42), and Jesus instructed them. A Pharisee named Nicodemus approached Jesus, and he taught him the good news about being born again (John 3:1-5). While in an ordinary conversation with a Samaritan woman, Jesus taught her about the kingdom (John 4:1-42). The woman who was taken in the act of adultery was brought to Him, and Jesus taught her (John 8:1-11).

Even while hanging on the cross Jesus was busy "making disciples." As Jesus was in the process of going into His own little world (while here), He was teaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God. He did not "go and do," he "did as he went!" THIS, OF COURSE, DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED OF GOING. It only puts the emphasis where it is needed.

The disciples of our Lord followed Jesus in regard to carrying out the Great Commission. As Peter and John were going into the temple to pray at the ninth hour, they taught a lame man (Acts 3:1-11). As the early Christians were scattered abroad, they went about preaching the Gospel (Acts 8:4). As Philip, one of the seven chosen, saw the Ethiopian eunuch reading the Old Testament Scriptures, he preached unto him Jesus (Acts 8:26-40).

While Paul the apostle, and Silas were in prison, they conveyed the Gospel to the Philippian jailor (Acts 16:23-40). Paul also taught those in his own hired house while in prison in Rome, for the space of two years (Acts 28:16-31). Evangelism, to the early Christians, was not "go and do," but "do as you go."

Today, as we look around at all the churches, we witness stagnation and declining growth. This is a direct result of Satan's perversion of the Great Commission. Satan has substituted the good for the best. Consequently, our churches are feeling the effect of this. We need to "make disciples" in our own little world, whether we are at work, home or recreation. Evangelism as uttered by Jesus in the Great Commission, was "spontaneous" and not "spasmodic." It was not some special project, it was an everyday event.

Satan's second attempt to distort the Great Commission has to do with the phrase "make disciples" in verse 19. It comes from the Greek word *matheteusate*, which means far more than just making converts or Christians. Literally it means "learners" and "pupils."

The central imperative of the Great Commission is to *make disciples*. All the other action words in these verses are helping verbs. They are "going," "baptizing" and "teaching."

The King James translates *matheteusate* as "teach." This is unfortunate and even misleading to those who are not familiar with the original language. The command is to "make disciples," not merely "teach."

Satan has so perverted this command today, until it means almost nothing to our churches. The mission of the church is not to teach, its mission is not to baptize, the command of the Great Commission is to *make disciples* of

(Continued on Next Page)

SATAN'S VERSION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

(Continued from the Last Page)

nations. Simply because we are teaching people the Gospel does not mean we are carrying out the Great Commission. Just because we get people into the water of the baptism, does not mean we are fulfilling the Great Commission. Jesus will never be satisfied until we do what He has commanded us to do. Not until we *make disciples*, will we be doing God's will.

It is indeed a shame today, to hear congregations boast about how many people they are bringing in to the worship services. Congregations today, boast about how many they baptized last year, as if to think that was their mission. OF COURSE, BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING DISCIPLES, but is this where we should place all our emphasis? Increasing attendance is not our goal, rather it is a direct result of making disciples. True church growth cannot be counted by "noses and nickels."

Satan tries his best to keep the church satisfied with artificial growth (what I call tying apples on the tree). Authentic church growth concerns itself with "people" not "programs." It is more concerned with the "individual" than the "institution." The Great Commission is not to "make decisions," but to make "disciples," and there is a grand canyon of difference between the two. A decision suggests a moment in time, a solo act. A disciple suggests a way of life, a process.

Our Lord Himself, as well as His early disciples, practiced this method of evangelism. Jesus spent the majority of His time with His disciples, not with the masses. He wasn't simply seeing how many people He could get to follow Him. He was more concerned with making and maturing the 12. As a direct result of this, the masses were won to the Master. Instead of doing the work of 12 men, Jesus taught the 12 men to work.

Today in far too many cases we baptize some precious soul into a relationship with the Lord and never try to mature him. We have made him a new convert, but not a disciple. Also, we must remember that "disciples" are *made* not *born*. It does not come automatically. Is it any wonder why we have so few disciples in the church today?

The early Christians also used this method. Baptism, to them, was not the end of the conversion experience, only the beginning. After the 3,000 were baptized on the day of Pentecost, they were taught by the apostles (Acts 2:42).

Paul, the apostle, knew the necessity of follow-up and disciple making. When he would establish a congregation, often he would return to strengthen it in the faith (Acts 16:5). Paul personally disciplined his child in the faith, Timothy, who in turn was to disciple others (II Timothy 2:2). In this verse you see four generations of Christians—Paul, Timothy, faithful men and others. The principle of disciple multiplication is God's way to win the world.

The Great Commission is God's way to get the Gospel to the whole world. A disciple is born to reproduce after his kind. Disciples are to make other disciples. If a person is not doing this, he cannot be classified as a disciple according to the Great Commission. If one is not discipling others, he needs to be disciplined himself!

Satan does not want the church to grow! In order to prevent it from (truly) growing, he has distorted God's marching orders to the church. As we go into the world, we need to make disciples. Any other program is a poor substitute, even if it does increase attendance. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARE THE "PENTECOSTALS" PENTECOSTAL?

(Continued from Page 6)

divers miracles..."? (Acts 2:43; 4:33; 5:12). Yes, emphatically, yes; its is very plain—THE APOSTLES!

Furthermore, what also is revealing is the latter part of Hebrews 2:4. God also bore the apostles witness with "gifts" of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will." In this writer's King James translation there is a small "3" in connection with the word "gifts." And the footnote for "3" in the margin reads, "distributions." The word translated "gifts" means gifts that are distributed. The Greek word is *merismos*, and the plural of this word as used here means "distributions of various kinds" (THAYER). In other words, not only did the apostles have this great power from God in getting the church going, God allowed them to make certain "distributions" of it (gifts of the Holy Spirit), according to His will. This is very revealing, because Pentecostal people, so-called, blindly skip over this great truth, it seems—and all of its implications.

THE APOSTLES WERE THE ONES WHO MADE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—remember that well! And just how did they do this amazing thing? It is interesting to note that Stephen is the first person mentioned in the book of Acts as performing miracles besides the apostles: "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people" (Acts 6:8). How did he come about having this power which only before the apostles had used? Back up to verse 6, and you will see. Seven good men were picked to help relieve the the apostles of some of the work they had been doing, "Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM." In Acts 8, Philip preached the gospel in Samaria with success. Although, like Stephen, he had been one of the seven on whom the apostles had laid their hands; and although he could perform miracles and heal, he personally could not pass this power on. The apostles sent two of their number, Peter and John, to Samaria. Peter and John prayed, and "then laid they their

(Continued on Next Page)

WHO ARE THESE?

Who are these motley ones clothed in such gorgeous robes of spotless white?

Who are these who surge forth upon the streets of gold in wild delight?

At first it seems they're out of place, unfit, as if they don't belong;

As angels step aside somewhat aghast, they merge with heaven's happy throng!

Just who are these that dare to stand before the Mighty God of all?

To praise His Holy NAME (Amen! Amen!), and then before Him prostrate fall?

They're earthly creatures, born again, children of Adam's fallen race;

Saved for ever by Jesus Christ, his precious blood, through God's amazing grace!

By A. Brother

Repent: Luke 13:3

• By Phillip Alan Lee

Introduction:

The context of this passage in Luke is many times overlooked. Here Jesus tells the people to repent of their evil doings and not to try and justify their sins by the more vicious sins of others.

And many people try to do this today. They look at the way others act and say: "Well, I'm just as good as they are," or, "I'm not so bad." Non-believers, those who haven't obeyed the words of Jesus in Mark 16:16, look at the lives of church-goers and say: "I'm better off as I am than in with that bunch of hypocrites," or, "If they can make it the way they live, so can I." But they fail to hear the words of Jesus in Luke 13:3 and 5 to repent.

Therefore, let us look into life and the Bible and see how all of us, sinners and saints, can repent and improve ourselves toward God.

II. LET US SANCTIFY GOD IN OUR HEARTS (1 Peter 3:15).

This is a much-too-overlooked New Testament command.

- A. We need to put Him above family—Luke 9:61,62.
- B. We need to put Him above all things: friends, work, education, houses, food, clothing, security, and recreation—I John 5:19,21 and Matthew 6:33.

If we allow anyone or anything to come between us and serving God, we have sinned. Therefore, repent or perish!

II. LET US CONTEND FOR THE ONE FAITH (Jude 3; Ephesians 4:5).

- A. In the pulpit.
 - 1. Too many preachers are afraid of what others may feel.
 - 2. Too many preachers are afraid of losing fame and money.
- B. In the teaching sessions.
 - 1. By trained and indoctrinated teachers.
 - 2. By using the Bible as a guide rather than denominational literature.
- C. Out of the building.
 - 1. Too many people, after leaving the church house, won't stand up for Jesus when discussing such Scriptures as Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:38, Romans 16:16, and Colossians 1:13,14, with family, friends, and fellow workers.
 - 2. We have too many church house Christians!
Therefore, they need to repent or perish!

III. LET US STAND UP FOR RIGHT EVERYWHERE WE GO (Acts 8:4).

- A. It is more than lip service.

How sweet it is to hear people sing "ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS," "BRING THEM IN," "STAND UP FOR JESUS," and "LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY WITH THEE" in a church building protected from the world. They are with those that agree with them, but when it comes to walking in the light daily, witnessing for Christ and condemning evil, then that's another story. People cry: "Why get involved?" "I don't have time," "My voice doesn't count," and "I can't help."
- B. It is nice to "amen" a preacher on his strong preaching and to pray to God to awaken the world, but WHY AREN'T WE:
 - 1. Knocking on doors?
 - 2. Handing out tracts?
 - 3. Signing petitions against evil?
 - 4. Writing letters?
 - 5. Being HEARD in our fight against vulgarity, pornography,

raphy, sexual suggestiveness, homosexuality, etc.? Truly we need to repent or we will perish!

Conclusion:

Will you "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)?

And if you aren't a Christian, then won't you today obey from the heart that form of doctrine Jesus taught in Mark 16:16? Amen! □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARE THE "PENTECOSTALS" PENTECOSTAL?

(Continued from Page 8)

hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (8:17,18). A converted sorcerer, standing by, was enthralled by what he saw. Notice, "And when Simon (the sorcerer) saw that THROUGH LAYING ON OF THE APOSTLES' HANDS the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money," trying to buy this power. In Acts 19:6 we read what happened in reference to the apostle Paul and some newly baptized people. "And when Paul LAID HIS HANDS UPON THEM, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

Yes, the apostles made distribution of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of their hands. Someone has said that the apostles couldn't be everywhere, so God allowed them to give others a measure of the power that had been given to them. But, God was the one who determined what particular gift or gifts the person received when the Holy Spirit came upon him; like it says, "according to his will." Read I Corinthians 12 to see what some of these gifts were. It seems all were "supernatural" in nature.

The purpose of this article has not been to treat exhaustively the subject of the Holy Spirit, but it will suffice to say that the special baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift which came by the laying on of the apostles' hands have served their extraordinary purpose and are no longer in the church today. The church has been established and the truth has been confirmed among men. Only the apostles could make distribution of this special power of the Holy Spirit, and when the apostles died and those on whom they laid their hands died, this unusual manifestation of power ceased. Yes, Christians today have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which comes as a result of repenting and being baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38,39; 5:32; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19), but they do not have the apostles' power or the gifts made by the imposition of apostolic hands.

Pentecostals say Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever; thus, the gifts have not ceased. They say it is to doubt and deny the power of God to say they have ceased; all things are possible with God. This is not the case. No one doubts that God is almighty. It is not a question of the power of God, but of the Word of God. What does God say in His Word, the Bible? There is one thing impossible with God—He cannot and will not lie (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2). God saw fit to create the first man and woman in a most unusual way, but the rest of us come into the world by birth. Are we doubting and denying the power of God if we don't expect Him to create every person like He did Adam and Eve in the beginning? We can see the folly of such "reasoning." However, we believe that God hears and answers prayer according to His Will in keeping with His Word. Let us never doubt this!

(Continued on Page 11)

**"DO NOT TWO SPARROWS
SELL FOR A PENNY?
AND NOT ONE OF THEM
FALLS TO THE GROUND
UNRELATED TO YOUR
FATHER... HAVE NO
FEAR THEN; YOU ARE
OF MORE CONSEQUENCE
THAN MANY SPARROWS."
— MATT. 10:29-31
(MODERN LANGUAGE N.T.)**



NEVER ALONE

A CHRISTIAN WOMAN, crossing in a ferry to New York late one night, noticed a man watching her. Presently he said, "Are you alone?" "No, sir," said the lady.

Later she heard his steps following her as she walked through the deserted street. She lifted her heart to God in prayer for protection. Presently he hastened his steps and walked by her side. "I thought you said you were not alone," he said.

"I am not, sir," was her reply, "the Lord Jesus Christ and His holy angels are with me."

The man said, "Madam, you keep too good company for me," and he raised his hat and left her.

After the resurrection of our Lord, He was able to do that which He, in the flesh, could not do with His little

EDITORIAL COMMENTS . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

a well-known religious journal out of Nashville, Tennessee, where-in is an ad from a "Church of Christ Congregation"—actually printed that way—wanting a preacher). You can see what an artificial, unnatural and stilted use is made of this perfectly good expression. In reality, it has been denominationalized.

Of all the expressions or designations found in the New Testament (i.e., church of God, churches of Christ, church of the first-born, saints, brethren, priest, Christians, etc.), **Christians** is the only one the translators have seen fit to put a capital letter on. Obviously, **Christian** is a proper name (however, the expression "Christian Church" is not Scriptural, and its etymology is questionable).

Today in order for a group of religious people to hold property in legal ownership, they must have a specific appellation. Many call themselves "church of Christ" and others simply "the church at _____." Whatever the body of Christ is called, let it be Scriptural and let it be used in a non-sectarian way. If we call the church the "church of Christ," may it not be in a stilted, unnatural way. Let us use all suitable designations. We are members of Christ's church, the Lord's church, the church of God, or simply the church at such and such a place. Let us unbridle ourselves of making sectarian usage of just one Scriptural designation, expression, or phrase.

Needless to say, denominational names that glorify men and human systems obviously are wrong and must be discarded (I Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:4, 17; Colossians 1:18; I Peter 4:16). □

band of twelve: He could promise to be with ALL His people all the time. "Lo, I am with you."

One of the blessed secrets of victory in Christ is to **REALIZE HIS PRESENCE**. As others have said, we are to practice the presence of God. The promise of our Lord has been given: "I am with you." So it is a fact—He is with us every moment of every day. **FAITH** will appropriate and make real that great truth. "Christ is with me," says faith, "for He said so." The believer must remind himself again and again as he walks through the day with God that Christ is with him. —Selected □

BIBLE LANDS TOUR — MARCH 5-15, 1979! MAKE DEFINITE PLANS NOW! WRITE!

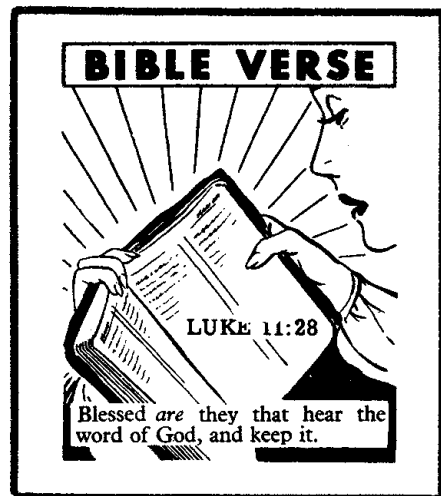
THE EXACT TOUR PLANS are now finalized. Write now for a free brochure telling all about them. Tour date: March 5-15, 1979 (11 days). This tour includes Israel, the area of the seven churches in Asia (modern Turkey), and Rome (in that order). Everything looks great for an exciting tour. Add to your faith, Bible knowledge and world outlook by taking this trip. It is an experience of a lifetime. You will be glad you took

the tour. The editor of this paper is slated to be one of the tour hosts. Make definite plans now and write to us.

James Gibbons
The Sword and Staff
P.O. Box 147
Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030

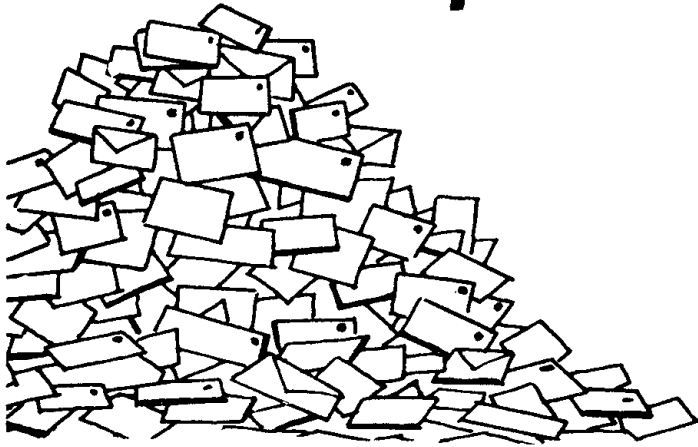
HUMAN, DIVINE, AND DEVILISH!

TO ERR is human, and to forgive is divine, but to continue in sin is devilish!



READERS'

... Response



GEORGIA:

■ *"Thanks for the tract 'What Must I Do To Be Saved?' I taught 54 non-Christians in...Camp...I gave each one a tract. I taught from this tract. I reviewed each day what was taught the day before. On Friday I simply asked those who wanted to become Christians to write their names on a piece of paper and give it to me. Fourteen young people responded to the message. No high pressure or emotional plea was stressed. I baptized six at Camp Friday night. The rest wanted to be baptized at their home church. Praise the Lord! Thanks again."*

INDIANA:

■ *"Please renew our subscription to THE SWORD AND STAFF. It is a great paper. Keep up the good work you are doing."*

NEBRASKA:

■ *"Thank you for your informative paper. We have received it for several years and enjoy every bit of them...God bless you in your work for the Lord, for truly He is coming soon. Our prayers are with you."*

KANSAS:

■ *"I certainly appreciate THE SWORD AND STAFF. Your strong Biblical stand on moral issues plus sound doctrine are truly food for the soul."*

■ *"To say I am ashamed for how long it has been since I have sent you any money on my subscription for THE SWORD AND STAFF would be putting it very mildly. The reason that I have not sent you any money is not that I do not appreciate the paper. I prize it very highly. I would hate to be without it more than any other periodical that I receive...God bless you as you carry on for HIM."*

COLORADO:

■ *"I have greatly benefited from this publication and sincerely hope and pray that you will find the way and the means to continue the good work of spreading the Good News. May God bless you."*

CALIFORNIA:

■ *"Enclosed is my check...Please send me bound volumes for 1973-74 and 1975-76. This will complete my set of all the volumes available. I greatly enjoy reading and studying these fine books. It is unfortunate that more people cannot*

know and buy these volumes. They are a fine study in the Bible."

CANADA:

■ *"I have enjoyed reading THE SWORD AND STAFF off and on for several years. I have been meaning to subscribe again but just kept putting it off. You have a very good paper, hope you will keep up the good work."*

JAPAN:

■ *"It is always good to hear from you through THE SWORD AND STAFF and I wish to thank you for your labour for the Lord. It gives me much joy and spiritual uplifting which I need as I continue my lonely battle for Jesus in this part of the world. I can not do anything for you and your work excepting prayer on your behalf. May our Lord Jesus and His grace be with you. Thanks again. I hope someday God sends you into Asian area."*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARE THE "PENTECOSTALS" PENTECOSTAL?

(Continued from Page 9)

CONCLUSION

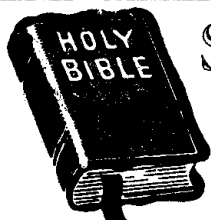
Looking back to the first of this article, we there asked the question: ARE THE "PENTECOSTALS" PENTECOSTAL? In the light of our examination of God's Word and our humble understanding, we are made to answer in the negative—NO! They do not duplicate the phenomenon of Pentecost. The unique nature of the position and work of an apostle is not recognized nor appreciated (it seems)—nor is the limited way in which the gifts of the Spirit were imparted properly understood. We do not doubt the sincerity of these people. Many times their religious movement is prompted by the spiritual indifference and deadness of old-line traditional "churches." But reactionaryism is not enough; it is not the answer. We need to examine the Scriptures thoroughly to see if a supposed religious experience measures up to what is taught therein. If it doesn't measure up, then it is not authentic.

Looking back, when as a boy this writer got his first impressions of "Pentecostalism," there were certain questions even then that came to mind. We remember everyone praying aloud (and loud) at the same time; and the disorderly, boisterous nature of their worship was unforgettable. All of this they attributed to the Holy Spirit. But, in reference to the public worship, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to write, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). Then, in the same chapter (verse 16) in reference to praying, he asked "how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?" The drawback of praying in public in a different language was that the people couldn't say "Amen" to what you said, not knowing what it was. We humbly ask, with everyone in Pentecostal churches praying aloud at the same time, how can anybody say "AMEN" to anything? No one knows what anyone else is saying!

Then I also had this question. If Pentecostalism is true, then the Bible of necessity is not a closed book. If we have one gift, like tongues, we can have all of them. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit was "prophecy," the ability to foretell and forthtell the truth of God straight from heaven. In other words, to have the gift of prophecy was to speak by divine revelation (Ephesians 3:3-5). The words of such a person would carry as much weight as any New Testament writer. Are you ready for this? This writer is not!

BEWARE OF STRONG DELUSIONS!

□



SOLID BIBLE-RELATED MATERIAL:

BELOW IS a listing of booklets, tracts, and materials currently available from THE SWORD AND STAFF. If something is not listed here, that means it is now out of print (we are in the process of getting the "out of print" material back in 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 timeless material of the back issues 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 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.
- ☐ *Sequel to the Lord's Supper "Every Sunday"* (Answers objections to the 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.
- ☐ *Christianity Without Denominations*—FREE.
- ☐ *What Must I Do to Be Saved?*—6¢ each.

BACK IN PRINT—PUT TO USE!

- ☐ *Objections to the Necessity of Baptism Answered*—8¢.
- ☐ *Are Visions, Dreams, and Religious Experiences Proof of Salvation?*—7¢ each.
- ☐ *Once in Grace, Always in Grace?*—4¢ each.
- ☐ *Every Sunday?*—3¢ each.
- ☐ *Lessons in Happiness from the Garden of Eden*—3¢.
- ☐ *I Saw Him Standing There (or The Old Gospel Preacher)*—FREE.
- ☐ *A New Day (plaque)*—FREE.

➔ BOUND VOLUMES OF SWORD AND STAFF

- ☐ 1969-70 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*—\$3.50
- ☐ 1971-72 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*—\$3.50
- ☐ 1973-74 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*—\$3.25
- ☐ 1975-76 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*—\$3.50

• SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER •

Gentlemen:

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

Name.....

Address.....

..... Zip Code.....

(Check above for Bound Volumes order)

HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT?

A MAN'S HOUSE was burning. At the first sign of smoke he had rushed out to buy a fire extinguisher. Before he returned, the roof and walls had collapsed, destroying all his furnishings.

A man's doctor warned him of a bad heart condition. From the doctor's office he went immediately to the insurance salesman, but he was refused in his attempts to provide financial protection for his wife and children.

A man was endowed by God with a strong healthy body. Because his appetite was stronger than his moral convictions, he squandered his powers until dissipation brought him to weakness. Then disease struck and without a normal reserve of strength, the surgeon could not cure what ordinarily would have been a minor ailment.

A man had a Bible, knew the church was interested in him, had friends who regularly encouraged him to live more for God. With consistency, he made reasons not to, while his conscience grew fainter, and the black wrong and white right faded into medium gray. When the critical temptation came, he was only faintly aware of it, and certainly he had no moral reserve to resist it.

David said it this way: "For this let every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when Thou mayest be found; surely when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach unto him" (Psalms 32:6). Jesus said the same thing in describing the five foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-13).

When the operation begins, it is too late to take vitamin pills. When the battle begins, it's too late to train the troops. When the flood waters rise, it's too late to find rock foundation. When Satan attacks, they only can resist who have put on their armor.

Memorize that verse now; when you need it, you won't have time. Worship God this Sunday—when you need that strength, you won't have time. Repent of that sin now—when Christ comes, you won't have time. Renew your broken connection with the Lord now—at your funeral you won't have time. Become a Christian now—in the judgment day you won't have time.

Don't be almost persuaded, but lost—obey the Lord and be saved! — *The Path Finder*

The Sword and Staff
Post Office Box 147
Mt. Airy, N. C. 27030
U. S. A.

Non-Profit Organ.
U. S. POSTAGE
2.4¢ PAID
Mt. Airy, N. C.
Permit No. 25