

# The Sword AND Staff

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

•

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

## Thousands of Miles to Be Where Jesus and His Disciples Walked

By RICHARD GERRINGSWALD  
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THE WINDMILLS of Amsterdam, Holland are about as scarce as the covered bridges in Pennsylvania or water-wheeled grist mills in upstate New York. Holland, the land of rainbow hued tulips, criss-crossed with countless waterways and canals, and the fresh green of springtime greeted the 56 members of the 1979 Rome, Israel and the Seven Churches of Asia Bible lands tour.

After a brief view of Amsterdam, we winged our way across the majestic snow-capped Alps and over the frothing white-capped Mediterranean Sea, imagining Jonah some millenia ago being cast overboard to appease Poseidon, the god of the sea, but in truth it was Jehovah God's chastizement of a runaway prophet. Jonah had launched from Joppa, just south of our destination—Tel Aviv, Israel (Israel with a population of 3,000,000 has widespread political influence. Its chief commerce is tourism, diamonds, and oranges). Ancient Joppa or Jaffa was the gateway to Jerusalem since Bible times, and one of Israel's oldest cities. In 1906 the overcrowding Jewish settlers established Tel Aviv (meaning "hill" and "spring"—symbolizing newness). Within seventy years the 600 settlers reached 330,000 making

this city the largest in Israel.

Jaffa, as a 5,000 year old port city, was traditionally founded by Noah's son Japheth after the flood. In Roman times Anthony gave this city as a love gift to Cleopatra. But more important, Peter enjoyed the hospitality of Simon the Tanner, whose house is still marked on the twisting streets and countless stairs of Jaffa. How do we determine what is historical fact and geographical location versus traditional legend? Israel has two Calvaries, two tombs of Christ and two mountains of transfiguration. Which is the right site?

There are two proofs of authenticity. The first is the science of Archaeology. The second is tradition. The first is about 100% accurate and the latter is about 75% trustworthy (it has been said).

How accurate are our present day landmarks? The Gettysburg Civil War Battlefield in Pennsylvania is just over 100 years old, yet both Archaeology and tradition verify that this is the place. The Battle of Bunker Hill, Massa-

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**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.

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**Proverbs of Today**

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*All work is honorable and to be commended, regardless how menial, if it doesn't dishonor God.*

*"Two pessimists met at a party; instead of shaking hands, they shook heads."*

*Some people trade their Lord for a husband or a wife (non-Christian) and then stop coming to church.*

*"Remember when you throw dirt, you lose ground."*

*Beware when we become more pre-occupied with methods of evangelism than with the message of evangelism.*

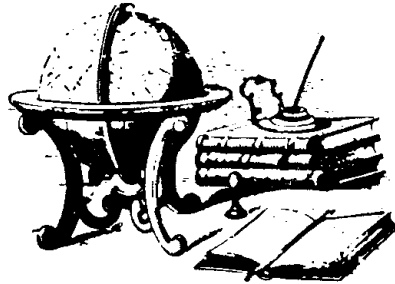
*"We are not responsible for what other people do to us, but we are responsible for how we respond to what they do to us."*

*It is not where we are, but what we are that makes us happy.*

*"It is more in harmony with God's will to ring door bells than to ring church bells."*

*A man may appear to be holding a grudge, but actually the grudge is holding him.*

*"One thing that a child learns at his mother's knee today is to look out for the hot cigarette ashes."*



**EDITORIAL**

**COMMENTS...**

**LETTER TO SUBSCRIBERS**

RECENTLY some of you received the following letter in the mail from us. We present it here for the many who did not get it.

March 31, 1979

Dear Reader and Friend:

Greetings in the Name of our Precious Lord! Thank you so much in responding to renew your subscription. We thank the Lord, and thank you for your support in other capacities too. By God's grace and your help (an expression of His grace) we have continued in this publishing effort until this hour for His Glory!

We are much encouraged as of this date, as the Graphotype machine has just been delivered. This is the machine that makes the addresses on the metal plates for the Addressograph machine. The Addressograph machine came as a gift (as we have told you), and several of you helped toward paying for the Graphotype machine. This should greatly speed up our addressing when, in time, all the addresses are transferred to this more sophisticated system. Our two or three addressing systems were pretty motley and inefficient.

A few have responded (without being asked) to underwrite our humble efforts financially on a monthly basis. This is much needed and greatly appreciated. Other such backing is needed. Not only is there great cost involved in the actual printing (which continues to go up), but the editor needs to be supported full-time in this work. Everything cries out that this should be so. Such are the pressing times in which we live. Part-time effort on a full-time job which involves eternity is highly inappropriate. Full-time support and consistency in publishing are our goals for 1979.

It is obvious, even to the casual reader, what we are standing for and trying to accomplish in *The Sword and Staff*. We wish to drink of the waters of New Testament Christianity at the original source without admixture. The traditions and denominational systems of men must give way to the church in its purity. The world with its many complex problems needs the gospel in its simplicity. Sin must give way to righteousness as the Son of God in His Righteousness shines forth.

Thank you again, and pray for us. We face the new year with optimism and encouragement, and we rejoice as we find out more and more that God has reserved His thousands "who have not bowed the knee... to Baal." Amen!

Sincerely in Christ,  
James E. Gibbons

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**AN OVERVIEW OF THE 1979 BIBLE LANDS TOUR**

THE 1979 BIBLE LANDS TOUR is now "history," and what enjoyable and profitable "history" it was in the making. The final number in our group was 56. Donald Hunt (tour leader) did an excellent job, and the editor of this paper was one of the tour hosts. We asked Richard Geringswald, a first-time traveler on such a tour, to write an article for *THE SWORD AND STAFF* about the trip, pointing out profitable things to us. He has done an excellent job, and

(Continued on Next Page)

**THOUSANDS OF MILES TO BE WHERE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKED** *(Continued from Page 1)*

chusetts takes us back 200 years and we can still nail down that this is the place.

But how can we be sure that this was actually Simon the Tanner's house? From the historical standpoint, Helena (Constantine's mother) in 326 A.D. had church buildings and shrines built over or near places sacred to Christianity. Not only are there Byzantine church ruins near the house of Simon, the Mohammedans built a mosque nearby. This place was sacred to both Byzantine Christianity as well Moslem faith.

So whenever a Byzantine church or Mohammedan shrine or mosque is build near an area, that indicates that it meant something to them.

We saw this in evidence at many of the sites we visited. There are Byzantine ruins over Peter's supposed house in Capernaum, John's tomb in Ephesus, Turkey, and practically every one of the seven churches in Asia. And here is a mystery?! There is even a Byzantine church building ruin on the top of Masada, the Jewish Zealot fortress. I know of nothing sacred to the history of Christianity on a barren rock strewn peak of Masada unless at one time it was re-inhabited by a Christian community or it was a place of retreat for Biblical scholars or monks, but there is no archaeological evidence to prove it. We will have to leave that mystery to further speculation.

On the coast of Israel is Caesarea by the Sea. This ancient crusader city is no longer inhabited. The many ruins include a portion of Herod's aqueduct, a Roman the-

**EDITORIAL COMMENTS...**

*(Continued from the Last Page)*

his write-up appears elsewhere in this issue.

Our tour included Israel, Greece (for some), western Turkey, and Rome. (Also on the way over we had a mini-tour of Amsterdam, Holland). What appeared to be a problem worked out in a good way, and those who wished to leave Israel a day early got the unexpected opportunity of seeing Athens and the ruins of ancient Corinth at no extra cost (one man commented that this unexpected and unplanned part of the tour was worth the price of the whole tour itself to him). Visiting western Turkey (Biblical Asia) was new territory to this writer, having never been there before, and every moment of it was exciting and profitable.. The ruins of most of the cities of the "Seven Churches in Asia" of the book of Revelation are in evidence with Ephesus, Pergamus, and Sardis perhaps being the most pronounced. The extensive ruins of Ephesus (which have not all been excavated by archaeologists) were truly impressive. When this writer reads of Paul's activities in Ephesus and his letter to these people, things will never be the same again. Our thoughts will henceforth be colored and framed by provocative mental pictures of a vibrant, opulent, but thoroughly paganized city. Sitting in the amphitheater, we could almost hear the mob cry, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" But, we will leave further comments on the tour to the Geringswald article.

Talk is already in the embryo stage about a tour two years from now (1981) which will take in Israel and Egypt.

ater, a portion of wall, columns and most interesting, a rectangular slab of rock with an inscription that includes PILATVS—Pontius Pilate occupied the governor's residence here and occasionally returned to Jerusalem to hold court. Important to the Christian is the fact that our roots are in Caesarea. This is where Cornelius the first Gentile heard and obeyed the gospel.

After studying the theory of Bible Geography for years, being in the lands of the Bible gives a 3-D perspective that you have to experience to appreciate. For instance, I imagined Mt. Carmel upon which Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal as a single mountain jutting into the Mediterranean Sea much as Sinai reaching awesomely from the wilderness. But not so. Carmel is a mountain ridge that stretches for quite some distance, riddled with many caves and topped with several peaks.

Solomon's chariot city of Megiddo, overlooking the Valley of Jezreel (the fertile agricultural center of Israel), was impressive from an archaeological point of view. An extensive stairway leading perhaps three stories underground, then proceeding along a boardwalk through an arched tunnel for hundreds of yards, then up another two flights of stairs showed the military necessity for providing water to this city in case of surrounding attack.

In another area a Canaanite altar was evident from the steps leading up to it. Jewish altars had ramps leading to



(A quarried "skull" hill outside the northern Damascus gate of Jerusalem identified by General Gordon as Calvary)

them as was commanded in the Old Testament that the nakedness of the priests legs would not be shown as they shuffled up a ramp (Exodus 20:26).

A general rule of thumb would be, that any altar with steps leading up to it would be a pagan altar of sacrifice.

When uncovering the various levels of civilization, each level of Megiddo was photographed, charted, identified, sifted for coins and pottery shards, and eventually pushed over the hill. Again men would begin to sift, chart and identify the next level, which was removed to examine yet a third level. This continued to the 5th level which dates us

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## THOUSANDS OF MILES TO BE WHERE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKED *(Continued from Last Page)*

back to Solomon's day. Here the scientists stopped. Yet there remains 15 more levels lower than Solomon's, making Megiddo 20 levels of civilization—truly an ancient city.

It was common to see ancient Biblical sites so far below street level. The Pool of Bethesda was about five stories below street level. The foundations of Solomon's temple were exposed near the Wailing Wall by looking down a grate covered shaft around forty feet down. Twenty-two steps descend by a narrow passageway to take us to Lazarus' tomb that was originally at street level.

What happens is the rubble of one civilization is used as a building foundation for the next, which cycle continues until a city is built upon a man-made hill called a Tel. Archaeologist will cut a pie wedge out of the side of the hill to expose the layers of strata for each succeeding generation. So when you walk the streets of Bible lands you are usually walking 10-30 feet (and more) above the original pavement, though some original Roman road is still in use in some areas.

To illustrate, many of our old brick streets in this country were built over horse and wagon routes. These were covered with asphalt, or if changed into a four lane expressway, may even be concrete. In just a century of time the original road level can be several feet below the present highway. The route is the same, but the street level is higher.

Our trip continued through Nazareth, the boyhood home of Christ, to Tiberius and a boat cruise across the Sea of Galilee to the fisherman's harbor. What is impressive about Galilee is to realize that along those few miles of coastal hills, our Lord propounded more wisdom in the few short years of His Galilean ministry than all the sages and philosophers of all ages and of all civilizations of all the world; more than they could even begin to imagine or think. Those Galilean hills and frothing whitecaps of the Lake of Gennesaret at one time bore witness of the Master who proclaimed the Good News from those hillsides and stilled the raging waves. This is nothing that the archaeologists' spade has dug up nor the legends and traditions of the locals have passed on by word of mouth. This is the place! No doubt about it! It's in the Book!

In Matthew 11:20-24 Jesus cursed three cities, "Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! . . . And thou Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell."

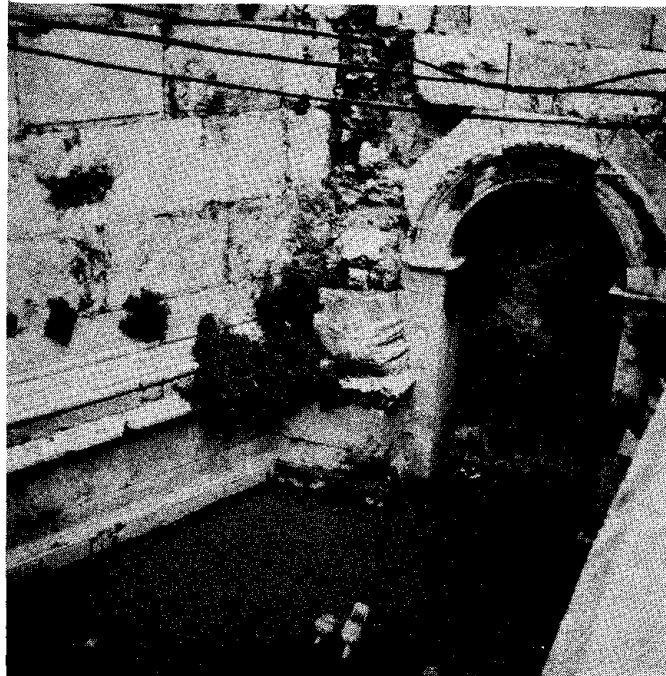
In contrast the two cities, Tiberius and Safad (the city on the hilltop) were never mentioned in Scripture as visited by Jesus. They still exist in modern times. But the three cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum were visited by Jesus. They did see His miracles, they rejected him, and they were cursed. That was a permanent curse for those cities lie in ruin and rubble today!

In Capernaum are the ruins of a synagogue built over a still older synagogue. Within a stone's throw of the synagogue are the ruins of an old church structure, built over the ruins of a still older Byzantine church, which was built over the traditional site of Peter's house. Mark 1:29 says, "And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John." This has to be the actual site. It is confirmed with Helena's Byzantine church structure identifying it as a shrine sacred to Bible events and the Scriptural description is so fitting.

The way it worked out we were unable to visit Samaria,

Shechem and Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal. We didn't get to go to Hebron either, but still I wish to share a few Biblical perspectives on these two areas.

Mt. Ebal was the mount of cursing and living up to its name, it is a desolate, rocky, dry mountain. In contrast, Mt. Gerizim, the mount of blessing, appears green and alive. So the mountain terrain lives up to its personality, and reputation.



(Excavated Herodian gate of the first century near the Damascus gate of old Jerusalem)

Concerning Hebron, where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all lived and are buried and where David ruled for seven years, when Joseph was sold into slavery at Dothan to the north, the Egyptian caravan passed right through Hebron. Can you imagine as Jacob looked at the beasts of burden with a "Ho-hum, just another caravan passing through the neighborhood." And not realizing that his son Joseph was among the slaves? Just think how Joseph felt when he could see his father's tents and knew that rescue was so close, yet so far away?

This same highway through Hebron was taken by Joseph and Mary centuries later fleeing to Egypt to protect the Christ child. The perspective of Bible Geography greatly enhances one's understanding of the Biblical event.

We continue our actual journey down the Jordan River Valley. The Jordan winds serpentine 200 miles to go the 65 miles from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. Enroute we visited the Roman amphitheater at Beth Shean, upon whose city walls hung the bodies of Saul and his sons. Also the fleeing Midianites startled by Gideon fled through this region in terror of the "Sword of the Lord and Gideon."

Bible Geography again comes into play to appreciate the conquest of Jericho and Ai by Joshua. With this strategic ploy, Joshua divided the country in two, then fanned out to the north and to the south to destroy the inhabitants of the land. Just as Sherman's march to the sea in the Civil War cut the supply lines and allowed the fall of Richmond, Virginia. Jericho was a strategic bastion fortress and supply line protector that had to fall before the rest of the country could be taken. Then the cities fell like dominoes;

one after the other.

Many Biblical cities were military outposts to protect trade and commerce. With this in mind one can perceive the importance of Caesarea, Megiddo, Beth Shean and Jericho. Even during the Crusader period, the castles offered protection against the Moslem hordes. Crusader ruins can still be seen in most of these strategic areas.

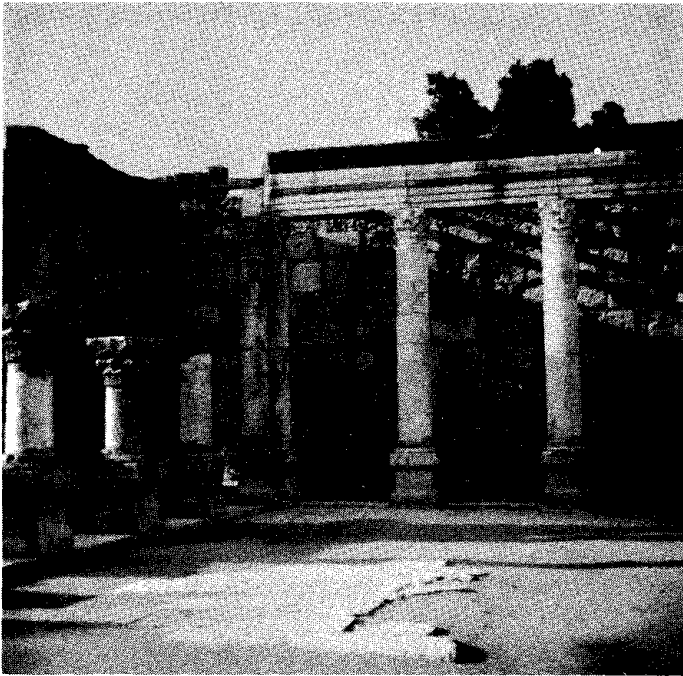
The Qumran commune of the Essenes and the caves of the Dead Sea Scrolls are located close to where the Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea. Qumran was not close enough to receive its water supply from the Jordan, but relied upon storage cisterns for this necessity.

Passing along the western shore of the Dead Sea with its 25% salt (some say 27%) compared with the 5% salt content of the Ocean, we observed the tremendous mineral wealth said to be 3 trillions of dollars. A water sample contains these chemical solids: Chlorine—67%; Bromine—2%; Sodium—10%; Magnesium—17%, plus strong traces of Sulphate, Potassium and Calcium. No living creature exists in the Sea. The only green vegetation or trees exists where plastic water pipes from springs irrigate garden patches near Ein Gedi, the region where David hid from Saul's wrath.

The highlight of our journey was Masada, Herod's palace and fortress, taken over by the Jewish Zealots in 73 A.D. This ended with a mass suicide of its 960 defenders. Similar to the Jonestown suicide pact of the radical Marxist commune that hit the news headlines some months ago, Masada's only survivors were two women and five children.

All Jewish military are sworn in today at the top of this gigantic bluff. The oath "Masada will never fall again!" is a catch-word similar to "Remember the Alamo!"

An hour and a half walk up a footpath takes one to the brow of the hill, or you may chose the short ride by cable car to the top. The dry barren rock brought questions to me as to how did they ever get a city on top and what did they do for a water supply. On the board walk leaving the cable car exit area a huge cistern which I paced off at 32 feet square and tall answered one question. It was thought that slaves personally carried water by jug to fill several of



(Ruins of second century synagogue in Capernaum, perhaps containing materials from the one in which Jesus taught)

these water reservoirs.

Our other question was answered as we saw the rock quarry for building stone on the rock top. The twenty acre site included mosaics, baths, storerooms, officer's quarters, a synagogue, a Byzantine church and a palace.

Below, the Roman garrisons, eight large rectangular walled forts, surrounded the butte. To the West a huge dirt stone ramp was thrown up not quite reaching the top, where boarding towers with drop bridges could be rolled to the wall and a beachhead could be established. As the Roman legions rushed over the wall they were greeted with silence... and a grisly sight. All the defenders of the fort were dead. It was a hollow victory for the Romans.

Before leaving Palestine, we must not leave without saying something about Old Jerusalem and its environs.

We were surprised that so many church buildings were built over many sites, but realized that if such were not the case, souvenir hunters would have picked the area to nothingness. One guide joked that he was glad the Sea of Galilee was so large, otherwise someone would have built a church edifice over it.

We had to change our thinking on a few concepts. The traditional birthplace of Christ in Bethlehem was in a large cave, used as a barn, not a wood framed shed as many "manger" scenes depict.

There are two Calvaries. General Gordon in 1883, after



(The traditional site of the tomb of Lazarus in Bethany where Jesus raised him from the dead)

visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre doubted that location. He found a cliff brow outside the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem shaped like a skull, preserved by a Mohammedan cemetery on top and within close walking distance (within a stone's throw) to the garden tomb, which, by the way, was carved out to enable a bit larger man's body to be lain. The tomb could have accommodated a person from 5'8" to 5'10". Hebrews 13:12 says, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is within the city walls. Gordon's Calvary is just

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## THOUSANDS OF MILES TO BE WHERE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKED (Continued from Last Page)

outside the north wall, "without the gate," and near a road where people could pass by and rail on Him.

Because of the bloody Crusades the Catholic church sponsored to regain the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the money they spent, some Catholic authorities have questioned the integrity and inspiration of the book of Hebrews. They had too much invested to admit they might be wrong. I believe Gordon's Calvary more closely fits the Biblical picture. The site that favors the Biblical description should be more seriously considered.

To illustrate, there are two traditional sites of the transfiguration. The general view is that Mt. Tabor rising 1600 feet above the plains is the place. But Matthew 17:1 says, "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart." Mt. Hermon, reaching 9,000 feet and close to Caesarea Philippi where Jesus and His apostles were at the time, fits more of the Biblical picture. So occasionally we will have to set aside traditional sites in favor of common sense and Biblical insights.

An emotionally touching area was St. Peter in Gallicantu at the Cockcrow, or the place of Peter's denials where we actually entered the dungeon where Jesus, and later his apostles were interned between court trials. In the ceiling of the pit is a hole through which the prisoner was let down by ropes under the arms. This dungeon is the most normal place where Jesus could have been kept overnight. When our group sang, "I'll Go With Him Through the Judgment," we imagined the form of Christ lowered the 15 feet to a dark pit within which we stood and the prophecy of Psalms 88:6, "Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps."

Skeptics have attacked the inspiration of Isaiah and tried to make his writing of later date than 700 B.C. to make them recorded history rather than prophetic utterances. At the Dead Sea Scroll Museum in Jerusalem one could see three parallel copies of Isaiah dating 12th century A.D., 15th century A.D. and 100 B.C. (The Jew's date C.E.—Christian era, and B.C.E.—before Christian era). There were no differences in the manuscripts for the copists did an exacting job. I was so excited that I blurted out, "That proves that Jesus fulfilled the Isaiah prophecy." An irate hulking Jew stormed up to me and threatened to have me arrested for proselyting. I wasn't, but I remembered reading an article when I returned home that a law had been passed in Israel on December 27, 1977 that members of any religious group who entice a person to change his religion, could be sentenced to five years' imprisonment or a fine of \$3,200.

How much influence has Restoration New Testament Christianity had upon the environs of Israel? Very little. The first "missionary" Judson Barclay went to Jerusalem in 1851 with poor results except for a bit of archaeological scouting. Today attendance at a church of Christ (a cappella) averages from 11-15 in Jerusalem and 30 children and 6 adults meet in Bethlehem (there is also a church in Nazareth—EDITOR).

From Tel Aviv we flew to Athens, Greece which is dominantly 97% Greek Orthodox. The Greek Orthodox immerse infants and register their baptismal certificates. Without a baptismal certificate you cannot go to school, run a business or hold a job, so Greece is pretty well closed to evangelism (exceptions are made for those already belonging to another religious group, such as among foreigners, but

were told proselyting was against the law—EDITOR).

From Athens we boarded a private charter turbo-jet with OLYMPIC airlines (which our guide jokingly said stands for O-nassis L-ikes Y-our M-oney P-aid I-n C-ash), and landed on the island of Chios where Paul stopped off in Acts 20:15. Then by charter boat our tour cruised to Tsesme and we spent the night inland at Izmir (or Smyrna, Revelation 2:8). I desired to know how much influence Christianity had in Turkey or Asia Minor. Very little today; 99% of Turkey is Mohammedan and 1% is Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, etc. Though there is religious freedom, Izmir contains six churches, eight synagogues and over 200 mosques.

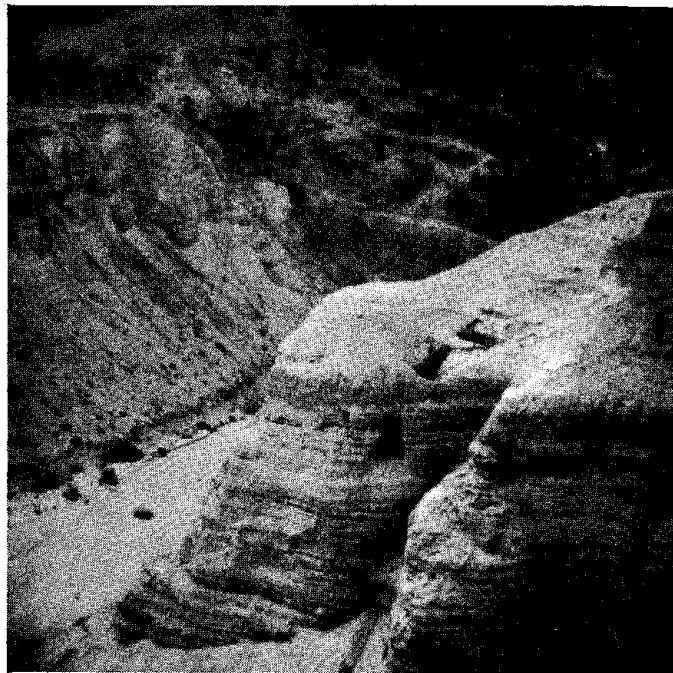
From ancient Smyrna we travelled forty miles to Ephesus (Revelation 2:1). The ruins were the most extensive of any our group had seen. And it was only 1/8th uncovered. The first thing that the archaeologist digs up is the theater. From that he can estimate the population of the city and consider the extent of the ruins.

The Ephesian theater seated 24,000; so this times ten equals a population of 240,000. Multiply the theater seating capacity by ten and you reach an approximate city size.

Another Byzantine church marked the grave of the Apostle John who after his banishment on Patmos returned to Ephesus and served as an elder in the church.

Ephesus was well known in Church History for the councils held there, but now its lamp had gone out. Why would a city which at one time professed 100,000 Christians now not even have a small village church? Only mosques raise their stately spires above the terra cotta tiled roofs of the dirt streeted villages.

The Seljuk and later the Ottoman Turks came like a



(One of the many caves near the Essenes' wilderness settlement of Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found)

plundering horde and butchered Christians. Either the Christians migrated to Cappadocia to the caves of Goreme or to Greece and Rome, or they were slaughtered with the sword.

Acts 18:23-41 mentions how Paul upset the city with the gospel of Christ and how the town folk cried, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians" for two solid hours. We stood

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# Why "church of Christ?"



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(THE WRITER of the article that follows is not personally known by the editor of this paper. These thought provocative words accompanied the article, which should prove such to many of our readers: "Enclosed is an article I wrote after we changed our name from 'Christian Church' to 'church of Christ.' Our motive was to exalt Christ alone both in name and the paper" (article). We now present the article, slightly adapted for publication, for your consideration. — THE EDITOR)

AT THE UNIVERSITY of Cincinnati a professor of philosophy was giving his class a final examination. The test had one question: "Why?" Most of the students began to answer the question philosophically. Some were utterly lost. One student quickly wrote down his answer and left the room. He received an "A" on the test. His answer? "Why not?" I feel somewhat like this student when asked, "Why the church of Christ?" Indeed, why not?

## PROPOSITION

This article sets forth the views gained from Holy Scripture that God's kingdom on earth should be called "church of Christ." Three examples will be given to illustrate this truth. First we shall explain the real meaning of the English word "church" and its original "ekklesia." Next, the passages which speak of the "body" of Christ and how they relate to the subject. Thirdly, we shall examine all the passages that deal with the "bride" of Christ and their connection with the subject. Finally, we shall submit Scriptures of utmost importance bearing on the subject of the name of Christ. All these shall demonstrate this one truth—the church is of Christ and should be so called.

## CHURCH—EKKLESIA

The translators saw fit to translate the original Greek word *ekklesia* as "church." This in part clouds our true understanding of the church and its relation to Christ. *Ekklesia* can be translated as gathering, assembly, congregation, and church. The word literally means "a calling out of or forth." The church is those who have been called by the gospel of Christ out of the world of sin into His kingdom of righteousness. On a local level they assemble in honor of their salvation in Christ.

"Church" in Scripture carries both a universal meaning and a local one. The universal meaning is seen in Matthew 16:18 where Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." The local use is seen in Revelation 2:1, "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write..." "The church of Christ" universal is composed by "a church of Christ" locally in all places where in happens to be.

Paul said in Romans 16:16, "The churches of Christ salute you." One could easily use "gatherings, assemblies, or congregations" and carry the intended meaning here. Whatever word is used the idea is one of ownership. Christ said, "I will build my church" and so Paul speaks of the "churches of Christ." This is equivalent to saying Christ's church. In all the cases used in this article ownership stands out. In talking about the church it is good to designate the ownership of Christ.

Church names such as Presbyterian church, Methodist church, Baptist church, Christian church, or Catholic church do not show ownership at all, nor does the name itself exalt Christ. Actually these names are descriptive rather than possessive. "Catholic" church tells us that church is universal in scope. "Christian" church tells us that church is Christian in character. "Baptist" church tells us that church practices immersion for baptism. "Methodist" church tells us that church has a method. "Presbyterian" church tells us that church is ruled by elders. Not one name tells us the is "of Christ" though we are certain each would say it is. That is the point maintained here. If the church is of Christ let us say so to the world even in name. The church of Christ is universal in scope, Christian in character, immersionist in baptism, methodical in practice, and governed by elders. The church name should not bring out one characteristic of the church, but rather the ONE CHARACTER of the church, that being Jesus Christ. The church is His. He is head. The church is His body. The body is directed and governed by the head.

## THE BODY OF CHRIST

There are numerous passages that speak of the church as the "body" of Christ. By examining these "body" passages and their relation to Christ, we shall put forth the argument that the "body of Christ" in essence and in reality is the "church of Christ." They are one and the same. To use "body" is to use a symbol for "church."

Ephesians 1:21-23 declares of Christ that He is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all." This passage declares that the church is His body and Christ is its head. Just as the body and head of a person are connected and recognized by one name, so here Christ and the church are connected together and are recognized as the "body of Christ" which is the "church of Christ." In Colossians 1:18, "He is also head of the body the church;...so that in He Himself might come to have first place in everything." Certainly it would not be narrow-minded to say that every Christian should insist that the name of Christ be lifted up alongside His church, would it?

The body of Christ is one body. This is the same as saying "the church of Christ is one church." Scriptures teach this conclusion. We must love one another, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body (church) and one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of

(Continued on Next Page)

## WHY "CHURCH OF CHRIST?"

(Continued from Last Page)

all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:3-6). "For just as we have many members in *one body* and all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many, are *one body (church) in Christ*, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4,5). To say that we are "one body in Christ" is the same as saying we are "one church in Christ." In I Corinthians 12:12 Paul declares "*the body is one...*" and that "...all members of the body, though they are many, are *one body*, so also is Christ." There is then only one church. It is Christ's church.

Paul, in hearing of the divisions of the congregation at Corinth, wrote I Corinthians to correct them. "Now I exhort you, brethren, *by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). There was but one name to which he would appeal to all, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some in the church claimed to follow Paul, Cephas, Apollos, and Christ (v. 12), but there was only one name to whom they could truly appeal. In his opening words Paul uses the name of Christ 14 times in the first 17 verses. Surely Corinth would get the message!! How about us?

How had the Christians at Corinth entered the body of Christ? In I Corinthians 12:18 we read, "God has placed the members... *in the body*" (*church*), which is exactly what He did in Acts 2:47. "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." They were being added to the church of Christ when they believed (Acts 2:37), repented and were baptized (Acts 2:38). Paul declares, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into *one body*" (*one church*), I Corinthians 12:13. Galatians 3:27 says we are "baptized into Christ." So to be baptized into His body and Him is to be added to His church at baptism for the removal of our sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). "Now you are *Christ's body (church)*, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in *the church*" different officers and workers (I Corinthians 12:27).

Paul asked the divided Corinth "...were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (I Corinthians 1:13b). NO! You were not! Into whose name then were you baptized? Into Christ's? Right! And so has everyone who is a Christian (Acts 2:38). Paul asked certain ones in Ephesus into what they were baptized. They told him it was John's baptism (Acts 19:3). Paul taught them about *Christ* (v. 4). "When they heard this they were *baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*" (Acts 19:5). If the name of Christ was important in the baptismal formula, it certainly is in what we call the church!

Christ is to rule in our hearts as we have been "called in *one body*. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the *Lord Jesus*, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (Colossians 3:17). Paul was glad to be suffering "on behalf of *His body* in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions... *Of this church* I was made a minister..." says Paul in Colossians 1:24, 25.

The whole purpose of the "body of Christ" (church of Christ) is given in Ephesians 4:11, 12. Christ gave His church spiritual gifts "...for the work of service to the building up of the *body of Christ*." This church of Christ was to reconcile both Jew and Gentile into one new man through the cross (Ephesians 2:15, 16). The church then is the "church of Christ."

In the hopes that Corinth would unite, Paul wrote, "For

I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin" (II Corinthians 11:2). He feared lest the bride of Christ had been "led astray from the simplicity and purity of *devotion to Christ*" (v. 3).

## THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

We have seen how the name of "Christ" is associated with "church" in Scripture, and how the name of "Christ" is associated with "body" in Scripture. We now shall consider how the name of "Christ" is associated with "bride" in Scripture. Again our theme is the same—to show that the "bride of Christ" is the same as "the church of Christ."

The prophet Isaiah predicted the church of Christ would be called the "bride of Christ" (Isaiah 62:1-5). In verse 2 Israel would receive a new name once they were in the spiritual kingdom of Christ on earth, and not before. When they were admitted into the church of Christ (Acts 2), they were eligible to receive this new name. In Acts 11:26 God gave it to them in honor of Christ. Their name was "Christian." This name means belonging to Christ. As individuals we are Christians as opposed to being sinners. We are the church of Christ when speaking collectively as a whole or as a congregation.

The term "Christian" appears in the entire Bible only three times (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16). Its usage is always the same in referring to the followers of Christ individually. In Acts 11:26 "the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." In Acts 26:28, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian," and in I Peter 4:16 we have "If any one suffers as a Christian let him not be ashamed, but glorify God in this name." Certainly one can be a Chris-

## MORE THAN VENEER NEEDED

...IN VISITING Park View Hospital, thanks to the ever present courtesies of the parking lot guard, I parked in the section marked, "Doctors Only." (Beautiful are the considerations shown preachers by the hospital of the city—most of us try not to impose on either space or time when doctors most need these areas). As I left the car, walking to the hospital, I became aware of the fact that a lady was walking toward me with an intense stare. When we shortly met face to face, in an effort to be an "unfresh yet friendly" man, I spoke first with "Good Afternoon." Immediately as though my greeting had been filled with antibiotics that chase away all pain and germs, she broke into obvious delight and replied, "How do you do, Doctor?" In most charming bedside manner I responded in pure antiseptic tones, "I'm fine and hope you are." We passed as ships in the night perhaps never to see or greet each other again.

But she called me "Doctor!" I "ain't" one. I'm proud of those who are.

But why did she call me one—oh, yes, I parked in the doctor's lot.

It takes more than veneer to make a cabinet—it takes more than a hospital lot assignment to make a M. D., and it takes more than church attendance to make a Christian. The friendly lady misjudged me. I could not have cured her ingrown toenail but she thought I was a talented physician—just because of where I parked.

Do I go through life fooling folks? Am I what my presence at the Lord's table says I am? Am I genuine? Is my Christianity for real—or have I just parked in God's church lot?

MAKE IT REAL—Be a Christian! —Jim Bill McInteer □

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tian only. To profess to be a Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, or Catholic may bring glory, but not to God. God has not said in His Book, "The disciples were called Baptists first at Antioch" (Acts 11:26). It was not said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Methodist" (Acts 26:28). God did not say, "If any one suffers as a Presbyterian let him glorify God in this name" (I Peter 4:16). God chose the name for the saved person to bring His Son glory, and that name is "Christian" because he is in "the church of Christ." What would happen if all denominations stripped off these man-made names and lifted up the name "church of Christ"? What would happen if we all followed the New Testament exactly, and it only, for faith, doctrine, and practice? The world would believe that Christ is the Son of God! That's what would happen (John 17:20-22).

It was not until the Gentiles came into the church of Christ that they along with the Jews were called Christians (Acts 11:26).

In John 3:28 John the Immerser declared he was not the Christ. "He who has the bride (church) is the bridegroom" (Christ—John 3:29), says John. In Matthew 9:15; Mark 2:19; Luke 5:34 Christ declares Himself as the "bridegroom." Does the bride of Christ today not know to whom she belongs? Is she adulterous and polygamous in her many names, divisions, and man-made practices? Does she not remember the words of the apostle Paul who said to the Corinthian church, "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy; For I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin" (I Corinthians 11:2). Can we be anything but the bride of Christ? Can we be anything but the church of Christ "lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ?" (II Corinthians 11:3).

In Matthew 25:1-13 the story is given of the ten virgins who prepare for the marriage of the bridegroom. The story obviously relates to the judgment when the bridegroom (Christ) has come for His bride (the church). The children of the bridechamber must not mourn while He is with them (Matthew 9:15; Mark 2:19; Luke 5:34).

In Revelation 21:2,9, we are given a most holy and beautiful picture of the church of Christ at the end of time. "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." In verse 9 one of the angels called John forth, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the bride (church of Christ), the wife of the Lamb." These are Christians who have died and gone on, or may even include the whole church of Christ prefigured to John in a vision. At the close of the book of Revelation an invitation is given. "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come'." This is the gospel invitation to all sinners to repent and be baptized into Christ. The invitation is by the Holy Spirit (using the Word) and the bride (church) of Christ.

"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior the body...the church is subject to Christ...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless...I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:22-32). How could anyone escape the picture here of the church and the Christ side by side both in reality and in name on a sign as a witness to the world? The church

is of Christ.

INTERESTING PASSAGES

Acts 20:28 is a warning given by Paul. "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." Does this verse refer to God or Christ? It says "church of God," but it also says the church was "purchased with His own blood." Some ancient manuscripts have "Lord" in place of "God" which would make it the "church of the Lord," thus making reference to Christ. This really, however, is not necessary to explain the verse. Quite simply Christ is divine, and in this verse He is called God. So "church of God" here is the same as "church of Christ." This equality of God and Christ is in keeping with the Father's good wishes (See Colossians 1:16-20).

There will always be those who shall seek to minimize our efforts at striving to call Bible things by Bible names, but insisting we should not quibble over names. The following passages of Scripture should not be taken lightly by anyone: "Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are under heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). The reasons for this are obvious for those who seek His will in His word.

"Having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they" (Hebrews 1:4). "And there is salvation in no one else (Christian included), for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

If someone asks you, "Why the church of Christ?" share this information with them, and ask them sincerely, "Why not?"

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HOW TO ENJOY THE BIBLE

THERE WAS a young lady, who, after trying to read a certain book, remarked that it was the dulllest book she had attempted to read in many a day. Not long after this she met a certain young man, and in due time her friendship ripened into love and she became engaged to him. But in the meantime, one evening she said to him, "I have a book written by a man whose name is the same as yours. Isn't that a coincidence?"

"I don't think so," he replied, "for the simple reason that I wrote the book."

The young lady sat that night and finished the book before retiring. It seemed to her the most interesting book she had ever read. The secret? She knew and loved the author.

Likewise, the Bible is enjoyed by all who know and love the AUTHOR.—Selected

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WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

THE CHURCH is never a place, but always a people; never a fold, but always a flock; never a building, but always a believing assembly. The church is you who pray, not where you pray. The church is made up of Christians. A structure of brick and marble can no more be a church than your clothes of silk and satin can be you. There is in this world no sanctuary of God and for God but the human soul.—Selected

**THOUSANDS OF MILES TO BE WHERE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKED** (Continued from Page 6)

in that same theater. We had earlier stood by the swamp bog of the site of the temple of Diana. Because of the mire it cannot be restored. Only one naked column rises amidst the rubble and the only shouts are the boisterous croaks of frogs in a nearby stagnant pool giving her all the glory she deserves.

The ruins of the magnificent city of Ephesus with its temples of Isis, and Hadrian, and Nike, and Diana, and Hermes stand in mute testimony of the present truth of Ephesians 4:5, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism!"

Because of the moral degeneracy of Ephesus, with its brothels, fertility worship, and disgusting icons we can hear Paul's voice ring in Ephesians 4:21-24, "...The truth is in Jesus; That ye put off concerning the former conversation (manner of living) the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;... And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

About 60 miles north of Izmir (Smyrna) are the ruins of Pergamum. This therapeutic center had a reputation that no one died in its hospital. If people were really bad off, they just weren't admitted. Most of the medical advice of the ancients consisted of "Eat one frog leg a day for an easy birth." And such like. Many with psycho-somatic illnesses (not sick, they just thought they were sick) came to Pergamum to undergo treatment. This would include: (1) Diving into a mud bath, (2) Jog around the hospital unclothed, (3) Wash in radioactive water, (4) Drink at the sacred fountain of Hercules, (5) Pass through an 80 meter (250 feet long) tunnel while the doctors whispered through air ducts in the roof that they were getting better, (6) Go directly to the treatment room and receive heat treatments powered by a central heating oven. As the patient slept the priests (doctors) would whisper encouraging words in their ears that they mustn't eat eggs or olive oil. The patient would awake and believe he had received the help of the gods in his dreams. (7) Finally the hypochondriac presents himself at the Temple of Scipios with a big donation, now that he is healed. Though he wasn't really sick in the first place.

Above the theater of Pergamum, marked by two trees planted by an archaeologist is the Temple of Zeus location referred to in Revelation 2:13 as "Satan's seat" where "Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." Traditionally, Antipas was one of the elders in the church. The present Temple of Zeus is on display in a museum in East Germany.

Thyatira (Revelation 2:18), was the home of Lydia, the seller of purple (Acts 16:14). The archaeological ruins are not uncovered to this date so there was nothing to see.

Sardis (Revelation 3:1) is thirty miles south of Thyatira. Narrow roads shadowed by olive groves and poplar trees brought us to the Temple of Artemis (Diana) with its 57 feet tall columns which took four of us men to reach around the base of one column. This temple area is surrounded with terra cotta tile roofed houses in a nearby village and the ever present Islamic mosque.

Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7), about 28 miles southeast of Sardis was a small town. All that remained of the ancient city was a few broken city walls. There were no ruins, no Christians, just mosques.

Laodicea (Revelation 3:14) has had very little excavation or restoration, though there are some ruins. Though we did

not personally visit this site we were able to spend a night in Hierapolis whose warm springs pour out of the ground as artesian wells and coat the ground with a snowy white carbonate formation. Revelation 3:16 reads, "So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." The tepid waters of Hierapolis fed Laodicea, and was an appropriate object lesson to the lukewarm church. (Continued on Next Page)

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**QUESTIONS OVER I THESSALONIANS 4-5**

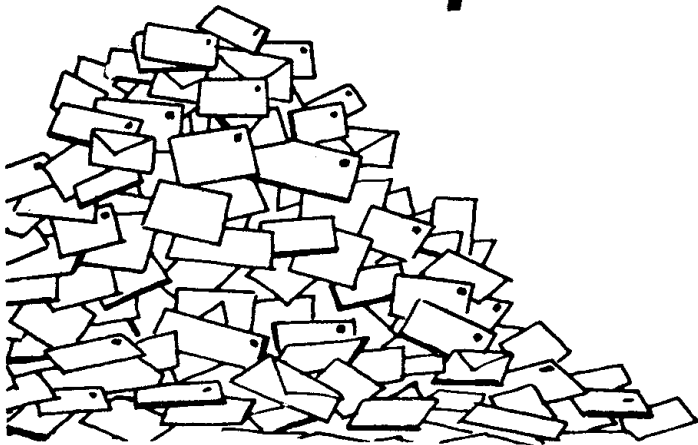
(questions over chapters 1-3 in last issue)

1. What moral problem was especially common in the pagan Gentile world that prompted Paul to exhort the Thessalonians on this matter? (1) Sexual impurity; (2) Stealing; (3) Slavery.
2. If anyone didn't like his teaching on this subject, Paul said, "He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but \_\_\_\_\_, who hath also given unto us the \_\_\_\_\_."
3. Paul urged them not to be meddlesome, but "to do your \_\_\_\_\_ business, and to \_\_\_\_\_ with your own hands."
4. What misunderstanding did they have about the dead and living Christians in reference to the second coming of Christ?
5. When Christ comes back, what will happen to all Christians (in Paul's words here)?
6. "Wherefore \_\_\_\_\_ one another with these words."
7. The second coming of Christ will take place when everyone is looking for him. (1) True; (2) False.
8. What two things did Paul say that people do in the night that Christians should not do (being children of light)?
9. In reference to their spiritual leaders, what three things did Paul say the leaders did?
10. What three things did Paul tell the people to do in reference to these leaders?
11. "Now we exhort you, brethren, \_\_\_\_\_ them that are unruly, \_\_\_\_\_ the feeble-minded (faint-hearted), \_\_\_\_\_ the weak, be \_\_\_\_\_ toward all men."
12. "See that none render \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ unto any man; but ever follow that which is \_\_\_\_\_, both among yourselves, and to all men."
13. "\_\_\_\_\_ evermore."
14. "In everything give \_\_\_\_\_: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
15. "Quench not the \_\_\_\_\_."
16. "\_\_\_\_\_ not prophesyings."
17. "\_\_\_\_\_ all things: hold fast that which is \_\_\_\_\_"
18. "\_\_\_\_\_ from all appearance of \_\_\_\_\_."
19. What three aspects of man does Paul associate with being sanctified wholly as a Christian?
20. What command does Paul give the Thessalonians which obviously we cannot fulfill today?
21. What admonition does Paul give that was conditioned by local custom?
22. Paul charged that this epistle be read only to the leaders of the church. (1) True; (2) False.
23. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

(Answers Found Elsewhere in This Issue)

# READERS'

## ... Response



*I appreciate your paper. I believe it is really needed today. Don't ever get discouraged; there are many Christians who are behind your efforts for the Lord's kingdom. Written material such as yours is needed today."*

■ *"We've read a friend's copies and decided we'd like our own. What a super little newspaper! Praise God for spreading the Gospel in this way!"*

COLORADO:

■ *"We want to thank you for sending us the paper. We appreciate the straight forward way you present the truth. May God help you to continue to herald the truth."*

MINNESOTA:

■ *"Thank you very much for continuing to send THE SWORD AND STAFF. It is one of the best papers being published."*

SOUTH DAKOTA:

■ *"I do enjoy your paper very much. It always has very thought provoking articles enclosed."*

OREGON:

■ *"I don't know who has been sending THE SWORD AND STAFF to me. But I have sure enjoyed it. When my husband was alive we both got much good from it. I go back over them at times. And then give them to other people to read. Keep up the good work. I always like the Bible Quiz and Answers."*

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### THOUSANDS OF MILES TO BE WHERE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKED (Continued from Last Page)

Leaving Turkey (Asia Minor) enroute through Athens, we spent a day in Rome, Italy. On a short tour we visited the 80 entranced Colosseum which could seat 50,000 people. Near the Colosseum was the Arch of Constantine and a few blocks further was a ½ mile track with no ruins, but the site of the Circus Maximus where Christians were martyred by Nero and other emperors before 200,000 spectators.

The government center of ancient Rome—the Roman Forum—lay in ruins. The Church of St. Peter in Vinculis (Chains) had an impressive marble of Moses by Michelangelo. But most impressive, reliving the pomp and glory of ancient Rome, was the St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. If one was impressed by the \$500 million Disney World, one would have to imagine this more impressive billion dollar building whose courtyard alone could hold 400,000 people to hear the Pope. The vast richness of the cathedral dazzled the eyes, with marble inlaid floors and mosaic tiled decorations, and the huge dome that even the Capitol dome in Washington could easily rattle around inside. Then we remembered that Church building project fostered a church split when Luther protested the Sale of Indulgences in Germany to pay for this monstrous edifice. And the Reformation exploded!

Sacred in the memory of Christianity were the martyred Christians who withstood Pagan and Papal Roman persecution and martyrdom. Within the Catacomb of Domitilla are the three feet wide narrow tunnels that spread for 14 miles underground. Rock niches were cut out as shelves and the bodies were laid to rest as a rock plate was plastered over the niche and paintings, inscriptions or mosaics adomed the crypt. The pagans burned their dead, the Mohammedans buried their dead and the Christians interred their dead in rock tombs and burial vaults.

(Continued on Next Page)

PENNSYLVANIA:

■ *"Please DO NOT SEND any more of these papers."*

VIRGINIA:

■ *"My husband and I have certainly enjoyed your literature this past year and wish to continue receiving it. We appreciate your 'telling it like it is:' there are such a few who will in this present time. Time changes many things but it can never change God's Word. I only wish the denominational world would humble themselves enough to accept God's simple plan of salvation. It really puzzles me how everyone can read the newspaper and all get the same meaning; however, when they take the time to read the Bible they want to form their own opinions instead of taking it as it is. We're thankful for your holding fast to the truth and not wavering..."*

OHIO:

■ *"Yes, we read THE SWORD AND STAFF. It is one of our favorite papers. I am sorry that we took so long to send you any money."*

■ *"Here is another wayward delinquent subscription fee coming your way. I never think to renew until I receive a copy of your fine TELL-IT-LIKE-IT-IS book."*

NEBRASKA:

■ *"Greetings in the name of our Wonderful Lord. I just received my copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF a few hours ago and have already sat down to digest most of it, as has been my habit through the years. In the eight years or so I have received it, I have always enjoyed it so much that I usually read most of it right away. I sure did appreciate the article by Curtis Dickinson just now. I regretted to see that someone here in Nebraska was willing to turn to the PLAIN (half) TRUTH in place of your fine paper. Your answer to them was right on target. Amen."*

*"I am going to send in my renewal early to help out at this time. With the quality of paper that you print on I don't see how you do it. I suspect your church there underwrites the balance. I save all the issues and plan to bind them."*

*"The Lord bless you and allow you and your staff to keep on with this much needed work. I know some things you say sound a little harsh to some, but I feel they are most always said in a spirit of love."*

■ *"I want to take this opportunity to tell you how much*

**THOUSANDS OF MILES TO BE WHERE JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WALKED** (Continued from Last Page)

The city of Rome is so undermined with graves and burial chambers that the city has had extreme difficulty in excavating a subway system.

From Rome, we flew back to Amsterdam and then to New York and home. From a Biblical standpoint, we can appreciate the fact that God is not worshipped in a particular mountain or city, but He is Spirit and we must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. You don't have to go to Jerusalem to find Christ, you can find Him and obey Him where you are.

From a practical standpoint, with gasoline \$1.50 a gallon in Turkey, \$2.50 in Israel, and \$3.00 in Rome, When I returned home and found gasoline went up from 64.9 to 68.9, while the rest of you growled, we could only say, "Thank you, Lord!"

We pray that our candle doesn't go out as it did in the Seven Churches of Asia and see mosques replace the cross. Preach the Word in America! □

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OVER I THESSALONIANS**

1. (1) Sexual impurity; 2. I Thess. 4:8; 3. I Thess. 4:11; 4. That the living Christians would get to take part in the glorious second coming of Christ, but the dead ones wouldn't; 5. They will rise to meet him in the air and be forever with the Lord (I Thess. 4:17); 6. I Thess. 4:18; 7. (2) False (I Thess. 5:1-3); 8. Get drunk and sleep (I Thess. 5:4-7); 9. I Thess. 5:12; 10. I Thess. 5:12, 13; 11. I Thess. 5:14; 12. I Thess. 5:15; 13. I Thess. 5:16; 14. I Thess. 5:18; 15. I Thess. 5:19; 16. I Thess. 5:20; 17. I Thess. 5:21; 18. I Thess. 5:22; 19. I Thess. 5:23; 20. To pray for them (I Thess. 5:25); 21. I Thess. 5:26; 22. (2) False (I Thess. 5:27); 23. I Thess. 5:28.

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**ALL-SUFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

THE POSITION of *The Sword and Staff* is this:

We believe in the all-sufficiency of the blood of Christ to take away sin.

We believe in the all-sufficiency of the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice.

We believe in the all-sufficiency of the church as the Lord has given it to us to get the Lord's work done on this earth. — Editor □

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PRINTING *The Sword and Staff* is becoming an increasingly expensive and time consuming project. Each issue (involving around 10,000 copies, plus) represents hundreds of hours and hundreds of dollars. Therefore, it is essential that our mailing list be updated to be sure that the paper is only received by those who want it or appreciate it. If you get this paper, you either subscribed or someone subscribed for you—then others have been on the mailing list a long time without renewing their subscriptions. If you do not read this paper, or want it, PLEASE LET US KNOW. If you appreciate this paper and use it, please send a "renewal" offering along. The editor is unselfishly giving of himself to get the publication in the mail. We feel the need is great. Would you unselfishly help? If you wonder why *The Sword and Staff* hasn't been coming out on time, maybe it is because you haven't been doing your part.

BI-MONTHLY FOR A YEAR or SIX ISSUES: This publication is supposed to go into the mail bi-monthly, but we haven't been able to do this for some time. If within a year's time you haven't received at least six issues, you may wait until you receive that number before renewing your subscription. The date printed beside your name and address on your copy of the paper indicates the time when you first subscribed, thus giving you a clue and cue as to when you should renew each year. We send no renewal notices. Please renew on your own each time. Thank you.

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Thanks again! — EDITOR

# Thank You!

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