

The Sword AND Staff

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

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

The New Birth, The Sabbath, and Reincarnation



By James E. Gibbons

1

A LETTER was received sometime ago from a reader in California concerning being "born again." He was in correspondence with a man who tried to separate certain teachings from the context of grace in which God had placed them to label them as "works." In fact, to be specific, he tried to belittle "water baptism" (as he called it) as in no way tying in with salvation. He tried to make baptism antagonistic with the "spiritual" side of conversion. But, "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

Our California reader wanted more said on being "born again." So, here

goes. Let us examine the Scriptures in a positive way (the best defense is an offense, simply and clearly stating the facts), instead of trying to dissect and chop the Bible up in such a way as to make it contradict itself with the need of a "theologian" (as one man told me) to put it all together. But the Scriptures are one harmonious whole. No verse is an isolated text, but to be correctly understood it must be understood in the light of its context. And all Scriptures on a given subject should be studied and accepted. No verse can mean any less than what it says, but other verses may amplify and throw additional light on the subject.

First, how is a poor, lost sinner "born again?" We know that good works

won't get the job of salvation done, otherwise why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross because man's best was not good enough. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) ...but, praise God for the rest of the verse! "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). This same Paul wrote to Titus: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). Read II Corinthians 5:21.

Being "born again" is first mentioned to Nicodemus (John 3:1-8). Although the "kingdom" was not fully established until the day of Pentecost, Jesus in anticipation told Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Jesus makes it obvious that he is not talking about physical birth (which had puzzled Nicodemus). He is talking about being born from above, which is accomplished by a birth of the WATER and the SPIRIT. Obviously he is talking about conversion to himself.

Here he doesn't spell out the details of how this new birth is brought about, so the sensible thing to do would be to correlate the principal parallel Scriptures which directly bear upon the

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Proverbs of Today

Success is finding a definite, legitimate, and worthy need and then filling it (and especially when you do it for the glory of God).

"He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really co-operating with it."

The person who is always "running someone down" usually doesn't think too highly of himself either.

"If you do more than you are paid to do, sooner or later you will collect."

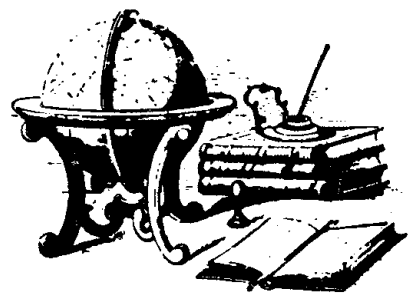
Life is more precious to us when we realize it can be easily lost (and at any time).

"Jesus died on the cross because our best was not good enough."

If you don't like to read the Bible or good religious literature, you have a spiritual problem.

"Contentment is something that depends a little on position and a lot on disposition."

*Many preachers are more concerned about getting churches to **HELP** them (\$) than they are concerned about **HELPING** the churches (to get set in order Scripturally).*



EDITORIAL
COMMENTS...

ALMOST BOUNDLESS CAPACITIES

MOST THINGS wear out from much using. Shoes wear out. Clothing wears out. It doesn't take very many years for cars to be ready for the junkyard. You name it, and it usually fits into this rule.

However, as a matter of interest there are a few things we can think of that are just the reverse. The more we use these things the greater our capacity for using them becomes.

One of these things is the natural endowment of a brain that God has given us. Our mental capacity, among other things, separates us from the animals. The more we use our minds, the greater our mental capacity becomes. We can accelerate this capacity or retard it. If we don't have the opportunity, are lazy, or are not motivated, this expansive process will be greatly hindered. We are accountable stewards of that which God has placed within our "hands." More than once Paul said, "I would not have you ignorant, brethren." The more we learn the greater our capacity for learning becomes. We become more useful human beings and children of God.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Christians, "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet (fitting), because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity (love) of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth" (II Thess. 1:3). Here faith and love are mentioned. These things are increased, made to abound by use. The more we believe and exercise that faith, the greater our faith will become. The more we love, the greater our capacity to love becomes. If you use these things, you can't lose them. May we let these two primary elements of Christianity engulf our lives completely.

These three things we have noticed are very important and almost boundless in their capacities. □

BIBLE LANDS TOUR—NOVEMBER, 1980!

FOR THOSE who are interested, the next Bible lands tour is now planned (the Lord willing) for November, 1980. The last three tours have been in March, and the last one of these especially overlapped with the rainy season. We have been told that November is an ideal time to visit Palestine.

Plans are for the tour to take in upper and lower Egypt, Mt. Sinai (where Moses got the Law), and Israel. Those who have been to Egypt before know what an exciting time we had there. We plan to stay longer this time in Egypt. Mt. Sinai, which is in the planning stage, will be a first for us. Israel is packed with Bible-related things to see. This tour will be an experience of a life-time.

All the detailed information about the tour is not available yet. However, if you are interested in making this trip, it would be a good idea for you to contact us now. Since interest in ancient Egypt is in the forefront, we expect many to respond. Let us know, and we will share what information we have now. Then when the printed brochure is available we will send it on to you. Make your plans now and work toward them. Write: **P. O. Box 147, Mt. Airy, N. C. 27030.** □

THE NEW BIRTH, THE SABBATH, AND REINCAR-NATION (Continued from Page 1)



same subject.

The apostle Peter in his first epistle speaks about this new birth. Listen: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth for ever" (I Peter 1:22, 23). These people were "born again" how? "Being born again" is in apposition with the first part of this quotation. Verse 22 says they were "BORN AGAIN" when they "PURIFIED their souls in OBEYING the truth THROUGH THE SPIRIT." The Word of God is what brought it all about.

Let Peter in more specific words tell us how this is accomplished. Listen to what he says on the day of Pentecost when the "kingdom" was first established among men (many years before I Peter was written). Some sinners were heavily under conviction, being "pricked in their heart" as a result of Peter's faithful preaching. When they cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter eagerly replied, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you (the Jews there on the day of Pentecost), and to your children (who perhaps were not with them then), and to all that are afar off (those "afar off" applies to the Gentiles, Ephesians 2:11-22—notice "afar off" used in verse 17) as many as the Lord our God shall call (everyone, anyone)" (Acts 2:37-39). He continues by saying, "Save yourselves from this untoward (crooked) generation" (verse 40). Then we read that "they that gladly received his word were baptized" (3000 in all). They could not be their own Saviour, but in a real secondary sense by accepting God's grace through repentance and baptism they could save themselves (as Peter plainly said). They became "born again" people.

Therefore (to state it again), when a person is "pricked" in his heart, repents and is baptized for the remission of his sins, he receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. He has "purified" his soul "in OBEYING the truth THROUGH THE SPIRIT," which Peter calls "BEING BORN AGAIN." He has been born of the WATER and the SPIRIT (like Jesus said) when this takes place. He is a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Other parallel Scriptures illustrate this beautifully. Put the following Scriptures along side of what we have found out about John 3:5; I Peter 1:22, 23; and Acts 2:38 and see how sensible and illuminating they appear. All are talking about the same thing, some perhaps emphasizing different aspects to different degrees (all depending on the particular point the writer is wanting to make at the time).

These parallel Scriptures will come from the epistles. (Faith demands that we not only believe in the person of Christ, but that we believe all that he says too—whether directly or indirectly through the inspired words of the epistles, etc.).

- "Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Romans 6:2-5).

- "And such (type of sinners) were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:11).

- "For by (through the agency of) one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13).

- "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (not the law). For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

- "That he (Christ) might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:26, 27).

- "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

- "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22).

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

It is interesting and profitable to point out the different elements specified in the Great Commission as part of the plan of salvation by grace (namely faith, repentance, and baptism—Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47), and then to show how these things were faithfully preached and adhered to by the apostles in the book of Acts. But for purposes of this article we will not go into detail into that at this time.

Sufficient it is to say that a sinner **MUST** be "born again." It is foolish to try to make being "born again" exclude baptism because God has it all interwoven. We are afraid that what many people call being "born again" (faith only, James 2:17, 20, 22, 24, 26) is really a miscarriage as far as the Word of God is concerned. However, there must be more than a dipping in water. There is a spiritual awakening. There is a spiritual transformation that takes place when we trust the grace of God, really repent, and are Scripturally baptized. Otherwise, there has been a "still" birth. We have been "born" dead. There must be a birth of the SPIRIT as well as the WATER, or our baptism in water

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has no significance. Baptism is more than a burial. To be New Testament baptism it must be a resurrection. Paul says we are buried into Christ's death to be raised a-live (like Jesus) to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4,5). We pursue the new life as the Holy Spirit lives within.

FURTHERMORE, we have been asked to comment on various Scriptures that have been misused by those trying to deny the necessity of baptism. Part of these have already been presented in a positive way, but we will deal with some of the others.

• *Thief on the cross (Luke 23:43)*. It is argued that the thief was promised a place in paradise by the Lord, and he wasn't told to be baptized. To assert this is to have a great misunderstanding of a very basic yet elementary truth. New Testament baptism could not and would not be required of the thief because the New Testament was not in force yet. This didn't happen until Jesus died (Hebrews 9:15-17). It is exactly like a man making his last will and testament. As long as he is alive he can do as he pleases with that which belongs to him, but after he dies his will must be carried out as he intended. And baptism is a burial into the death of Christ (Romans 6). The thief could not be buried with Christ by baptism into Christ's death because Christ was still alive and unburied. So, such an argument doesn't make sense, and it is very naive indeed.

• *Household of Cornelius (Acts 10:47)*. It is argued that the way the Jews were converted on Pentecost (Acts 2:38) and the way the Gentiles are converted is different. It is argued that the Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit before baptism, and Cornelius is used as proof of this. But a study of Acts 10 will prove more than most anti-baptism people want. What happened to the household of Cornelius in reference to the Holy Spirit didn't involve salvation, but proof to the Jews that the Gentiles should have the gospel preached to them too. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them is not the same thing as the birth of the Holy Spirit spoken of by our Lord. It was a miraculous outpouring with supernatural speaking in tongues (languages) very much like what happened to the apostles on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Peter later said this in reference to the Cornelius experience, "...the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning" (Acts 11:15). If it had been a common experience with every conversion, why say it came on them like "on us at the beginning" (about eight years before)?

Actually the Holy Spirit fell on the household of Cornelius before Peter told them what they must do to be saved. The angel had told Cornelius that Peter "shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" (Acts 11:14). Acts 10:6 says, "He shall tell thee what thou oughtest to DO." When Peter arrived in his house, Cornelius said, "Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear ALL THINGS THAT ARE COMMANDED thee of God" (Acts 10:33). Then later Peter related, "And as I BEGAN TO SPEAK, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning" (Acts 11:15). In other words, the Holy Spirit fell on them before Peter told them what they must DO (as is said) to be saved; before he could tell them what he had told the sinners in Acts 2:38. In other words, the Holy Spirit fell upon unsaved people (perhaps just the opposite of the day of Pentecost—the apostles were already disciples of Jesus). It was not the birth of the Spirit (Cornelius' situation), but an unusual, once-and-for-all demonstration to prove to the stubborn and biased Jews that

the Gentiles were to be recipients of the gospel also. Peter relates these happenings to the church in Jerusalem to justify his going into the house of a Gentile. And so Peter could only say, after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (not the birth) upon the conscientious household of the Gentile Cornelius, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized...? God had given them recognition.

The New Testament came in force with the death of Jesus, as has been pointed out, and is called an "everlasting covenant" (Hebrews 13:20). God's plan of salvation is the same for Jew and Gentile...all people. There will be no other. The Great Commission said to preach the gospel to "every creature"... "all the world." It also said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:15,16). This is in force and is to be carried out "unto the end of the world (age)" (Matthew 28:18-20). Even on the day of Pentecost when believing Jews were told to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 39), as we have before pointed out, Peter said, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off (GENTILES), even as many as the Lord our God shall call (everyone, anyone)." The promise, the same plan of salvation is for everyone—not one for the Jew and

THE CHRISTIAN ADVANCED IN YEARS

*You tell me I am getting old:
I tell you that's not so!
The "house" I live in is worn out,
And that, of course, I know.
It's been in use a long, long while;
It's weathered many a gale.
I'm really not surprised you think
It's getting somewhat frail.*

*The color's changing on the roof;
The window's getting dim,
The wall's a bit transparent
And looking rather thin.
The foundation's not so steady
As once it used to be.
My house is getting shaky,
But my "house" isn't me!*

*My few short years can't make me old;
I feel I'm in my youth.
Eternity lies just ahead,
A life of joy and truth.
I'm going to live for ever there;
Life will go on—it's grand!
You tell me I am getting old?
You just don't understand!*

*The dweller in my little "house"
Is young and bright and gay,
Just starting on a life to last
Throughout eternal day.
You only see the outside,
Which is all you can see:
You tell me I am getting old?
You've mixed my "house" with me!*

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

another for Gentiles.

• *The Philippian jailor (Acts 16:31).* (Under this we will give a direct quotation from our booklet, "Objections to the Necessity of Baptism Answered"). "A pagan Philippian jailor cried out in Acts 16 to Paul and Silas, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house' (Acts 16:31). People have told me this proved that 'faith only' was all that is necessary to salvation, and that this verse excluded baptism. It is strange how such people throw the Bible against itself.

"We hereby point out that repentance is not included in this answer to the Philippian jailor either. Do these people who reject baptism believe that repentance is essential to salvation? Yes, they do, and this writer surely does! But repentance is not mentioned in this verse. If we used this verse to exclude baptism, it would also exclude repentance. One must be consistent.

"The truth of the matter is that no verse of Scripture can mean any less than what it says, but there can be more truth in the light of other Scripture. Also, we must get the whole picture here. They were talking to an outright heathen. He had to be first introduced to this person the Lord Jesus Christ; then they would take things up from there. The verses that follow Acts 16:31 are very revealing. Listen: 'And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them *the same hour of the night*, and washed their stripes, and *was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*' It is evident that he repented. And, yes, they got around to baptism. He was baptized the 'same hour of the night' and 'straightway.' Baptism must have been important.

"As you study the book of Acts you will find that some people were told to 'believe,' others to 'repent and be baptized,' while still another was told simply to be 'baptized.' What is the explanation of this? It is quite simple. They were at different stages in their conversion. It was useless to tell the man who already believed to believe. He was told to repent and be baptized. For the one who had repented, the command was not to repent, but to be baptized. It is very simple, isn't it?"

WE TRUST these many comments on this subject have been helpful. Take all of God's Word for what it says. It is a strange faith that demands we believe in a person but then tell us not to believe everything he says. But, remember, our acceptance of what the New Testament says about baptism is in the framework of grace. It is not a work of human righteousness, regardless of what the denominationalists may say, but the accepting of the blood of Christ (his righteousness) to take away our sins. It is the final act of faith and surrender in the new birth. The Holy Spirit has been the active agent when we heard the Word, believed in Christ, repented of our sins, and then were baptized into Christ. As Peter said, again, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:22, 23). Remember Acts 2:38 and all the other parallel verses. How plain.

2

WE ARE in receipt of what is more of an attack upon our leaflet, "A Question About the Sabbath," than it is an inquiry. It is several pages long so space will not permit us to print it here. The criticism is actually answered in

the leaflet that is being criticized, if the critic would but see it. But it is possible, as Jesus said, having eyes we see not.

Let us emphasize again that *the sabbath was given to the Jews (Israelites) at Mt. Sinai as a sign between them and their God* (Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:10-12). It was not a covenant made with man before that time (Deuteronomy 5:2, 3, 15; Nehemiah 9:13). The context, as well as direct statement, shows that God is talking to the Jews, and how anyone could get the Gentiles included I don't know.

To further stress that the sabbath was given to a certain people at a certain time and a certain place, let us point out the following information. The sabbath was the seventh day of the week (Saturday), which God instructed the Jews to observe from evening to evening, from sunset to sunset (Leviticus 23:32; Nehemiah 13:19). This writer has been in Israel, and even in our day when the sabbath approached with the going down of the sun on what we call Friday, the shops were closed and the business pace was brought to a halt. The sabbath is from the beginning of what we call Friday night, and it ends with the beginning of what we call Saturday night. Because of the shortening of days in winter and the lengthening of them in summer, the actual time of the beginning and ending of the sabbath would vary. Then for a person living in northern Canada, at certain times of the year (summer) there would be not sunset, no evening—as the sun shines continuously. The Jewish sabbath could not fit into this context, using the Scriptural bounds; thus showing us that the sabbath was meant for a particular people at a particular place on the globe where it could be kept legally.

If a person does not keep the clear distinction between the Old Testament and the New Testament before him, he cannot rightly divide the Word of truth (II Timothy 2:15). Christ is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament Law, and now he is our justification. If the Lord wants us to observe any teaching as part of the New Testament it will be found in the New Testament. The Old Testament ended at the cross, and the New Testament came in force only when Jesus died (Hebrews 9:15-17). Paul taught that if we seek to be justified by the Law of Moses we are "fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4).

3

A QUESTION concerning reincarnation has been received. For one believing the Bible that is not hard to answer. Listen to Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men ONCE TO DIE, but after this the judgment." Reincarnation is a part of various oriental religions as well as witchcraft. Witchcraft is hit hard in Deuteronomy 18:9-12 and other places, as well as in the New Testament. It seems that in this doctrine man's spirit comes back many times to go through the life cycle and death to be purified for higher realms in the life beyond each time. That doctrine is one the devil would like for everyone to believe. The Bible tells us we have only one appointment to die and then comes the judgment. If the devil can get people to believe this doctrine of reincarnation, they will become careless. They will think they will have many "go arounds" to get their life straightened out. That way they will die in their sins and face God unprepared in judgment.

John the Baptist was not a reincarnation of the prophet Elijah, as some would have us believe. Malachi in the last Old Testament book said that before the day of the Lord

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Elijah would come (Malachi 4:5,6). The angel, foretelling the birth and life of John the Baptist, said, "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias (Elijah), to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). Speaking of John, Jesus said, "And if ye will receive it, this is Elias (Elijah), which was for to come" (Matthew 11:14). John was not a reincarnation of Elijah, but he came in the spirit and power of Elijah. Elijah was a great reformer, calling the people back to the ways of God. John the Baptist did the same work. His message was one of repentance, as he got a people ready for the Christ. □

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ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED?

THE BIBLE does not teach the doctrine variously known as "eternal security," the "impossibility of apostasy," or "once saved always saved." This doctrine is like the teaching of those who say there is no hell—it may comfort those who believe it, but all who accept it are nevertheless deceived.

Instead of teaching the impossibility of apostasy, or falling, the Bible teaches that a child of God can so sin as to be lost in hell.

The Bible teaches some have fallen. Simon of Samaria fell (Acts 8:13-24). This man "believed and was baptized" (v. 13), and was therefore saved according to the promise of Christ in Mark 16:16. But Simon later fell into sin (v. 21-23) and the apostle Peter warned him that he was in danger of destruction (v. 20). The Galatian Christians who attempted to be justified by the law of Moses fell (Galatians 5:1-4), and the false teachers condemned by Peter had fallen (II Peter 2:20-22).

The Bible teaches anyone can fall. Paul warned in I Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." In Hebrews the inspired writer warned, "Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." This warning is addressed to "brethren," and they are warned against "departing" from God.

The Bible teaches some will fall. In II Thessalonians 2:3,4, it is declared that there will come a "falling away" before Christ returns. And in I Timothy 4:1, the Holy Spirit expressly foretold "that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith."

The Bible does not teach "once saved, always saved." This doctrine is of the devil and was first presented by Satan in the garden of Eden when "the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). It is the devil who originated the idea that people can disobey the commands of God without dying spiritually. Those who teach that a child of God cannot so sin as to be lost are following the teaching of Satan.—David Watts □

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WHEN DOES A FARMER CEASE BEING A FARMER?

LET'S SAY that farmer Jones attends all the farmer's co-op meetings, that he even brings visitors with him occasionally, and that he pays his co-op dues regularly. But let's also say that farmer Jones stops plowing his soil, stops planting seed, stops all cultivation, and stops harvesting. When he ceases doing all these things, he stops

being a farmer because he has stopped doing the things that identify him as a farmer.

Let's apply the same line of reasoning to a Christian. Let's say that he continues to attend all the church meetings, that he occasionally brings others with him to the meetings, and that he regularly pays his "dues." But if he stops praying at home, stops studying the Bible, and stops living a Christian life before others, then as surely as the farmer ceased being a farmer when he quit farming, so has this one ceased being a Christian when he quit doing the things that identify him as a Christian.—Selected

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REGARDING ATTENDANCE

Some who would, couldn't.
Some who could, wouldn't.
Those who would and could, did.
But those who could and didn't,
backslid! (DID YOU?)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

QUESTIONS OVER II THESSALONIANS

1. Give two reasons why we believe II Thessalonians was written very shortly after I Thessalonians.
2. What three main things would you say that Paul brings out (emphasizes) in II Thessalonians?
3. Jesus will come from heaven with his holy angels "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that _____ not God, and that _____ not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."
4. "Who shall be punished with _____ destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."
5. In the second chapter Paul said that Jesus wouldn't come from heaven until what happened?
6. This situation (having reference to # 5) would last until the second coming of Christ. (1) True; (2) False.
7. "...Because they received not the love of the _____ that they might be saved, and for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a _____ : that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."
8. What were they (at Thessalonica) to do with every brother that walked disorderly and not after the tradition received from Paul?
9. What was one of the reasons Paul worked while he was at Thessalonica? (1) He had to completely support himself for no one helped him; (2) He wanted to set the Thessalonians an example; (3) A good business opportunity opened up.
10. "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not _____, neither should he _____."
11. "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him that he may be _____."
12. They were to count such a person as an enemy and "wash their hands" of him. (1) True; (2) False.
13. Paul dictated his letters (epistles), but always signed them with his own hand. (1) True; (2) False.
14. "The _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen."

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

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SIPPING



"Saints"

By GARY FLOM — P. O. Box 1061, Torrington, Wyoming 82240

"WINE IS a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

This nation is fast becoming a society of too many intoxicated citizens. Drinking of alcohol is our nation's number one problem in terms of accidents, lives, rehabilitation, family problems, mental problems, money, etc. Millions of people, young and old, male and female have been seduced by this idol. It has become fashionable to drink. Everywhere you go today there is booze, the grocery store, the restaurant, the airlines, the drug store, the service station. It's a big money item and is being pushed, peddled, and pawned off on a society that is looking for excitement or escape.

"Be not among winebibbers..." (Proverbs 23:20).

The real tragedy is that some who name the name of Christ and are members of the Lord's church, have answered the "call" and are now drinking. I call them "sipping saints" because that is how it all begins, one sip at a time. I have placed "saints" in quotations because the idea of a saint that is one separated from the world (holy), living a life dedicated to God's people compatible with the idea of "drinking alcoholic beverages."

"And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine are in their feasts; but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands" (Isaiah 5:12).

The Prophet Isaiah has a message for all those who would indulge in sipping with sinners. It's that the work of the saints will be left undone.

"Wine and new wine take away the heart..." (Hosea 4:11)

This suggests that sipping "saints" have divided hearts. Don't say it cannot happen to me, when the Bible says that drinking will draw our hearts away from God.

"It is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes strong drink, lest they forget the law..." (Proverbs 31:4, 5).

Christians today lay claim to being "kings and priests" unto the Lord. What was true of the physical kings is equally true for those who are spiritual kings and priests. Drinking has the tendency to make a person forget. As servants of God we dare not forget the law of God.

Here is an interesting letter written in defense of drinking at home:

"We are good church-going Christians. We love the Lord, and we see nothing at all wrong with serving wine in our home. We drink moderately, and our children are learning to drink under supervision. They do not overindulge. We have never seen anyone drunk in our home. You are simply trying to make us feel guilty and are pushing your fundamentalist morals on us. We were not raised under the legalistic taboos like you evidently were. Frankly, sir, our drinking habits are none of your concern."

Frankly, it is my concern. It becomes my concern when the teenagers of this family go out with their friends and get stoned. Converted alcoholics have told how they became drunkards. Some tell of being taught to drink moderately at home by their parents. How many times has a counselor heard: "My parents were considered good Christians. They went to church. But we always served wine or beer at our house. My big brother drank moderately and he was my hero. I drank to be like my parents and big brother, but I couldn't handle it. But they made me think drinking was the thing all good people do."

"But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones which believe on me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6, 7).

Am I prejudiced? Narrow-minded on this subject? You bet I am! And I have good reason to be. What kind of an example are drinking "Christians" setting for young people today? This nation is now facing a plague of drinking among teenagers. Drunkenness is spreading in our schools like a wildfire out of control. Kids have told me that as many as 80% of their class not only drink, but get stone drunk. We face the possibility of having over one million young alcoholics next year. Teenagers drink because they think alcohol won't "waste" them like drugs. Besides it's legal and so easy to get. Not only that, but "everyone is doing it." Everywhere you see teenagers getting stoned, they are saying: "No cops, no parents, no politicians can hassle us now, because they are all doing it too." The "sipping saint" places one more stumbling block in the way of these teenagers.

I don't want to get involved in that age-old argument about the Bible and fermented wine as opposed to grape juice. But the more I see of these bombed-out, broken-down hopelessly drunken young people, the more I am convinced that Jesus didn't mock that crowd at Cana's wedding feast with the same stuff that is destroying our youth today. Christ came to fulfill the law! The law says, "Wine is a mocker... whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Was Christ deceived? Would he have served a drink that would have led to a man leaving a feast drunken, to beat up his wife? And in court that man is asked, "How did you get so drunk?" And the convicted man answers, "I went to a wedding feast. Jesus of Nazareth served up a really strong

(Continued on Next Page)

SIPPING "SAINTS"

(Continued from Last Page)

drink. He got me drunk." I can't conceive that Jesus would mock that crowd and serve a drink that could have been abused if taken immoderately. I believe that Jesus served the pure juice of the vine, a punch so full of nature's true blend, that it was a unique and welcomed change.

"Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things" (Proverbs 23:29-33).

The real issue is not whether or not the New Testament refers to fermented wine or grape juice. The real issue is the abuse of it that is prevalent today. Social drinking opens the door for all sorts of permissiveness. Look around and notice the so-called "Christian discos," featuring beer drinking and dancing to "Gospel Rock." Rocking, rolling, drinking "Christians"! It's time judgment were called for on this matter! It's time all drinking "Christians" were challenged to be "holy as I am holy." It's time for the Holy Spirit to expose the looseness, the slaphappy "anything goes" attitude. If it's wrong for converted alcoholics and addicts and prostitutes to drink, even moderately, then it is deadly wrong for mature Christians to drink and set a poor example for them.

I am getting weary and spiritually indignant when drinking "Christians" come back at me with "Aw, you are just a legalist. It is our liberty to drink." Such a statement offends everything in me that yearns for godliness and holiness. It offends every young convert whom God has convicted of past drinking habits. I refuse to give in to the mounting pressures of worldliness in the disguise of spiritual freedom! What has happened to us, saints of God, when we can sit idly by and not rebuke the fast eroding morals in the house of God? I believe in the imputed righteousness of Christ, but I also believe the holiness of God demands that we "touch not that which is unclean." Sipping "saints" are a reproach to the name and power of God!

At times, The Devil would want me to think: "Maybe you're the one who is wrong. Maybe these new Christians who rock, roll, smoke, drink, and who dress and paint themselves after the fashion of the world, maybe they have seen something in God I haven't yet seen. Maybe all these fast changes aren't compromises, but a sign of maturity and growth. Maybe I am too old-fashioned. Maybe I'm just out of it, and cannot recognize some new things God is doing." But then I begin to compare the "rocky" sounds of their music with the old songs like "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Holy, Holy, Holy," and it makes me cry! I look at them going back into those smoke-filled clubs and I am reminded of the millions of God's people over the centuries who were martyrs for the faith because they refused to join in with the world. They forsook the world and all its associations for the reproach of Christ and I begin to weep for those compromising Christians. Then I know I am not wrong. If you are one of those "sipping saints," don't get mad at me so that the truth of God cannot work in your heart. If you find yourself resenting this message of separation, look closely and see if God has already convicted you of your need to "come out from among them and be ye separate." Let's pray that God would have a mighty revival

among us, and that it would begin in our own hearts. □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

EVER SINCE Jesus asked His disciples the question, "Who do people say that I am?" (Mark 8:27), various answers have been given. Some answers have met with Christ's approval, such as Peter's: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Other answers failed to recognize the full identity of Christ, such as that of some Jews: "He is a good man" (John 7:12). Toward the latter part of the first century, some were teaching a Christ who did not come in the flesh (II John 7; cf. I John 4:2, 3).

Today many answers are set forth which fail to recognize the Lord Jesus in all of His splendor and majesty. What are some of these answers given today?

MORMONISM: Jesus is the spirit brother of Satan and of billions of other spirit children of a deified man named Elohim (God) and one of his deified heavenly wives.

"JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES": Jesus was Michael the archangel who came to earth, becoming merely a man and was later raised to be a spirit son of God the Father.

"CHRISTIAN SCIENCE": Jesus, the offspring of Mary's self-conscious communion with God, was the ideal truth and the Divine idea.

ARMSTRONG: Jesus was "Jehovah" of the Old Testament, becoming merely a man on earth, and was raised as a divine spirit being to be God, a position to which all obedient men will eventually be elevated.

SPIRITUALISM: Jesus, a medium of high order, was not divine and is now an advanced spirit of the sixth sphere.

EASTERN MYSTICISM: Christ was one of a long line of "Masters" who taught divine truth to men and who are recognized as "divine."

PROTESTANT LIBERALISM: Jesus was the natural son of Mary who went about as a Jewish teacher and shared the message of love to the masses. Killed as a martyr by the establishment, His body was never resurrected.

Such answers to the question "Who is Jesus?" could be multiplied. But the real question is "Who is Jesus to you?" Is He the Creator (Colossians 1:16), the Son of God (Matthew 16:16), come in the flesh (John 1:14), crucified for our sins (I Corinthians 15:3), raised bodily from the grave (I Corinthians 15:4), ascended to the Father (Mark 16:19), the very radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature (Hebrews 1:3); who will return in power (II Thessalonians 1:7ff) to be confessed as Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11)?

Who is Jesus to YOU? — True Discipleship □

BROKEN THINGS

GOD USES broken things. For example take Gideon's pitchers which were broken in order that light might come forth. Many a heart has been broken so that light could shine forth from it in more clarity and power than ever before. "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart..." (Psalms 34:18). Indeed all who fall upon the stone SHALL be broken (Matthew 21:44). However, the greatest broken thing that God ever used was the broken body of Christ. His body was broken in order that His blood might be shed and our redemption made secure! Christ accomplished more in His death than He did in his life on earth. God uses broken things.—copied

"IS THE EARTH BILLIONS OF YEARS OLD?"



"IS THE EARTH Billions of Years Old?" Editorial by Dr. Maurice Dametz in *Christian Victory* magazine, July-August, 1978.

To this question the several hundred members of the Bible-Science Association and the Creation Research Society say "NO." The fact is that the earth cannot possibly be even 20,000 years old, and is more likely no more than 6,000 to 8,000 years old. This is a time period which fits in with the (seeming) Bible chronology. Of course, it does not fit in with the wild guesses of evolutionists.

Many so-called scientists are obsessed with dating. Geophysicists now say that the earth is about 4.7 billion years old. The biology textbooks and encyclopedias have been confidently saying that man evolved about a million years ago; now, since the fossil discoveries in East Africa, they are saying that man lived back as far as 3.5 million years ago. These dates are faulty, wild and unscientific. If man had his beginning a million years ago the earth would have become overcrowded with people.

In his book, *Biblical Cosmology and Modern Science*, Dr. Henry Morris presents a formula on population growth.

To achieve the present world population within 4,500 years, the approximate amount of time since the flood, only 2.4 children per family would be required, and 43 years to a generation.

To postulate earth's population beginning one million years ago is ridiculous. The earth could not contain the people. One million years would require 28,600 generations, producing a population of 10500 (TEN followed by 500 zeroes) Actually, not even 10 100 (TEN followed by 100 zeroes) people could be crammed into the entire universe, certainly not the earth.

The geologic strata and time scale are totally unreliable in determining dates. There are ever-so-many places where the so-called oldest strata are on top. There are also many gaps where strata are missing.

Dr. Harold Slusher of the Institute for Creation Research points out that the influx of meteoric dust into the atmosphere of the earth and moon indicate a life-time of only a few thousand years. It has been determined that over 14,000,000 tons of meteoric dust settles to the surface of the earth each year.

If the earth were five billion years old—as the evolutionists claim—the entire globe would be covered with a layer of meteoric dust fifty-four feet deep.

The space scientists worried about making a landing on the moon—they thought it would be a soft landing, and treacherous, but we now know that the layer there is not 54 feet deep, but only one-eighth of an inch.

The oceans would be expected to yield vast amounts of nickel, since nickel forms a major part of meteorites. Yet the actual amount of the element found in sea water indicates an accumulation period of only a few thousand years, rather than millions and billions.

Another point is the decay of magnetism. There is now a scientific dating system which dates the earth as less than 15,000 years. Scientists have brought to light the fact that earth's magnetism is decaying.

Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, Professor of physics at the University of Texas at El Paso and a consultant to Globe Universal Sciences, Inc., points out that the earth's magnetic field has a half-life, or loses half of its strength every 1,400 years. This means that 1,400 years ago the magnetic field was twice as strong as now, and so on. The earth's magnetic moment as at present only 37 percent as strong as it was in the days of Christ. From the magnetic field as electric current flows

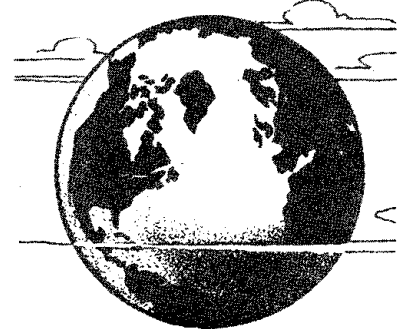
through the core of the earth it uses energy and produces heat. The present energy loss is 8.13 million watts. The rate of decay is so rapid that the earth cannot be more than 15,000 years old. This is the latest scientific observation.

Robert L. Whitelaw, Professor of Nuclear and Mechanical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, has pointed out that the Carbon-14 content of the atmosphere has not, as evolutionists assume, been constant over the centuries, but rather building up. The rate of building up is about 20 percent over its decay rate. It is calculated that the time during which Carbon-14 has been accumulating in the atmosphere in order to reach its present level has been less than 16,000 years. Professor Whitelaw, after calculating all factors involved, has arrived at the actual date which he assigns for creation, which is about 7,000 years ago.

The rock-dating methods which are most commonly used are Uranium decay and Potassium-Argon methods, but both of these have been proven faulty and unreliable in cases where the actual age of rock formations is known from history. In one case, lava rocks which were known to have been formed in 1800 and 1801 in Hukalai, Hawaii, show an age of 160 million years by the Potassium-Argon method. *Science* magazine, issue of October 11, 1968, reports dates of 12 to 21 million years for volcanic rocks known to be less than 200 years old. There are numerous other reports showing the unreliability of the dating methods.

The scientific "proofs" formerly used to establish an immense age for the earth, including Uranium-Lead, Potassium-Argon, and Rubidium-Strontium, are showing many flaws and weaknesses, while proofs for a young age are increasing. (Via Words of Life) □

(NOTE: We presented the fore-going article so we could more fully realize there is another side to the story in reference to determining the age of the earth, etc., which we are not exposed to in the newspapers and other public sources of information).



INSIDE OR OUTSIDE

INSCRIBED on the gray walls of an English prison are the fitting words: "Cease to do evil; learn to do well."

Obvious words of wisdom; there is only one problem. The inscription is outside the wall, the prisoners inside!

Just the opposite situation exists in the church today. We have a great message within our fellowship, the good news...the GOSPEL. But we need to get the message outside the walls of our church buildings.

We can talk about, preach about, study about, and pray about soul winning within our church buildings. But this can never take the place of personal contact with the unsaved people.

When we "witness," it is important that we be spiritually right. It is just as important that we be physically right in contact with the unsaved where they are.

This requires knocking on doors and speaking face to face with unsaved friends as we "witness."

The sign on the prison had no effect on the prisoners, for they never saw it. The great GOSPEL message within the church building will have no effect on those outside if they never hear it. — *The Pillar* □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SATAN IS SO CLEVER! BUT WE OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER! DECEIVING IS HIS GAME!!!

THE PLANT *Darlingstonia* has a sadistic nature. It induces insects by a nectar-like secretion to enter a hooded compartment at the top of the leaf. The entrance is from the underside of the hooded section. When the insect wishes to leave, it flies upward toward transparent light patches that look like openings. Thus it beats itself to death in frantic but vain efforts to escape.

What a parable of Satan's lures! He traps the unwary soul by the nectar of temptation; but the dupe finds himself in a prison from which there is no escape—except, of course, through Christ. Sin is as deceptive as the devil himself.

The common redfish, averaging three-quarters of a pound, until recently was thrown away when taken in nets in ocean fishing. Then some bright salesman thought up the idea of presenting it to the public as "ocean perch"—and now 200 million pounds of it are sold annually!

Satan takes an old moth-eaten Hindu philosophy and renames it "Christian Science" and it sells. He gets some modern scientists to promote an old Greek theory, hoary with age, and palms it off on the unthinking as "evolution." Unitarianism was not going so well, so a new system of the same was devised, with many side-dishes and vagaries of thought and doctrine and named "Jehovah's Witnesses" and millions swallow it without considering its source. Deception is the trick of Satan, but earnest truth seekers, who sincerely desire to know and do God's will, sooner or later find that it is JESUS CHRIST, as simply presented in the Word of God, who is the Way, the Truth and the life.

—*Gering Trailway* □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

A COUPLE wished to be married following the Sunday sermon. At the proper moment the preacher said, "Will those who wish to be united in the holy bond of matrimony please come forward." Thereupon thirteen women and one man proceeded to the front. —*Copied* □

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"IT'S HARD TO BE A CHRISTIAN"

"IT IS HARD to be a Christian" is an often heard statement, an often expressed conviction, an often repeated excuse and an often implied fact.

It is quite true, it is hard to be a Christian; but it is a thousand times harder to be anything else.

It is hard to be a Christian, but an average sinner has all the temptations, trials, anxieties, worries, toments, and fears which a Christian can have, and then a thousand more that the Christian never has.

Then the Christian has an unlimited supply of light, knowledge, truth, sympathy, love and hope, which the sinner does not have.

Yes, it is hard to be a Christian, but it is a thousand times harder to be anything else. — *Selected* □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OVER II THESSALONIANS

1. The same people send greetings, and the situation & subjects dealt with are similar; 2. (1) The second coming of Christ; (2) The falling away from the true church; (3) The problem of idleness; 3. II Thess. 1:8; 4. II Thess. 1:9; 5. II Thess. 2:1-4; 6. True; 7. II Thess. 2:10-12; 8. II Thess. 3:6; 9. (2) He wanted to set the Thessalonians an example; 10. II Thess. 3:10; 11. II Thess. 3:14; 12. False; 13. True; 14. II Thess. 3:18.

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Lessons From A Flock Of Geese

SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered the secret of the great strength of the Canadian geese in their long flights. Some flocks fly from Hudson Bay to the Midwest at a powerful 70 miles per hour, nonstop. Together, co-operating as a flock in a V-shaped formation, wingtip to wingtip, none misses a stroke. They are able to fly a 71% longer range than when a solitary goose tries to make it. The lead goose cuts a swath through the air resistance and creates a helping uplift for the two birds behind him. Each bird rotates as the lead. In this manner the tired ones fan out to the edges of the "V" for a rest and the rested ones go toward the point of the "V" to the lead of the flock.

Scientists think the incessant honking is a way the stronger ones lend encouragement to the weaker ones. If a goose becomes exhausted or ill and has to drop out of the flight, a stronger member of the flock will follow the weak one to his resting place and stay with him until he is well enough to fly again. This is a valuable lesson to Christians. Just as geese can go farther and accomplish more by flying "in a family," we, with the support of fellow Christians and friends who care for us, go farther in the Lord's work than we could go alone.

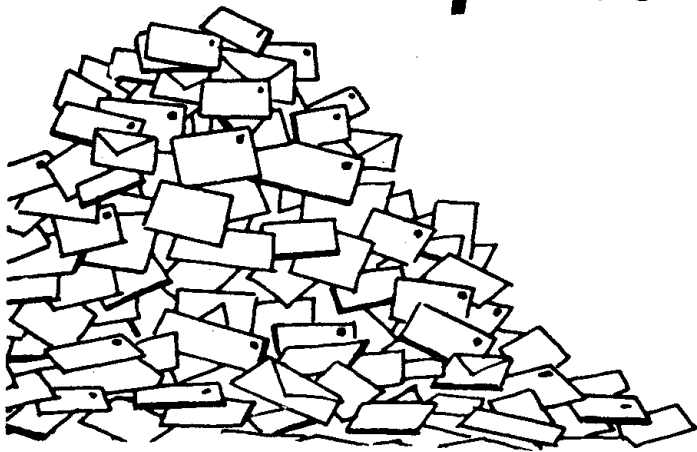
If I "fly" in the "family," the church, I will never fly alone, neither feel rejected or ignored. Another will support me, and my efforts will help other members of the church.

The lesson of the geese adds strength to the conclusion that "if we help others, we are helping ourselves." In serving and giving of ourselves, we ourselves are lifted up and helped along. On one occasion Jesus' disciples were arguing over which one of them would be the greatest in the kingdom. Jesus' reply was short and sure. He indicated that one's care of others is the measure of one's greatness (Luke 9:48). — *Author Unknown* □

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READERS'

... Response



TENNESSEE:

■ "No more SWORD AND STAFF."

WEST VIRGINIA:

■ "You have a beautiful paper, and I hope your influence in this world grows because of the truths you are presenting."

PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "Ever since I received my first copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF I have thoroughly enjoyed and profited by it. I believe I renewed my subscription at one time, but I'm not certain."

"At any rate, I've been just plain negligent about renewing since then, putting it off 'til later. Well, it's much later now, so I'm enclosing my check for . . . to cover all unpaid back issues, with some to spare. I'll really make an earnest effort to renew promptly in the future."

OHIO:

■ "Enclosed you will find a donation for a subscription. Also I have been getting double (2) SWORD AND STAFF each mailing. Please check and take off one as I only give one away occasionally. I don't know how I got on your mailing list twice. . . .

"I have enjoyed your paper very much and have noticed you stick with basic proven Biblical truths and do not engage in any debatables. I admire this very much. Keep up the good work."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We have tried to figure out how people get on the mailing list twice. Perhaps this has come about several ways, but we have concluded one thing. Some people send the "clip out/fill-in coupon on the back with their money. We rightly assume they are subscribing when actually they are renewing their subscriptions. Thus, they get on the mailing list twice. If you are renewing, please signify).

■ "I am very sorry to be so long in sending my renewal. I want to keep on receiving your wonderful magazine. We have helped start four new 'churches of Christ' in the last ten years and some of your articles have been such a help in my witnessing to others. Keep up your splendid work and the Lord will provide. . . ."

ARKANSAS:

■ "I appreciate your material. It has been a big help to me in understanding more about the Bible. It makes me aware

of what's happened in many areas. I am very thankful to you for all the material I have received from you."

MISSOURI:

■ "Find enclosed check for THE SWORD AND STAFF. We learn a lot from your magazine. We always pass them on to neighbors and friends."

NEBRASKA:

■ "I have been receiving THE SWORD AND STAFF for about four years and enjoy the messages in them very much. Enclosed is a money order for my negligence to paying for what I received for the four years or so. . . . I thank you for your patience, kindness and most of all for Christ coming into my life, that I may have this want in me, to read good, good literature."

NEVADA:

■ "It was a real thrill to have in my mail the sample copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF. And, of course, I immediately read your editorial and then the account of the tour by bro. Gerringswald. I have completed my own day by day account record so this copy will become a part of my own scrap book. Thanks so much!

"A small check is enclosed to help with your good work. I so much appreciated meeting and being with each Christian on our memorable trip which is truly a real historic event in our lives. What an opportunity we were blessed to receive."

AUSTRALIA:

■ "...I also wish to place on record my appreciation for the publications forwarded out as these have been very helpful in my ministry in New South Wales."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

GIMIC OR MIMIC?

- by Joe Grana

BARNUM AND BAILEY found the secret of gathering a huge crowd: a spectacular three-ring circus. In an age of moral decline the church is tempted to gather a crowd with the same technique. As a result gimics and spectacular services are advertized to lure people to see the "Freaks" much like the circus alligator man. The problem is that those at such a "church" service can be much like the crowd at the circus. They disperse with no sense of unity while awaiting a more sensational act to draw them back again. Such a process is much like addiction, it takes more and more to satisfy.

For God's people to stoop to handing out balloons, having a secret seat on the bus to win five dollars, and egg throws at the Devil just to get people to come to church is a disgrace to the Gospel! Is the Good News so weak that we must resort to Madison Avenue tactics to captivate people? We must be ashamed of the Gospel story! Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel: It is the power of God for salvation. . . ." (Romans 1:16, RSV). Furthermore, Jesus said, "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will

(Continued on Next Page)

TO COLLEGE LIBRARIES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS: Copies of this paper are sent on a complimentary and exchange basis to you. —The Editor



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.
- ☐ What Must I Do to Be Saved?—6¢ each.
- ☐ 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¢.
- ☐ His Church is Marching On (Song on sheet with glue on back to stick in back of hymnbooks)—5¢ each.
- ☐ I Saw Him Standing There (or The Old Gospel Preacher)—FREE.
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GIMIC OR MIMIC?

(Continued from Last Page)

draw all men to myself" (John 12:32, RSV). Jesus is the attraction Himself! He will draw men to Him when presented with sincerity, and love.

Paul proclaimed a message of Christ crucified which is still a stumbling block to some and folly to others, but he realized that there was no other gospel. Twentieth century Christians need to adhere to the exhortation of I Corinthians 11:1, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." The word "imitate" is literally, "mimic." The church needs not gimics, but mimics of Christ. Then our crowds will have a sense of identification and in the long run will be larger and more spectacular (in God's sight—EDITOR). □

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 □

EXPLAINATION

BI-MONTHLY FOR A YEAR or SIX ISSUES: Our aim has been to put this publication out bi-monthly, but it has not always worked out that way. In the event you do not receive it bi-monthly, your subscription will be up for renewal after you have received six issues.

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