# Sword and Staff

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

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

# Excavating IN OLD JERUSALEM

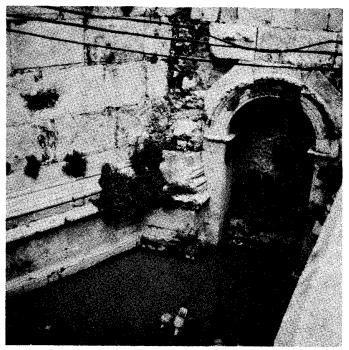
By JAMES E. GIBBONS — 1535 Fairfield Drive Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

EXCAVATING has to do with Archaeology. Archaeology is a rather recently evolved branch of science which studies ancient peoples and their civilizations by digging up buried cities, buildings, and tombs. This science had its beginning in the last century more on the level of robbing tombs in the search for hidden treasure and relic hunting for prized items to be placed in museums and personal collections of individuals. Although very crude in its beginning, Archaeology has become quite sophisticated and through the examination of pottery, art styles, and other artifacts (and even through the study of deposited plant pollen, etc.), they are able to a great extent accurately date the ruins that are dug up and give us other valuable information about the ancient past.

In the lands of the Bible the excavation of many ancient cities has taken place. Biblical cities have been destroyed by war, earthquake and various other causes later to be rebuilt and destroyed again. From the study of the Bible, Archaeologists know about the former existence of such cities and approximately where they should be found. Then the very appearance of the land may hint that a city, a building or something unusual has been there at one time. As the cities were destroyed and rebuilt, the layers of rubble and debris formed artifical hills and even mountains, which are called *tells* (*tell* literally meaning hill).

In taking a tour of Bible lands today many tells representing many ancient Biblical cities can be seen. This writer has had the privilege of personally viewing many of these tells. To name a few in Palestine, in the southern part of Israel we have seen tells of Jericho, Beersheba, Lachish, and Gath. More to the central part of the land we have looked upon the tells of Shechem, Samaria, and Dothan. Then traveling north a little further, we have had the opportunity of seeing the tells of Megiddo, Bethshan, and Hazor. (This is to mention a few).

Much could be said by way of interest and profitable information about each place, but let us briefly limit ourselves to Bethshan. The ruins of Bethshan are located about 14 miles south of the Sea of Galilee where the valley coming in from the west joins the Jordan valley. This tell was excavated by the University of Pennsylvania many



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

decades ago. Amazingly, 18 stratified layers were found, representing thousands of years and many times of devastation and rebuilding, and going back to about 3,500 B.C.

Perhaps Asia Minor (modern Turkey), site of the seven churches in Asia of the book of Revelation, has the greater number of untouched *tells* and buried cities of Bible lands. Those that we saw were certainly impressive.

One may ask: Why excavate these ancient cities of Bible times? The excavations CONFIRM and ENLIGHTEN in reference to many things related to the Bible. At one time unbelievers scoffed and said that places mentioned in the Bible never existed. They don't do this anymore. Archaeology is uncovering and indentifying one city right after another. And, relics, artifacts, and even ancient writings have been unearthed which throw additional light on the customs and everyday lives of ancient peoples (giving us a greater depth and dimension of comprehension

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# Proverbially SPEAKING...

Evangelism that is method oriented, and not message oriented, will be dependent on the method for survival and not the message.

"If men but persuade themselves that they shall die like the beasts, they soon will live like beasts too."

Sin is of such a nature that one act of sin nullifies all righteousness (as far as guilt is concerned), but one act of righteousness does not nullify sin (the grace and forgiveness of God is needed).

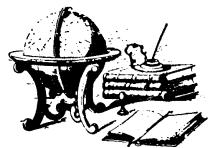
"The word WORSHIP is a shortened form of the old word WORTHSHIP, which means showing God the worth He holds in your life."

Sometimes the preaching we like the least is what we need the most.

"There is a law of diminishing returns in leisure as well as productivity: The less one has to do, the less time one finds to do it in."

The person who does as he pleases all of the time does not please himself all of the time (and certainly not God).

"True courage is like a kite, a contrary wind raises it higher."



# EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

### **BIBLE LANDS TOUR—THERE IS STILL TIME!**

THE BIBLE LANDS TOUR is just around the corner—November 24 through December 4 of this year. But there is still plenty of time for you to sign up for this great experience of a life-time. This exciting tour will take in EGYPT and ISRAEL, with MT. SINAI as an optional feature. Why don't you make plans to go with us? Write for exact details and information about getting ready for the trip. You will be glad that you went. If you would like to call, instead of write, our telephone number is (919) 789-1044.

### EDITORIAL By-Ways

### CHEAP AND UNSPIRITUAL DENOMINATIONAL TACTICS

SOMETIME AGO I bought a used station wagon from a local denominational preacher. In the process of my dealing with him, discussion arose concerning his "bus ministry." I asked him how things were going, and in telling me, he related an experience. Some children which they were carrying to their services were enticed to switch buses to go to another church (same denomination with an even bigger fleet of buses) with the gift of CANDY. By giving them candy, the other people got them to change buses and go to their church. This also reminded me of what I had read earlier in the newspaper. Two denominational preachers (of the same denomination) of a neighboring city were in court. They had been involved in a fist fight. One accused the other of stealing his "sheep."

In our crazy mixed up religious world today such unspiritual tactics are not uncommon. Such a practice (as the use of candy) is only one of many seemingly unending, unspiritual denominational schemes (shoddy schemes) that are being used today. The mere opening of Pandora's box is to be overwhelmed by one unspiritual gimmick right after another. That which is supposed to be the Lord's house devoted to the dignity of spiritual purposes in the worship of the MOST HIGH GOD OF HEAVEN becomes a silly carnival and a three ringed circus. Fleshly entertainment, unspiritual motivation, and flippant levity displace real religion and make their appeal to the worldly and the unregenerate. Hay, stubble and wood are being built on the foundation instead of gold, silver, and precious stones (I Corinthians 3:11-17).

Sometime ago I got a letter from a lady who was very (Continued on Page 6)

### **EXCAVATING IN OLD JERUSALEM**

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as we read the Biblical narratives involving real-life people).

In this article we are talking about "EXCAVATING IN OLD JERUSALEM," which we will get into a little more fully in a few minutes. We are first introduced to Jerusalem in the Bible away back in the times of Abraham—he paid tithes to Melchisedec, king of Salem and priest of the most high God. Over 1,000 years later David captured the city from the Jebusites and made it his capital. Although Jerusalem is a city whose name means peace, it has known more than its share of war and destruction. In fact, not even considering the Old Testament period, it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times since the time of Christ on earth (Remember Jesus foretold of its destruction in Matthew 24, which was accomplished under the leadership of the Roman general Titus in 70 A.D.).

We understand the level of the New Testament city of Jerusalem is about 100 feet below the present city of Je-It is hard for Archaeologists to excavate the ancient ruins of Jerusalem because the present city, which is very much alive with people, covers most of the site of the ancient city. It seems that only the southern tip of the city, which is below the temple area, is really accessable for much excavation. But in spite of this, a few things have been uncovered. Some of the ancient wall of the city has been identified. The temple area has been ascertained with the "wailing wall" (which buttressed the platform area of the temple) beside it. The sealed eastern gate and excavated Herodian gate can be seen. The pool of Siloam has been unearthed, which connects with Hezekiah's tunnel. In a deep excavated hole what is said to be the pool of Bethesda can be seen. Wide, massive steps leading up to the temple area have been made bare. This is to name some of the limited work of Archaeologists in Jerusalem.

But in this article we would like to think about another Jerusalem. We read in Hebrews 12:22 and 23, "But ye are come to mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." For purposes of this article, when we talk about "EXCAVATING IN OLD JERUSALEM," we are speaking about spiritual Jerusalem, the church, and in particular the church of the first century. Let us get out our tools and start digging. Let us find out important things about this city. Being faithful and committed "Archaeologists," perhaps we can find the lengths and bounds of this city, the kind of buildings that were in it, and the nature of its inhabitants—whatever we can find out. In the process of doing this we will confirm and be enlightened.

### I. A CAREFUL EXCAVATION IS NEEDED.

It is our conviction that the church of the New Testament, as established by Christ and revealed by the Holy Spirit to his apostles, is the way the Lord wanted it. That celestial city among men, the kingdom of heaven on earth

(the church), was/is divine in origin and nature, and men do not have the right to change things to please themselves.

But a departure from the true church is everywhere prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures. Paul soberly warned the Ephesian elders that even of their own number men would arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:28-32). And, then, the Thessalonians were mistakenly expecting an early return of Christ from heaven. Yes, Christ most assuredly was coming back to receive his own unto himself, but certain things must transpire first. A falling away from the true church would come, and a religious person called the "man of sin" would be revealed (II Thessalonians 2). This same apostasy is hinted at in I Timothy 4. This apostasy did come with the dark ages in the development of Catholicism and the rise of human denominationalism. The city of God largely fell into disarray for a time, going into eclipse.

Today (in one sense) it is hard to distinguish the bounds of this ancient city. The traditional man-made rubbish of nearly 2,000 years must be removed before we can locate the original boundry, before we can view the glorious overall plan the Lord had for this city, and before we can rebuild and restore its walls. And, like literal Jerusalem of today, excavating is made hard because of an admixture of strange people "occupying" the city—or, at least, what would appear to be an occupation of the city. A great mixture of denominational voices can be heard telling us that the bounds are here and that the bounds are there. Talk about confusion! Instead of coming to Jerusalem, it is more like coming to Babel!

Therefore, we must dig a little deeper into the Bible. To cope with the problem of apostasy Paul directed the Ephesian elders to the Word of God (Acts 20:32). Thus if we wish to return and restore the ancient city as God wants it, we need to get back to the Word. To combat erosion and departure, Paul urged Timothy to "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2). Guided by what we find in the Word of God, let us throw aside the rubbish of human opinion and remove the stratified layers of human traditions and doctrines of men to get back to the simple, yet glorious, pattern the Lord has for his church.

### II. CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION OF THIS CITY

We are pleased at this point in prodding the outlying perimeter of the ancient city. As our excavation has gotten under way, and in full sway, we are able to distinguish the actual bed-rock foundation of the city. Jesus declared in Matthew 16:18, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." A close examination of the context of this Scripture, and the meaning of its words, will disclose that the bed-rock foundation on which the church was to be built is the truth of the confession just made, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (16:16). On the first Jewish Pentecost after after the resurrection of Christ when the church was actually established, Peter concluded his great message by saving, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly. that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Paul's attestation to this truth is found in I Corinthians 3:11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

And, in another sense, inspired men are laid in the foundation with Christ. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:20 that Christians "are built upon the foundation of the apostles

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### **EXCAVATING IN OLD JERUSALEM**

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and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." We (the church and spiritual Jerusalem) are built upon the apostles and prophets in the sense that their inspired word is what we believe and that on which we stand. Their divinely inspired Words are our guidebook (Ephesians 3:5; II Timothy 3:16,17). Woe be to the person who would change or pervert the gospel of Christ on which we stand (Galatians 1:8).

Our excavating shows that Jerusalem was/is built on a sure and sound foundation, the Rock of Ages, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). No pope or other usurping counterfeits, man-made creeds, or denominational systems can ever replace Christ. When we get away from the diety and authority of Christ, when we no longer respect the Word of the inspired writers. we might as well forget about it...we will never be able to rediscover and recover the church as it was in the first century. If we do not accept the diety of Christ, we are of all men most miserable (I Corinthians 15:17-19; Mark 16:16). If we do not accept the Spirit-inspired Word, we may still be religious...but we are religious only in the sense that we are religious fakes. But, praise the Lord, the foundation of old Jerusalem is sure and steadfast, tried and true, and the truthfulness of it will stand forever.

### III. THE STRUCTURE OF THE CITY

### Oneness of the City

It is an obvious fact as we dig into God's Word that there is only one city (one Jerusalem). Jesus said, "I will build MY CHURCH." The whole plan for this city, its structure and everything related to it calls for ONENESS. "There is ONE BODY, and ONE SPIRIT, even as ye are called in ONE HOPE of your calling; ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD AND FATHER of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Denominationalism stands in opposition and is in violation of everything that characterized the original city as ONE.

### One Gate to the City

Certain identifying marks in reference to the structure and boundry of the city begin to appear. We see the one gate which enters through the massive walls into the city. Unlike the physical city of antiquity and today, which had many gates into the city (they have had various names in Bible times, and today such gates as St. Stephen's gate, the sealed Golden gate, the Zion gate, the Dung gate, the the Joppa gate, the Damascus gate, etc., may be seen), spiritual Jerusalem (the church) had/has only ONE GATE... one entrance (all came in the same way). On the day Peter opened the doors of the kingdom when the church was established, enquiring sinners were told to repent and be baptized by the authority of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). These words follow: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (In other words, all who come to God must come this way; all who become Christians become Christians this way; all who enter the kingdom enter the kingdom this way). When 3,000 responded to this, they were added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:41,47)... they entered the city of God (so to speak). I Corinthians 12:13 tells us that we are baptized into ONE BODY (also, notice Galatians 3:27). This is how we enter Christ, his church. If we try to go up the walls, or try to enter any other way besides Christ (and what he has said), we are

the same as a thief and robber (John 10:1). Let us enter through the ONE GATE into the ONE CITY. Surely we have found it.

### Salvation Inside the Walls

And, although men have changed many things, through a careful study of God's Word the bounds of the walls of the city also begin to appear. Ancient cities were built upon mountains or hills and enclosed by massive walls for the safety of the people. The evil report the Israelite spies gave Moses as to how hard it would be for them to take the promised land included reference to the fenced (walled) cities. The present city of Jerusalem today is surrounded by walls which average about forty feet in height.

An interesting account is found in Ezekiel 33:1-6 concerning the watchman on the walls of the city (and applied to the prophet). He was to be on the lookout for invading armies. He was to blow the trumpet to warn the people so they could take refuge behind the walls. If he saw the ''sword''coming upon the land, and he didn't warn the people, then the blood of the people would be required at his hands. However, if he blew the trumpet to let the people know, and they wouldn't heed the warning, their blood would be upon their own head. There was safety and salvation to be found behind the high, protective walls of the city. Sometimes they could hold out for years against an invading army.

Here is a spiritual lesson for us in reference to the spiritual city of Jerusalem, the church. Salvation is to be found within its ranks. You cannot be saved outside the church of Jesus Christ. In fact, the same thing that saves you from your sins thereby puts you into Christ's church. Acts 20:28 speaks of "the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." The act of faith and obedience (repentance and baptism) which puts us into contact spiritually with the blood of Christ also puts us into the church. Ephesians 5:23 tells us that "Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." If you are not in the church you are not saved. In the true sense, salvation and "church membership" are the same thing.

### Walls as Boundry Lines

Not only are walls for protection and salvation, they serve as a boundry or dividing line. John said, "We know... the whole world lieth in wickedness" (darkness) (I John 5:19). We are likewise commanded by John to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him (I John 2:15-17). Paul voiced the Words of God when he wrote, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Corinthians 6:14-18). He had just before said that we were not to be "unequally yoked together" with the world. God wants a wall of separation between us and the world as far as evil is concerned. We are afraid that today not much of a wall exists (let alone separation). There is not much difference between professed Christians and the world. They think, talk, dress (undress) and act like people supposedly on the other side of the wall. They are entertained by the same worldliness, laugh at the same dirty jokes, and practice the same body-destroying habits. But we are to be, we MUST be, a HOLY (separate) people if we are to occupy the city of God here and hereafter. Let us rebuild the walls of Zion and not remove the ancient landmarks.

Certainly love should characterize those enclosed by the walls of this city (I John 3:14,15). This should be the dividing line between the world and the church. Out in the world it is "dog eat dog." It is "look out for number one," and get ahead at another's expense...selfishness rules men and nations. But this should not be so much as named among God's people. Jesus declared, "By this shall all

men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to pared for the people of God. In that heavenly city God will another" (John 13:35).

### Meeting Place of Its People

A further excavation of the city reveals the meeting place of its people. Acts 20:7 states that upon the first day of the week the disciples came together to have the Lord's supper. In Acts 2:42, also upon the first day of week (Pentecost), we find that "they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." The first century church not only met upon the first day of the week on a regular basis, they met at other times as the leadership saw expedient. Following that first Pentecost, as far as the starting of the church was concerned, they met daily for some time (Acts 2:46, etc.). Of the Gentile church started sometime later in Antioch of Syria, we read, "And it came to pass that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people' (Acts 11:26). Following the lead of the early church, the church today meets on the first day of every week to have the Lord's supper, worship, and for edification. Likewise following the example of the early church, the leadership today sees fit to schedule gospel meetings and such gatherings from time to time. In addition to this, the mid-week service become an important part of the life of the church. All is done for the glory of God, and we are admonished, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another..." (Hebrews 10:25).

### City Fashioned in Hope

It is very evident that occupants of this ancient city thought of themselves as citizens of the "kingdom of heaven." Everything they did was done with eternity in mind. Paul wrote, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Corinthians 5:1). They looked beyond this world to another: "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:16). Their dwelling in "old Jerusalem" down here prefigured one to come. Without attempting to get involved in the figurative language of that book of prophecy, read Revelation 21:1-4. John sees the holy city, new Jerusalem, pre-

# Jesus Christ the

not **WORD FOR PROFANITY** 

"THE LORD WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTLESS THAT TAKETH HIS NAME IN VAIN"

be with His people, and He "shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." What a blessed assurance this is!

AS WE CONCLUDE this article, let us say again that Archaeology is certainly an interesting and profitable field of study full of intrigue. Our minds are captivated as we literally dig into the past to learn about the times, places, and people. Biblical Archaeology is richly rewarding for any Bible student. A study of the ancient city of Jerusalem (the very throbbing heart of Bible lands' will richly enhance ones knowledge of the Bible. Jerusaiem is an object of much interest to Archaeologists. But for those who really wish to follow God's Word and restore the church of Christ among men, EXCAVATING IN OLD JERUSALEM (having reference to finding out about the early church) is even more thrilling. We trust that our little excursion (excursion only in the sense of a different approach) has been profitable in this respect. Let us never tire of digging into God's Word to find out and know just exactly what the early church was like or all about. Let us never tire or loose our zeal to remove the rubble of the ages as seen in denominationalism and traditionalism. This must be completely removed if we are to get back to the original church, Zion — the Jerusalem of God. Amen.

## Wrong Is Always Wrong

IN A PERIOD of loose and sagging morals, Satan provides many rationalizations for improper behavior. Those who would live faithful Christian lives must not be "ignorant" of his "devises" (II Corinthians 2:11). Wrong is always wrong despite our efforts to excuse our actions.

WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN IF YOU DON'T GETCAUGHT. Let us remember that "the eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:13).

WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN IF YOU DO IT FOR A GOOD CAUSE. The honorable purpose does not justify a dishonorable deed or action. The end never justifies the means. "All sin is transgression of the law" (I John 3:4; 5:17; II John 9).

WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN IF OTHERS ARE DOING WORSE THINGS. It will be of little comfort to you in the day of judgment if you should be lost, knowing that others did things which you considered to be worse than your sins. Remember, "The thought of sin is foolishness" (Proverbs 24:9).

WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN IF IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOUR CONSCIENCE. The conscience can be trained or educated to accept wrong-doing, and even an honest sin or evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of the holy God. "... What ever a man sows, that shall a man reap" (Galatians 6:7).

WRONG IS WRONG, EVEN IF IT IS COMMONLY CON-SIDERED ACCEPTABLE. The Bible says, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 32:2). The Christian should "enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, tum from it and pass away" (Proverbs 4:4,5). "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:21,22).

REMEMBER, THERE IS NEVER A RIGHT WAY TO DO A WRONG! —Pat McGee



much concerned about what was going on in the church where she attended. The local preacher was trying to increase the attendance, and he promised that if a certain number were in the services on a certain day he would preach from the top of the church building. And, it hasn't been too long ago that I read in the newspaper about a certain "Christian Church" preacher out in the Midwest. If I recall correctly, the one who brought the greatest number of people to the services was honored by being allowed to throw a pie into the preacher's face during the services.

Which reminds me of when I was younger in a different church setting (I confess my guilt and have long ago repented of it). Yes, it reminds me of the "break the record" attendance contest. An old phonograph record with the number of the record attendance of the church painted on it was placed at the front of the church. A drive was pushed to get more in attendance than was painted on the record. When the attendance record was broken, the phonograph record was broken... over the preacher's head! Then there were the contests between the "REDS" and the "BLUES." There were the sensational gimmicks used and prizes given during the "revival" meeting. One wondered what clown or comedian training school the "evangelist" had attended. You name it... Pandora's box was open.

Really, this whole concept of the gimmicks, contests, prizes, etc. was/is wrong. Unspiritual motivation is used to try to get something accomplished (?) spiritually. Christianity is a religion that demands that our motives be right. I am afraid that by offering a person a tangible, physical prize we are short-changing that person. The first part of Matthew 6 should make this clear. Jesus said of the scribes and Pharisees, "Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." What was their reward? They wanted the praise of men. They got the praise of men. The implication is that they got their reward now, and there was no reward hereafter. If we attend church to get an attendance pen, win a contest, etc., we have our reward. We may be short-changed in the long run. Our religious motivation is not for a physical, tangible, earthly prize or reward. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. NOW THEY DO IT TO OBTAIN A CORRUPTIBLE CROWN: BUT WE AN INCORRUPTIBLE" (I CORINTHIANS 9:24,25).

Jesus fed the hungry multitudes, not to get their attention or to motivate them to follow him by that means, but because there was a real need. However, when he got down to business later about things spiritual, it became obvious this was not their concern (John 6:31-69). In fact, many responded by saying, "This is a hard saying; who can hear it?" Our Lord further commented, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Then we read, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." If Jesus had been

like "religious" people today, he would have kept the physical attraction going to keep them coming, but he didn't. If we convert people on food, we will have to keep feeding them to keep them in church. If we get people to come to church because of fleshly sensationalism, entertainment or gimmick, we will have to keep it up if we want them to continue to come. The spiritual will not appeal to them just like it didn't to the multitudes Jesus fed.

How we need to give the people the proper motivation, and how they need to be properly motivated! Jesus declared, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). Paul, reviewing his work among the Corinthians, said, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). He urged the Romans, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). Again, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Corinthians 1:18). This is the true motivational power that brings people to salvation and makes real Christians out of them.

Yes, let us give people recognition and encouragement, but let it be spiritual in nature in keeping with the dignity of the New Testament. Yes, let us win souls to Christ—TO CHRIST! And, coupled with the right message, nothing works like work in getting the Lord's work done (work on the part of every member of the church—Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 8:4—this is the New Testament way). Short-cut methods will only bring short-cut results and detract from the dignity and respect due the gospel. GOD FORBID!

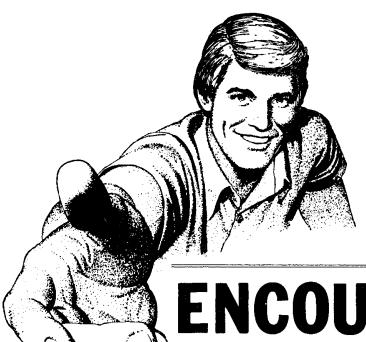
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# Lord, Use Me

To what avail have I lived my life
If I've held aloof from my neighbor's strife?
I might have loved and lifted up;
I might have sweetened the bitter cup;
I might have lightened another's load,
I might have shortened a weary road;
I might have staid the hopeless tears,
I might have eased the empty years;
I might have cared what another does,
I might have—but I didn't, for I was—
Too busy.

How much better for me to say,
Let me be spent in a fuller way;
Today, let me do the best I can
To ease the way for my fellow man.
Let me lend my strength to the sin-sick soul,
Let me mend the broken and make them whole,
Let me listen, and soothe the wayward heart,
Let me unite in love those drawn apart,
Let me brighten the lonely, sunset years;
Let me ease the ache and bitter tears—
Lord, use me.

—By ED HENRY



no sunshine.

Notice David, in I Samuel 30:1-6, because he is an encourager. The Bible says, "...but David encouraged himself in the Lord His God."

Two phrases are important here, first: "David encouraged himself..." Brethren, we can not give what we do not have, we can not sing a song we do not know. David did not ignore the difficulties he was in, nor did he encourage himself by considering his own greatness. Zig Ziglar has said, "Conceit is a weird disease, that makes everyone sick but the one that has it." David was not self centered, but was God centered. He wasn't about to throw in the towel, or run away, but sought encouragement.

Second, he sought his encouragement "in the Lord his God." "And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is within thee" Psalms 39:7.

The facts are that David and his men were away from their wives and children who were in Ziklag, and while

ENCOURAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 1949, Ben Hogan, the greatest professional golfer in history, was involved in a head-on collision with a bus in which he nearly lost his life. As a result of the accident he suffered a fractured pelvis, shoulder and ribs, a shattered ankle and extreme shock and later in the hospital he suffered from blood clots. Everyone had given him up for dead, but eventually he was up and learning to walk again. He fell time after time, but he refused to give up... until finally he made it one time around the block, but with great pain. Then he started putting, and practicing his golf strokes and in spite of the doubters, and the pain, he in 1950 entered the Los Angeles Open, which after 72 holes of golf, he lost to Sam Snead. However, in June 1950 he entered the U.S. Open Golf Tournament and won by four strokes. Ben Hogan was great to many because he refused to give up and because of his example, and encouragement, many that were handicapped went on to make themselves great, in spite of the handicap.

The word "encourage" means to "inspire with courage," to cheer, to rally, to hearten."

One who encourages literally "renovates the spiritual powers of another, and gives him strength to venture out, engenders boldness to withstand dangers, fears and difficulties."

To me there is no greater need for the church than to have brethren that can and will encourage. Truly this person renders a great service for he puts the heart back into the disheartened, lights candles that have been blown out or have been allowed to die out.

The discouraged man is a defeated man, a useless man, and it matters not if he is rich, powerful, and endowed with great ability...because a lack of courage will ultimately end in him loosing it all. Just as the man with one talent in Matthew 25:25, who went because of fear, and hid his talent in the ground.

Physically and spiritually, no other attitude does as much damage to us as individuals. It hurts our business, our health, our disposition and our outlook. We become wretched, restless, miserable, discontent, with no song,

they were away, the Amalekites came and burned the city and took all captives. Everyone was tired when they got home but all they found was a burnt city. The next scene is all the army of David crying until they can cry no more. Then they blame David, they want to stone him. Certainly David's military staff offered no help. David was alone in this. But David shows his strength in depending upon God, the source of strength, the ultimate Encourager.

Certainly we can benefit from David's life. Surely we can see we are not sufficient in and of ourselves, and that we need to depend on the power of God.

In spite of all difficulties, let's be like Paul, who in jail sang and prayed, who in the tempest trusted in God, Acts 27:25. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me," John 14:1.

Let's not allow anything nor anyone to shake our faith in God, realizing that He really is with us, unto the end of the world; therefore let's go with the gospel.

—By JACK EXUM, JR.

### **HEARING AS GOD HEARS**

A MAN ONCE DREAMED that he was in a fine, large church where many people were gathered. He saw people singing, but heard no sound. He saw the minister's lips moving, but heard no words. After a time, as the congregation rose for prayer, he heard only an older lady and a little child praying. He was puzzled and amazed. An angel came and stood by him to explain, "You have heard to-day as God hears," said he. "The singers were thinking about other things as they sang, and were not really praising God. The minister was watching his words that he might preach a sermon that sounded well. God did not hear them. Only the lady and the little child had feelings of love and reverence in their hearts for the Lord; only their words of praise and prayer reached the heavenly Father." Let us worship in spirit and in truth... Only such worship is true and acceptable.

--- Adapted

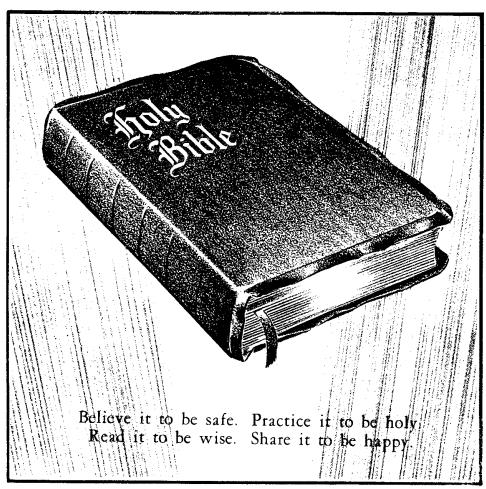
### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FALLEN

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works." (Rev. 2:5.)

These words contain the Lord's commands to the Ephesian church. He had just told it that it had left its first love (Rev. 2:4). It had departed from the love for Christ that had been instilled under the preaching of the apostle Paul (Acts 19). The honeymoon was over between it and Christ and its love had been permitted to wane and die. To restore that which had been lost, the Lord commanded the church to remember, repent, and return — do the first works. What was required of the Ephesian church is required of all who have moved away from Christ rather than closer to Him.

- 1. Remember. While it is certainly possible to fall away and be lost (Acts 8:18-24; Heb. 6:4-6), the Lord has graciously provided the means by which one can return to his first love. To do so, he must repent and pray (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9) — that is, he must return to the very point from which he fell. The prodigal son is a good example of this (Luke 15:11-24). He remembered his home, he repented or came to himself, and he returned to the father's house. Those who have fallen away from Christ should fondly remember what it was like to have Christ rule the heart, the excitement of the first days after conversion, the church and its good fellowship, the peace that passes all understanding, and the great joy of covenant relationship. No other motivational stimuli should be needed to induce one to return to the Father's house.
- 2. Repent. To repent is to change the mind about sin in such a way as to lead to a change of life it is a change of mind produced by godly sorrow which results in turning to Christ and away from evil. Young defines it as "To have another mind." Thayer says, "To change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins." The Ephesians were thus commanded to change their minds (which would result in a change of conduct) about leaving their first love. Repentance would return them to the place from which they had fallen.
- 3. **Return.** Or, in the words of Christ, "Do the first works." They were to return to doing what they were doing before they left their first love. The works involved every aspect of Christianity, evangelism, benevolence, edification, worship, and morality, the works in which every Christian should be engaged, the works revealed in the Scriptures, obedience to the will of God.

When a church, or an individual Christian, departs from the works outlined in the Christian system, that is, doing the will of God, there is only one solution, namely, remember, repent, and return — remember



the Father's love and mercy, repent or turn back to Him, and return to doing the first works.

Carolina Christian

### "IF ALL ELSE FAILS, READ THE INSTRUCTIONS"

THERE WAS this cartoon with a guy vainly attempting to assemble a piece of equipment he had bought—his appearance giving abundant evidence of confusion and failure. Beneath were the words: "If all else fails, read the instructions."

It just occurred to me that this is the way lots of folks try to get to heaven—by main-strength and awkwardness—a sort of trial and error approach. It never seems to occur to them that God has clearly marked the way. They seem to try it their way—rather than God's.

However, there is one big difference between trying to get to heaven while refusing to read the instructions and trying to assemble a piece of equipment without reading the instructions. A fellow just might by chance get a piece of equipment together without reading the instructions, but not so with what God has given us. One goes to heaven by reading and following God's directions or he does not go to heaven at all.

That is why you and I should read

the Bible every day and seek Divine guidance every step of the way. "It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). When we face the judgment it will be too late for us to profit by reading the instructions. That's final examination day.—Finley

# TV Mania In the first quarter of 1980, the average TV in the U.S.

1980, the average TV in the U.S was used 7 hours and 25 minutes per day—a record high.

In 1979, it was used for 6 hours and 28 minutes daily; and in 1969, 5 hours and 50 minutes per day.

Like it or not, TV has developed into an increasingly time-consuming factor in American life.

PARADE • JULY 27, 1980



# Do You Trust Your FEELINGS?



THE CHILD contentedly played on the bathroom floor while his mother busily cleaned the rest of the house. Some time later she searched for her child and found him dead on the floor. He had eaten a bottle of a dangerous drug—thinking it contained candy or vitamins.

The salesman turned onto the interstate highway and headed away from the city. It was a good day to travel and he settled back for a long trip. Twenty miles down the road his automobile began to sputter and soon stopped—he *felt* so prepared but he had forgotten to fill up with gasoline at the station.

Bill seldom was wrong, or so he believed. As he and Tom engaged in a friendly discussion on early American history, he made a definite statement about the date of the first permanent settlement on American soil. Tom disagreed. When Bill checked up later he discovered that he was wrong and Tom was correct—but Bill had felt so sure of his facts!

Yes, we can see how such instances could happen. They were so sure of their actions and information. They "felt" that they were right—but they were dead wrong! This shows the very real danger of trusting our own feelings.

Especially this danger is present in spiritual matters. Professing Christians have often fallen into an emphasis on feelings without realizing the critical danger of such an attitude. We hear someone say, "I felt led to go there." Or, "I felt the Lord wanted..." Or, "I think God will do..." Or simply, "It just felt so right!" The particular result may or may not be God's will or approved by God—but we must beware of coming to spiritual conclusions through our "feelings" alone.

One reason why "feelings" are an unreliable guide in life is that they can be a reflection of our desires. We may desire something (a position, a possession, an activity, a relationship, a certain goal) strong enough that our "feelings" say that such a desire is good and acceptable to God. This can be a form of self-deception.

Some years ago I wanted to proceed with a particular course of action with all my heart. I fervently wanted to purse this desired goal, but had a question about whether it was really God's will. I prayed about it, read about it, and spoke to as many Biblical "experts" as I could find over a number of months. I almost convinced myself that it was God's will.

Now as I look at the experience from a distance and with a degree of objectivity, I can see that it was a contest between my personal desires on the one hand, and the will of God on the other. My desire was so great that I began to deceive myself of the legitimacy of this pursuit, and I began to "feel" that it was right and of God! By the grace of God, my conscience was tender enough that I

never followed through with my desires, but this experience (and others) deeply etched on my heart the dangers of following our feelings apart from the definite guidance of God.

Consider a couple of experiences in the life of Jacob as outlined by Moses in the book of Genesis. After Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they dipped his tunic in goat's blood and brought it to their father Jacob. Jacob's immediate response was, "A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph has surely been tom to pieces" (Genesis 37:33). His feelings told him that Joseph was dead and he "mourned for his son many days" (v.34). But he was definitely wrong! Years later, when his sons revealed to him that Joseph was indeed alive and was a ruler in Egypt, "he did not believe them" (45:26). This time his "feelings" again were wrong—he could not believe that Joseph was alive and only later believed because of the overwhelming evidence (vy. 27.28).

Consider also an experience in Peter's life He was persuaded that he should never eat impure or unclean meats. He deeply felt that this prohibition was obligatory and to break these convictions would have been wrong. While upon a housetop in Joppa, he fell into a trance, seeing "all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air" (Acts 10:12). When the Lord told him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!" he responded by saying, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean" (vv. 13, 14). He thought it was so wrong to eat unclean foods that he disagreed with the Lord! The Lord replied, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy" (v. 15; cf. Mark 7:19). Here is another instance of "feelings" being unreliable.

The Scriptures repeatedly warn of the dangers of trusting one's own feelings: "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool," said Solomon (Proverbs 28:26a). In another place he said, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). Jeremiah agrees that one's feelings constitute an insufficient and unreliable guide: "I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself; nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps" (9:23). We cannot trust our own feelings, reasonings, intuition, or conscience (by itself).

Simply "feeling" that one should work for a particular company doesn't necessarily mean it would be God's will. "Feeling good" about marriage to a certain fellow doesn't mean it would be pleasing to the Lord. "Feeling led" to to move to a certain locality doesn't mean that God would approve. "Feeling right" about making a certain business decision doesn't mean that God's blessings would rest upon the decision. "Feeling at peace" about the decision to become part of a particular fellowship or "church" doesn't necessarily indicate God's will. In each case it MAY be God's will, but if the decision violated one or more of God's principles it was not His will regardless of how right one felt about it.

What, then, is a reliable guide in life? To this we must ask, WHO is the source of truth? God, in Christ, is our only source of spiritual truth. He alone is worthy of our confidence and trust: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING" (Proverbs 3.5). As the source of truth, He sent His Son to be truth embodied and expressed. Jesus affirmed, "I am ...the truth" (John 14:6).

As the source of truth, God moved men to proclaim "the message of truth" (Ephesians 1:13) that the lost might be born anew by "the word of truth" (James 1:18). We as believers are encouraged to handle "accurately the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15) and to be sanctified by the truth

(Continued on Next Page)

### DO YOU TRUST YOUR FEELINGS?

(Continued from Last Page)

which is God's Word (John 17:17). The Psalmist rightly declared, "The sum of Thy word is truth" (Psalms 119:160).

We will not always find precise and detailed instructions regarding every decision in life. However, we will find principles that relate to such dicisions and may be confident in applying such principles to our daily walk.

Instead of trusting our feelings, let us seek God's guidance in every matter. Let us diligently search His written Word for light along the pathway of life. Let us cry out to our Father: "O send out Thy light and Thy truth, LET THEM LEAD ME'' (Psalms 43:3a).

-RICHARD HOLLERMAN

### Mixed Swimming

I WAS REARED on the White River in Arkansas. I learned to swim when I was eight years old. I think swimming is one of the finest body building sports in which an individual can participate. We have an indoor swimming pool where I teach. The women use the pool at one time and the men use it at another.

In southern Arkansas, where we used to live, the community decided to build a swimming pool. I made a few remarks about it publicly. I said, "I am for it and I'll make a liberal donation to the building of it, if we can do two things. First, we'll put a fence around it Second, let the men go one time and the women go in a another time." Do you think I got to first base? I did not even get to bat! They wouldn't let me on the baseball field.

What is wrong with mixed swimming? I can't speak for the ladies, but I can speak for the men. There's not an ordinary man who can look at a woman clad in nothing but a bathing suit for a long time without entertaining evil thoughts, "But," some will say, "It does not bother me." One who says that may be so young his passions have not risen, or he may not be normal, or may be so old his passions have subsided, or may be so ignorant he doesn't know what is going on, or may be lying. He fits into one of these categories or he is a spiritual giant. But, spiritual giants don't spend their time at mixed swimming parties. I am doing my best to live right but I can't go to a swimming party and look at half naked women without entertaining evil thoughts. Fellows, I think the same applies to you.

In Gamby, Canada, the town fathers decided they would stop mixed swimming. That was in 1950. That year paid attendance dropped from an all time high of 4,086 to 1,651. When the parade of nudity stopped, many simply stopped going to the pool. - JIMMY ALLEN

### \* \* \* \* \* \* \* "YOU MAY NEVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN"

A SIGN in Yellowstone National Park reads: "Photograph as you go, you may never pass this way again." We often wish we had a picture, tape or record of passed occasions that we put off doing until a later time.

Too many are simply enduring the present in expectation of something better tomorrow. Ninety-four per cent a psychologist concluded are waiting to be married, waiting for a pay raise—waiting for that "miraculous something" which hopefully will turn up tomorrow.

Notice what can be done today:

### Tree of Bible Facts

THE Bible contains 3,566,480 letters, 733,693 words, 1,189 chapters and 66 books. The longest chapter is the 119th PSALM; the shortest (and middle) chapter is the 117th PSALM. The middle verse is the 8th of the 118th PSALM. The longest name is in the 8th chapter of ISAIAH. The word and occurs 46,277 times. The word LORD 1,855 times. The 37th chapter of ISAIAH and the 19th chapter of the second Book of KINGS are alike. The longest verse is the 9th of the 8th chapter of ESTHER; the shortest verse is the 35th of the 1st chapter of JOHN. In verses 11 and 14 of the 7th chapter of EZRA is the alphabet. The finest piece of reading is the the 26th chapter of ACTS. The name of God is not even mentioned in the Book of ESTHER. It contains knowledge, wis-

Thomas Hartwell Horne, British Biblical scholar, spent 17 years of intensified labor counting every verse, every word, and every letter of the King James Version of the Old and New Testaments for the purpose of compiling this tree full of Bible lore.

dom, holiness, and love.

and wisdom come a drop at a time. Psalms 1 tells of the happiness of the one who "walks" and "delights" in the Word of God as he meditates upon its truths.

- 2. Look for the beauty and good in each day. Making the best of a situation before it gets the best of you is sound advice.
- 3. Pass along kindness each day. "... And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another..." (Ephesians 4:32). Everyone appreciates a kind word, a kind letter, a kind compliment and kind treatment.—AIM

### \* \* \* \* \* \* MISSING OR FORSAKING

MISSING OR FORSAKING? One does not sin every time he MISSES the assembling of the church. He does sin when he FORSAKES.

To MISS is to fail to be present, which might be due to illness, unavoidable events, imprisonment unjustly, etc. To FORSAKE involves an act of WILL. Of course, in this case he also MISSES, but to FORSAKE is to CHOOSE to miss! Is it true that most absences, when examined, prove to be forsaking, and not just missing? You probably will experience a test of your own action by reading this. If your blood pressure rises and you yearn to "say something," Notice what can be done today:

it's a pretty good sign of FORSAKING. If otherwise, it could suggest MISSING. What was your diagnosis?—Selected

## READERS'



### ARIZONIA:

• "Please discontinue sending this magazine. I have no idea who started me receiving them."

#### CALIFORNIA:

- "I enjoy your paper; it contains a lot of food for thought especially for these worldly times when people are not too interested in serving their Lord. I wish you every success in your work."
- "Just thought!'d write a few lines to let you know! surely do get a great amount of good from your SWORD AND STAFF. Don't know who sent me the paper to begin with, but I am very thankful for it. I didn't realize that it had been so long since I sent any money. I'm sorry about that, will try to do better from now on."

### OREGON:

• "Thank you for hanging in there in spite of financial problems and various other devil-inspired troubles. You've had a consistently 'straight' paper over the years and I've looked forward to reading each copy. Can't say that about some publishers who know the truth, but don't stick to it... Thank you again for a well-done paper."

#### NEBRASKA:

"'Please cancel my subscription. We have our own church."

### MISSOURI:

"'Thank you for a very fine and informative Scriptural paper."

### MICHIGAN:

• "Praise God for your encouragement of those who desire to 'hold to the traditions just as they were delivered."

#### OHIO

- "Please find enclosed a check to continue my subscription. I like your paper as I believe you are publishing the truth which is badly needed today. We have a TV but do not watch it very much. Thanks for keeping me on your mailing list."
- "Please renew my subscription to THE SWORD AND STAFF. Thanks for sending-them even tho the renewal date has been four years. A great paper which does more good for many people. May you have many blessings as you continue this act of faith and dedication."
- "I'd like to say I really enjoy THE SWORD AND STAFF.

I pray God will bless the work you are doing for Him. I wish more churches would stand up and speak up for God's teachings like you do...It's good to be able to read Bible-related material (SWORD AND STAFF) in helping to remain strong in the faith. Keep up the good work and may God guide you."

### PENNSLYVANIA:

• "I thank God for men like you and brother Word. I'm glad that you take a solid stand for Christ. Brother, don't get discouraged.

"I'm a member of the...church...I would like to go to Bible college in the fall...But, brother, I can't find a true back-to-the-Bible college...So pray for me."

### WEST VIRGINIA:

• "I enjoy and appreciate your paper very much. It is one of a very few publications that are Scripturally sound."

### VIRGINIA:

"I would like to say it was so good to have you all up this way. It was all so good to have you bring the revival this year...Brother James, if you would I would like to get THE SWORD AND STAFF again. The last one was volume 18 number 2 for 1980 that I got. Would so like to start getting them back again. God bless you is my prayer always to you."

DEAR BROTHER: Thank you for your nice letter. No, you have not been removed from our mailing list. Your delay in receiving the paper simply reflects the problem that we have learned to live with. THE SWORD AND STAFF is supposed to go into the mail bi-monthly (every other month), but this is not frequently the case. Last year we mentioned that getting out a single issue of the paper cost something like \$1200 (and we have our own print shop). We do not get out another issue until all bills are paid involving the one that has gone into the mail (usually). We can only do what we can as we can under the conditons and circumstances (but we are still in there). We suggest that our readers renew their "subscriptions" upon the basis of the number of issues they receive (which normally they should receive during a year), and not necessarily upon an exact yearly basis. This is the only way we know to say to do to be fair. We are thankful for the gifts and subsidizing help of different brethren along. Pray for us. The publication is needed.—EDITOR.

### GEORGIA:

- "Please send all the bound volumes marked. We enjoy reading these great spiritual materials. They are a great help to our Bible study...We thank you again for such a great paper you publish."
- "I do appreciate THE SWORD AND STAFF and it's totally true teachings of Christ."

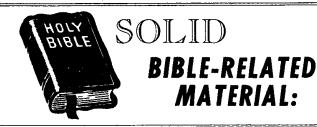
### THE CALF HAS NEVER YET BEEN SOLD

THE STORY is told that there was once a man who owned a calf. Each time he was approached by his creditors about a bill, he always promised to pay up "as soon as he sold his calf."

Now one Sunday morning this farmer decided to go to church. As he entered the doorway, the congregation was singing, "The Half Has Never Yet Been Told." But the farmer thought they were singing, "The Calf Has Never Yet Been Sold."

Friend, HOW ABOUT YOU? Are you putting off making things right in your life, so that the words of the preacher or even the songs seem to be directed straight at you?

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*



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

- □ 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.
- The Letter That Was Never Answered-6¢ each.
- ☐ Are You Sanctified?—3¢ each.
  ☐ The Origin of Religious Misunderstanding and False Teaching-5¢ each; 100 for \$4.00.
- Once in Grace, Always in Grace?—5¢ each; 100 for \$4.

  Every Sunday? (Shows the Scripturalness of having the Lord's Supper every Lord's day)—3¢ each.

  Sequel to the Lord's Supper "Every Sunday" (Answers
- objections to the weekly observance of the Lord's Supper)—3¢ each.
- The Last Broadcast—3¢ each (HALF PRICE).
- □ 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.
- □ Too Busy! 3¢ each.
- □ A Question About the Sabbath—2¢ each.
- □ I Saw Him Standing There (or The Old Gospel Preacher)
- ☐ How to Be Saved From Sin—FREE LEAFLETS.
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(NOTE: Since postage is so high, any help along that line will be appreciated).



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MANY who love the Word of God have discovered Treasure much to their liking when they bought the bound volumes of back issues of The Sword and Staff. Therein is to be found the much variegated treasure of sound gospel sermons, Bible ex-



positions, Bible questions, poetry, and just good spiritual reading. If you like this issue of The Sword and Staff, you will likewise be thrilled with the volumes in book form. Notice those available and place your order for good reading. Make them a part of your library and your life.

### EXPLAINATI

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.

DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION: No renewal notices are sent, but you will notice with your address there a month and year. This signifies the month and year you originally subscribed (or when you were re-entered). Use this date each year as a clue and cue to know when to renew your subscription.

THANK YOU -The Editor.

### "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"