

The Sword AND Staff

“Preach the Word” (II Timothy 4:2) • “Feed the Flock” (I Peter 5:2)

The Christian Adjective

—FIRST WRITTEN OVER 30 YEARS AGO—

By James E. Gibbons

THE THEME of this article is the “Christian Adjective.” It would seem to be foolish to try to describe the Christian religion in one word, one sentence, one page or any limited number of words. Yet, when we read the New Testament, when we make a comparison between the two testaments, or when we try to tell someone the difference between a Christian and a sinner, there is one word that keeps coming up. That word is the adjective “NEW.”

I. A NEW TESTAMENT

First there is the New Testament. As we open our Bibles we find them divided into two major parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each one was given to a particular people for a particular purpose. A lot of people stumble in their understanding of the Bible by disregarding this. The inspired apostle Paul admonished young Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). We may study the Bible all of the days of our lives and not understand it simply because we do not rightly divide the Word of Truth. One way of rightly dividing it, or handling it aright, is by making the proper distinction between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

We must realize that originally the Old Testament was given to the Jews and that it is not the final revelation of God to mankind. God gave the law to Moses from Mount Sinai for the Israelite people. This covenant or testament was not God’s final revelation. Jeremiah, one of the great Old Testament prophets, made this obvious: “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; Not according to

the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. . .” (Jeremiah 31:31,32). The writer of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament quotes this as applied to the Old and New Testaments (Hebrews 8 and 10). John 1:17 states, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” Colossians 2:14 shows us when the Old Testament was removed as no longer binding. It reads, “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.” Thus, when Christ died on the old rugged cross, the Old Testament was rendered invalid as no longer binding to be observed. Also Hebrews 9:16,17 makes it evident that this was the time the New Testament came into force. “For where testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”

The purpose of the Old Testament is clear. Looking back, the apostle Paul said, “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). In this same chapter verse 19, Paul asked a question about the purpose of the law: “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.” Hebrews 10:1 tells us that the law had “a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of things,” having reference to the coming New Testament age and all of its spiritual realities. So the law served as civil government, as well as

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Proverbially SPEAKING...

IF YOUR RELIGION doesn't work it doesn't work.

"Not what we get, but what we give, measures the worth of the life we live."

Time does not wash away sin, nor does it turn a lie into the truth (nor authenticate a false religion) in the sight of God.

"The only place that success comes before work is in the dictionary."

Truth is not just a monument but a movement (a living, vibrant verity, having bearing upon every facet of life).

"Prayer is the key of the day and the lock of the night."

For the Christian, faith cannot be separated from faithfulness.

"You are a backslider is you were ever closer to God than you are right now."

To live a useful and happy life stay alive as long as you live.

"You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair."

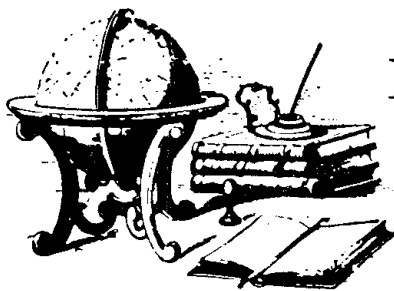
Hatred is like a strong acid in a weak container, only hurting the container.

"They who think that money will do anything many times will do anything for money."

Storms reveal the quality of the work of the builder.

"Everyone who gives his all to Christ gets all Christ has to give in return."

If a person is truly drawn to Christ, he will be drawn away from sin.



EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

"KNOW WHEN TO SAY WHEN"

THE BILLBOARD read, "KNOW WHEN TO SAY WHEN." Then in front of a mug it continued, "Drink Responsibly," followed by an indication that this was a "reminder" from a certain brewing company (hmmmm?). The bumper stickers which have been around for some time read, "PRIDE IN TOBACCO." A recent full page ad in a national magazine pictured Lech Walesa, popular and well-known Polish leader, as saying, "I've read your Bill of Rights a hundred times and I'll probably read it a hundred more before I die." The name of a well-known tobacco company follows.

There seems to be one common denominator to all of this. An air of responsibility and respectability (although artificial) is projected (and desired). The desire is subtly to influence public opinion in that direction. But where is the responsibility and the respectability? Recent criticism of billboards, nationally aired, was worded like this: "These ads are 24-hour pushers of legal drugs." And then of the said products: "The greatest causes of preventable death are alcohol and tobacco use." Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services, charges that smoking costs the nation \$52 billion a year. He also said: "Cigarettes are the only legal product that when used as intended causes death." C. Everett Koop, a former U.S. surgeon general, said recently, "Export of tobacco products is a moral outrage." It doesn't sound like much responsibility and respectability here!

Yes, the billboard read, "KNOW WHEN TO SAY WHEN. Drink Responsibly." How? We might ask. Like, perhaps, don't drink and drive. But the smart person, the truly responsible person, will not let the drink of any alcoholic beverage pass through his lips. Who needs it? If we don't take the first drink we won't have to worry about the second or the third (or that which follows). Starting with a series of short, prodding questions, the writer of the book of Proverbs then lets us "KNOW WHEN TO SAY WHEN": "Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contention? 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 upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Proverbs 23:29-32). Then Proverbs 20:1 gives us this timely warning, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

In the Bible the word wine is a pretty general word, ranging all the way from fresh grape juice (even the grapes on the vine are called this) to that which has been fermented with an alcoholic content. In II Kings 18:32 it speaks of "a land of corn and wine," wine meaning grapes even as corn simply means grain. II Chronicles 31:5 reads, "And as soon as the

commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly." All of this seems to point to the fresh produce from the field. In Isaiah 65:8 the juice still in the cluster of the grapes is called "wine." Even the immediate result from the so-called "winepress" is fresh grape juice, not hard wine. But with the passing of time the fermentation process would set in. Wine with an alcoholic content would be produced. That is when the writer of Proverbs said, "Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Then the statement is true: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

The following quotation from *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, Vol. I, page 376, is very interesting and informative:

Wine was the most intoxicating drink known in ancient times. All the wine was light wine, i.e. not fortified with extra alcohol. Concentrated alcohol was only known in the Middle Ages when the Arabs invented distillation ("alcohol" is an Arabic word) so what is now called liquor or strong drink (i.e. whiskey, gin, etc.) and the twenty percent fortified wines were unknown in Bible times. Beer was brewed by various methods, but its alcoholic content was light. The strength of natural wines is limited by two factors. The percentage of alcohol will be half of the percentage of the sugar in the juice. And if the alcoholic content is much above 10 to 11 percent, the yeast cells are killed and fermentation ceases. Probably ancient wines were 7-10 percent. Drunkenness therefore was of course an ancient curse, but alcoholicism was not as common or as severe as it is today. And in an agricultural age, its effects were less deadly than now. Still, even then it had its dangers and Proverbs 20:1 and 23:29-35 are emphatic in their warnings. To avoid the sin of drunkenness, mingling of wine with water was practiced. This dilution was specified by the Rabbis in New Testament times for the wine then customary at the Passover. The original Passover did not include wine (Deuteronomy 20:6).

"KNOW WHEN TO SAY WHEN." Listen to Proverbs 23:29-32, as well as Proverbs 20:1. And as another bumper sticker says: "BE SMART... DON'T START." Heed this slogan: "Just say 'no' to drugs. Never touch the stuff. Then you won't have to live to regret it. □

EDITORIAL

Byways

WHAT DOES THIS SCRIPTURE MEAN?
—I TIMOTHY 2:11-15—
(GOD HAS SPOKEN)
LOCALLY (and personally) I use Bible correspondence studies to teach interested people about the

LORD through the mail. When a person finishes the course, a follow-up usually is made with the personal presentation of a certificate of completion. An offer is made to be helpful if the student has further questions about his studies or the Bible. Then, having told the student that I have film strips that cover the Bible, I usually suggest that I would be very happy to show them to him at his convenience (usually one a week), if he so desires. The film help summarize the studies and in other ways is very helpful.

Bible Study Follow-up

A recent follow-up ended up in the local county jail. When this particular student had finished his last lesson, and as the lesson was being returned, I included a note that shortly I would personally deliver his certificate of completion (if that was all right with him). As it turned out (because of many things to be done), I was much delayed in taking the certificate (and then delayed again). In the meantime, I found out that the student was a prisoner in the county jail. Ensuing correspondence from him indicated that he was getting a little impatient and was wondering why he had not received his certificate. Were his grades not good enough? (Yes, they were good). Was it because he was in jail and that I didn't want to come to the jail? Was that it? (No, as I later reassured him, I had been in many jails before, trying to be of spiritual help to various prisoners; even many times in the Central Prison at Raleigh. . . and other states).

To shorten this part of the story, the local jailer was especially nice and cooperative in letting me personally present the certificate to my incarcerated Bible student (and I was well impressed with the young man under the circumstances). In private for about an hour we freely talked in a conference room. Before I left I told him that when the course was finished I usually made available the showing of the Bible film—would he like to see them? As he went back to his cell, I talked to the jailer. I explained the situation—would it be possible for me to come in one day a week and show the Bible film? Although very nice, at first he seemed hesitant, and then as if he had never seemed negative at all, he told me to come in any time that I wanted to. It would be all right for me to show the Bible film.

Called of the Lord?

The first film showing went well. The second week we were well into seeing the next one when suddenly the door of the room was abruptly opened. Through the open door a woman, perhaps in her 30's, stuck her head. Although she looked very much like Tammy Bakker (jewelry, eye makeup, et al), I thought this woman must be some jail official, a social worker, or perhaps even the lawyer of "my" student. So, out of deference to her, I said, "Do you need to talk to him?" I thought that surely some important matter must have come up for us to be interrupted this way. She said, "Yes, I do." I turned off the projector, turned on the lights, and then withdrew somewhat to one side of the room. As she began rapidly to talk, it turned out that she was a woman preacher who was visiting the jail. For some reason she kept saying that the Lord

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EDITORIAL *Byways*

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had called her to preach and saying the Lord had spoken to her (even that very day). She kept talking about all of the things she was doing. She gave me her card (on which was also the schedule of her radio broadcasts). She invited me to listen. After she was gone, we finally resumed our film showing.

All of the time that I was unexpectedly brought to look upon this woman, and to hear her repeated claims that the Lord called her to preach and that the Lord actually spoke to her, I Timothy 2:8-15 kept flashing before and across my mind. The Lord told the apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them "into ALL truth" (John 16:13; Ephesians 3:5). The Bible is the completed Word of God. God has spoken to us. Could a person actually believe (yea, be deluded into believing) that God had reversed himself and said something else? God cannot (and does not) lie. Regardless how sincerely expressed, what presumptuous claims and thoughts! And, as curiosity prompted me to tune in to the said broadcast, I was more than a little taken aback. The speaker came on the air quoting Luke 4:18, and obviously applying it to herself, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." I thought, "How presumptuous!" Here the Lord is quoting this prophecy from Isaiah 61:1,2, applying it to himself. He said, "This day is *this scripture fulfilled* in your ears" (Luke 4:21). How wreckless to apply this Scripture in any other way.

What About I Timothy 2:11-15?

Perhaps we need simply to take a good look at I Timothy 2:11-15. Some don't know these verses are in the Bible, and others who do, try to get around them one way or another. Here are the exact words: "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (Fittingly, I Corinthians 14:34 and 35 may be considered along with this).

This Scripture (and its obvious meaning) is very simple. Perhaps too simple. A person would have a hard time not understanding it (unless he wants to believe something else). The inspired apostle Paul says that a woman is not to teach or usurp authority over the man for two reasons: (1) "Adam was first formed, then Eve" (man was created first to be the leader); (2) Woman was the first to sin (taking the leadership upon herself). The forbidding of teaching and usurping authority over the man is in the context of the church. The epistle of I Timothy is sort of a preacher's manual about the public life of the church. Explaining one of the reasons why he was writing Timothy, Paul wrote in I Timothy 3:15, "But in case I am

delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth" (NASB). Then I Corinthians 14:34 said, "Let your women keep silence in the churches (assemblies): for it is not permitted unto them to speak (as the prophets were doing, 14:29-31). . ." "As in all churches of the saints" (14:33) ties in with this. this was a universal practice in the early days of the church.

MOTHERHOOD: HIGH CALLING, HIGH OFFICE



"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT." — PROV. 22:6

A Greek "Law"?

Many years ago in a religious college setting I experienced my first exposure to arguments of those trying to circumvent I Timothy 2:11-15 and I Corinthians 14:34 and 35 (and I have heard many since—and still do). The first argument that I ever heard was that it was just the customs of the time (and it was not proper for women to speak in public); that this does not apply to us today. Of the Scripture in I Corinthians 14:34, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak, but they are commanded to be under obedience (or submission), as also saith the law," one college official said that this had reference to a Greek "law" (or custom). Decorum demanded that they not violate that law. But does this refer to a Greek law (or custom)? Never is the word law so used in I Corinthians. Throughout I Corinthians Paul's reference to law is always to the law of Moses, i.e. the Old Testament (9:8,9,20; 14:21; 15:46), or to the law of Christ (7:39; 9:21). Paul summarizes that law in I Timothy 2:11-14, which we see has its foundation in the garden of Eden as recorded in the Old Testament (the law). Consider Genesis chapters 2 and 3 (and in particular, 3:16).

Paul a "Woman Hater"?

Through the years I have repeatedly heard the apostle Paul called a "woman hater." To the ones who have voiced such words the meaning of the Scripture is clear, but they are not ready to accept it. That's the whole point. So they find fault with the man behind it. One time while having a religious discussion with a Methodist minister's wife, I was told, "Paul was a good theologian, but I don't agree with him on everything" (!!!). As an example she brought out I Timothy 2:11-14. And the same old song, Paul was never married; Paul was a "woman hater." This was just biased opinion for he said, "But I suffer not a woman to teach. . ." To me this is highly presumptuous to talk about which Scripture we will or will not accept! We are talking about the Word of God. The whole point of Paul saying, "But I suffer not a woman to teach" has to do with authority. He speaks as an apostle. In I Timothy 1:1 he establishes and asserts his authority, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour and our Lord Jesus Christ. . ." This authority was behind the preacher Timothy and was to reinforce him in doing the Lord's work at Ephesus (1:3; etc.). In those days of spiritual gifts, Paul said, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (I Corinthians 14:37). Paul writes with the authority of an apostle guided by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:2-5). What he writes is the Word of God. Let us take heed to what he says.

A More Recent Argument

Various other arguments have been heard from time to time as people have tried to get around the obvious meaning of I Timothy 2:11-15, as well as I Corinthians 14:34 and 35, but more recent arguments have been a little more sophisticated. The world is bearing a lot of pressure upon the church. And the spirit of the age has so thoroughly permeated the minds of some today (woman's lib, et al) that they will never be satisfied until the church is fully remade in the image of the world. Although God has made us male and female, all stops must be pulled about sexual roles and differences.

One argument that we have recently heard has to do with the word "man" in I Timothy 2:12. The Greek behind this is *aner*, and it is pointed out that a few times this word is translated "husband" (trying to make it mean that here). Using their imagination, a problem is concocted at Ephesus involving the women teaching, but in some way not being under subjection to their husbands (even teaching false teaching). That is why they are forbidden to teach. But neither the context of the chapter, nor of the book, suggests this. *Aner* is used generally of a male human being, even unmarried men: John the Baptist (Mark 6:20); Jesus Christ (John 1:30; Acts 17:31); angels who took the form of men (Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10); the man lame from birth (Acts 3:2); the apostle Paul (Acts 9:13; 21:11; 22:3). *Aner* is used generally of a male human being in contrast with a female (Acts 4:4; 5:14; 9:2; I Corinthians 11:14), and only in a secondary sense of a husband in contrast with a wife (Matthew 1:16,19). Everything

in I Timothy 2:8-15 points to *aner* being used basically of the man (as a male) in contrast with the female generally speaking. The word *aner* is found in 2:8, leading into this about women not teaching over men, where Paul said, "I will therefore that *men* pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." This is in the context of 2:12, and if that means husband, then 2:8 means that only husbands are admonished to pray everywhere. Paul would be excluding himself. Is that what he means? Hardly. The male is put in contrast with the female as having the responsibility of leadership in the assembly. And 2:15 even makes this more emphatic: "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing (being a mother, homemaking), if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." This may not be welcomed teaching today, but the home is the realm of the woman's great responsibility (not the public leadership of the church).

Have no alarm. If we really want to serve the Lord, there is work for all. But it must be in the framework of the way God has set up things. Miriam spoke against Moses and ended up with leprosy (Numbers 12). Certainly women may teach children and young people in the context of the church and not violate the principle laid down in the Scriptures. Women are actually commanded to teach in Titus 2:3-5. The older women are to "teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Informally in everyday life all are to speak up for Jesus. All of us need to forget the fanfare and get to work for the Lord. □

"FRIEND"

Friend, I know you know how I care
For the laughter and tears we share;
When you're near I feel so confident,
Remembering this is what I meant.

Friend, As I look, your eyes are radiant;
Never covered with shame;
Together our hearts rejoice;
For we trust His Holy Name.

Friend, I'll never forget to remind
In the way we should go,
Keeping in touch to understand
The Things we have to do.

Friend, The obstacles in some circumstances
Make us stronger in times of trouble;
In struggling this may create consequences,
Showing that our friendship is noble.

Friend, Surely God will bring His unfailing love,
For He creates a pure heart and steadfast spirit;
He gives us life to move,
And what He has done will serve as profit.

—By Mary Christine A. Gonzales
The Philippines

The Christian Adjective

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religious, for the Jews (keeping man in check) until Christ would come. It was a "schoolmaster" to bring them and us to Christ when he did come. It contained "a shadow of good things to come" in its many symbols and prophecies. This shows the basic purpose of the Old Testament and its relationship to the New Testament.

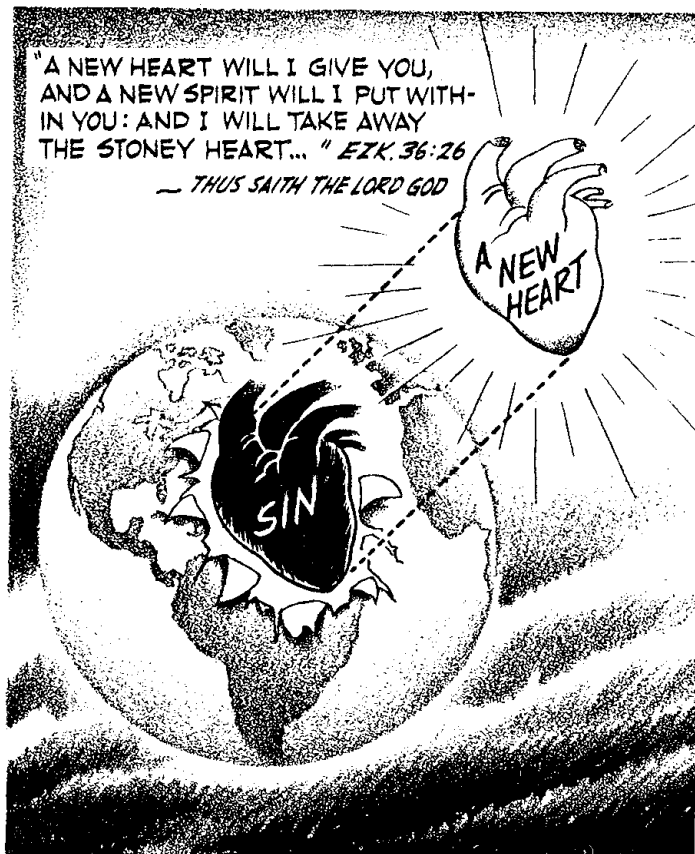
Oh, what a wonderful time today to be alive (II Corinthians 6:2)! What wonderful promises we enjoy living under the New Testament age! The scope of the New Testament is for all of mankind, which the Old Testament did not feature. Instead of a land flowing with milk and honey, we have a home that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for us. Instead of stress on temporal blessings, we have eternal and spiritual ones promised us. We are living in the age the prophets longed to see. We are living in the time of man's spiritual restoration to God through Christ—the relationship experienced by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden renewed. Certainly the adjective "NEW," applying to the New Testament, is a Christian adjective, and one for which we can thank God.

II. A NEW LIFE

Next, using the adjective in connection with another word, we have a NEW life. The troublesome old life of sin can be thrown off. We can have a new start, a new beginning. The new life takes in a lot of other new things. There must be a NEW birth, and there must be a NEW creature. Let us notice this new life.

Our Lord said to Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). This startled and puzzled Nicodemus, but a new birth was essential before a new life could be started. There must be a birth before there can be life, a new person—in this case a child of God! II Corinthians 5:17 emphasizes the great truth of this Christian adjective: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." One must be born again, be born of water and the Spirit, before he is a new creature. He must be in Christ before he is a new creature. Galatians 3:26 and 27 show how we get in Christ, how we become children of God: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." So, through faith (including repentance, Acts 2:38) and baptism we become children of God and get into Christ. Thus, we are new creatures. Realizing that faith and repentance comes before, notice what Paul says in Romans 6:4, "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." Oh, how that everyone needs to be born anew, become new creatures in Christ, and walk in newness of life!



The new life stands in contrast and contradiction to the old. We don't love the things of the world as we once did (I John 2:15-17). We love the Lord supremely, and our overriding desire is to do his good will. We heed the good advice given in the 12th chapter of Romans for living the new life. Paul admonished, "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. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (12:1,2). A Christian gives himself freely to the Lord. His life is spent for good now. He doesn't do the same old things that he once did. He doesn't run with the same old crowd that he once did. He doesn't go to many of the old places that he once did. He is different. He is a separate person not conformed to this sinful age in which we are living. He is risen with Christ now seeking those things that are above (Colossians 3).

III. A NEW COMMANDMENT

Finally, our Lord said to his disciples, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye

are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34,35). Here is that adjective “NEW” being used again in reference to what Christ calls a “NEW COMMANDMENT.” It was all about loving one another. Moses had commanded love in the Old Testament. But it had been neglected, misrepresented, and abused. They loved their neighbors, their friends, but hated their enemies. A lot of other things had covered the command. The command of Christ was new because of its depth. They were to love *as he had loved them*. Jesus stated, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:13,14). What a great love!

As we said, the thing that made the love of Christ a new commandment was its depth. In the sermon on the Mount, Christ stresses how the heart is connected with commandments of God. Outward legalistic observance of laws, as the Pharisees were doing, did not always involve the heart or come from the heart. John, the great apostle of love, declared, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” (I John 3:14,15). The lack of love in the heart, replaced by hate, is murder! Legalism would not say this. The new commandment of Christ must be kept. Paul says that we are nothing without love (I Corinthians 13).

The test of our love for God is brought out in two ways. (1) “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (2) Then again in the same book, 5:3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” So, by loving one another and keeping the commandments of God we prove our love to God. If we hate one another, and there are commands of God that we will not obey, we do not love God no matter how religious we may profess to be. Divine love demands, and prompts, obedience. It is not necessarily some silly, wishy-washy sentimentalism as masqueraded by compromisers.

Certainly this word “NEW” characterizes the Christian and the Christian religion. As we have pointed out, there is the New Testament, the new life, and the new commandment. We could go on. There are so many new things in connection with Christianity. Truly this is a Christian adjective. May we truly appreciate this and comply to its implications. □

BE THE FIRST to confess that you are in the wrong, and you will be the first to be in the right.

The Four Bodies

SOMEBODY, Everybody, Anybody and Nobody were neighbors. Odd people they were and hard to understand. The way some of them lived was a shame and Everybody knew it. For example, Somebody was gossiping about his neighbor and Everybody knew it was wrong. Anybody might have refused to listen but Nobody did. Anybody knew that Everybody was talking about Somebody.

All four belonged to the same Church. Everybody wanted to worship, but would not attend because he was not speaking to Somebody. Nobody was faithful to the church. Nobody gave. Nobody sang. Nobody visited. Nobody worked in the church. When they needed a Bible school teacher, Everybody thought that Somebody would do and Anybody thought that Somebody would do better than he—guess who finally did it? Nobody!

A fifth person, an Unbeliever, moved into the neighborhood. Everybody thought that Somebody would visit him. Anybody could have made an effort, but didn't. Do you know who finally won him to the Lord? That's right! Nobody!

This makes sense to nobody (and is confusing to everybody)!—*Selected* □

On Being Thankful

As an old man, Matthew Henry, author of an highly-represented commentary on the Bible, was once robbed. That night the elderly scholar entered the following in his diary:

Let me be thankful: First, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.

In adversity all of us have much more to be thankful for than we sometimes think. The old song holds good,

*Count your blessings, Name them one by one,
And it will surprise you, What the Lord hath done.*

—*Carolina Christian*

Tied to Old Habits

A DRUNKEN MAN entered his row boat one night to cross the river. He picked up the oars and began to row. He rowed all night but did not reach his destination. When daylight came, he was surprised to find that he was just where he started the night before. He had forgotten to untie the boat.

So it is with many of the Lord's professed followers. They are tied to their old habits, desires, wills, or some cherished idol or idols of the heart. Consequently, their lives are fruitless. Shorebound Christians never flourish and are of little or no help to others.—*Selected* □

Your Chance to Make a Difference

AS WE READ the Old Testament there is a peculiar point made about God's greatest leaders that is often overlooked—that is: their initial reluctance to respond to God's call.

Moses argued with God about going into Egypt to bring his people out of bondage. Moses' excuses were: (1) Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh? (I'm just a weak church member—I can't stand as a witness against the power of evil). (2) They will ask me "what is the name of the God that sent you?" (who do you think you are—speaking for God?). (3) What if they will not believe me or listen to me? (I don't want to be embarrassed when I invite people to church and they turn me down). (4) Please Lord, I have never been eloquent with words, I stutter! (I clam up when it comes to talking about spiritual things). (5) Lord, send someone else! (I want it done, but don't want to do it).

When God called Gideon to deliver Israel, his response was "O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh and I am the youngest in my father's house." God's response was simply "Surely I will be with you and you will defeat Midian as one man." In spite of this, Gideon requested a sign from the Lord as he put out a fleece. The Lord graciously honored his request. We may see ourselves as the least qualified to do anything, but with the promise that "I will be with you" we can "do all (any) things through Christ."

When Samuel was ready to anoint Saul as king over Israel, he was nowhere to be found. Upon making a search, they found him "hiding in the baggage." Too many Christians use the world's "baggage" in which to hide. We're busy with so many things we just don't have time to attend services, help out in projects, visit people in need, etc., etc.

God had to show Peter a vision from heaven three times before Peter was willing to go to the house of Cornelius. He was too busy being a good Jew to pay any attention to the Gentiles. Sometimes we get so busy being good "church members" that we don't have time to pay attention to the world about us.

What we're saying is: you have a chance to make a difference! God can and will use anyone—even you. You may not become a Moses or a Gideon, but maybe God doesn't need a Moses or a Gideon, He needs *you*—to do what you can do. You *can* make a difference—don't miss your chance.—*Harry Bowers* □

Following the Leader

IT IS SAID that President Coolidge once invited some out-of-town friends to dine at the White House. Being concerned with their table manners on such an occasion, they decided to simply imitate Mr. Coolidge, doing as he did. The meal passed rather smoothly until coffee was served and the President poured his into a saucer. The guests followed suit. When he then added sugar and cream, the visitors did likewise. Then Mr. Coolidge leaned over and placed his on the floor for the cat!

The world is full of followers, even in spiritual matters. But that's not bad if the leader himself is a follower of Jesus Christ. It is crucial that we learn to what extent we can follow anyone. Even the apostle Paul advised, "Be ye followers of me," but qualified his words with "even as I also follow Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). The friends of Mr. Collidge illustrate very well the folly of following someone unless we know where they are going. The epithet on the grave marker read: "As I am, so you must be; prepare my friend, to follow me." But someone very wisely added: "To follow you I'm not content, until I know which way you went."—*Selected* □

BIBLE QUESTIONS

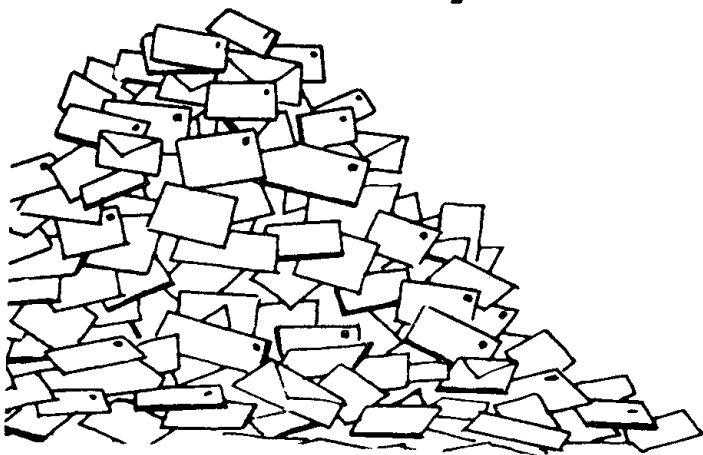
(over disciples in the N.T. Scriptures)

1. What does the word disciple actually mean?
2. What was Jesus called that shows his relationship to his followers as being disciples?
3. Who else in the New Testament Scriptures are said to have disciples (besides Jesus)?
4. What two disciples of John the Baptist followed Jesus and brought their brothers to him when John said, "Behold the Lamb of God"?
5. What did Jesus do the night before he picked the twelve disciples from among the others?
6. What groups of disciples (identify by number) were sent out on limited commissions by the Lord during his ministry?
7. From what three different perspectives does the Lord say a person "cannot be my disciple" unless the stated conditions are met (Luke 14:28-33)?
9. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him _____ himself, and take up his _____ daily, and _____ me." (KJV)
10. The aim of a disciple is to be like whom?
11. Jesus told some Jews who believed on him in Jerusalem that they would be his "disciples indeed" if they did what?
12. What did Jesus say in the gospel of John as to how all men would know they were his disciples?
13. Jesus said, "Herein is my Father glorified" and "so shall ye be my disciples" if they did what?
14. In what way does the apostle John seem to modestly refer to himself in the gospel account that he wrote?
15. What man involved with the burial of Jesus was said to have been a secret disciple of Jesus?
16. In the great commission when the Lord said to "teach all nations" (KJV), this actually means to do what?
17. How many disciples were in the upper room praying after Jesus went back to heaven?
18. After the solving of what problem in the early church at Jerusalem do we read, "And the word of God increased: and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith"?
19. Where were the disciples of Christ first called Christians?
20. Where in the New Testament is the word disciple last used and of whom is it speaking?

(NOTE: Answers found elsewhere in this issue of the paper).

READERS'

... Response



APOLOGY: Please accept our humble apology for slowness in getting correspondence answered. "We" have no staff of secretaries, etc. to handle such, and this is done by the "editor" as time allows. Be it known that you are appreciated.

ALABAMA:

■ "I appreciate the very fine article on whom a Christian is to marry. I fail to understand why others do not realize that this is the second greatest decision in life. . . Thank you for your efforts in teaching truth."

FLORIDA:

■ "I read the sample sent to the church of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I am very impressed and thankful to see the truth prevailing in this paper.

"Please add my name to the mailing list. I hope to be able to order all the bound volumes in time.

"Will it be OK to use some of the shorter articles for our newspaper article each week?

"Thank you again for such fine work to God's glory and may our Lord bless the work being done. . ."

(Editor's Note: You are welcome to use material from *The Sword and Staff*).

ARKANSAS:

■ "Please delete the following mailing label from your mailing list. Thank you."

KENTUCKY:

■ "I have just received my volume 25 and 26 of *THE SWORD AND STAFF* by James E. Gibbons. I like it so much I'm ordering a volume for my friend."

■ "I need another volume 25 and 26 of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. My son wanted one so I gave him mine. . ."

NORTH CAROLINA:

■ "Please discontinue sending us your journal."

VIRGINIA:

■ "Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I was reading in your 'Readers' Response' about two people who could not send a contribution at this time, so I want to send it for them; here also is a contribution for myself, my wife, and son. Thank you for being such a dear brother in Christ. . ."

■ "I have bound volumes from 1971. . . I would like bound volumes 1983-84, 1985-86, 1987-88. . . I wish I had them from

the beginning: Thank you for your service to our Lord and Saviour. The issues on the Masons. . . made my husband resign from the Masons.

"Keep up the good work and (good to know) that your wife Freda is OK."

■ "I recently had the pleasure of finding one of your publications, and since it was several years ago that it was published, I was wondering if it was still being published. Also, I would like to know if I could purchase some back issues, as I believe these are the best I have seen in a long while."

"Would pray that you can keep up the Good Work."

PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "Thank you for your faithfulness in preaching God's Word. Also for continuing to send the paper since it has been some time since we have sent a contribution. . ."

■ "Please send me bound volumes 25 and 26 of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. . . I have four bound volumes of the paper. I have found them to be useful in my Bible study. I am looking forward to receiving the material in volumes 25 and 26. Please inform me when the next bound volumes are available. Thank you very much."

RHODE ISLAND:

■ "I am writing to ask you to take me off your mailing list..."

ILLINOIS:

■ "Your paper has been recommended to me and I would like to be placed on your mailing list. Thank you."

MISSOURI:

■ "Your publications of *THE SWORD AND STAFF* have been received, and I enjoy every issue and it has been a blessing to me. It is good to know that the brotherhood is being felt around the world. May God richly bless your efforts. . . I cannot see and understand why someone would ask to have their name taken off the mailing list. . ."

CALIFORNIA:

■ "Enclosed is my check. . . to help you in getting out the paper *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. It should reach as many homes as possible for the pure gospel. . ."

OREGON:

■ "Your paper *THE SWORD AND STAFF* is one of the finest Christian papers in print. I have read and enjoyed it. . ."

PHILIPPINES:

■ "First of all, I would like to thank you for the continued coming of your magazine *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I enjoy reading it and it's so informative. I have learned the truth about the church's foundation according to the Word of God (the Holy Bible). . ."

NIGERIA:

■ "I receive your address from a friend of mine and I want you to send me your Bible or any Christian literature because any Christian without Bible is not really meant and who don't know about Christ really. I will be very happy if my letter could be favorable and reply.

"May the Lord of peace be unto you and abide in you in Jesus name. Amen."

CHRISTIANITY teaches to do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Luke 6:31), whereas the world seems to practice doing unto others as they have done unto you (especially in revenge). Quite a difference!

Truth and Grace

TRUTH allows no alteration, deviations, subtractions, or additions. Otherwise it is no longer the truth. Coupled with **GRACE**, however, **TRUTH** and **GRACE** do not allow it either, but rather forgive it. If desired, the error and the false are eradicated with the prospects of a new beginning. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Amen. □

Meet An Old Lady

YOU ARE going to meet an old lady someday. Down the road ahead, ten, twenty, thirty years; she's waiting for you. You will be catching up with her. What kind of an old lady are you going to meet? That is a rather significant question.

She may be a seasoned, soft, and gracious lady. A lady who has grown old gracefully, surrounded by a host of friends—friends who call her blessed because of what her life has meant to them.

She may be a bitter, disillusioned, dried-up, cynical old buzzard, without a good word for anyone or anything—soured, friendless, alone.

The kind of old lady you meet will depend entirely upon you. She will be exactly what you make of her, nothing more, nothing less. It is up to you. You will have no one else to credit or blame.

Every day, in every way, you are becoming more and more like that old lady. Amazing, but true. You are getting to look more like her, think more like her, and talk more like her. You are becoming *her*.

If you live only in terms of what you are getting out of life, the old lady gets smaller, drier, harder, crabbiest, more self-centered.

Open your life to others, think in terms of what you can give, your contribution to life, and the old lady grows larger, softer, kinder, greater.

The point to remember is that these things don't always show up immediately. But they will—sooner than you think. These little things, seemingly so unimportant now—attitudes, goals, ambitions, desires—are adding up inside, where you cannot see them, crystallizing in your heart and mind. Some day they will harden into that old lady; nothing will be able to soften or change them then.

Time to take care of that old lady is right now, today. Examine your motives, attitudes, goals. Check up on her. Work her over now while she is still plastic, still in a formative condition. Day comes swiftly soon when it is too late. The hardness sets in, worse than paralysis. Character crystallizes, sets, gels. That's the finish.

Any wise business person takes an inventory regularly. Merchandise is not half as important as the person. You had better take a bit of a personal inventory, too. Then you will be much more likely to meet a lovely, gracious old lady at the proper time.

—Selected

The Value of A Book

A GOOD BOOK is a great treasure to those who desire to broaden their knowledge of the unknown. It is a fountain from which to draw to those who thirst for knowledge as well as a foundation for wisdom. It is a whetstone to resharpen the memory when time seems to have turned the edge of the mind. It is a memory bank of information into which we may tap again and again for further understanding. It represents years of study and research by its author that can prove invaluable to the hungry mind that desires deeper insight to important facts. The apostle Paul must have had a keen sense of the value of books when he instructed Timothy to "bring the books, but especially the parchment" when Paul was a prisoner (II Timothy 4:13).

But regardless of the value and importance of any book written by the most brilliant author on this earth, let none become a substitute for the Book of books, the source of all spiritual wisdom, the fountain of surpassing knowledge, the ultimate of all spiritual truth, the Bible, **THE WORD OF GOD!**—*Joe Atchley* □

That Is Called Salvation

LONGFELLOW could take a one cent sheet of paper, write a poem on it, and make it worth \$6,000—that is genius—and not many of us have it.

Rockefeller could sign his name to a small piece of paper and make it worth millions—that is called capital—and some of us do not have much of that.

The U.S. Government can take another small piece of paper, print Andrew Jackson's picture on it, and make it worth \$20.00—that is called money—and some of us do not have as much of that as we want.

A mechanic can take a piece of material costing only five dollars, and make an article worth \$50.00—that is called skill—and not all of us have much of that as we desire.

An artist can take a piece of canvass costing about fifty cents, paint a picture on it, and make it worth \$1,000—that is called art—and most of us are a little short on that.

But Jesus Christ can take your sinful, ruined life, wash it in His own precious blood, fill it with His Spirit, and make it a glory to God and a blessing to humanity—that is called salvation—and we can have all we want.—*Selected* □

Answers to: BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. A learner and a follower of that which has been learned—Matthew 5:1,2; 7:21; 2. Luke 6:40; 19:39; 3. Luke 11:1; Mark 2:18; John 9:28; Acts 20:28-30; 4. Andrew and John—John 1:35-42; 5. Luke 6:12-16; 6. Mark 6:7-13,30; Luke 10:1-20; 7. Luke 14:26,27,33; 8. Luke 14:28-33; 9. Luke 9:23; 10. Matthew 10:24,25; Luke 6:40; 11. John 8:30-32; 12. John 13:34,35; 13. John 15:8; 14. John 13:23; 18:15,16; 19:26,27; 20:2-8; 21:20,24; 15. John 19:38; 16. Make disciples of all nations; 17. Acts 1:15; 18. Acts 6:1-7; 19. Acts 11:26; 20. Acts 21:16.

FEEDING THE SHEEP *versus* ENTERTAINING THE GOATS



■ By Harold Buckles

REALLY, do you like to be called an “old goat”? So far I haven’t found anyone who likes such a title. But do you realize that on the judgment day that Jesus will separate everyone into two classes, sheep and goats? (Matthew 25:32,33) Then when Christ classifies you as either a sheep or a goat, it will determine where you will be in eternity, heaven or hell (Matthew 25:46). No “bargaining” will be allowed then (Matthew 7:21-23).

Followers of Christ are fittingly called sheep (John 10:27 and I Peter 2:25). After his resurrection Christ commanded Peter to “feed my sheep” (John 21:17).

Feeding the Sheep

What kind of an appetite does a spiritual “sheep” have? “Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). A hungry person welcomes a meal, not entertainment. Likewise, a *spiritually* hungry person needs food, not entertainment for his carnal nature.

How is it with you? What kind of an “appetite” do you have? Sometimes a spiritually hungry person doesn’t know what he wants. He is “fed up” with life because he has no real purpose for existence, nor has a real goal to work towards. He may mistakenly seek entertainment, when what he really needs is to know Christ and his joy (John 15:11).

The eunuch (Acts 8:36-38) believed on Christ as the Son of God and was immersed. He rejoiced as he went on his way (verse 39). In order to maintain this joy, the spiritually hungry Christian needs to feed on the Word of God. Christ said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). The most dependable source of spiritual food in this mixed up world is the Word of God. Do you like God’s “menu”?

Will the Sheep Eat?

An experienced sheep herder told me that they had a good plan. When the sheep came into the corral at

night, they would put a daub of old paint on any sheep that did not eat. By the time any sheep had three such marks, they immediately penned it up separately. They knew it was sick, and it might contaminate the whole flock. (Backsliders and hypocrites have a finicky appetite. They “relish” entertainment, not Bible).

A spiritually hungry person needs to know about the love of God. He needs to be involved with the gospel. This involves a lot more than merely attending religious meetings. (Anyone could do that at home with a radio or TV). He needs to *participate* in worship with his fellow Christians, because “if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another” (I John 1:9).

Clowning with the Goats

It is very evident now that churches which put on entertainment get larger crowds. But should that be the only motive—crowds? One man said, “I don’t like it, but we have to offer entertainment to get people to church.” Face it! The spiritually hungry person does not need parties, bean feeds, “Pepsi Cola and popcorn,” candy, cookies, and cake. He needs to know how to have his sins forgiven, and how to be a useful, busy for Christ, happy Christian. Someone said, “How can we hold the young people if we don’t have parties?” Remember that there is no special young people’s Bible. It takes faithfulness to keep a young person true to Christ, just the same as an adult. And furthermore, who ever will stand for Christ (Ephesians 6:11-13) will not need to be *held* or propped up.

Bring on the Clowns

If all that is wanted is a crowd, then get Bozo the clown to put on a “show” next Sunday. “Free hamburgers and cokes for all who ride the ‘Joy Bus’ next week.” “S & H green stamps for all the Sunday School attenders.” In one place, when the crowd reached a certain figure, the preacher’s wife put on a mini-skirt, sat in a wheelbarrow, while her husband-preacher pushed her down town. Crowds? You’d better believe it!!! But then, remember that it was a *crowd* that demanded the crucifixion of Christ, our Savior (Matthew 27:22-26).

Gospel or Gimmicks?

John the Baptizer did not need to offer a free camel ride to the one who brought the largest number of people to hear him preach. Neither did he offer an autographed copy of the 10 commandments to the youngest grandmother present. His message brought the people (Matthew 3:5). From all appearances, the modern churches try everything to get a crowd, except the Bible method. It is, **PREACH THE WORD** (II Timothy 4:2 and Mark 16:15,16). But now, to get a crowd, they coax, persuade, reward, use “high pressure advertising,” and even offer prizes. Buttons, badges, seals, stickers, diplomas, and pot-luck suppers have all been used to try to get people to do what they ought to do because they love Christ.

And so on and on and on it goes, promoting the Holy Spirit right out of the church! What you win

(Continued on Next Page)

FEEDING THE SHEEP *versus* ENTERTAINING THE GOATS

(Continued from Last Page)

them *with* is what you really win them *to*. Christ never did plan for his church to be an entertainment center. I know this is so, because there is not even one shred of evidence in the Bible to support such an idea. I've looked for it, and it is not there.

Christ's Plan

"And he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11). But there is *no record* that he gave any clowns, entertainers, or expert *motivational psychologists* to "drum up" a crowd! The apostles and teachers were given "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12). All of the time in which Christians are gathered together needs to be used to preach, to reprove, to rebuke, to exhort, and to worship the Lord (II Timothy 4:1,2 and Hebrews 3:12-15). *None of us*, preachers included, will ever know too much about the Bible, or will we ever become too *Christlike*!

Which: Sheep or Goat?

It is very obvious that most people would rather laugh than to think about their relationship to Christ and eternity. If you are a "goat" (lost soul), obey Christ so that he can make one of his "sheep" out of you. Then you can have a real purpose for living, and real rejoicing (Acts 8:39 and Acts 16:33,34).

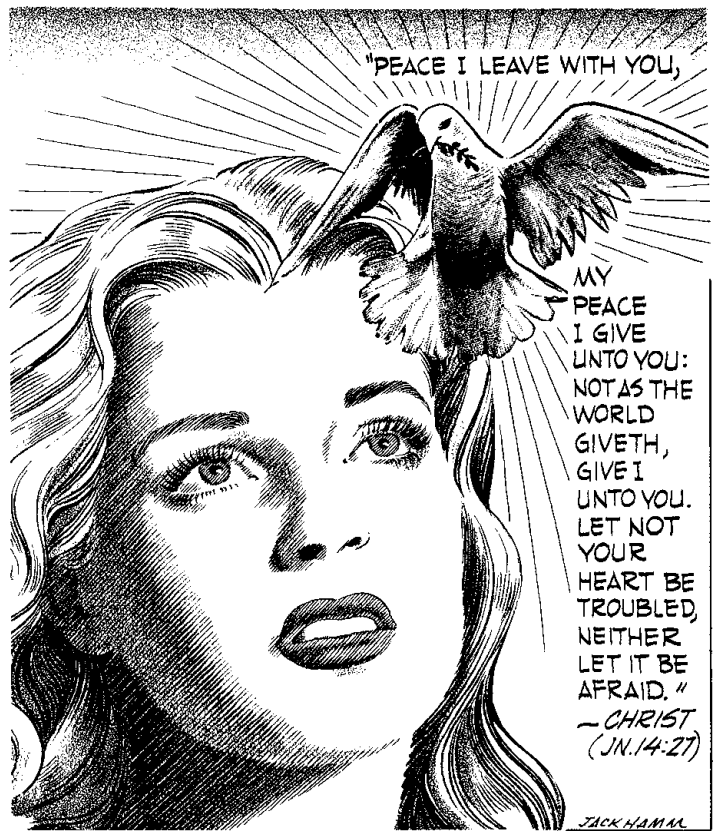
The joy which is in Christ is so different and so very superior to the entertainment and fun offered by the world. Have you experienced the difference? Then act like it! □

CLEAN HOMES/DIRTY HOMES

■ *By Deb Atchley*

THIS IS the season that we all drag out our mops and buckets and really get serious about doing our spring cleaning. All those little nooks and crannies that we have conveniently ignored all year are finally going to get the attention they deserve. For some reason we are almost blind to them till spring comes and we really take a good hard look at things. But what about ourselves? We are God's home; do we ignore the dirt in it? I don't know of anyone that enjoys living in a dirty house, but God is quite frank about it, He refuses to. So how clean are we keeping it?

But unlike housework we have a willing source of help. If we just get serious and start the job, He will always help us. It's like scrubbing floors, you can really get rid of a lot of dirt down on your knees. Plus He has given us a "manual" that tells us where all those dirty corners are, and it even gives the instructions on the way to clean them up. Flawlessly! How many of us have wished our homes were clean? (or even that they would stay clean). That is God's wish for His home too. And He doesn't want a once a year cleaning effort; He requires a daily upkeep. More than



a light dusting, we have to roll up our shirt sleeves and put some elbow grease into this. It is our job to study our "manuals" to find the dirt and learn just how to put a shine on His home. As we grow and learn we will find more dirt. Oh it's swept under the rug, but it's there. And it won't go away unless we clean it up. Even if the surface looks good we know it's there, and so does He. It will all show, just like those streaks on the windows when the light shines through. Everything will be brought out by His light. And as every homemaker knows you will never really be done. There is always that dark little place we missed.

I am sure a lot of us have felt the shame of having unexpected company drop by when our homes have been in shambles. We are so apologetic but we know it's too late now. All the "I'm sorries" in the world don't hide the fact that this person knows I have a dirty house. How much more shameful to bow to our Lord on judgment day and have a mess left over that we never took the time to clean up while we had the chance? It would strike terror in our hearts if someone popped in to do a spot check on our drawers, closets, and ovens. Especially knowing that this person is without blemish. (I'd want to crawl in a hole).

There is something uplifting about a truly clean home, it is the work of our hands. The shine of those floors is reward enough to make us mop and wax with gusto. We know that everyone that sees them will appreciate them and the work it took. It might even bring them to the point of getting down on their knees to clean up a little dirt themselves. (After all, they've seen how happy it makes us). But to get floors really clean they need the "manual," we wouldn't hold back a tip on how to get that nasty wax build up off. So we must share. After all, their clean floors will be almost

as uplifting as our own!

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE RESURRECTION, APPEARANCES, AND ASCENSION OF CHRIST

The Resurrection

ONE THING should always be kept in mind by all who read the Gospels, viz: *that the sacred narrative of an event is what it is declared to be by ALL of the gospel writers.* That a thing is omitted by one does not indicate that another is not true because he has declared it; for the very object of the different Gospel accounts was to give the testimony of independent witnesses to the great facts of the life and death of Jesus. Nor does it indicate that there is a contradiction because one relates facts in a different order from another; for neither of them profess to relate facts in the precise order in which they occurred. The object seems to be to relate the facts themselves. With these principles in view, which are conceded always to secular historians, let us look at the accounts which are presented in the sacred narrative respecting the resurrection, appearance, and ascension of Christ.

1. Jesus was laid in the tomb on Friday evening, having been wrapped in linen with myrrh and aloes, in a hurried manner, John 19:39,40. The women, not apprised of that, or desiring to testify their regard farther, prepared spices on the same evening to embalm him, Luke 23:56. As it was too late that night to complete the preparation, they deferred it till the first day of the week, resting on the sabbath, Luke 23:56.

2. On the first day of the week, early, the women completed their preparation, purchased more spices, and properly mixed them to make an unguent to anoint the bandages in which the body was rolled, Mark 16:1. Or this may refer to the same purchase as is mentioned by Luke. They had bought them—i.e., on Friday evening.

3. They came to the sepulchre just as the day began to dawn, or just as the light appeared in the east, yet so dark as to render objects indistinct. It was “in the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week,” Matthew 28:1. “Very early in the morning, at the rising of the sun,” or as the sun was about to rise, Mark 16:2. “Very early in the morning,” Luke 24:1. “Early, when it was yet dark,” John 20:1.

4. The persons who came were Mary Magdalene (Matthew 28:1; John 20:1); Mary, the mother of James and Joses (Matthew 28:1; Luke 24:10; Mark 15:40); Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward (compare Luke 24:10; 8:3); and certain others, not specified (Luke 24:1,10).

5. The object of their coming: (1) To see the sepulchre, Matthew 28:1. (2) To embalm him, or to finish embalming him, Mark 15:1; Luke 24:1.

□ 6. While on the way, they inquired who should roll away the stone for them, that they might have access to the body of Jesus, Mark 16:3.

7. When they arrived, they found there had been an earthquake, or disturbance at the tomb, so that the stone was rolled away, Matthew 28:2; Mark 16:4.

8. The angel, who rolled the stone away, had sat down on it, and appeared to the keepers, and frightened them; though he did not appear in this place to the women, but only to the keepers, Matthew 28:2-4. At that time probably our Saviour had risen—how long before the women came there is not known, and cannot be ascertained.

9. When they came there, Mary Magdalene, greatly struck and disturbed by the disrupted appearance of the tomb, and probably supposing that the body had been stolen, hurriedly left the other women, and ran to the city to inform the disciples, John 20:2.

10. While Mary was gone, the others probably looked around the garden in search of the body, and then came and examined the sepulchre to see if it was not there. The tomb was large, and they entered into it. There “the angel spake unto them,” Matthew 28:5. “They saw a young man”—i.e. an angel in the appearance of a young man—“sitting on the right side,” Mark 16:5. When they entered he was sitting; as they entered he rose and stood, Luke 24:4. Luke adds that there was another with him (24:4); this other one was not seen when they entered into the sepulchre, at the time mentioned by Mark; but was seen when they had fully entered in, as mentioned by Luke.

11. The angel charged them to go and tell the disciples and Peter (Matthew 28:7; Mark 16:7), and to assure them that he would see them in Galilee. The angel also reminded them of what Jesus had said when they were in Galilee. Luke 24:6,7.

12. They went immediately towards the city, yet taking a different route from the one Mary had taken, or going in such a way that they did not meet her when she was returning from the city with Peter and John, Matthew 28:8; Mark 16:8—“They said nothing to any man,” Luke 24:9,10. In Luke 24:10, it is said that it was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, that told these things to the disciples. Not that Luke affirms that they were together when they told them, but that the information was given to them, though perhaps at different times.

13. While they were gone, Mary Magdalene returned to the sepulchre, following Peter and John, who came running, John 20:2-9. They examined the sepulchre, and found that the body was really gone; but as yet they did not know the reason, not having seen the other women to whom the angel had told the cause, and Mary Magdalene having left the women before the angel had spoken to them. As yet, therefore, she was ignorant of the reason of his removal.

14. Peter and John then left the sepulchre, returned home, and left Mary alone, John 20:10.

15. While Mary was there alone, she looked into the sepulchre, and saw two angels, probably the same that had appeared to the other women, John 20:11-13.

16. Jesus appeared to Mary while she was alone at

(Continued on Next Page)

Scientific Red Faces

THE MORE we read from the works of evolutionary “scientists,” the more unimpressed we are with their conclusions.

As almost everyone knows, the Earth is supposed to be almost 5 billion years old, while man has been around only 3 or 4 million years. These estimates are pure speculation based upon dating methods that are grounded in evolutionary assumptions. There is **no** hard-core test that can determine the age of the Earth. Most people believe this simply because they accept what is presented in the media.

Several years ago some scientists discovered human bones buried under thick deposits of mud in California. The bones were submitted to “competent” authorities who declared them to be about 75,000 years old. Unfortunately, however, as they dug deeper, they found an old United States Army button. Now, maybe the United States had an army 75,000 years ago—or just maybe the scientific dating methods are not all that reliable!

Recently an archaeological excavation team, led by professor Mitsuo Kawaga of Beppu University, discovered drawings on the wall of a cave on the Japanese island of Kyushu. The excited scientists announced that the drawings were from 10,000 to 13,000 years old. Alas, a lifelong resident of the area came forward to confess that he had often scribbled on the walls of the cave with charcoal when he was a boy. The “scientists” had only missed it by about 99.99%!

Why is it that when “scientists” say that something is billions of years old, the average person believes it as if the object had a date carved on it?

When Christians accept the dates which are a part of the evolutionary system, they are playing right into the hands of infidelity.—*Wayne Jackson* □

Speak Out for Jesus

You talk about your work, your stocks, your bonds, and gold.

In all these worldly matters you are so brave and bold.

But why are you so silent about salvation’s plan? Why not “talk up” for Jesus, and speak out like a man?

You talk about the weather, your house because it’s “neat.”

You speak to friends and neighbors who walk along the street.

You call yourself a Christian and like the gospel plan.

Then why not speak for Jesus, and speak out like a man?

Are you ashamed of Jesus and the story of the cross? Would you his banner lower and let it suffer loss? Do you recall his sorrow—did he die for you in vain? If not—, speak up for Jesus, and speak out like a man!—*Anonymous*

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE RESURRECTION, APPEARANCES, AND ASCENSION OF CHRIST *(Continued from Last Page)*



the sepulchre, John 20:14-18. Thus, according to Mark (16:9), he appeared to Mary Magdalene “first.”

17. Mary then went to tell the disciples that she had seen him, but they did not fully believe her, John 20:18; Mark 16:10,11.

18. Afterwards Jesus appeared to the other women, Matthew 28:9—“As they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, all hail.” This does not imply, of necessity, that the appearance took place immediately, but only after they were gone, without specifying the time. Probably it was not long after he had appeared to Mary Magdalene.

Appearances of Jesus After the Resurrection

1. To Mary Magdalene, John 20:14; Mark 16:9.
2. To the other women, Matthew 28:9.
3. To Peter, I Corinthians 15:5; Luke 24:34.

4. To two disciples as they were going to Emmaus, Mark 16:12,13; Luke 24:13-32.

5. The same day at evening, to the apostles, in the absence of Thomas, I Corinthians 15:5; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36; John 20:19,24.

6. To the apostles when Thomas was present, John 20:26-29.

7. In Galilee, at the sea of Tiberias, to Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, and John, and two others, John 21:1-14. This is said to be the third time that he showed himself to the disciples—i.e., to the apostles—when they were assembled together, John 21:14.

8. To the disciples on a mountain in Galilee, Matthew 28:16,17.

9. To more than five hundred brethren at once, I Corinthians 15:6.

10. To James, I Corinthians 15:7.

11. To all the apostles assembled together, I Corinthians 15:7. He was seen of them forty days after he arose—probably conversing with them familiarly.

12. To the apostles at his ascension, Luke 24:50,51; Acts 1:9,10.

13. To Paul, I Corinthians 15:8; Acts 9:3-5; 22:6-10.

The Ascension

1. It was forty days after his resurrection, Acts 1:3.

2. He ascended from the mount of Olives, near Bethany outside of Jerusalem, Luke 24:50; Acts 1:12.

3. It was in the presence of all the apostles, Luke 24:50; Acts 1:9,10.

4. He was received into a cloud, and ascended to heaven, Acts 1:9,11; Luke 24:51; Ephesians 1:20-22. □

—Adapted from Albert Barnes

**Soul Winning:
The Real Work of the Church**

THE GREATEST NEED in the church today, or any other day, is that of soul winning. The church needs people who will talk about Christ and His gospel. However, the kind of passion for souls as displayed by the first century Christians seems to be completely lacking in most congregations today. The early church was involved in a daily evangelism. They “ceased not” to teach and to preach Jesus as the Christ. Even when persecution came upon the church, “they therefore that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4).

Somehow, we have misplaced our values. It seems that many are more interested in impressing people than implanting principles. Some, it seems, are afraid of offending folk with plain talk about the commands of the gospel. We must, however, get our values in perspective. Nothing is more valuable than a soul (Matthew 16:26). Our personal popularity is worthless compared to the soul of a friend or relative. Jesus was not running a popularity contest and neither must we!

The mission of the Master is the mission of the church. Jesus said, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Soul winning is therefore the real work of the church. The various acts of worship such as singing and praying

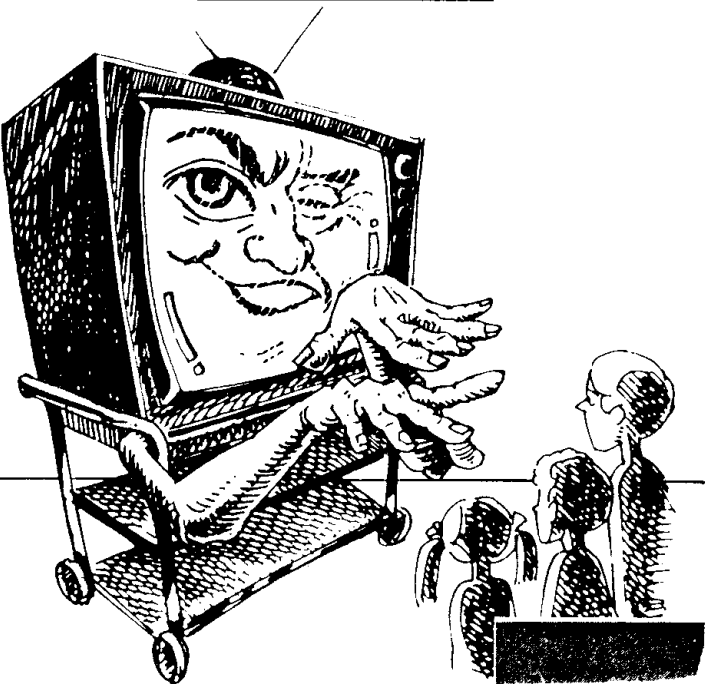
are important, but the real work of the church is not passing the communion trays or ushering. These things are important and necessary, but the work of the church is to seek the lost!

There is no such thing as a congregation where there is no work for everyone. There is something for every member of the body to do (Ephesians 4:16). . .each one can win one. This does not mean every member must teach a “class.” One can tell the story of Jesus on the job, at the break, at play, over the backyard fence, or in the privacy of the home. There are opportunities every day to influence someone for good and to direct one’s thinking toward God and His Word. Our problem, oftentimes, is that we do not see and seize the opportunity.

We need to “think souls” as we go about the business of life. It would help us if we would think about people as souls that need to be saved. How can we win people to Christ? This question should always be upon our hearts.

May we overcome fear and discouragement through constant prayer and persistent effort. Realizing the urgency and importance of soul winning, let us not hesitate to speak to others concerning their need of salvation. Soul winning is the real work of the church!

—Selected



Good Morals: I Cor. 15:33

GOOD MORALS don’t accidentally develop. They have to be planted, watered, cultivated, nurtured, cherished and protected with life and limb.

Morals can be beautiful like flowers, when rooted and grounded in the life of the Master. But, also like flowers, they will soon vanish away, when cut off from their source of life.

Christians must not allow evil companions to separate them from that source. “Be not deceived; evil companionships corrupt good morals” (I Cor. 15:33).

—Selected

Those That
GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE

ALL HAVE SINNED, Romans 3:10,23 and are worthy of death, but God has provided a way of escape, Romans 6:23. Some, however, will neglect the great salvation offered through Christ, Hebrews 2:3. For these, there is no escape from the consequences of their sin. These who persist in rejecting God's means of deliverance will not be forgiven.

Belief in God and in Jesus His Son is essential to salvation, Hebrews 11:6; John 3:36. All who refuse to believe "will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Those who refuse to repent of their sins have no hope of salvation. Sinners must repent or perish, Luke 13:3.

Those ashamed to confess Christ cannot hope that He will own them in the judgment, Matthew 10:32,33; Mark 8:38.

Those who refuse to submit to New Testament baptism are spurning a command of God, Acts 10:48; 22:16; I Peter 3:21; John 3:5; etc. Just as surely as the Pharisees and lawyers "rejected the counsel of God for themselves, not having been baptized" by John (Luke 7:30), even so their modern counterparts today who reject New Testament baptism also reject the counsel of God against themselves.

Those who refuse to forgive others have no hope of forgiveness when they themselves sin, Matt. 6:14,15.

Those who esteem lightly the blood-bought church of Christ, Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23-25, and thus count "the blood of the covenant" by which they could be sanctified a common (unholy) thing, Hebrews 10:25-29, are worthy of "worse punishment" than death. If they persist in such sin, they will not be forgiven.

Please note that we do not mean that there can never be forgiveness of such sins. What we mean is that these sins (and others) can be forgiven **only** when they are repented of and forsaken. The person who insists on remaining in unbelief or rebellion against God can have no forgiveness. The person who will forsake such sins can be forgiven in this life and have everlasting life in the world to come.—*Exhorter* □

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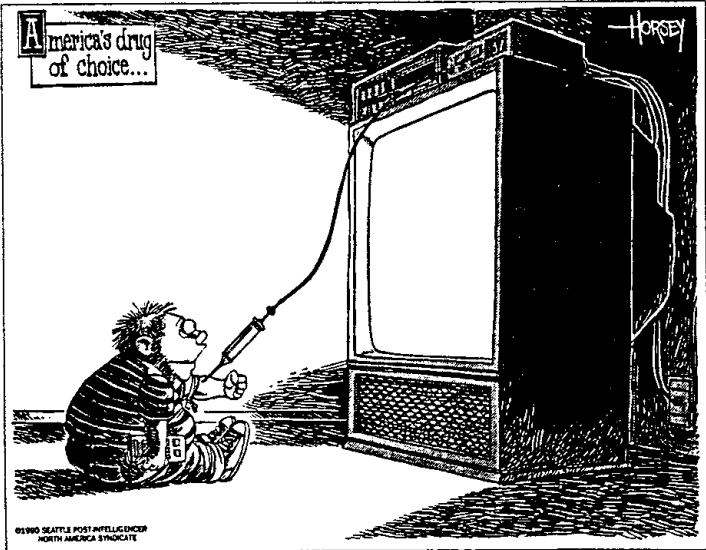
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