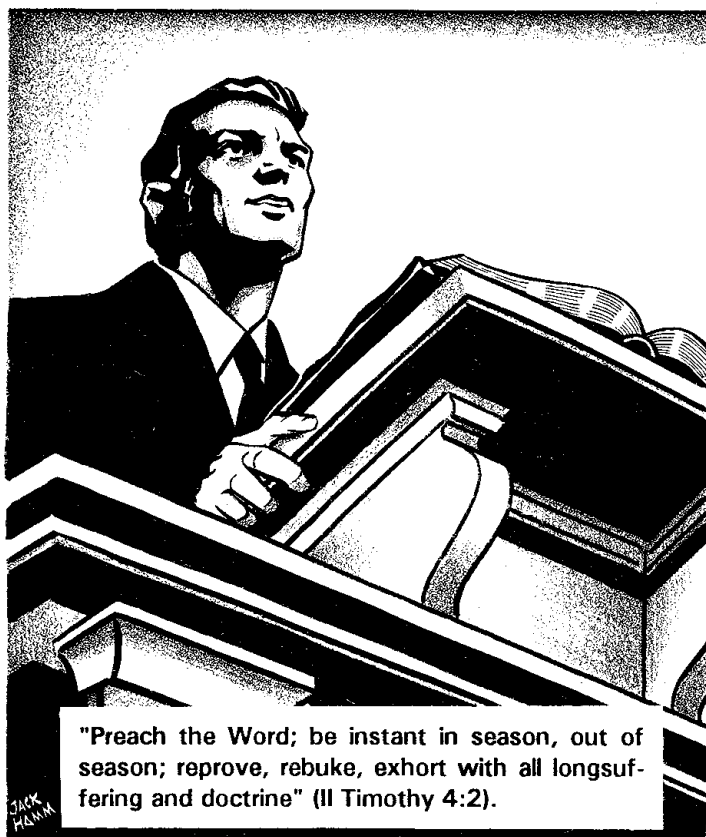


The Sword AND Staff

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

GOD'S KIND OF LEADERS



"Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2).

—Written 22 years ago—

● By JAMES E. GIBBONS

1535 Fairfield Drive—Mt. Airy, N.C. 27030

NEEDLESS TO SAY, we are living in "perilous times" (II Timothy 3). This nation and the world have been in convulsion. Moral decay and religious apostasy are all about us. Time honored standards have been thrown to the wind. Violence, dishonesty, and immorality are common. Many do not know the difference between right and wrong. Homes are disintegrating. The institutional "church" is giving forth uncertain sounds. Anemic religion, retreating in the face of the onslaught of sin, breathing the spirit of a

secular age, and paralyzed by modernistic unbelief, has talked about a "new morality." The man on the street, whose mind is saturated and bankrupted by all this, indifferently, but definitely, asserts that it makes no difference what one believes religiously—thus implying that all religion is either good or that all of it is no good.

The words of Isaiah could well have been the description, warning, and indictment of God against our generation (including religious leaders). Listen. "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:4). "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (5:20). "For the leaders of this people cause them to err. . ." (9:16a). (With this we throw in the words of the Lord Jesus, "And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch," Matthew 15:14b).

How there is an acute need for the right kind of leadership in our day! How the church needs to measure up to the responsibility, opportunity, and challenge cast before it (rather than compromising and conforming)! We are the salt of the earth; the light of the world (Matthew 5:13,14,16). When there is not enough salt to season and preserve society, look out! Decay and putrefaction set in; convulsion is in store. When the light of the gospel has gone out, great will be the darkness in the land. Beloved, as Christians we must move; we must lead. If Christians will not speak out, who will?! It is a matter of do or die. The fate of the nation, as well as the entire world, is at stake. The future of the church as a faithful church is involved. The eternal destiny of man is the issue.

(Continued on Page 6)

THE SWORD AND STAFF
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Proverbially **SPEAKING...**

GOD IS real to those who are real Christians.

"Apply thyself wholly to the Scriptures and the Scriptures wholly to thyself."

One person's gain is not another's loss as far as God's love is concerned (there is plenty for all).

"The best angle from which to approach any problem is the 'try-angle'."

Some Scriptures are hard only because we have a hard heart—accept what the Scriptures say (and they will no longer be hard).

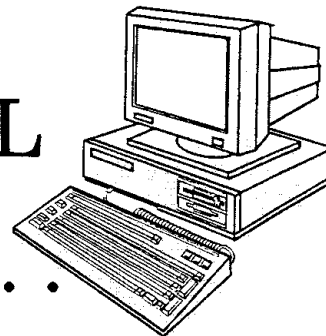
"Be careful of your thoughts; they may become words at any moment."

The church is to be on the lookout for wolves in sheep's clothing, and at the same time not tolerate supposed sheep that act like wolves.

"If only infidelity can persuade men that they shall die like beasts, they will soon be brought to live like beasts."

There is no record anywhere of Christ teaching his disciples how to preach, but there is of him teaching them how to pray—this should teach us something!

EDITORIAL COMMENTS...



THE EROSION OF THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGION IN THIS COUNTRY AND UPON THIS COUNTRY

THE FOREFATHERS of this country wisely chose the path of separation of church and state, the state favoring no particular religious group. Bad experiences in the old world, which prompted so many originally to come here, were behind this. Along with this, they espoused the principle of religious freedom. This freedom of religion was not intended to be freedom from religion, but, the state being neutral, it gave each and everyone the opportunity to worship according to the sincere dictates of his own heart without fear of governmental suppression. However, at the same time, from a practical viewpoint, the state recognized religion as a vitally important factor in the well-being and stability of human society, as well as in governing the nation.

This can be seen at every turn. Prayers were and are offered at governmental gatherings. The money issued by the government of this country, whether in the form of bills or coins, has the simple (but profound) imprint upon it, "IN GOD WE TRUST." The Bible is used as the book on which elected (and selected) governmental officials solemnly place their hand in being sworn into office, as well as in everyday use in the courts of the land. The influence of religion can readily be seen when we read the lawbooks and statutes of the land. The lawbooks of each state in their uncut, unabridged, and unaltered form are very impressive. One is quickly reminded of the Bible. Our forefathers looked upon laws and the government as the protector of the morals of the citizens. Their high regard for religion and the vital part it plays in society can be seen in tax exemptions and tax deductions involving churches and giving. Until recently this could be seen in such matters as reduced mailing rates for religious publications (classified as non-profit). Although the government took sides with no particular religion, bona fide religion was looked upon as very important, needed, and thus encouraged in society.

However, for many years the ill winds of unfavorable change have been blowing across our land. Definitely, all is not well. Whether covertly or openly (perhaps first covertly, and then openly), humanism has been and is asserting its

(Continued on Page 4)

I Saw Him Standing There

(Or, The Old Gospel Preacher)

I saw him standing there, this man of God,
Erect and firm, although his hair was gray.
The passing years had come and they had gone
To leave the weaker men along the way.

I saw him standing there, his face was fixed,
And he was unafraid to preach the Word.
Although the times had changed so many things,
His message was the same for those who heard.

I saw him standing straight and heard him preach
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
He preached against men's sins with force and might
Then called to one and all with pleading nod.

I heard him preach salvation through the blood,
The message many need to hear today;
How sinners must believe, and then repent;
And turn to be baptized the Bible way.

I heard him preach about the church of Christ,
The precious bride for which our Savior died,
As he condemned the sects of men as sin,
And called on all to give up party pride.

I thank the Lord for this, a stalwart man,
Whose message had that old familiar ring
Of the apostles' doctrine through and through,
And this to me was such a noble thing.

I saw him standing there, this man of God,
His life as faithful as the day is long.
It gave me courage that I needed most,
And I felt inspiration to be strong.

—By James E. Gibbons

EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

(Continued from Page 2)

ungodly (and undesirable) influence upon society, while at the same time trying to reverse the noble legacy coming from our forefathers. The high regard for religion and its influence upon society, along with favored treatment of religion, are on the wane. Government is no longer a protector of public morals. In some cases it is not even neutral, but is promoter of the delinquency of its citizens. Among other rulings, the high court decision of no prayer or Bible reading in public schools (to please vocal atheists and humanists) is but one of the milestones in this departure. While denying freedom of speech in reference to religion in the public schools, they have irresponsibly opened the floodgates for all kinds of repercussions in our society by regarding freedom of speech to permit pornography, vulgarity, and obscenity (whether by means of magazines, movies, or television)—and at the same time funding the so-called "arts" which in some cases are actively promoting homosexuality (yes, openly and highhandedly) and blaspheming religion in the coarsest sort of way. Abortion, which heretofore had been legally regarded as criminal, not only is now legal but has been funded by the government for those who could not pay. Then, for years the government has been in the strong drink business with their liquor stores. Just a casual look at the lawbooks tell us that gambling has been against the law, but almost every state is in the gambling business now. Headlines in the *Dayton Daily News* (Ohio) this past summer read: "GAMBLING ADDICTIONS REPORTEDLY INCREASING," and "SOME COUNSELORS BLAME STATE LOTTERY GAMES." Yes, government is contributing to the very delinquency of its citizens. Instead of even acknowledging that there are laws against sodomy, adultery, and fornication (they're on the books in most states, or have been), in the wake of the scare and spreading of the dreaded AIDS disease we actually hear of states massively supplying contraceptives to college and high school students (and promoting their use)! At the same time sodomites are fast moving toward favorable legal status, their practice no longer being called "crime against nature."

With this disregard for the unofficial regard for religion, our society has been coming apart at the seams it seems. Perhaps this is just one of the symptoms of the larger problem of the Godless times in which we are living. In such a climate, the

landmarks of honesty and old fashioned morality are fast eroding. The crime rate continues to increase. So many American homes are being shattered by divorce. And, alarmingly, people are not getting the message from AIDS, but are talking about practicing "safe sex" as they continue in their perversion and immorality. Of ancient Israel, Hosea wrote, "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. . ." (Hosea 8:7). Proverbs 14:34 reads, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

It is rather ironical that America, which has such a rich tradition of freedom of religious expression and freedom of speech, legally has barred even unsectarian prayer and Bible reading from the public schools, and Russia, who for the most of the century has been repressed by atheistic communism, now is welcoming the actual teaching of religion in their public schools. This is a fact for we have personally talked with those coming back from there who have done this (as well as reading about it). How amazing! □

EDITORIAL *Byways*



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 that had been his. 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 assembly 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 flesh, 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 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 was sometime ago that I read in the newspaper about a certain preacher ("Christian Church") 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 all reminds me of when I was younger and in a different church setting (I confess my guilt and have long ago repented). Yes, it reminds me of the "break the record" attendance contest. An old phonograph record with the number of the attendance record 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" meetings. One wondered what clown or comedian training school the "evangelist" had attended. You name it... *Pandora's box was open.*

Really, the whole concept of the gimmicks, contests, prizes, etc. was/is wrong. Unspiritual motivation is used to try to get something accomplished (?)

spiritual. Christianity is a religion that demands that our motives be right. I am afraid that by offering a person a tangible, physical (and sometimes carnal) 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, beat a competitor, etc., we have our reward (right now). We may be short-changed in the long run. True religious motivation is not for a physical, tangible, earthly price 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).

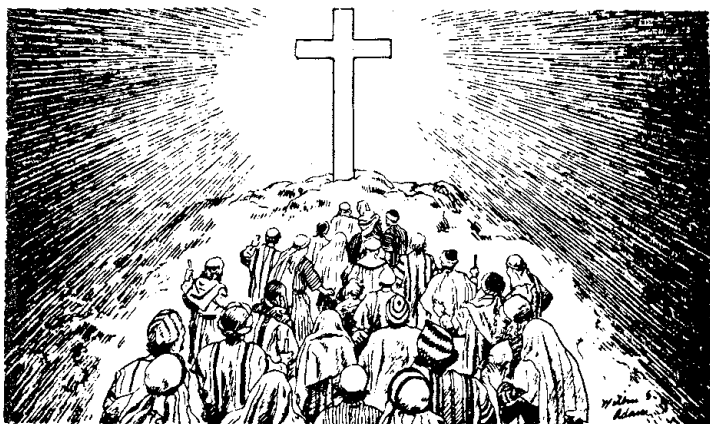
Jesus fed the hungry multitudes on an occasion or two, not to get their attention or to motivate them to follow him by that means, but because there was a real need. However, when he got down to business later about things spiritual, it became obvious that this was not their concern (John 6:31-69). In 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 a lot of "religious" people today, he would have kept the physical attraction (bait) 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 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 (rational or spiri-

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EDITORIAL *Byways*

(Continued from Previous Page)



tual) 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 and the gospel of Christ. Yes, let us win souls to Christ—to Christ! And, coupled with the right message (and love), 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 about short-cut results (even though it may bring in numbers) and detract from the dignity and respect due the gospel (as well as being an insult to God). GOD FORBID! □

* While it is wrong to use food as a motivational "drawing card," love feasts ("feasts of charity," Jude 12) were a common practice in the early church. In Acts 2:46 we read, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart." How rich is the fellowship among Christians in every sense of the word.

GOD'S KIND OF LEADERS

(Continued from Page 1)

Emphatically we say that God's kind of leaders is needed today.

God has had his kind of leaders in the past—men like Moses, the judges, the prophets, and preachers like Paul. He has had his faithful elders who were the very pillars of the church and society, resting on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ. These men stood, unmovable, and led when others hardly followed.

Then there has always been the other kind of leaders too—the false prophets, the false teachers,

the Balaams, hirelings, making merchandize of the people; yes, false prophets who were men-pleasers, who corrupted the Word of God. There were those who dishonored the office of leadership, who loved to have the pre-eminence (II John 9,10).

Being much concerned about God's kind of leaders, and where we are headed, let us consider this matter further.

I. GOD'S KIND OF LEADERS MUST HAVE PERSONAL PREPARATION

The task is great and God's kind of leaders, to qualify and be of use, must have preparation—especially personal preparation. Regardless how much they know academically speaking, unless they know God, unless their religion is intensely personal, they are not prepared to lead. The hand of God must shape the vessel.

Notice the man Moses. His first forty years stand in contrast to the remainder of his life. Brought up in the courts of Pharaoh, he was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds" (Acts 7:22). He was arrogant, and when confronted with an Egyptian taskmaster mistreating an Israelite, although his sympathies were in the right place, his actions were not. He killed the Egyptian taskmaster. Forty years in wilderness exile served their good purpose. Moses was a different man when God approached him to go forth to lead the Israelites from Egypt. No longer is he arrogant. No longer is he "mighty in words and in deeds." "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my LORD, I am not eloquent. . .but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue" (Exodus 4:10). A simple, pastoral life removed from the pomp of Egypt had purified—had displaced human pride. Now he was in a position where God could use him. Numbers 12:3 relates, "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth."

James and John, sons of Zebedee and disciples of Christ, make an interesting study. As Jesus passed through a village of the Samaritans on one occasion, the Samaritans would not receive him because his face was set as to go to Jerusalem. In disgust, James and John responded with a desire to have fire called down from heaven to devour them. Jesus rebuked them, saying, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy man's lives, but to save them" (Luke 9:51-56). Jesus nicknamed them the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). At another time, misunderstanding the nature of Christ's coming kingdom, they requested special privileges of sitting on the right and on the left hand of Jesus in his kingdom (Mark 10:35-45). Even after the baptism of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, their

views may have been corrected (changed), but their outspokenness remained (and we need to be outspoken in the right way). Perhaps this is why James was the object of the wrath of Herod, becoming the first apostle to suffer martyrdom (Acts 12:2). Evidently the years mellowed John. We remember him as the apostle of "love." He was the last apostle to die, and from all indications it was a natural death.

Man's ways of doing things are not always God's ways. Most of us must get some rough edges "knocked off" or "trimmed off" before we are ready for God's use. God's work is not accomplished by the might, power, and wisdom of men. The principle of how God many times works is found in I Corinthians 1:26-31 (also notice II Corinthians 12:9). God uses nobodies to announce that Jesus is somebody ("that no flesh should glory in his presence," I Corinthians 1:29). Those who envision themselves to be somebodies must empty themselves of self before they can be filled with God and be God's man for the job he wants done. Then, many times many things that are learned in "Bible" College must be unlearned before one can do "Bible" things in the "Bible" way.

God's kind of leaders must experience personal preparation whether it be by personal initiative or/and by the working of providence. That personal element is emphasized throughout the New Testament. Those who served tables to the needy were to be of "honest report, full of the Holy Ghost (Spirit), and wisdom." The apostles, in view of their work, would give themselves "continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word" (Acts 6:3,4). The young preacher Timothy was admonished, "Take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:16). "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). Likewise to the Ephesian elders, Paul urged, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves. . ." (Acts 20:28a). You will find that according to I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 God's leaders must be men of personal preparation—many qualifications must be met.

II. GOD'S KIND OF LEADERS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE GOING (THEY ARE MEN OF CONVICTION)

Adam and Eve sinned. With their fall, and with Cain killing his brother, the floodgate of sin was opened wide. Human wickedness and depravity accelerated so rapidly that by the time of Noah God was determined to destroy his creation. Noah, a godly man of the line of Seth, stands as an exception to his generation. He found "grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). Warned and instructed of God,

he began to prepare the ark. All of those years he worked and he preached; he preached and he worked. He was the object of scoffers, no doubt, with laughings and mockings—but that did not deter him. He knew what he was doing; he knew where he was going. He believed God, being a man of much conviction. Then when the Flood finally came, only eight people were saved. Think of that! Only eight people out of the whole world believed and were righteous. Noah, by his example and preaching, managed to save his immediate family. (Beloved, in our day of sin and compromise, don't despair and be unduly discouraged if many do not follow the truth. Think of Noah. Be a man of conviction like him. Don't waver. Don't compromise. Lead on. If only you save your immediate family, it will be worth it all).

When Moses left Egypt, he knew where he was going. The desert years, and the personal reality of God, had prepared him. The murmuring and disbelief of others did not, and could not, stop him. We have much sympathy, empathy, and admiration for this patient and resolute man of God. With a mighty hand Jehovah Elohim had humiliated the Egyptian world power, and rolling the waters back like sprawling, restless mountains, brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground. They had every reason to trust God and the leadership of Moses, but no. These emancipated, but undisciplined slaves, weren't so easy to lead. Not trusting God, nor being thankful, they soon murmured against Moses about the water supply, their food, his leadership, etc., etc. This happened time and time again. They even wanted to return to Egypt. Finally God determined that they would not be allowed to enter the promised land. Their carcasses would be left scattered in the wilderness. A new generation would be raised up to enter in. Even after all those years of wilderness wanderings Moses still knew where he was going. When God carried him "home" in death, he was still on the job, although he personally had not realized his goal. (How we need leaders like that today! They know what they believe. They know what their goals are. What others say, or do not say, does not sidetrack them. They will not compromise, even if it means leaving it to another generation to reap the fruits of their faithful efforts).

Yes, God's leaders (his kind) have always been men characterized by solid conviction. Joshua, having finally led the children of Israel into the promised land, challenged them about the future. Then, speaking for himself, he said, "...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). In the New Testament the apostle Paul was a man of

(Continued on Next Page)

GOD'S KIND OF LEADERS

(Continued from Previous page)



unswerving conviction. He knew whom he had believed, and believed him whom he knew. His burning conviction made him be "instant in season, out of season." He knew his message, and he knew his aim. Lost men needed salvation. He had the answer. Churches had to be set in order. Saints needed edification. He also knew what awaited him and all of the faithful at the end of life's road (II Timothy 4:6-8).

Today we are living in very perilous times. If we knew the extent of moral bankruptcy and decay, if we knew the extent of unbelief and apostasy, perhaps we would be more alarmed than we are. Among denominational religious leaders are found many who don't actually believe in the literal Word of God nor in the God of the Bible. So few have a definite set of Bible convictions. So many people can tell you what they don't believe, upon hearing a true gospel message and disagreeing with it, but not what they personally believe. As it has been said, the man who stands for nothing falls for anything (except perhaps the truth). It is easy for people who believe nothing to agree on anything, if we are not emphatic about the agreement (thus accounting for the religious movements toward unity, but not Bible-based). We get the impression that many religious leaders on the local scene, and elsewhere, put a straw in the wind, and whichever way the wind is blowing happens to be the way they are going. They are hirelings, and they are men-pleasers. They don't have many convictions of their own. But without solid Bible convictions, and without a personal relationship to God, it is like trying to tell someone about some place you have never been; like trying to introduce them to someone you don't know.

To be God's kind of leaders, we must be men of strong Bible convictions. Timothy was urged to (and

every preacher likewise is to), "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II

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BIBLE QUESTIONS

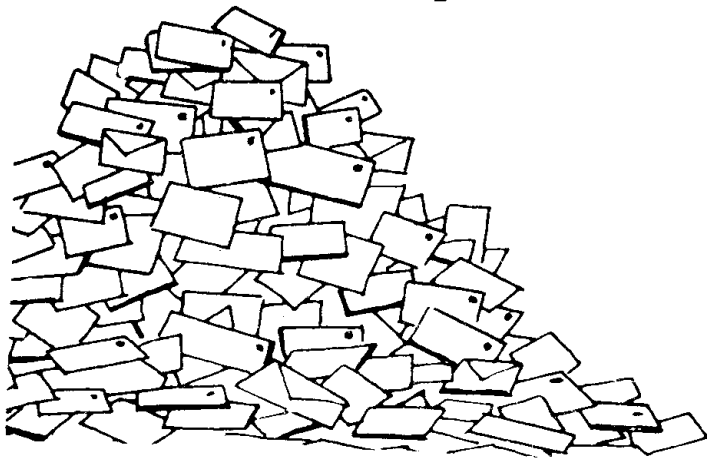
(Random Questions Over the Bible)

1. What is the significance of the term "Beer" when used as a Hebrew word, or as used as a prefix in a Hebrew word or name?
2. During the wilderness journey, at what two different places did Moses strike a rock and water came out for the Israelites to drink?
3. In particular, why were the children of Israel condemned to wander in the wilderness for *forty* years before being allowed to go into the promised land?
4. What happened to the ten spies who gave an evil report about the land of Canaan?
5. What were the two different occasions that God threatened to destroy the whole nation of Israel (while they were in the wilderness) and start all over again with Moses?
6. The ashes of a red heifer were used for what purpose among the Israelites?
7. Where did Miriam, the sister of Moses, die during the wilderness journey?
8. Where did Aaron, the brother of Moses, die during the wilderness journey (and what unusual circumstances surrounded his death)?
9. What city was given to Caleb as his inheritance in the promised land, and what city was given to Joshua, the spies who gave the good report?
10. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge among the children of Israel, and how many such cities were there (name them)?
11. What unusual malady befell the Philistines during the seven months they kept the ark of the covenant which had been taken in battle with Israel?
12. In giving his daughter Michal to David to wife, instead of a regular "dowry," what unusual request did king Saul make (and what was his motive)?
13. What two different cities in the Bible are called "city of David"?
14. What happened to Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, from the time the angel Gabriel made the announcement to him that John would be born until it came to pass?
15. What were seven different things Jesus did on Sabbath days out of which six resulted in clashes with the Pharisees with charges of Sabbath breaking?
16. What does the prefix "Bar" mean as found in Aramaic names (or words) in the New Testament?
17. When Jesus said, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees," what did he say was the leaven of the Pharisees?
18. What brother from the church at Philippi visited Paul while he was a prisoner at Rome, bringing assistance from the church, and while with Paul became very sick?
19. In the book of Titus, what do we learn as to why Titus had been left on the island of Crete?
20. What are the qualifications of an elder in the church involving family?

(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.

FLORIDA:

■ "Enjoy so much your publication. My husband, a minister, died several years ago, but thanks for providing me some good reading from 'THE BOOK'...I'm 80 years old..."

■ "Greetings in that most wonderful of names, the name of Jesus, God's Son and our Savior.

"Thanks for the great article on Romans 8:26-39 in the most recent issue of THE SWORD AND STAFF. Your thoughts put in wonderful written form what I have felt and preached on this Scripture portion for many years.

"I have a relatively large file of your Proverbially Speaking articles..."

NORTH CAROLINA:

■ "I am so thankful for the good work you are doing. I don't want to miss a copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF. It means so much to me. I know the Lord will bless you so much for what you are doing."

VIRGINIA:

■ "Enclosed a check. . . for the magazine which I love so much to read and be edified by the true Word. . .

"I just truly admire and am so elated that there is still a publication that doesn't use advertisements. I have in the past few years stopped several magazines that are almost all advertisements.

"We thank you for your continued good works for the Lord."

WEST VIRGINIA:

■ "Thank you for your wonderful magazine. Yours is one of the best in the brotherhood. I was pleased to learn from THE SWORD AND STAFF that I could use your articles for our church bulletin. I do enjoy reading your articles.

"I am ordering your 1985-86 and 1989-90 bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF; this will give me all

of the older ones that you offer. . .

"Again, thank you and may our Father in heaven continue to bless and keep you. Keep up the good work."

OHIO:

■ "We really like the tract, 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' Enjoy your publication. Keep up the good work."

■ "Greeting in Jesus' name. Hoping that all is well with you and yours. Praying that our Lord will continue to bless your faculties so that you will continue to labor in publishing his Word not only in print but by your personal example. Confident that such is your state and shall be. . .

"I refuse to subscribe to the denominational philosophy and mentality that facilitates the flesh and patronizes the carnal self-serving mind of Cretan stature. That philosophy that teaches that worldliness and holiness are compatible. That Satanic philosophy that promotes and emphasizes social intercourse to the neglect of Scriptural fellowship. That philosophy that promotes lateral society and excludes the vertical scope. Churches today are entertainment centers and forbid the proclaiming of God's Word and principles under the guise of love and tolerance, forgetting that happiness and joy are contingent on our humbly receiving God's instruction into our hearts. They believe that accepting Jesus is not related to accepting his Word. They would serve a mute Savior. They carry too far the Lord's comparing himself to a lamb and see Jesus as a mute idiot. Our relationship with Jesus is directly connected to our receiving his Word not just his person as a gentle Savior, but his communications as the all intelligent and omniscient God! John 14:21-24. Churchianity is vanity and humility, arrogance and meekness, Hollywood and heaven, pride and gentleness, the world and the kingdom of heaven. Such has been my observation of the religious world, labeled by me as Churchianity.

"Certainly the Lord is soon to return. Pray for us even as we pray for you. . ."

INDIANA:

■ "Thank you so much for doing a great job for the Lord. We enjoy THE SWORD AND STAFF and pray your work will continue. . ."

MISSOURI:

■ "Please cancel."

■ "Keep up the good work. Your publication is surely needed in today's society."

OKLAHOMA:

■ "God bless you for the great gospel articles. Keep it up!"

TEXAS:

■ "Please apply this to the getting out of THE SWORD AND STAFF. I appreciate what you are doing with the publication very much."

■ "I am requesting the bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF 1980 through 1990. Would you please check the printing of # 1, 1991 ("Don't Try to Untie the Knots") because my copy had duplications of pages 5-6 and 11-12 and did not have pages 3-4 and 13-14.

(Continued on Next Page)

READERS' . . . Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

"I have the bound volumes 1971-1979. I wonder if you have any volumes prior to 1971? Please let me know.

"I enjoy your printing very much. . ."

(Editor's Note: I am very sorry about this mistake involving the missing and duplicated pages. Being human, it is possible for things like this to happen sometimes. With the volumes you ordered will also be included issue # 1, 1991 in its entirety. Anyone experiencing a like problem, please let us know so we can correct it.

I am sorry but the bound volumes are now only available back through 1983. It is recommended that those wanting to get the bound volumes do so while we still have a supply).

ARIZONA:

■ *"Please continue your good work. You have my support."*

CALIFORNIA:

■ *"Thanks for THE SWORD AND STAFF! Good reading and true to the Word. Keep it up. . ."*

■ *"Just finished reading THE SWORD AND STAFF article on Romans 8:26-39.*

"Marvelous! It helped me understand that passage better. Romans 8:28 has been a favorite all through my years of being a Christian! . . . Thanks for keeping us on the mailing list.

"I want to tell you that I appreciate the 'type-set'. . . God bless you in your ministry. I always pass your paper on so someone else can share in the blessing. . ."

"We appreciate your Christian love through THE SWORD AND STAFF these many years. . ."

KOREA:

■ *"I just wanted to let you know that your gracious publications are coming through safely and that we are sincerely enjoying them. I am sharing them with the brethren here in our congregation that speak English and we are filing them for reference and use for any and all here in the brotherhood who would like to read them. I know that you know THE SWORD AND STAFF is a very fine publication, but I just wanted to let you know that is my opinion as well. May the Lord continue to bless you as you promote His Word and encourage all to remain faithful to it."*

NIGERIA:

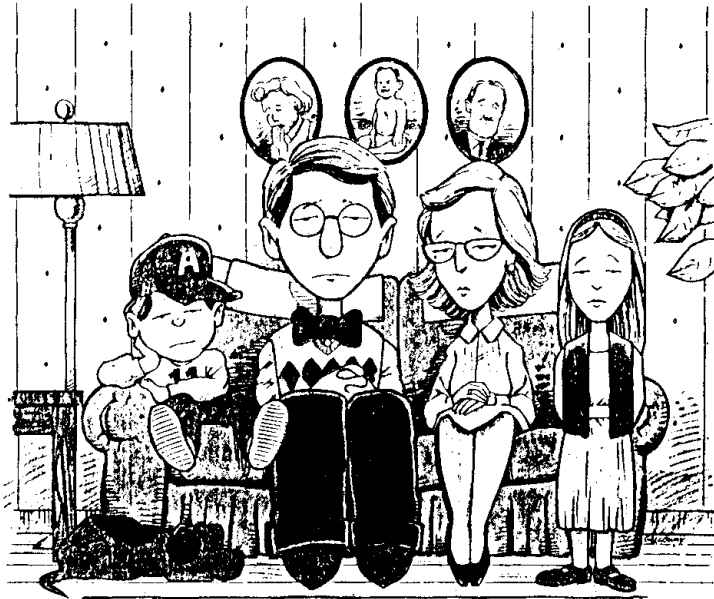
■ *"Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. I use this opportunity to thank you for your good work you have so well done. This is to let you know that I receive your good books from time to time and good topics inside the magazine. The contents are wonderful and profitable in every way. I am really grateful. I hereby express my profound appreciation for the good job done by the writers. Let me encourage you all to keep it up. . ."*

GHANA:

■ *"I am with much pleasure writing to you..."*

"Please sir, the purpose of writing the letter is to know more about the gospel. I was very happy when my friend

told me that you can help me know more about the teachings of Christ. . ." □



IS SOMETHING MISSING
in your family? How about letting God
be a vital part of your life?

GOD'S KIND OF LEADERS

(Continued from Page 8)

Timothy 2:15). In other words, the minister of the gospel should be ashamed if he does not know the Bible and is not "rightly dividing the word of truth." Elders must be faithful men of conviction who can and will use the faithful Word to convince the gainsayer—the false teacher (Titus 1:9-11). Notice and consider II Timothy 4:1-4. God's kind of leader must know where he is going—what he is trying to accomplish—if he is to lead others in that direction.

III. GOD'S KIND OF LEADERS ACTUALLY LEAD

The Lord's leaders are not followers of the crowd, not politicians in the church; they are not vacillating, oscillating, compromising diplomats—but leaders, ambassadors, men. They actually lead. This is God's plan.

Consider the elder in the Lord's church. Hebrews 13:7 says, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation (manner of living)." Elders must first lead by personal example. They also must first lead in their homes (I Timothy 3:4). If they don't have their children under subjection, if they have not been able to lead their family to Christ, they are not qualified to lead the church (Titus 1:6). Then they actually are

to lead (but not lord it over) the church. They are spoken of as having the "rule" (guide) over the church, being the overseers, etc. (I Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28).

The evangelist or preacher is God's key man to spearhead the Lord's work (especially in new places). He is no mere figurehead, but has been duly vested with the authority of the Word to get the job done. The imperative Great Commission is not a matter of option, play, or delay. God means business. The evangelist has authority in connection with the Word to ordain elders and set churches in order (Titus 1:5). Paul instructed Titus, "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (Titus 2:15).

But in our day of permissiveness, lukewarmness, and undisciplined (and apostate) churches, many people resent the man who will actually take the lead—they resent decided leadership (perhaps because of that for which the faithful leader stands). But many times everybody's business, with no recognized leadership, is nobody's business—the job doesn't get done. Remember Hebrews 13:17. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable to you." Remember Moses and the children of Israel in the wilderness. They resented; they murmured against Moses. Moses said, "...The LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD" (Exodus 16:8b). On another occasion we read, "Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? Wherefore do you tempt the LORD?" (Exodus 17:2). When Ananias and Sapphira lied to the apostle Peter about their giving, he said, "Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God" (Acts 5:4b). Paul in II Corinthians 5:20 speaks of preachers as "ambassadors for Christ." When an ambassador is mistreated, or suffers abuse, he does not consider it a personal affront; rather, the country that he represents has been shown a great disrespect. The same is true in God's kingdom.

Beloved, God's kind of leader has a great responsibility. Don't stand in the way of him fulfilling it. Let him lead. If he doesn't, the blood of others will be upon him (Acts 20:26,27). He will have to give account for the church, but let him be able to do this with joy (Hebrews 13:17). His judgment will be a little more strict when that Great Day comes (James 3:1).

IN CONCLUDING, let us sound the challenge

out to you. We need men of God today—real leaders; men who have more than money and self-interest at heart; men who want more than the praise of men. We need men like Moses to lead us through the wilderness. How we need young, daring "prophets" to preach the gospel and righteousness to a hell-bent nation and world; to awaken and disturb a sluggish, worldly, lukewarm church—that the church itself may lead out and set the right example before the world! Preachers like Peter and Paul, arise! You are needed! Counting all thing but loss to know Christ and his will, crucified with Christ, crucified unto the world and the world unto you; feeling a "woe" that demands that you preach and be heard—arise, go forth! Lead us to a better day, the eternal day! God calls! —*Adapted* □

While Her Father Slept

THERE IS a story that a father once took his little girl out into a green meadow. It was a hot day so he sat in the shade of a beautiful tree to rest. The little girl ran about gathering flowers and brought them to her father, saying, "Pretty! Pretty!" Soon the father fell asleep, and the child unattended wandered away. When he awoke, his first thought was, "Where is my child?!" He shouted at the top of his voice, but all he heard was his voice ringing and echoing back. Running to a nearby hill, he frantically looked around, but she was not to be seen. Then he looked over a nearby cliff, and there upon the rocks and bushes below he saw the mangled body of his beloved little girl. Ever after he accused himself of being the killer of his little child, because while he was asleep, the child wandered over the precipice.

Oh, how many fathers and mothers are now sleeping while their children wander over cliffs and are making shipwreck of their lives, falling into overt sin and unbelief?! Now is the time to train children in Christian principles, the way they should go. Next year may be (and will be) too late. What a tragic day it will be when one awakens from his spiritual indifference to find that while he was sleeping, his child wandered far away! □

The Greatest Wrong of the Hypocrite

PERHAPS the greatest wrong, and consequent tragedy, of the religious hypocrite is not that he has deceived others into believing that he is something that he is not, but rather that he has deceived himself into believing this (and that he is acceptable with God), which he is not. □

President Garfield's Rule for Successful Living

ONE OF the most illustrious careers found in the pages of American history is that of James Abram Garfield, 20th President of the United States. Before his election to this country's highest office, he was a college president, state senator, major-general, U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator, a combination of honors without parallel in the national annals.

When Garfield was a young man, someone placed in his hand one day a slip of paper, which he carried with him all his life. Inscribed on this paper were the following lines:

Make few promises.
Always speak the truth.
Live within your income.
Never speak evil of anyone.
Keep good company or none.
Never play games of chance.
Drink no intoxicating drinks.
Good character is above everything else.
Keep your own secrets if you have any.
Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it.
Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.
Keep yourself honest if you would be happy.
When you speak to a person, look into his eyes.
Make not haste to be rich, if you would prosper.
Save when you are young to spend when you are old.
Never run into debt, unless you see a way out again.
Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.

Your character cannot be badly hurt except by your own vices.

If anybody speaks evil of you, let your life be so that no one will believe it.

Never be idle. If your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of the mind.

As one thinks of this great and successful man, it is well to remember that he was devotedly religious. From his mother, Garfield learned the value of prayer and daily Bible reading. It was his practice through life to pause each evening at sunset and read the Scriptures. . . Moreover, he always faithfully met with the church for worship. Garfield firmly believed "there is nothing that can make youth so shapeful, manhood so strong, and old age so beautiful as the religion of Jesus Christ."

While yet a teenager, he espoused the cause of Christ and took his stand with those calling for a complete return to the New Testament. A few months after preaching his first sermon, Garfield wrote to a friend: "I tell you, my dear brother, the cause in which we are engaged must take the world. It fills my soul when I reflect upon the light, joy and love of the ancient gospel."

Christ and his gospel can give real meaning and purpose for your life! Without him, no life can be truly successful. Open your heart to him today, for he says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).—**A.T. Pate** □

Who Said It? IN THE BIBLE

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
2. "The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another."
3. "Come thou with us, and we will do thee good."
4. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."
5. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve..."
6. "The LORD giveth, and the LORD taketh away: blessed be the name of the LORD."
7. "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."
8. "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."
9. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."
10. "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."
11. "Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live."
12. "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
13. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."
14. "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."
15. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
16. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
17. "Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him."
18. "The just shall live by faith."
19. "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel."
20. "God is love."

(Answers found elsewhere in this paper)

That Which Determines

"**THE SET** of your sails, and the firmness of your grasp upon the tiller, determine whether the wind shall carry you to the haven or shall blow you out, a wandering waif, upon a shoreless and melancholy sea."—**Selected** □

And Whose Sheep Are You?

"MY SHEEP hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:17,18). What is the passage saying?

(1) If one does not obey Jesus' New Testament teaching, he is not a "sheep" of Jesus. "Hear" means more than a registering of sound. It means *hear* with the disposition to obey. (Compare Revelation 2:7; Hebrews 3:7). Notice the double emphasis, "and they follow me." John said, "He that saith, I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). No accountable individual can be identified as a "sheep" of Jesus apart from obedience. When the Lord commanded through Peter, "Repent and be baptized," those who truly heard and were willing to follow, obeyed (Acts 2:38,41). It is the same with every command given. There is no quibble, no arguing. Sheep don't question the Shepherd.

(2) Notice the blessing poured out upon these sheep—I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish." And who will receive this? Those who hear the voice of Jesus and follow his will. No one else is assured this blessing. Obviously, the "sheep" who grows careless, ceasing to follow Jesus is no longer counted a loyal "sheep." In another passage, Jesus says, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me" (John 14:21). Thus, conversely, when one lives disobediently, he is illustrating that he does not love the Lord. Similar teaching is found in John 15:14.

(3) The last phrase of John 10:28 is assurance that no Christian can be separated from God against his will. That is, because God is on our side, if we have a settled purpose to live faithfully, *no one* can alienate us from God. Of course being agents of free will, some may choose to return to sin, but they who love the Lord and are intent on living for him, certainly can. (Study II Peter 2:20-22). Jesus' sheep hear and follow. Whose sheep are you?—*The Light* □

A Wretched and Condemned Criminal

MANKIND is like a criminal who has been condemned. We see this poor wretched convict in his cell. He has broken the law; he's doomed. It is only a matter of time until he will be executed. He has a visitor—along comes the *moralist*. Looking through the bars of the cell, he says to the poor fellow who will soon go to the electric chair, "Be good!" The convict looks at him with disgust, "Be good! What good

will that do me now?" Then comes the *philosopher* to the cell, looks through the bars, and says to the convict, "You see that opening up there? If you stand in the right place, and keep your eyes fixed in that direction, you'll see some of the sunlight by day and the stars by night." The convict replies, "That's a nice observation, good advice, but it's not going to get me out of the electric chair!" Then the evangelist comes walking down the corridors of the prison with a hurried step. As he excitedly peers through the bars he says to the convict, "You're free! The Lord has paid the penalty of your crimes. Now go out and with heartfelt gratitude to him keep the Law that you have broken, and practice the morals of a good citizen!" □

"When You Least Expect it..."

HOW would you complete this sentence: "When you least expect it. . ." What would you say? Some adhere to Murphy's Law "If anything can possibly go wrong, it will." They'd say, "When you least expect it disaster strikes." The IRS will audit me, or the doctor will look at my X-ray and frown or my mechanic will tell me, "It's not the carburetor but the whole engine is shot!" And you know, we tend to get what we expect in life.

There's another way to look at things. Why not say, "When you least expect it, something good will happen." Look forward to some good surprises. An old friend we've not heard from in years, calls. The boss gives us a raise and we didn't even ask for it. Our teenager says "Thank you."

Maybe more good things will happen to us if we believe they will. Look forward to blessings.

—*Ralph W. Griggs* □

Pithy Points to Ponder

"IF WE TALK Christianity by the *yard* and practice it by the *inch*, we should be dealt with by the *foot*" (someone has said).

Too many Christians (and preachers) have made peace with the world before the war has been won (and before the hostilities have ceased).

"Where men persistently give themselves up to evil, God gives them up to its power" (Ephesians 4:17-19; Romans 1:24).

If you backslide the results will be totally disastrous for your children. Think twice before you go down that slippery road!

"If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow." □

Authority for Women Preachers?

● *The Bible states that Philip had four daughters "who prophesied" (Acts 21:9). Does this provide authority for women preachers?*

It is clear from the passage just cited and from others, that some women in the early church did prophesy. Acts 2:17 mentions both sons and daughters prophesying, and Paul requires that women who pray or prophesy do so with covered heads (I Corinthians 11:5).

The word "prophesy" simply means "to speak forth" (from *pro*, "forth," and *phemi*, "to speak"). The term sometimes denotes a public proclamation of a divine message, as in the case of the prophets in the assembly of the early church (I Corinthians 14:4). However, it is possible to prophesy in a strictly private setting. Huldah "communed" with certain men of Israel in this fashion (II Kings 22:14). Miriam prophesied, but only to the women of Israel (Exodus 15:20,21). "Prophesying" can even be used of acts of worship (I Chronicles 25:3). There is a sense in which we prophesy when we sing, for singing is a form of teaching, and teaching is a form of prophecy (Colossians 3:16; I Corinthians 14:3). Prophecy can denote a message that is spoken (I Samuel 10:10), or one that has been written (Revelation 22:18,19).

The usage of the word in a given setting, therefore, must be determined either by the immediate context of the passage in which it is found, or else by the larger context of the New Testament as a whole. Now if it is the case that the New Testament forbids a woman to assume the official position of a public teacher in sexually integrated audiences (and *it surely does*—cf. I Corinthians 14:34; I Timothy 2:12), then it follows that Philip's daughters, if obedient to God, did not prophesy in any circumstance that put them in violation of New Testament restrictions.

There is no authority for women "preachers" in Acts 21:9, or elsewhere in the Scriptures.

—Wayne Jackson □

The Art of Getting Along

SOONER or later, a man, if he is wise, discovers that life is a mixture of good days and bad, victory and defeat, give and take.

He learns that he who loses his temper usually loses out.

He learns that it doesn't pay to be a too sensitive soul; that he should let some things go over his head like water off a duck's back.

He learns that all men have burnt toast for breakfast now and then, and that he shouldn't take the

FROM JANUARY ON THROUGH



other fellow's grouch too seriously.

He learns that carrying a chip on his shoulder is the easiest way to get into a fight.

He learns that the quickest way to become unpopular is to carry tales and gossip about others.

He learns that buck-passing always turns out to be a boomerang, and that it never pays.

He comes to realize that the business could run along perfectly well without him.

He learns that it doesn't matter so much who gets the credit so long as the business benefits.

He learns that even the janitor is human and that it does no harm to smile and say, "Good morning," even if it is rainy.

He learns that most of the other fellows are as ambitious as he is, that they have brains as good or better, and that hard work, not cleverness, is the secret of success.

He learns to sympathize with the youngster coming into the business because he remembers how bewildered he was when he first started out.

He learns that no man ever got to first base alone, and that it is only through cooperative effort that we move on to better things.

He learns that bosses are no monsters, trying to get the last ounce of work out of him for the least amount of pay, but that they are usually pretty good fellows who have succeeded through hard work and who want to do the right thing.

He learns that folks are not any harder to get along with in one place than another, and that the "getting along" depends about ninety-eight percent on his own behavior.—*Winfred Peterson* □

AUTUMN'S SERMON

**The smokey hues of the humble Ash,
The sassy stands of Sassafras;
The royal radiance of the Maple trees
In gold and crimson paint Autumn's seas.**

**But pray, miss not God's hand in it all—
There is a message to be seen in Fall. . .
For the wonder and beauty of Fall's changing face
Confess the riches of God's unchanging grace.**

**Even as the sinner redeemed at last
Professes our freedom from a darkened past,
Once worthless weeds, only now in flower,
Testify truly of that God-given power
To change and reclaim the unlovely soul,
Once wasted in sin. . . now by grace made whole.**

**But not without the Summer's awful heat
And the bitter cold of killing frost,
Can nature transform itself anew,
Nor we our souls without greater cost.**

**For the crimson red of Autumn trees
Calls us all to fall to our knees,
To praise Him for the price of blood He paid,
As punishment for our sins on Him was laid.**

**Pray, look not light-heartedly upon Fall's beauty;
Rather with reverence may we recall our duty
Rightly to render our response of praise,
As ransomed souls in His debt
The rest of our days.**

—By Bob Wickline

One Step at a Time

ONE OF the favorite stories in the old *McGuffey's Reader* was the parable of the little clock which pondered its future as it was hung on the wall for the first time. The clock realized that it had to tick twice every second. This meant 120 times every minute, or 7,200 times every hour. Multiply that by 24 and that meant 162,800 ticks every day! That in turn, meant 63,072,000 ticks every year. The little clock considered the problem. If it ticked only ten years that meant 630,720,000 ticks. By now the clock had almost collapsed from nervous exhaustion.

In a moment of insight, however, the little clock realized it had to tick only one tick at a time! So it began, and ticked on strongly for many, many years.

This simple parabolic story illustrates a great principle about temperance. Self-control of our tongue, habits, or attitudes is not something that demands complete control for years! Instead, we are to practice self-control each day, living a day at a time. Through this process, complete self-control can always be within our grasp. Remember, being "anxious for tomorrow" was one of the first warnings Jesus ever gave.—*Selected* □

Religion Must Be Total

RELIGION to some people is like a man with a headache. He does not want to get rid of his head, but OH!, how it hurts him to keep it. They have enough faith to make them miserable but not enough to make them happy. The chief danger to religion is man's wanting it in such small amounts.

Man enjoys what he works at, and in religion there is no joy apart from a working faith. By putting his heart into it and working at the job, he finds the indispensable support of ideals, sense of purpose, peace, approval, hope and joy.

The religion of some people is constrained: they are like people who use the cold bath. . . they go in with reluctance, and are glad when they get out.

—*John Newton* □

The Offense of the Cross

THE CROSS was an offense to people. The closer Jesus got to the cross, the fewer were his disciples. When he was finally crucified, they all fled. Even Jesus cried out to the Father, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And today it seems the closer that we get to the cross (and Jesus) the fewer are the disciples. □

Answers to:

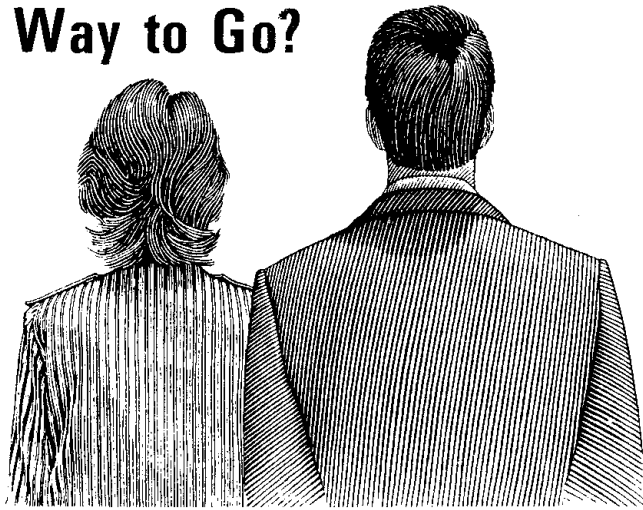
Who Said It? IN THE BIBLE

1. Genesis 4:9; 2. Genesis 31:49; 3. Numbers 10:29; 4. Deuteronomy 33:27; 5. Joshua 24:15; 6. Job 1:21; 7. I Samuel 15:22,23; 8. Psalms 37:25; 9. Proverbs 9:10; 10. Amos 4:12; 11. Isaiah 38:1; 12. Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 13. Matthew 6:33; 14. Luke 5:8; 15. Acts 20:35; 16. Acts 9:6; 17. Acts 10:33,34; 18. Habakkuk 2:14; Romans 1:17; 19. I Corinthians 9:16; 20. I John 4:8,16.

The Bright Lights

EVEN as the bright lights and glitter of this sinful world are attractive to many, so the flame ever attracts the moth—only to scorch, kill and destroy it. This should be a vivid lesson to any and all who will see it.—*J. E. G.* □

Confused About Which Way to Go?



Go back to the Bible and the local
UNDENOMINATIONAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH
and you will be right on course.

The Reason

THE REASON that a preacher is associated with a local church is *not to have a place to preach, but to preach*; to set the church in order, and to bring the people to spiritual maturity (as they are actually brought to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord). If he doesn't do this, he is nothing more than a hireling (a man-pleaser) and has failed in his mission. —**J. Gibbons** □

Free Poem Plaque

READ the poem on page 3. This message of recognition of preachers who would faithfully stand needs to be in the forefront today. Maybe this ideal will encourage one and all to be faithful. We are making this poem available free of charge on heavier paper (ivory/beige color), 8 x 10 inches, suitable for framing. Order as many copies as you actually can use (and make good use of them). As we said, there is no charge, but if you would like to help with the postage it would be appreciated.—**J.E.G.** □

(CLIP AND MAIL)

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find my contribution. Please put me on the mailing list of *The Sword and Staff*. ☐ New ☐ Renew

Name:

Address (with zip):

(Check for bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*)

- ☐ 1983-84 bound vol. of *The Sword and Staff*—\$5.95
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1. Numbers 21:16; Genesis 21:31; etc.; 2. Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:1-11; 3. Numbers 14:33,34; 4. Numbers 14:36,37; 5. Exodus 32:7-14; Numbers 14:1-24; 6. Numbers 19; 7. Numbers 20:1; 8. Numbers 20:22-29; 9. Joshua 14:13-15; 15:13,14; 19:49,50; 10. Joshua 20; 11. I Samuel 5:6-12; 6:1; 12. I Samuel 18:22-27; 13. II Samuel 5:6,7,9; Luke 2:4,11; 14. Luke 1:5-20,57-64; 15. (1) Mark 1:21-27; (2) Matthew 12:1-9; (3) Matthew 12:10-14; (4) Luke 13:11-17; (5) Luke 14:1-6; (6) John 5:1-18; (7:22-24); (7) John 9; 16. Matthew 16:17; John 1:42; Acts 4:36; etc.; 17. Luke 12:1; 18. Philippians 4:18; 2:25-30; 19. Titus 1:5; 20. I Timothy 3:2,4,5; Titus 1:6.

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