### The

## Sword AND Staff

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

**▶•"BE NOT DECEIVED..."** (See Page 2)

# The best way to get anything done is to do it.

—James E. Gibbons

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#### INFORMATION:

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-Thank you-

## Proverbially **SPEAKING...**

**PREACHER,** there must be a little fire in your preaching if you would light a spark in another's heart.

"Very small bricks make a big house" (each one is important to the whole).

To sin against the light is to bring upon oneself the darkest night.

"My riches consist not in the abundance of my possessions, but in the fewness of my wants."

Drifting, going the course of least resistance, is what makes churches (with no leadership), men, and rivers crooked.

"Blessed is the man, who having nothing to say, refrains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact."

A paranoid preoccupation with prophecy amounts to witchcraft, trying to divine the future in detail rather than simply trusting the allknowing God.

"Righteousness is standing for the right; holiness is standing against the wrong."

The preacher who is afraid to "rock the boat" doesn't get much rowing done.



"...BE NOT DECEIVED..."
(I Corinthians 6:9,10)

THERE is a definite movement under way, even a concerted effort, to make the practice of homosexuality respectable as an alternate life style in our society. We are subtly bombarded with this by means of the public media, whether on the printed page of plush magazines or by means of the omnipresent airwaves. Even the president of this country has unwisely (and foolishly) created an atmosphere wherein such imbalanced "thinking" can thrive and prevail.

We will say more about this later, but now with the apostle Paul we solemnly warn, "BE NOT DECEIVED..." (I Cor. 6:9,10). This warning repeatedly appears in the New Testament (I Cor. 15:33; Galatians 6:7; Titus 3:3; I John 3:7,8), and the Devil is pictured as the author of all deception (Revelation 12:9). The word deceive (planoo) in the original language of the N.T. Scriptures means to lead astray. Ungodly teachers who have thus been led astray (and are leading others astray) are called "wandering stars" (Jude 13, KJV). This word translated "wandering stars" (planetes) comes from the same root word that is rendered "deceive." We get our English word planet from this word. Thus, planets are "wandering stars." They don't keep a fixed position as true stars, and they can be seen at different places in the heavens. Therefore, those who have been deceived, led astray, have left the fixed position of absolutes in reference to right and wrong. Then Jude carries this figure a step further, as he writes of these false teachers: "to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."

We have not been left in ignorance of God's will concerning human sexuality. The Bible is the manual that came with man and the creation. Modern men and women with deviate thinking and behavior involving their sexuality would do well to listen to the Incarnate Word as he speaks (and questions). "Have you not read, that he [God] made them male and female, And he said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain [two] shall be one flesh?" (Matthew 19:4,5). This heterosexual creation and arrangement from the very beginning is found detailed in Genesis 2:18-24. That is how and why they had been made (to compliment one another). After God had finished creating everything, including man (male) and woman (female), we

read, "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Later in the law of Moses, because of the way that man had been distinctly created, God solemnly said, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" (Leviticus 20:13). Then in Deuteronomy 23:17 it plainly reads, "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel." This reference to sodomites has its origin all the way back in Genesis 19 when God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone from heaven because they were given over to perverted sexual practices (Genesis 19; II Peter 2:6; Jude 7).



In the New Testament, looking back to that monumental law given to Moses, the apostle Paul writes, "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers [fornicators], for them that defile themselves with mankind [practicing homosexuals], for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is

contrary to sound doctrine" (I Timothy 1:9,10). The homosexual practice is put in the context of some pretty rank sins (and crimes). In Romans chapter one, the apostle Paul also writes and paints a nauseous, sickening, and repulsive picture of the depravity of the homosexual practice. whether male or lesbian. Man divorced from God finds himself divorced from the dignity and glory of God (from respectability). Because men (and in particular the ancient Gentiles) did not like to retain God in their knowledge, "God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie...For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; and likewise also the men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lusts one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet [fitting]..." (Romans 1:24-27). After also mentioning other outstanding sins here, the apostle Paul concludes, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:32).

I Cor. 6:9-11 is a very revealing section of Scripture (also written by Paul). "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? BE NOT DECEIVED: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind [those who passively and actively practice homosexuality], nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Along with these other sinners, people who practice homosexuality will not go to heaven. Paul warns, "BE NOT DE-CEIVED" into thinking otherwise. But the situation in which such sinners find themselves is not hopeless. Paul said, "Such were some of you" (past tense). By God's mercy and grace they had been forgiven, and now were living changed lives.

Hebrews 13:4 asserts, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers [fornicators] and adulterers God will judge." But,

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#### EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

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BE NOT DECEIVED," there is nothing honorable or respectable about the practice of homosexuality. Among God's ancient people, Deuteronomy 23:17 also asserted, "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel." Marriage of heterosexual people was God's plan, and sexual practice outside of the holy bounds of marriage, as well as homosexuality, was to be foreign to God's people. Unmarried women throughout the Bible are commonly called virgins. This is also true in the New Testament in the context of the church. Philip the evangelist had four daughters who were called virgins (Acts 21:8,9). In the Christian community, the apostle Paul instructs, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" (Ephesians 5:3). Since such practices were to be alien and foreign to the people of God, it is no surprise that the immoral woman is called a "strange woman" in the Bible. This is repeatedly found throughout the book of Proverbs (Proverbs 2:16-19; 5:3-6,15-20; 6:24-29; 7:5-23; 22:14; 23:33). If deviating from God's plan of marriage and engaging in immoral sexual conduct resulted in a woman being called a "strange woman," what about those who engage in the loathsome act of homosexuality? The apostle Paul said that their unthinkable behavior was "against nature" (Romans 1:26). In retrospect, Jude said that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah went after "strange flesh" (Jude 7). They may talk about "gay pride" today, but in the language of the street what these people are called is still true, "QUEER!" There is no honor or respectability to be found here.

But we are living in strange times. Whether it is looked upon as something that is just happening by chance, as a concerted effort by disconcerted people (homosexuals, lesbians, and misguided sympathizers), or as a diabolical scheme coming from Satan himself, the end result is the same. There is a definite movement under way to make homosexuality respectable and accepted in our society today. And there has been no better time for the prospects of such a movement being successful. There is so much unbelief, illiteracy of the Bible, and just plain disregard for morals. Also, we are of the impression that many in their heterosexual unions are actually doing the same thing that the homosexuals do

(engaging in oral sex, et al.). So, we couldn't expect them to look upon the practice of homosexuality as being all that repugnant.

Let us consider. Whether consciously meant or not, many currents are moving to bring homosexuality into the mainstream of society and respectability.

The August, 1991, issue of Parent's Magazine had nine articles dealing with babies and children. starting with pregnancy and going through age 18. The last article was, "Attitudes Toward Homosexuality," written by a Ph. D. psychologist and university professor. In this article, on page 140 of said magazine, these words are found, "While same-sex attraction is common, it can be, as it was for me, anxiety-arousing. This anxiety is partly a result of many myths and prejudices about homosexuality. Even in this enlightened age, many people still see homosexuality as a sexual perversion or as an illness rather than what it is—a normal and common form of human sexual expression." (Did you hear that? We who oppose homosexuality are unenlightened! The Doctor says it is a "normal and common form of human sexual expression." Wheee! Now, Doctor! The most elementary of us can see that the anatomy of the human body does not accommodate homosexuality!). This article brought to remembrance our subscribing to the *Psychology To*day magazine many years ago. We subscribed to this "prestigious" magazine, thinking it would make us a better informed person. About two or three issues were received. The last one dealt with human sexuality. In so many words, if we remember correctly, it said that the homosexual was probably more normal than the heterosexual in reference to his sexuality. The magazine was returned, and they were told not to send any more.

We hear of public school systems teaching children that they have a choice as to their sexual preference (meaning a homosexual choice). We hear of an airline providing special tours and accommodations for homosexuals. Certain companies treat the homosexual relations of employees as marriages with accompanying benefits. Television features sitcoms involving characters who are homosexual. Newspapers have whole sections of advertizing from people seeking partners, including ads for the same sex. A recent series in the comic strips, "For Better or for Worse," which normally has a wholesome family-oriented theme, featured a homosexual theme for 28 days. This young fellow finds out that his friend is a homosexual, who is in "love" with someone of the same sex. He is initially repulsed, but accepts him. When they find out about their

#### FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE (Number 2 and number 28 in series of 28 strips)

















son, the homosexual's parents drive him out of their home into the night. Everything is calculated for the reader to identify and sympathize with the homosexual kid. Humor is interspersed with everything that happens, thus throwing the reader off guard to the radical message that is trying to be gotten across. At the end of the series his parents accept him and receive him back. Evidently the cartoonist was cognizant of the upcoming homosexual march on Washington. The comic strip series ended a day before the march took place. In the comic strip everyone received the homosexual kid back, so we should receive the homosexuals marching in Washington with their accompanying life style. Evidently, everything was planned to coincide (it seems). (NOTE: We commend such newspapers as the Oklahoman that declined to run this particular comic strip series). And in Washington, D.C., we have a president who is sympathetic to the homosexual cause (whatever that is). But before we can speak about our rights, we must be in the right. This is not a racial issue, but a moral one. In what is taking place, God's whole order of creation is being flaunted. The very foundation of human society is at stake.

Again we solemnly warn you with the apostle Paul, "BE NOT DECEIVED [planao, led astray]" (I

Cor. 6:9.10). When we divorce ourselves from God. we divorce ourselves from all that is good and decent. We throw ourselves open to disaster. The ancient Gentiles did just that (Romans 1:18-32), "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (1:22). "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind [a mind void of judgment], to do those things which are not convenient [proper]" (1:28). They went into idolatry and the depths of sexual depravity. Yes, "God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lusts one toward another; men with men, working that which is unseemly. and receiving in themselves that recompence [reward, penalty] of their error [plané, result of being led astray, deceived] which was meet [fitting]" (1:26,27). Today the ancient Gentile scenario goes on. The humanists are making modern society a vacuum wherein God has been dismissed. The vacuum is being filled with crime, homosexuals, lesbians, and all kinds of deviate behavior.

Beware!

"Be ye Holy, for I am Holy" (I Peter 1:16).

## QUESTIONS

WE HAVE on hand a few questions relating to the Bible. We do not solicit such questions, as we do not have all the answers, but here are a few brief comments.

**OHIO:** "Please comment on the selection and election of elders.. Also, why are some verses omitted from some of the translations?"

(1) As to the "selection and election of elders," it is more of a selection than of an election. In Acts 14:23 we read, "And when they [Paul and Barnabas] had ordained [selected] them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord on whom they believed." On the island of Crete, Titus was to "ordain [appoint] elders in every city" as Paul had arranged for him to do (Titus 1:5). From Acts 20:28 we gather that the Holy Spirit in some way was involved in the making of the Ephesian elders. One way is for men having to meet the "must" qualifications laid down in the Holy Scriptures by the Holy Spirit (I Timothy 3; Titus 1). The elders (and deacons) were first "proved" as to their qualification (I Timothy 3:10; 5:22). In the New Testament the evangelist (preacher) took the leadership in appointing qualified men to the eldership, but everyone would have a part in verifying the appointment as to meeting the qualifications, etc. But popular election, as such, seems unwise and inappropriate. It is more a matter of solemn selection than election.

(2) Some verses are omitted from some modern translations, but not deleted as such, because they are not found in some of the ancient manuscripts. This is more of a scholarly notation.

**②** INDIANA: Comments wanted "on the newer translations of the Bible. Particularly between the New International Version and the New American Standard."

There are so many "newer translations of the Bible" that we don't try to keep up with all of them. Really, in this writer's opinion, the appearance of so many translations of the Bible is a reflection of the illiteracy of modern man (both religiously and otherwise) rather than there being any outstanding deficiency in the older translations. Modern man spends so little time with the Bible that it must be in a pabulum form before he can understand it. Modern churches are content to use their anemic literature and really never get around to making a study of the textbook of their religion (as such).

The truth of God can be learned from most all of the translations (if we are a student). Jesus and the apostles used the Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament (which translation, we understand, was less than perfect). However, to this writer, those translations that most literally render the meaning of the words from the original are to be desired (not the "free" interpretive translations; not the paraphrase). The older King James version, although certain words border on being obsolete today, was largely such a translation. Too many modern translations take too many liberties in reducing the Bible to pabulum.

There is so much good reference and source material available today for the student of the Bible. Our suggestion is not to be totally dependent upon any one translation of the Bible, although you may use a recognized translation as your text, but as a serious student take a look behind each verse of the Scriptures in deeper study. It will be the most rewarding experience.

**THE INDIS:** A question has been received as to the significance of the 1,000 year reign of Christ mentioned in Revelation 20.

There are about as many thoughts (and divergent thoughts) on this chapter as there are commentators.

#### Premillennialism Dismissed

Right off we can dismiss as fanciful the premillennial view that has Christ reigning upon the political throne of David in Jerusalem for a 1,000 years (with the Old Testament system intact).

That was the same mentality that was such a stumbling block to the first century Jews when Jesus came into the world. They wanted an earthly king. His mission was, and is, a spiritual one involving the salvation of man and the church (I Timothy 1:15; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 3:21). Although the prophecies picture Christ as a king upon the throne of David (Luke 1:31-33; Psalms 89:3,4; etc.), it was not a political kingdom. The unbelieving Jews brought charges falsely before Pilate that Jesus made himself an earthly king, hoping the Roman authorities would come down heavy on Jesus. From this perspective Pilate interrogated Jesus, asking him if he were a king. "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence [here]" (John 18:36). A few years before, John the Baptist had started preaching that the kingdom was at hand (near) (Matthew 3:2). When John was cast into prison, Jesus and his

disciples took up the same message (Matthew 4:17). The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), as well as the parables on the kingdom (Matthew 13), make it obvious that the kingdom is a spiritual one. Jesus taught that men must be converted and become as little children before they could enter the kingdom (Matthew 18:1-3). In the great confession by Peter, and the words that follow (Matthew 16:13-19), it is pretty clear that the kingdom and the church are the same (as the terms are used interchangeably here). Christ said, "I will build my church," and Peter would have the keys to the kingdom. The Lord decidedly stated in Mark 9:1, "Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." And in the 2nd chapter of Acts we see this taking place. It is the Day of Pentecost, the day the church was formally brought into being. Peter and the other apostles preach. The apostle Peter tells how Christ has been raised from the dead and quotes words of David applying to this. Listen: "Therefore [David] being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell [hades, sheol], neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up whereof we all [apostles] are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted..." (Acts 2:30-33). Peter went on to declare, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The Incarnate Word of the seed of David crucified, raised from the dead. ascended to heaven, and now enthroned at the right hand of God is declared to be the Christ reigning upon the throne of David. Peter said that he had been raised from the dead to sit on David's throne. And because this had actually taken place, the kingdom had come with power upon the Day of Pentecost. Thereafter reference is made to the kingdom throughout the book of Acts (Acts 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23,31). The apostle Paul asserts in Colossians 1:13 that God "hath delivered us from the power [exousia: authority, as governmental authority] of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." So, Christians are now in the kingdom. Christ reigns.

#### **Explaining Prophecy**

Some prophecy in the Bible is in direct ordinary language, but much of it is draped in figurative and suggestive language rather than the literal (starting

with Genesis 3:15). And, especially, as we approach the book of Revelation it is well for us always to keep in mind that it is a book full of signs, symbols, and suggestive language. Revelation 1:1 states that this book was "signified" (sign-ified) to John. Whatever the book of Revelation means, it means what it means in the light of the rest of the Bible. In other words, the everyday language of the Bible should be used to explain the symbolic, and not the symbolic the everyday. An interpretation should not be forced upon the book of Revelation that contradicts the rest of the Bible. People who have "way out" ideas, which they cannot back with that part of the Bible written in plain language, many times hide behind the symbolic language of prophecy (and give it whatever meaning they want). They speak with dogma, and the "unlearned" and uninitiated dare not answer them. It is well for us to remember II Peter 3:14-16 (and Revelation 22:18,19) and be humble. Take Peter's admonition to heart on how to live in view of the second coming of Christ (I Peter 4:7-11; II Peter 3) and leave the rest to the Lord. That's our main responsibility. If we are ready, the purpose of prophecy has been accomplished (Revelation 22:10-14). We do not have to know the future in detail. A paranoid preoccupation with prophecy amounts to witchcraft, trying to divine the future in detail rather than simply trusting the allknowing God.

#### The 1,000 Years

In the last century men like Alexander Campbell, excited by the massive response to their plea for simple New Testament Christianity, thought that "the millennium" was on the way. One influential publication was called the Millennial Harbinger. Their lofty optimism saw the world being converted and Christ universally reigning in the lives of all men. This feeling pervades the writings of this era. It can be seen in B.W. Johnson's excellent commentary on Revelation. They thought the church was on the threshold of a golden age before the second coming of Christ. However, subsequent history has not unfolded this way, and that optimism has not prevailed. Consequently others have applied the 1,000 year reign as something that has taken place, or is taking place, but not on such an extensive scale as those who looked for a golden age. There are other thoughts and possibilities. The outstanding point of the devil being bound a 1,000 years must not be overlooked. The book of Revelation having so much symbolism in it, reference to a "thousand years" does not have to be taken literally. The "cattle upon a thousand hills" belong to the LORD (Psalms

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## **QUESTIONS**

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50:10). "One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (II Peter 3:8). Reference to a "thousand hills" and a "thousand years" are not used here as limited expressions, but rather they are open-ended, showing greatness and fullness as to the nature of the situation. These things need to be kept in mind when considering "the millennium."

• ALASKA: "Could you print...on what it means to you to have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?"

When we talk about the Holy Spirit, we are talking about God (John 4:24). The Holy Spirit is one of the Personalities of God (Matthew 28:19). Peter pointedly questioned Ananias, "Why hast Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" (Acts 5:3). Then he asserted, "Thou has not lied unto men, but unto God" (Acts 5:4). Therefore, to have the Holy Spirit dwell in us is to have God dwell in us.

The initial indwelling of the Holy Spirit takes place when a person repents and is baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38,39; 19:1-5; Galatians 3:26,27; 4:6). We have been born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:1-5). Thereafter the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing and progressive experience as we continue to obey God (John 14:23; Acts 5:32) and live the life of faith (Ephesians 3:16,17). We must continually live in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25), walk in the Spirit (Romans 8:1,4; Galatians 5:16), and sow to the Spirit (Galatians 6:8; 5:22,23). As we possess salvation we are soon made to realize that salvation possesses us. The power and attributes of God are seen in our lives.

The Word of God is not the Holy Spirit any more than your words are you (like yourself, the Holy Spirit is a Person—but Deity, the Divine Person). However, there is a close connection between the Word of God and the Holy Spirit being in your life as a Christian. The book of Colossians and Ephesians were written at the same time and have many similarities in word and content. For example, Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord." The parallel thought in Ephesians reads, "... Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (5:18b,19). The Word of Christ was to dwell in them, **BIBLE QUESTIONS** 

(Random Questions Over the Bible)

- On which day of creation did God say, "Let there be light"?
- 2. Where is the first promise of the coming Savior found in the Bible?
- 3. In promising Abraham that his seed (descendants) would be multiplied to great and vast numbers, what three different things did God liken it unto?
- 4. What insect is mentioned in the Bible more than any other?
- 5. What expression was used in describing the extent of the boundaries of the ancient kingdom (nation) of Israel?
- 6. What woman wanted a son, and promised the LORD that if she could have one, she would give him back to the LORD all the day of his life?
- 7. What two different cities in the Bible are called the "city of David"?
- 8. What king of Judah was seven years old when he began to reign (and which one was eight years old when he began to reign)?
- 9. Who said, "...the joy of the LORD is your strength" (and under what circumstance was it said)?
- 10. What country in the Bible is called "the land of Ham"?
- 11. "Go to the \_\_\_\_\_ thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise."
- 12. Where is the dulcimer musical instrument mentioned in the Bible (KJV) and in what connection?
- 13. What are the Greek and Hebrew words for Christ (and what is the literal English meaning of the word)?
- 14. What about the commandment of Christ to love one another makes it a "new commandment" (as he called it)?
- 15. When Mary Magdalene told them that someone had taken the Lord's body away, which disciple outran Simon Peter to the tomb to see what had happened?
- 16. What was the wind called in the awful storm that brought on the shipwreck of the apostle Paul and the others as he was being carried a prisoner to Rome?
- 17. In what epistles of Paul are other people's names joined with his in writing and sending the letters (and who were they)?
- 18. To whom were two epistles written by the apostle Paul that for some reason the Holy Spirit has not preserved to be a part of the New Testament Scriptures?
- 19. What New Testament writer tells the names of two of the magicians who withstood Moses when he appeared before Pharaoh down in the land of Egypt (and what were their names)?
- 20. What two New Testament epistles were written by men who at the time were conscious that they would soon die?

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

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## READERS'



#### FLORIDA:

- "It is a blessing in our lives to have your paper sent to us. So much meat and encouragement in each issue."
- "I'm sorry it has been so long since I sent any money. Enclosed please find... I enjoy the paper so much and certainly don't want to miss out on it. It is so encouraging to know truth is being taught in love."
- "I have just finished reading THE SWORD AND STAFF... My brother, this is one of the best written papers that I have ever read in my history in the Lord's church... Thank you very much. I would appreciate being on your mailing list."

#### **NORTH CAROLINA:**

- "Thank you for sending me the issues of THE SWORD AND STAFF. I have enjoyed them very much. They have been an inspiration to my life. I would like to have all the bound volumes from 1983 to 1992. I would also like to have POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS..."
- "Time flies! I had no idea that it had been so long since I sent anything to help keep THE SWORD AND STAFF alive. Then I looked at the label of mine...

"I especially enjoyed this one that came in March. I was reading the front page article (about the end being at hand) as I brought it from the mail box, and I didn't put it down until I had finished reading the whole paper..."

■ "We are enjoying your POEMS OF THE SOULS AND PROVERBS. Many thanks!!!..."

#### VIRGINIA:

- "The last issue is the best I've ever read."
- "I really enjoy your paper. I order all your back bound volumes and mail them to a Catholic girl I am writing to in Lithuania. I also send her my copy after I read it. I just thought you might like to know your paper is going world wide..."

#### **WEST VIRGINIA:**

■ "Sorry I am late in sending a contribution to help

this religious paper to keep coming to me. I look forward to receiving it very much. Keep up the good work and may God bless you in this work."

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- "I really enjoy THE SWORD AND STAFF and receive much encouragement from your writings...May God keep you and allow you to carry on His wonderful work."
- "Please send me the book POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS and the 1991-1992 bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF. I appreciate your work very much. God bless and keep you!"

#### MASSACHUSETTS:

■ "Please remove our name from your mailing list."

#### OHIO:

- "Enclosed is my yearly contribution for your excellent publication THE SWORD AND STAFF! I learn so much from each printing. Thank you for your work..."
- "A check is enclosed—about time! Didn't realize how long I've been getting THE SWORD AND STAFF! Sorry, I haven't helped financially sooner. Please send me a copy of the poem book when it's ready..."
- "Thank you for the poem books. They came just in time for me to give our preacher one of them for his... birthday... I am ordering 5 more books at the \$4.00 price which is \$20.00. I really like this book. I have the proverbs all read in this book. I might want to order more of these books later.

"We forgive you for the long delay. It seems some times this good reading is worth waiting for."

#### **KENTUCKY:**

■ "...I want to suggest that trial copies be sent to our Senate. I think the Volume 31, Number 1, 1993 very suitable."

#### TENNESSEE:

■ "So happy to receive THE SWORD AND STAFF! You'll never know the many blessings I receive from all the messages...I am ordering the following bound books and intend to place them in this church as reference books for members who wish to read."

#### **INDIANA:**

■ "It has been years since we have sent you a donation toward THE SWORD AND STAFF. Thank you for continuing to send it to us. It is an excellent paper, and we read it when we receive it. May God bless you in your efforts."

#### ILLINOIS:

First of all I would like to thank you for your work and tell you how much I appreciate receiving and reading your publication. Keep up the excellent work you are doing. (Continued on Next Page)

## READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

"Enclosed you will find a check for 1991-1992 bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF; also please include a copy of POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS...

"May God continue to give you health and strength as you serve Him."

#### IOWA:

- "Thank you so much for the paper you send...It is truly a help in our time. Please send me the book PO-EMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS..."
- "We have been receiving your paper for many years. And agree and appreciate each issue. Keep it coming.

"We are enclosing a gift to help in the printing and publishing of THE SWORD AND STAFF. May God surely bless as you continue serving Him."

#### **NEBRASKA:**

■ "Please remove this name from your mailing list. Thank you!"

#### KANSAS:

■ "I really enjoy your magazine and get a lot of good from it. Is it all right to take things from your paper and use them in our bulletins and newsletter?"

Editor: Yes.

#### OKLAHOMA:

■ "You can't know how much we have enjoyed your paper. We try to share it with others, but it's hard to give them away as we read them over and over.

"I'm still looking forward to the book of poetry..."

■ "I have enjoyed your many good articles over the years, and especially enjoyed, 'How to Live in View of the End of All Things Being at Hand' and You, Your Insecurities, and God,' explaining Proverbs 30:21-23. I had never thought that so many things we do and how a person acts are related to insecurity. Thank you."

#### **TEXAS:**

■ "Appreciate THE SWORD AND STAFF more each issue. We really need those who stand up for the truth as you do...

"Keep up the good work—God bless you."

■ "Thanks for all the material. I am very pleased and satisfied with the beautiful book of Poems and Proverbs. As I was reading I felt as if I was reading inspired Scripture. I didn't read a word or line that I didn't agree with. Thanks again for the poem, The Old Gospel Preacher'..."

#### **WYOMING:**

■ "Your issue Vol. 31 # 1 truly put the present times in perspective—when all about us goes wrong.

"The March on Washington, D.C. was so horrible—

the gays and lesbians marching for their 'rights'! They need the Lord so they might change. In these times, as your paper states, we must stick closer to God—the Bible, and know the Scriptures as this is the only truth, wisdom, and knowledge of our lives to go by. We need loving Christians more than ever!

"Keep up your wonderful work. Thank you."

#### **ARIZONA:**

■ "Greetings...With churches and Christians turning to celebration services—really rock 'n roll with Christian words—it is refreshing to receive literature emphasizing the Word of God.

"I use many 'Proverbially Speaking' statements as P.S.'s to my letters."

#### **NEVADA:**

■ "I received a copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF from a friend, and I can't explain how it has uplifted my spirit and changed my life."

#### **CALIFORNIA:**

- "We appreciate your articles and may God's blessings continue to be on your work in this sinful world."
- "Enclosed find check. Please send bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF for 1991-1992. Also, please send POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS. I want to add these to my library of other bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF. I have spent many, many years studying the volumes I have now.

"You are doing a wonderful work for the Lord—keep it up. May God bless you always for what you are doing."

#### **WASHINGTON:**

■ "Please cancel our subscription. Many thanks."

#### PHILIPPINES:

■ "Christian greetings! I've been receiving THE SWORD AND STAFF for almost five years and thank you for sending it to me. I've learned many things. Please keep on sending to my new address...Thank you very much."

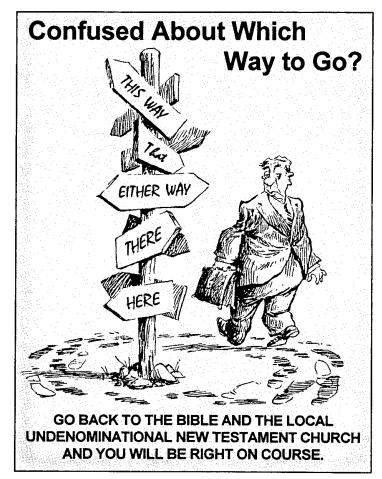
APOLOGY: Please accept our humble apology for slowness in getting correspondence answered. "We" have no staff of secretaries, etc. to handle such, and this is done by the "editor" as time allows. Be it known that you are sincerely appreciated.

#### نطحة —

## **QUESTIONS**

(Continued from Page 8)

and they were to be filled with the Spirit. As stated, there is a close connection in this being realized. According to Ephesians 3:16 and 17, the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian's heart by faith. Therefore, to let the Word dwell in us increases our faith (as faith comes by the Word of God, Romans 10:17; etc.)



whereby it makes it possible for us to be the more filled with the Holy Spirit. Also, the Word of God being the "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), it severs sin from our lives so that the Holy Spirit can make His abode there. To rebel and continue in sin is to resist the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51); to be careless in our Christian living is to grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30—notice context).

We do not necessarily feel the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but because we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we feel. We do not necessarily feel life in our physical bodies, but because we have life in our bodies we feel—we are alive. This is a parallel illustration. We believe it is a sick religion that feeds upon human emotionalism and then calls it the Holy Spirit. We are alive spiritually because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:10). Spiritual power, love, and tender sensitivities about right and wrong are evidences of this. We respond with deep religious feelings grounded in God's Truth. "For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and [all] righteousness and [all] truth" (Ephesians 5:9). The Holy Spirit is there. Life is there.

There are so many wonderful things to be said about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we hesitate even to try to mention all of them in the limits of this space. However, briefly here are some additional thoughts.

- (1) The Holy Spirit is directly involved in our relation to God the Father in connection with our salvation and prayer life (Ephesians 2:18; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 3:20; 6:18; Romans 8:26-28).
- (2) The Holy Spirit is involved in our sanctification, initially and progressively (I Peter 1:2; I Corinthians 6:11,19,20; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1).
- (3) The power and outworking of the Holy Spirit is seen in the stability and tranquillity of a Christian's life. Listen to the apostle Paul: "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]" (Romans 15:13). "For the kingdom of God is ...righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost [Spirit]" (Romans 14:17).
- (4) Then, finally, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken [make alive] your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11). A glorious resurrection awaits the Christian because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit! Amen!

## SOME PEOPLE DON'T DO ANY BETTER

(Colossians 1:28; Titus 2:15; 3:10; Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:1-13; II Cor. 2:6-10)

**SOME PEOPLE** don't do any better because they don't know any better—they should be taught (and given time to do better).

Some people don't do any better, but they know better—they should be exhorted and rebuked (and given time to do better).

Some people don't do any better, but they know better and have been exhorted and rebuked—they should be disciplined and disfellowshipped (and given time to do better).

Still some people don't do any better, and willfully continue in sin; they have never done better and probably never will do any better (it seems that, initially or otherwise, they have never repented of their sins)—sad to say, but they will face the Day of Judgment that way.—J.E.G.

## A Tree's Root System

A TREE'S root system equals the branches that are above the ground (or more); spiritually speaking, when a person has no roots, it is no wonder that nothing much spiritual can be seen in his life.

## "She Hath Done What She Could" (Mark 14:8)

"SHE HATH DONE what she could" (Mark 14:8). There is no station in life, however obscure; no condition, however humble; but that something may be done for the Lord. Mary was judged on the grounds that she had done what she could. It was not a great act when compared with Deborah or Esther, but it was the best she could do. One penny's worth, if it is the limit of self denial, is as good as thousands of dollars. Jesus recognized this in what he said of the two mites the widow cast into the treasury.

Mary could not write like the apostle John, or preach like the apostle Peter, or plant churches like the apostle Paul, but in her humble station, she did her best. Everyone can do that. If this is done, the humble disciple can count himself committed to Christ. God is present in small opportunities and activities as well as where power is great, talents many, and opportunities unlimited.

What are you doing? It is a personal matter. Have you done anything in the past? Are you doing anything now to advance the glory of God? God will ask nothing beyond your power. Ask yourself, "Have I done what I could?" Am I ready to stand before the judgment bar of God and answer that question? God promises to help us do more as soon as we are willing to do something. He forgives us, as we forgive our debtors. The Lord expects some fruit from every tree.—Selected

## Copying the Original

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A YOUNG, unknown artist desired to copy a beautiful picture that hung in a palace in Rome. He was refused permission to copy it in the palace, so he set to work to reproduce it from memory.

Hour after hour he would sit before the picture until it took possession of him, and then, hurrying home, he would begin to paint.

Each day he spent some time gazing on the original, and each day saw some new loveliness. As he looked and toiled, his power grew. At last there stood in his studio such a wonderful copy and all who looked upon it said, "We must see the original."

This should be the ultimate of all our Christian service: to reproduce the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives so that men will say, "We must see Jesus."

A timely question for every Christian to ask himself is: "Do others see Jesus in me?"

—The Voice of Evangelism

#### Durer's "Praying Hands"

"I CAN SHOW the world my appreciation by painting his hands as I see them now, folded in prayer." It was this thought that inspired Albrecht Durer when he realized that he could never give back to his friend the skill which had left his hands.

From childhood Albrecht Durer wanted to paint. Finally, he left home to study with a great artist. He met a friend who also had this same desire and the two became roommates. Both being very poor, they found it difficult to make a living and study at the same time. Albrecht's friend offered to work while Albrecht studied. Then, when the paintings began to sell, he would have his chance.

After much persuasion, Albrecht agreed and worked faithfully while his friend toiled long hours to make the living. The day came when Albrecht

## CAN YOU FIND 20 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE IN THIS PARAGRAPH?

(CLUE: COUNT KINGS AND PETER TWICE)

Someone showed me this story and remarked that there are twenty books of the Bible hidden here. He challenged me to find them. Sure enough they're all here. Still this thing's a lulu, kept me looking so hard for the longest time. Some of you will get bogged down with facts, others are hit by them like they were some kind of revelation or something. You may get in a jam, especially since the names are not capitalized and often leap the spaces between the words. This makes it a real job to find them, but it'll provide a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes, there are some really easy ones to spot, but don't get the big head cause truthfully you'll soon figure that it would take most federal judges and preachers numbers of hours to find them and that is not uncommon for there are to be loud lamentations when it is pointed out. One lady says that when she is confronted with puzzles like this, she brews a cup of tea to help her concentrate better, but then this gals a real pro! Verbs, nouns, and all that stuff are her thing. See how well you can compete. Relax! There really are twenty names of Bible books in this story. If you fail to find them, there's a penalty. You'll have to go fly a kite, sit on a banana, hum the battle hymn of the republic. or hose a dog (a mean one). Get to it!—Selected

sold a woodcarving and his friend went back to his paints, only to find that the hard work had stiffened and twisted his fingers and he could no longer paint with skill. When Albrecht learned what had happened to his friend, he was filled with great sorrow. One day, returning home unexpectedly, he heard the voice of his friend and saw the gnarled, toilworn hands folded in prayer before him.

Durer's gratitude was captured in his inspired painting that has become world famous. And, we are blessed by both the beauty of the painting and the beautiful story of gratitude and brotherhood.

—Selected

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND RESULTS

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IN CIVILIZED SOCIETY fairness demands that there be equal opportunity for all in the workaday world regardless of racial, ethnic, or social background. But equal opportunity, regardless of the background, does not necessarily mean equal results by all. This is determined by personal responsibility (response + ability), how a person responds with his ability (and in proportion to his ability). And how a person responds is determined by personal resolve and preparation. Also, respect for the old fashioned (and Biblical) work ethic has a great bearing upon all of this. Again as stated, even with all discrimination laid aside, equal opportunity does not necessarily mean equal results. The results are more of a personal matter. The individual human element enters the picture.—J.E.G.

### The Seven Sons

A MAN had seven sons who were always quarreling. Some bad men looked forward to the death of their father, planning to cheat them out of their property by creating a quarrel.

One day the good old man called his sons around him. He laid before them seven sticks which were bound together. He said, "I will pay one hundred dollars to the one who can break this bundle."

Each one strained every nerve to break the bundle. After a long, but vain trial, they all said that it could not be done.

"And yet, my boys," said the father, "nothing is easier to do." He then untied the bundle and broke the sticks, one by one, with perfect ease.

"Ah!" said his sons, "It is easy enough to do it so. Anybody could do it that way."

Their father replied, "As it is with these sticks, so

#### Answers to:

## BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Genesis 1:3-5; 2. Genesis 3:15; 3. Genesis 13:14-16; 15:4,5; 22:15-18; 4. Locust; 5. Judges 20:1; I Samuel 3:20; II Samuel 3:10; 17:11; 24:2,15; I Kings 4:25; 6. I Samuel 1:9-11; 7. (1) Jerusalem (Zion)—II Samuel 5:4-10; I Kings 2:10,11; 8:1; (2) Bethlehem—Luke 2:4,11 (I Samuel 16:1; John 7:42); 8. II Kings 11; II Kings 22:1; 9. Nehemiah 8:9-12; 10. Psalms 78:51; 105:23; 106:21,22; 11. Proverbs 6:6; 12. Daniel 3:5,10; 13. Greek, Christos; Hebrew, Messiah (literal English meaning, annointed one); 14. John 13:34; 15. John 20:1-4; 16. Acts 27:14ff; 17. I Cor. 1:1; II Cor. 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; I Thess. 1:1; II Thess. 1:1; Philemon 1; 18. I Cor. 5:9; Colossians 4:16; 19. II Timothy 3:8 (Exodus 7:10-12); 20. II Timothy 4:6-8; II Peter 1:13-15.

it is with you, my sons: So long as you hold fast together and aid each other, you will prosper, and none can injure you. But if the body of union be broken, it will happen to you just as it has to these sticks, which lie broken on the ground."

-McGuffey's Third Reader

## Has Salvation Been Accomplished?

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IF A PERSON partaking of the Lord's Supper can eat and drink damnation to his soul in not discerning the Lord's body (I Cor. 11:29), what about the person who is baptized, but does not discern the purpose of baptism (Acts 2:38)? From the positive perspective, has the salvation of his soul been accomplished?

## Patrick Henry's Will

THE WILL of Patrick Henry contained these impressive words, "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one more thing I wish I could give them and that is the Christian religion. If they have that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor."—Minute Messenger

## Out of the Apple Tree

TO FALL out of the apple tree, a person would have to be in the apple tree; to fall from grace, a person would have to be in grace (Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 12:13-15; II Peter 1:10).

## The Gospel Accomplishes What the Law Never Could

THE GOSPEL, through grace (Ephesians 2:8-10) and the law of love (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:13,14), accomplishes what the law of sin and death (the O.T.) could never attain (Romans 3:19-23; Galatians 2:16; 3:10; Hebrews 7:19); namely, salvation (Romans 6:23; 8:1-4) and obedience (Galatians 5:16).

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE PREACHERS GONE?

Say, where have all the strong and faithful preachers gone

Who stately stood and preached the Word with thund'rous tone?

They were stalwart and unashamed with message sound,

And though few followed them, they knew where they were bound.

Tell us, where have the strong and faithful preachers gone?

Men of courage, backbone—no fear to stand alone.

God's Word is still the same—man's needs are greater still;

Will none with boldness take a stand their place to fill?

-By James E. Gibbons

## Like a Jellyfish

MUCH of modern religion is like a jellyfish—there is little substance or body to it; but when it makes contact with that which does have substance or body, it will sting in a reactionary way.

## A Twisted Twig

AS A TWIG that remains twisted grows up into a tree that is permanently ill-shaped, a child set on doing wrong, if not corrected, will grow up into an adult who is morally distorted and crooked.

### No Respect for Life

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A SOCIETY that has no respect for the source of life (GOD), and how life comes into this world (SEX), will have little respect for life itself.

<u>M</u>

## Answers to: CAN YOU FIND 20 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE?

(CLUE: COUNT KINGS AND PETER TWICE)

Someone showed me this story and remarked that there are twenty books of the Bible hidden here. He challenged me to find them. Sure enough they're all here. Still this thing's a lulu, kept me looking so hard for the longest time. Some of you will get bogged down with facts, others are hit by them like they were some kind of revelation or something. You may get in a jam, especially since the names are not capitalized and often leap the spaces between the words. This makes it a real job to find them, but it'll provide a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes, there are some really easy ones to spot, but don't get the big head cause truthfully you'll soon figure that it would take most federal judges and preachers numbers of hours to find them and that is not uncommon for there are to be loud lamentations when it is pointed out. One lady says that when she is confronted with puzzles like this, she brews a cup of tea to help her concentrate better, but then this gals a real pro! Verbs, nouns, and all that stuff are her thing. See how well you can compete. Relax! There really are twenty names of Bible books in this story. If you fail to find them, there's a penalty. You'll have to go fly a kite, sit on a banana, hum the battle hymn of the republic, or hose a dog (a mean one). Get to it!-Selected

## Repentance and Restitution

IN THE BOOK of Philemon, we find a definitive example of a Christian's responsibility when it comes to past sins repented of and forgiven. While Paul was prisoner in Rome, he converted a slave by the name of Onesimus (verse 10). Onesimus was a runaway slave whose owner, Philemon, was a friend, Christian and fellow laborer with Paul (verse 1). After his conversion (which, of course, included repentance and forgiveness), Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon (verse 12). The reason for sending him back was to right the wrong that Onesimus had done to Philemon by running away from him. Paul went on and promised that if Onesimus could not completely right the wrong he owed Philemon that he (Paul) would accept the responsibility of what Onesimus owed Philemon (verse 18).

Here we have a plain and simple example of a man who sins, hears the gospel, believes, repents, obeys and is forgiven. He is then instructed to correct his forgiven, repented sin. Obviously, repentance does include restitution—or at least the Holy Spirit and the apostle Paul thought it did.—Selected

#### A Herd of Goats

TOO MANY "pastors" today rather have a big herd of goats to tend than a small flock of sheep.

# What is the Difference Between the Soul and the Spirit of Man?

THOUGH it is characteristic of most people today to use these terms interchangeably the Scriptures very definitely differentiate them. "For the Word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Since the sacred writers provided for the "dividing of the soul and spirit," in those instances where they differ, so ought we and so we must if we are to entertain biblical concepts of these words.

The word "spirit," when denoting the human entity (from the Greek word pneuma), is a specific term and designates that part of us which is not susceptible of death and which survives the dissolution of the body (Acts 7:59). It is infused in us directly from God and is not a product of human generation (Hebrews 12:9). "Soul," from the Greek word psuche, however, is a generic word and its meaning must be determined, in any given instance, from the context in which it appears. Were I, in conversation with you, to use the word "apple" you are at once able to conjure up in mind the fruit by this name, and you are not dependent on any usage of the word to ascertain its meaning. But, were I to ask, "Define the word 'bark' for me," you could not possibly know whether I mean by it the sound a dog makes or the outer covering of a tree! However, should I say, "Bark is thicker this winter than usual," you are able with ease to gather the meaning of the term from the context in which I have used it.

Similarly, were you to ask, "Define the human spirit for me," I can at once and correctly say to you, "It is the immortal nature—the portion of us derived directly from God and not subject to death." But, when you ask, "What is the biblical significance of the word 'soul'?" I must respond by asking, "What passage of Scripture do you have in mind in your reference to the soul?" since it is used in four different senses in the sacred writings:

- (1) As a synonym for "person": "And there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). "Wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water" (I Peter 3:20).
- (2) To denote the animal life which man possesses in common with the beasts of the field and

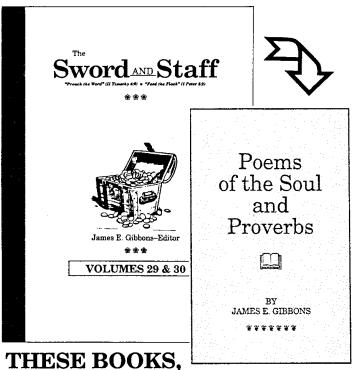
which is lost in death: "He spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence" (Psalms 78:50). By this it is simply meant that they were suffered to die. Their soul was their physical life.

- (3) The intellectual nature in contrast with the higher spiritual nature and the lower physical nature. "Now the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God" (I Corinthians 2:14). The "natural man" of this passage being literally, the soulish man, since the adjective "natural" translates a form of the Greek word for soul, which may be expressed in English as psychical. Thus, this usage is supported by etymology and required by the context. See, especially Paul's teaching in I Corinthians 1:18-28 and 2:6-16).
- (4) As a synonym for the never-dying spirit: "Because thou wilt not leave my soul unto Hades, neither wilt thou give thy Holy One to see corruption" (Acts 2:27). Here it is obvious that the word "soul" signifies the immortal nature; that entity of the Lord which was not to undergo death.

It will be seen from this induction of biblical teaching that there is no pat and easy answer to the question, "What is the soul?" since any proper reply must take into account the significance intended by the inspired penman who used it. It is not unusual shrewd materialists (among whom "Jehovah's Witnesses," Adventists, and Christadelphians) to induce an uninformed person in these matters to affirm that "the soul never dies," and then to produce numerous statements from the Old Testament that the soul does indeed die, the conclusion then being pressed that man is wholly mortal, his entire being subject to death. The argument is a fallacious one, and the conclusion is false because it results from the assignment of a specific meaning to a generic term where such was not the intent of the Old Testament writer. The spirit of man is not subject to death (Genesis 25:8; 35:18; Psalms 90:10; Acts 7:59; II Corinthians 5:1,6-8); it is the spirit leaving the body which constitutes death (James 2:26); and, in any instance when death is affirmed of some part of us, it does not embrace the spiritthe immortal nature.—Guy N. Woods 

## Missing the Point

THEY WHO PREACH much about God's love and grace (and how great it is!), and at the same time never mention the awfulness of sin and its consequence, have really missed the whole point of what love and grace are all about.



Now Ready! Great Response!

THE NEWLY PREPARED bound volumes of THE SWORD AND STAFF for the past two years (1991-1992), along with POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS, are now ready. We are pleased with the good response already, and orders for both books are now being filled (and refilled).

You remember the poem, "I Saw Him Standing There (Or, The Old Gospel Preacher)"? This poem and many others by the editor are in our little book, POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS. Also, in this book are almost 900 proverbial sayings by the editor. On the title page are found the words: "This little book contains poems that ponder, praise, and preach (and even prod)." Get ready for a new and different experience when you read this book.

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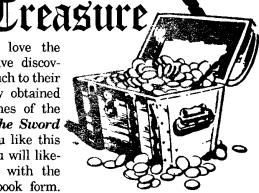
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