

# The Sword AND Staff

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

*Read and See if This Article is Still Timely...*

## Unchanging Things in A Changing World

—WRITTEN IN 1960, ADAPTED—

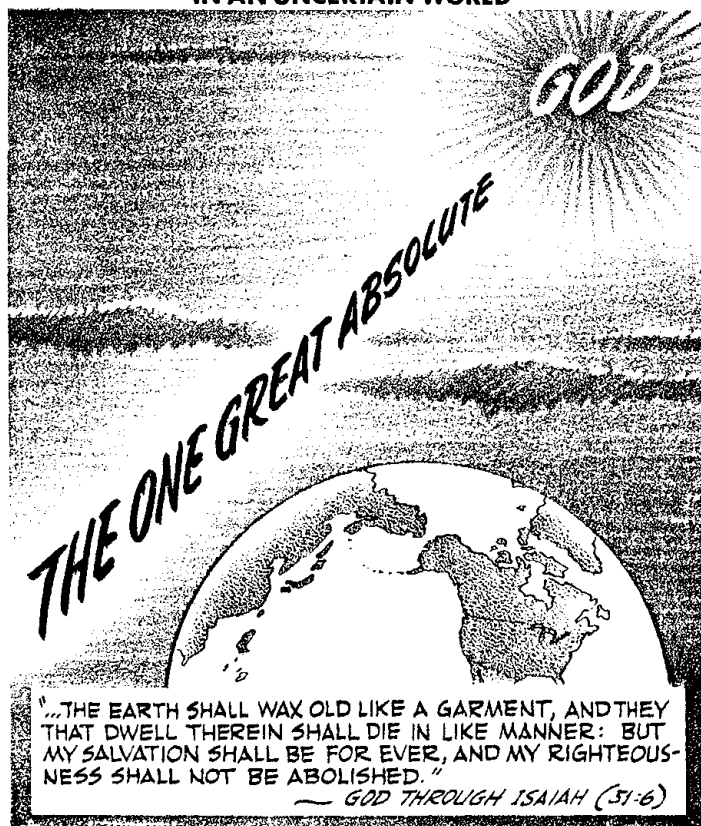
● By **JAMES E. GIBBONS**

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**WE ARE** living in a changing world. Perhaps that is the least disputed assertion that could be made. The changes that have come about in this world and within this country, looking back in the lifetime of some, are astounding. Nationally, within a little more than a century, America has leaped from an unexplored frontier to become a modern country and during the same time has taken the position of world leadership. Perhaps during this time, scientifically, there has been more rapid and intense progress in the field of learning than in all other centuries combined. Man has left the horse and buggy to take wings and fly with supersonic speed. The old kerosene lamp has been replaced by electricity. Modern discoveries and inventions have even placed man at the brink of mass annihilation. One sudden uncalculated move could usher much of humanity suddenly and unceremoniously into eternity. During this same time many things have been happening within the religious world also. One hundred or more years ago men were bound behind denominational walls with iron-clad creeds. Calvinism was strongly felt in the circles of denominationalism. Men's convictions were strong, although wrong. Today religious tolerance rules the day. Denominational walls have disintegrated. Although the element of pride remains, convictions are not necessarily the basis for fellowship. Great convictions seem to be a thing of the past, and many denominations find themselves with leaders who are actually unbelievers hiding behind the words "scholarship" and "higher education."

In the midst of all of this we are made to exclaim that we are living in a changing world. Change has

IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD



brought good things, but change has also brought many bad things. Things of man are subject to change. Man is shifting, moving with the sands of time. Everything is being questioned, and man is found to be like a ship at sea with neither anchor or sails. Ancient landmarks have been removed. But in the midst of all of this there is something to which we can anchor our weary souls. The things of God do not change. They are eternal.

### I. GOD IS UNCHANGING

The Psalmist speaks of God in this manner: "But  
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## Proverbially **SPEAKING...**

*A LOVE that's real will do more than feel (I John 3:16-18).*

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

*We love God because He first loved us (I John 4:19); God loves us because He is God, and God is love.*

*"Overlook the faults of others, but look over your own carefully."*

*Fear of failure, and a lack of faith, makes us a loser before we enter the race.*

*"One place where prayer fails is in expecting God to do things for us which he wants to do through us."*

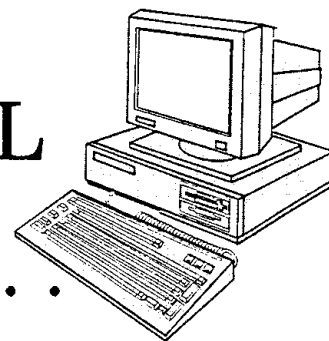
*Don't "cop out" and say that the church needs to be doing more for the young people when it is really what you need to be doing with your family as a family.*

*"Discontent is the penalty we must pay for being ungrateful for what we have."*

*Homosexuals do not produce their kind by act of reproduction, for God only made male and female, but by act of molestation.*

*"The best tact in soul winning is contact."*

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS...



## DOCTRINE AND CHRISTIAN LIVING

**WE HEAR** all kinds of things said in reference to doctrine today. Some say, "Our doctrine is right, although we may be weak on other things." Others say, "Doctrine is not important; Christian living is really what matters." One person says, "I don't like doctrinal preaching." Another says, "Let's hear more about love, not doctrine."

What about all of these sayings? Is doctrine really all that important? Do we have a choice between doctrine and Christian living? Is there a relationship between doctrine and Christian living? Or does the Bible make a distinction between the two?

The way people look at it today doctrine has more to do with what we believe than what we practice. Doctrine is looked upon as a body of beliefs, a creed, or if reference is made to practice, it is practice involving church ordinances, etc. However, the New Testament is not as restrictive in its use of the word. Doctrine refers to all teaching and to the substance of what is taught (they go together). One cannot say, "God is love," without it being doctrine.

The first question, "Is doctrine really all that important?" is answered by the following Scriptures without even making a comment on them.

- *"Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for **doctrines** the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).*

- *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of **doctrine** which was delivered unto you" (Romans 6:17).*

- *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the **doctrine** which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).*

- *"Take heed unto 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).*

- *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the **doctrine** of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the **doctrine** of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (II John 9).*

Then, as to the other questions, to try to make a distinction between doctrine and Christian living is arbitrary and artificial. It does not square with the Scriptures. Doctrine in the

New Testament has to do with truths involving living the Christian life as well as actual statements of belief otherwise. In I Timothy 1:8-10 Paul writes of lawlessness and disobedience, listing several offenses in this category, then he continued, "and if there be any other thing that is contrary to **sound doctrine**." Following, in 6:3 of this same epistle, he further writes of "the **doctrine** which is according to godliness." Likewise in Titus 2:1, he admonished Titus, "But speak thou the things which become sound **doctrine**." Then he precedes to give instructions for practical Christian living to those who were senior citizens, both men and women; to young women, to young men, and to servants. Servants, even by faithfully carrying out their domestic duties, would "adorn the **doctrine** of God" (Titus 2:9,10).

Even that part of doctrine which is distinctly regarded as doctrine is inseparable from the practical outworking of it, which is likewise doctrine. After explaining great cardinal truths, Paul always gets around to making the applications. Read the first 11 chapters of Romans. Then in Romans 12:1 he begins the doctrinal section of application when he said, "I beseech you *therefore*, brethren..." The rest of the epistle falls under the "therefore" of practical Christian living, which is likewise doctrine (by Paul's definition). Notice the first three chapters of Ephesians. The "therefore" begins in chapter four, verse one. And to illustrate this truth further: God is Holy. "Be thou holy; for I am holy." God is Love. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

Therefore, let us say, the right life, in the complete sense of the word, is impossible without the right doctrine for they are inseparable. Doctrine incorporates the whole of the living truths of God and living the truths of God. "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (I John 3:7).



## EDITORIAL

# Byways

### A \$22.2 BILLION CRIME BILL

THE SUN had set, leaving warm and friendly pastel colors painted across the southern sky. We were on a long trip, darkness was settling in, and so it was decided that now was the time to stop for the night. Traveling on the Interstate Highway, we were on the outskirts of a large city; a sign with the

name of a familiar motel chain appeared, and then the sign of a familiar restaurant; both seemed inviting. We stopped.

The whole atmosphere of the warm pastel colors was suddenly to change (even with the familiar beckoning names). I really didn't think much about it when, pulling up to the motel, I read,

**"Please Lock Your Door  
We are Not Responsible  
For Damage to Vehicles  
Or Loss of Contents."**

However, getting out of the car, subconsciously and without thinking, I locked the door behind me with my wife and our young traveling companion inside.

More of a radical feeling of uneasiness would come over me as I went inside to get us a room for the night. Business was transacted with the young woman who was behind a heavy glass shield with a slot underneath. I assumed the shield was bullet proof.

As she was preparing my receipt and getting the necessary room key, my eyes fell upon another sign that was glaringly posted before me in large letters, which read,

**"For Your Comfort and Safety  
All Guests Registering Must Be  
At Least 18 Years of Age  
And Present Identification."**

All kinds of thoughts ran through my mind as to why that sign was there.

Looking out of the corner of my eye, I saw standing there in the hallway not far away a fellow who looked a little "different" with his hair all slicked back. For some unexplained reason I hurriedly put my wallet back into my pocket.

From behind her locked doors and glass shield, and through the narrow slot underneath, I was given the key to our room by the clerk and told how to get there.

Upon getting back into the car, locking the car door, and driving the length of the building and around to the side, I was able to find our room for the night. But every few feet the same sign that had greeted us where I had initially parked, when I went in to register, was posted time and again.

**"Please Lock Your Car  
We Are Not Responsible  
For Damage to Vehicles  
Or Loss of Contents."**

I hurriedly checked the room to see if indeed we were at the right place. We were. Another posted sign on the back of the room door caught my passing attention, but I postponed reading it until

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## EDITORIAL *Byways*

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we got back from eating since we were hungry.

The restaurant was about half a block from the motel. Enhanced by our hunger, the prospects of soon eating delighted us, but foreboding feelings lingered from the motel. We gave our order when coming in and then were seated. We decided to go ahead and pray so that we would be ready to eat when the food was served. Seated at the table, with our heads bowed and holding hands, we prayed aloud, thanking God. Evidently this was a little different sight to some, as different eyes were upon us. From a corner table one young man seemed especially intent, looking at us.

We were soon engrossed in eating the tasty food with relish. I had forgotten about the fellow in the corner who had stared at us. Then we looked up, and there he stood beside us. He pointedly questioned, "Are you a Christian?" My wife, with a happy response, replied, "We sure are!" He said in a strong affirmative tone as he shook my hand, "God bless you!" And with hardly anything else being said, he left as suddenly as he had appeared.

This simple experience in its setting made a profound impression upon me. I felt a oneness with the Christians of the first century as never before. In the midst of a corrupt society and in a world of darkness, they were a glitter of light and really meant something to one another. Our society is increasingly becoming as corrupt and pagan as the old Roman Empire. Being a Christian, and having fellow Christians, should have the most special meaning to us.

As we returned to the motel for the night, I almost found myself looking for the sign of the fish. Perhaps others Christians had been here and left a message for us. However, upon unloading and bringing our things in for the night, I found myself reading the posted sign on the inside of the motel door instead. It read,

**"For Your Protection  
When in Room  
Engage Deadbolt And  
Security Latch,  
Also, Push Button  
in Door Knob."**

Three locks on the door!

To satisfy my wife, we checked the "Security Latch" to see if and how it worked. It looked a little different. Yes, it would serve as a last line of defense when all other locks had failed, but an intruder's hand could reach through.

I had not brought my Bible in from the car, rely-

ing on the prospects of a Gideon Bible being in the motel. But no Gideon Bible was found. Had it been stolen? Had its presence proved offensive to humanists, Moslems, or other alien visitors and thus been removed? I don't know, but there was no Bible there.

Again, however, where we should have found a Bible, we found another printed notice of warnings and caution (each increasingly painting a picture of an ominous, unfriendly, and even hostile environment). It read as follows:

### **WE CARE ABOUT YOUR SAFETY**

**Your comfort and well being are our first priority. We urge you to take advantage of these safety and security tips.**

- **Please be certain that all interior door and window locks work properly.**
- **Do not accept your room if any lock does not work. Return to the office for another room assignment.**
- **Use the door viewer or window to identify anyone before opening your door.**
- **The telephone is for your convenience. Call the office or 9+911 in the event of an emergency.**
- **If your room has a connecting door, be sure the locks on your side work properly.**
- **When leaving your car, make sure it is locked. Do not leave any valuables in your car or in your room.**
- **Safeguard your room key at all times. Do not leave it unprotected or give it to anyone other than the people registered with you in this room. Please remember to turn in your key when you leave...**

**Our managers and staff are here to provide for your comfort and security. Please call the office for any concerns or needs you might have.**

After a night of needed rest, we packed and loaded everything again into the car (in the sight of the omnipresent warning signs). As I pulled in at the office to leave the key, the headlines of the morning newspaper struck my eye, "Senate Approves \$22.2 Billion Crime Bill." I dropped the key into the designated hole where it would be retrieved by the girl behind the glass shield in the next room. And, getting back into the car, we were on our way.

Many sober thoughts went through my mind as I drove along. A few decades ago Christian morality was mainstream America. Today it has been pushed to one side and relegated to a "fringe" position, while humanists and the "liberal" press disparagingly speak of "the fundamental religious

right.” In the wake of what has happened, unrestrained and ungodly influences have been unleashed upon our land. A “\$22.2 Billion Crime Bill” will do little good. Only a deep religious awakening will save this country.—*J.E.G.*   □

**Unchanging Things in a Changing World** *(Continued from Page 1)*



NOT THE KIND OF GOD THAT SOME PEOPLE WORSHIP, BUT THE KIND OF CHURCH THAT SOME LITTLE PEOPLE MUST HAVE BEFORE THEY WILL ATTEND.

thou, O LORD, shalt endure for ever; and thy remembrance unto all generations” (Psalms 102:12). Then he continues in reference to the things of earth, “They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end” (Psalms 102:26,27). James has this to say about God: “Every good gift...cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

Upon examining these Scriptures, here is the teaching. The things of earth shall fade away and become old and be no more, but God is from everlasting to everlasting. Not only that, James tells us more. He is the *same* from everlasting to everlasting. James uses the figure of no shadow cast by God turning. In other words, the position of God is the same at all times. He can be depended upon. It is not pantheism, for God is the Father of man and exists as definite and infinite personality.

God is the great power behind everything. As long as time is, He can be depended upon to enforce His natural laws. The law of gravity holds true, and the earth turns and we see the sun “rise” every morning. Man in his scientific ventures is only discovering God’s laws in nature, finding out laws set in operation eons ago in creation. The exact function of these natural laws is continuously a marvel.

God is always the same as the loving heavenly

Father. James well said, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father...” The old preacher’s version of God making man was that God was lonely and wanted someone to love; thus He made man in His own likeness. Yes, God loves man and is concerned about his well-being. One unbelieving religious leader has accused God of being an “old bully” in the Old Testament, and speaks of the “idea” of God in the Old Testament and the New Testament. But the love of God is expressed in the Old Testament. Certainly He had patience with such a stiff-necked people as the Jews under Moses. He spared and showed mercy unto the Gentiles when they turned from idolatry. It is hard for us to conceive how degenerate their idolatry was. God wants everyone to go to heaven, and if they don’t it will be in spite of what He has done.

God is unchangeable in His attitude toward sin. God is the embodiment of all that is pure and good. He has a holy distaste and hatred for all that is evil and wicked. He cannot tolerate sin in any form. Sin always brings separation from God, which is death. Sin does not go unpunished, although it may seem that way upon earth at times. The Day of Judgment is coming for all of mankind. God is Holy, and He says, “Be thou Holy for I am Holy.” The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and only the pure in heart will see God.

**II. CHRIST IS UNCHANGING**

The Hebrew writer declares, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). This verse shows the unchanging nature of Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Christ took the form of man, being clothed in flesh, as he lived upon this earth and identified with mankind. He lived life just as human beings, yet without sin. He likewise experienced death like every man, but for every man on the cross of Calvary. But unlike man, he was victorious over the grave and was not confined long to the abode of the dead. Christ was the Son of God *and* the son of man. Now he is back in heaven, living forever to make intercession for the Christians. He came, proving his deity, to save the human family from the awful consequence of sin. That is still his purpose on the earth. Christ is unchanging, and the part about him that is unchangeable is his divine nature and purpose.

Therefore, inasmuch as Christ is unchanging, that means the gospel in changeless. Christ is the gospel (good news), and the good news involves his death, burial and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:1-4). (Thus to “preach Christ” is also to preach bap-

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## Unchanging Things in a *Changing* World *(Continued from Previous Page)*

tism since that pertains to his death, burial and resurrection, Acts 8:35,36; Romans 6:3-6).

However, many today say, in essence, "Let's streamline the gospel, and bring it up to date." They claim that we have too much of a "slaughter house" religion (how blasphemous!). A man dying on an old rugged cross for the sins of the world is just too crude for the modern mind, we are told. Let us hear "nice" things. So, it has been replaced by a "social gospel," which has been defined as the gospel of soap, soup, and science; a moral, do good religion without the blood of Christ.

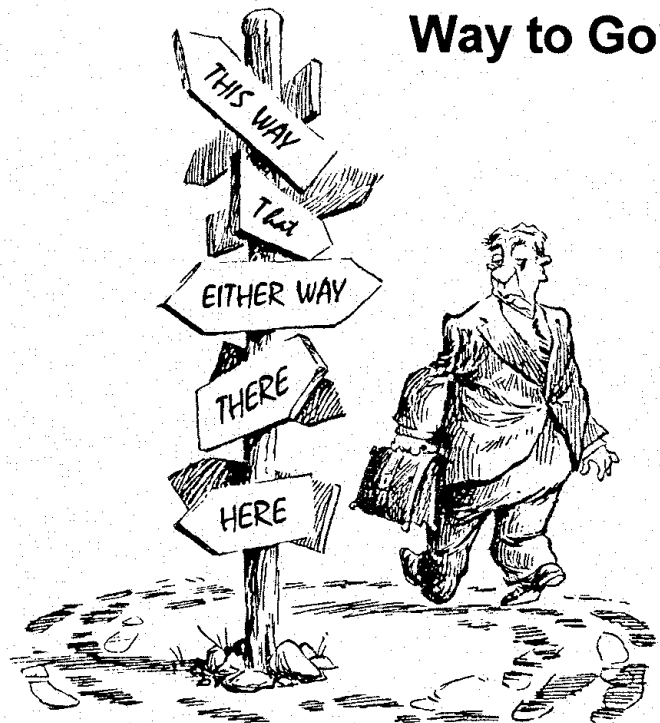
But, dear friend, the gospel of Christ does not need streamlining. It is far ahead of this age, or any age to come, for Jesus said it would be "unto the end of the world." Degenerate and fallen man's needs are still the same; man needs to be transformed and to conform his life to the streamline pattern of Jesus. The world is out of step with that which is right, not the Christian. Perhaps we are using the wrong words when we talk about the "old fashioned gospel" or "old time religion." There is nothing old fashioned about the gospel of Christ. It does not have the mark of time upon it. (Religions of men do, though). It is always new, vital, and the timeless good news. It is just as fresh as if the apostles had penned the message this morning. Men only need to bring their lives up to date with the unchanging gospel of the unchanging Christ.

### III. THE WORD IS UNCHANGING

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). He further stated, "...the Scriptures cannot be broken." In I Peter 1:25 we read, "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." Yes, friend, when God speaks, it is for time and eternity. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). If God is eternal, His Word is eternal. If God is perfect, His Word is perfect. We have no doubts about the Bible being the Word of God. We have the divine promise that the Word of the Lord would be with us forever. God has communicated His will to man, and He preserves the record for all generations.

But men have brought reproach upon God and His Word. Men imply that God's Word is not plain. Usurping the authority of the Bible, they crystalized their religious prejudices into man-made creeds and books to keep their followers in line. These man-made creeds are around to inflict oncoming generations. Preconceived dogmas and immature thinking

## 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.**

linger to stifle further study of the Scriptures. By loved ones dying in such religions, false doctrines have been canonized and rendered dear to the hearts of those embracing them. Thereafter their descendants have a closed mind to any new truth or further investigation of the Bible. Then how sad the situation has become when men seek to justify denominational divisions, saying that it doesn't actually matter what one believes.

Then modern "theologians" have disgraced God's Word in another way. Along came the theory of evolution. "Theologians" made havoc of the Bible as they adapted their thinking to fit this human theory. Many are so obsessed with the idea that they are trying to make the Bible itself fit into an evolutionary pattern. Most decidedly, evolution is a theory, and by its very nature can never be proved. Although a few diehards are still around, it is falling into the background as unproved and irrational. Liberal "theologians" are left holding an empty bag. The Word of God is unchanging.

Remember. The wrath of heaven is pronounced on any who would add or take away from the words of the Bible (Revelation 22:18,19). It is a very, very serious matter. Paul declared, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8). Yes, God's Word is unchanging (and unchangeable), and it

shall be opened on the Day of Judgment. The unlearned and unstable wrest the Scriptures to their own destruction (II Peter 3:16).

**Concluding Admonitions**

So, in the midst of uncertainty and change let us stay on the Rock. The whole social pattern of civilization has been and is in process of change. People change constantly. They may say one thing today and do another tomorrow. But in the midst of a restless, moving, and even uprooted world, let us ever keep in mind that God is unchanging. He is still in heaven, and His purpose is still the same on earth. And the earth still moves on its axis. While man may think that the gospel needs streamlining, and that he is his own savior, there is no getting around the fact of Christ. He is the unchanging Son of God and the only way under heaven whereby we can be saved (Acts 4:12). Men need to streamline their lives to fit into the plan of Christ, which is way ahead of this age, looking to the age to come. Men may say that they no longer believe the Bible, that it is a book of fables, but real Christians believe it. What kind of deity would it be that could not or would not communicate with His intelligent creation? The Bible is still that grand old Book setting forth God's road map to heaven. If we anchor our souls to its truths, we will find ourselves fitted for eternity with a home that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for us. If we sincerely believe these things, we will find ourselves being obedient unto every good work. The cares of this life will seem as nothing in view of God's eternal plan. These are unchanging things in a changing world. □



**RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS  
AND DENOMINATIONAL  
MONUMENTS**

**THE TROUBLE** with religious movements is that they usually become denominational monuments. When the freshness and vitality of the truth that gave them their initial impetuous and thrust begins to wane, this takes place. Monuments are erected to the movements. This is likewise true of the so-called "Restoration Movement." Several monuments stand today as a testament to this. Actually, monuments are grave markers. And on these particular markers may be found engraved in stone names like "Disciples of Christ," "Christian Church," and even "Church of Christ." Too many times these are denominational monuments standing as memorials to the decease and demise of undenominational Christianity. However, in some local cases the monuments have not been fully

erected yet. There is still some healthy movement and evidence of life. There are people who still would be identified simply with the church of the New Testament and that alone. This is to be highly commended. May self-defeating monuments be removed and disregarded.—*J.E.G.* □



**Sectarian Shell Cracked**

**WHEN** the sectarian shell is cracked, it is hard to tell what will be hatched; the best thing possible would be a simple, undenominational, New Testament Christian, but many times it will be an unbeliever, or a reactionary liberal who has lost his mooring and sense of direction. □



**The Same Circumstances**

**TAKE SOME** clay, a piece of meat, a piece of wax, and some wood shavings and put them on a fire. Each one is acted upon by the same agent, yet the clay hardens, the meat fries, the wax melts, and the shavings blaze. Just so under identical circumstances in life, one man becomes stronger, another man mellows, another becomes weaker, while another quickly withers away.—*Selected* □



**Pithy Points to Ponder  
(Proverbially Speaking)**

**"YOU** can't do an act of kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

*Rebuke of a fellow Christian, when it becomes necessary, should be seasoned with love, respect, and humility.*

"Lord, help me to understand that you aren't going to let anything come my way that You and I can't handle together."

*If you have a problem understanding the Bible very likely you are the problem and not the Bible (spend more time studying the Bible).*

"A Christian is the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of Matthew walking down the street."


*All that we know is what the Bible says, which we believe and practice, and the rest we leave to the judgment of God.*

"Being put on a pedestal has disadvantages which you're apt to discover the first time you fail to watch your step."


*As God is perfect, His judgment will be perfect in that great and final day; all will be amazed by the wisdom of it, and none will feel occasion to find fault with it.* □




## How God Must Feel

**IF YOU** have ever had problems with a wayward child, how do you think the heavenly Father must feel about the whole human family made in His own image (Romans 3:23)? 

## The Lord's Organization


**IF PREACHERS** talk about the New Testament church, and even contend for it, why can't they see the need of doing the Lord's work through the organization of the New Testament church, and be consistent, instead of forming man-made religious organizations? 

## Jesus Came to Save Lives


**JESUS** came into the world to save souls and lives, not destroy them (Matthew 18:11; Luke 9:54-56; John 18:36); therefore, it is grossly wicked, ungodly, and immoral for Christians to be so wrapped up in patriotism that during a time of war they rejoice and are actually pleased to hear of the death of people in other countries with the destruction of their property. 

## The Trial of Prosperity

**IF SATAN** thought Job had not been tried before he began his devastating onslaughts against him, he was seriously mistaken. Job had been tried by the greatest of all trials, *prosperity*. We have heard statements like this: "He was faithful to the church before he made his money," or "He was faithful before he was elected to office," or "He was faithful before he became so famous and prominent." Prosperity is a trial to which many have succumbed. But the man of patience, Job, had been able to endure *prosperity* before he was called upon to endure *adversity*.

Prosperity has the tendency to make man conceited and to cause him to pat himself on the back. It can make him self-sufficient and cause him to think he can get along all right without God. It gives him a feeling of independence. He begins to feel that God is not needed. It also has the tendency to make man hard and arrogant toward those who haven't succeeded. He begins to feel that all others could enjoy prosperity if they would apply themselves. He may even think that those who have not succeeded are either lazy or stupid. Sometimes the prosperous person becomes arrogant toward his best friends and even toward his own kin. The dangers of prosperity are legion.—*Selected* 

## Rid of Other Fears

**IF WE** are not afraid of work, we therewith rid ourselves of many other fears. 

## BIBLE QUESTIONS

*(Random Questions Over the Bible)*

1. Following the call of Abraham when he first came into the land of Canaan, what prompted him to go on down to Egypt?
2. What man in the Bible had a son whose name meant son of my right hand (and what was the name)?
3. Before Joseph died down in the land of Egypt, what promise did he have the children of Israel make to him under oath?
4. In total, how many times did the children of Israel march around the city of Jericho before it fell?
5. Why did God say to king David, "...The sword shall never depart from thy house"?
6. What three options were given to king David as punishment for numbering the people of Israel, and which one did he choose (and why)?
7. What is the significance of "Belial," as in "children of Belial," "sons of Belial," etc. found throughout the Bible?
8. During the course of a year, what three feasts were all male Israelites required to appear before the LORD?
9. What is the significance of the name "Pentecost" as applied to the said Jewish feast (or holy day)?
10. Which two of the Psalms are almost identical in content?
11. In highlighting the corruption of the land in his day, what uncomplimentary terms does the prophet Isaiah use in addressing the Jewish people?
12. When and under what circumstances was Jesus taunted with the words, "If thou be the Son of God"?
13. What were the names of some women who followed Jesus at one point in his ministry and "ministered unto him of their substance"?
14. What facilities did Paul avail himself of in Ephesus that greatly helped in the spread of the gospel?
15. In the uproar in Jerusalem that led to Paul's initial imprisonment, what Gentile Christian had been with Paul whom the Jews assumed Paul had taken into the temple?
16. When the book of Acts ends, how long had Paul been a prisoner at Rome?
17. In the New Testament, what word has the opposite meaning of the word "mystery"?
18. The apostle John wrote, "We love him, because he \_\_\_\_\_ loved us."
19. Where was John when the book of Revelation was revealed to him?
20. In the language of the book of Revelation, of what were the twelve gates to the city of new Jerusalem made?

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

# READERS'

## ...Response



### FLORIDA:

■ "I haven't written in a while, but I wanted to send you a check in loving memory of our...daughter...who departed this life with her two babies May 12 of this year..."

"I appreciate so much the truth being preached. May God continue to bless the work you are doing."

### ALABAMA:

■ "Please keep up the good for God as you are now."

■ "We get a lot of our literature from your publication. We enjoy it very much. Keep up the good work. You stay with the truth and that is what we like. That's what it's all about."

### NORTH CAROLINA:

■ "Thank God for people like you who speak God's Word in its fullness. May God bless you, your family, and your work."

### VIRGINIA:

■ "I certainly appreciate getting the book *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*. I am enjoying reading it very much. Thank you."

"I am enclosing a check to help with your work."

### MARYLAND:

■ "We find *THE SWORD AND STAFF* refreshing to read. Some of those readers' responses are amusing at times."

"Keep on the firing line for our Savior."

"Please send a copy of the book *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*. Also please renew my subscription..."

"Very pleased with your paper!"

### PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "Your thanksgiving issue I just received is excellent. I am so thankful God has given you the desire and talent to give us this wonderful magazine..."

### MASSACHUSETTS:

■ "Would you please send another bound volume. I have 85-86. I'm enjoying my book very much and ap-

preciate the poems and thank the LORD for your work."

### NEW HAMPSHIRE:

■ "I have been receiving *THE SWORD AND STAFF* a number of years, my name being on your mailing list through a dear friend in the Lord...This issue was so powerfully loaded with the good things of God that I could not help myself but to respond. That copy is so good that I am going to use it as a working tool. You bring out so many important and significant things for the Christian today. I admire your boldness and praise the Lord for your service to Him. Particularly I was blessed by your stand against Christmas, which I have been delivered from since 1983, having God show me the same things that you see...Thank you so much for the nourishment that you impart, may our good Lord continue to bless you, good brother, and it is my good pleasure to submit to you a gift a long time coming."

### MICHIGAN:

■ "I thank you so much for your speedy reply to my request...I thoroughly enjoy reading your articles and also the book of poems which I ordered. Keep up the good work in the Lord...Thanks again."

### OHIO:

■ "Several people say you really outdid yourself in the last *SWORD AND STAFF*."

■ "I am enclosing \$60.00 for which please send me 15 copies of the book *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*...Thanks again for the copies and I'm sure all will appreciate them."

■ "Thank you for *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I have enjoyed reading your paper for years. You are doing a wonderful work for the Lord. I will continue to pass it on to friends. May God continue to bless you...I want to order 5 copies of *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*..."

■ "Please send me 5 more *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS* at \$4.00 each. I really like the last issue of *THE SWORD AND STAFF* with the piece about thanksgiving. 'Why I Do Not Observe Christmas' is wonderful...The people who want their subscription to *THE SWORD AND STAFF* removed must not love the truth. Keep up the good work as long as you can."

■ "Enclosed please find another contribution for your magazine. It is greatly appreciated as it is one of the best, putting out the true gospel pure and undiluted as it should be. Just keep on telling the good news of Jesus Christ and his saving grace. I'm also including another list of names I'd like to see getting your magazine..."

■ "...I and those with whom I share *THE SWORD AND STAFF* enjoy it immensely and are truly encouraged, challenged, convicted and admonished as well as informed in things spiritual. Your paper is a mixture of

(Continued on Next Page)

## READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

**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.

*convicting and comforting, stinging and healing, just as the Word of God. Moreover, the very title of your timely publication indicates the same.*

*"Thank you very much for the poems and proverbs book...Not only do I enjoy the verse but also enjoy getting to know you better through them, as they reflect a singular heart reaching out to its Creator..."*

### INDIANA:

■ *"I have only recently been introduced to THE SWORD AND STAFF and the wealth of wholesome, spiritual reading it contains. The one copy I have that came to our church...I decided to bring it home and check it out for material that I could use in the church bulletin which I compile each week. I found much that I could use and received much good comment from the congregation..."*

*"I used your complete 'Editorial Comments' article in an earlier bulletin, even the photo and comic strips. Many people downplay what we are facing with the homosexual problem, but I think it should definitely be discussed in our churches for it is a fast growing cancer, and stemming the rise of these people to gain acceptance should be a prime concern of all churches for it is not an accepted Christian lifestyle...It seems that our society worldwide is developing into one huge Sodom and Gomorrah..."*

*"Thank you again for THE SWORD AND STAFF and all it conveys, and I hope to have more to read soon."*

### ILLINOIS:

■ *"Please remove our name from your mailing list as soon as possible."*

### MISSOURI:

■ *"Several years ago, I received my first copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF...At the time, I was very impressed with the magazine contents and layout. However, like most preachers, things have a way of getting shuffled around and forgotten. The other day, I was going through some papers after moving to Missouri, and once again found an old copy that was sent to me many years ago. I can tell you that I have recently received similar offers from other publications, and none compare doctrinally or practically. I do suppose that is a matter of personal opinion, but I do appreciate your stand on the Bible and the variety of offerings. You do not waste a lot of space with advertisements, but you get down to business.*

*"Please find enclosed my gift to begin my subscription*

## REFLECTIONS

"YOU SHOULD TURN FROM THESE VANITIES UNTO THE LIVING GOD..."  
— ACTS 14:15



*tion to your publication. As I can later afford, I will send more. I am anxious to get started."*

### ARKANSAS:

■ *"I commend you for the fine publication, THE SWORD AND STAFF. I have bound volumes 21 through 28...I use articles from these almost every week in our bulletin...Please send [other bound volumes]... and POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS, and renew my subscription."*

### WASHINGTON:

■ *"I appreciate the good old fashioned truth you publish. I am very concerned about the worldliness the church has drifted into and wonder what God thinks of some of the things that go on in the church today. I pray you will have the strength and the means to carry on for many years to come."*

### OREGON:

■ *"Please discontinue."* □

## How to Accept Christ

How that the apostles told sinners to accept Christ in the first century is found in Acts 2:38; the "altar call" and "praying through" are the product of the revival movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and were unknown to any Christians before that time (Paul didn't even "pray through," Acts 9:11; 22:16; 9:18; Romans 6:1-6; Read Acts 8:35-39). □

## NOTES ON I TIMOTHY 2:9,10

***“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”***

● Christianity has to do with all things that pertain to life and godliness, and in every way we are to glorify God—II Peter 1:3 (II Timothy 3:16,17; Colossians 3:18,23; I Corinthians 10:31; 6:19,20).

● A Bible principle is that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word is to be established; truth is truth if only spoken by one witness, but it is made more emphatic in this matter of modest apparel because there is more than one witness—II Cor. 13:1 (I Timothy 2:9,10; I Peter 3:1-6).

● In our day the modern church has become pretty much integrated with the world (which is materialistic, sensuous, and vainglorious), and consequently these truths have been greatly neglected.

● Inasmuch as these Scriptures have been largely neglected, we should be patient one with another as we study them to see what they really mean (and they do mean something, or they wouldn't be in the Bible).

● The purpose of this inquiry is not controversy, or to be picky, but understanding and godly edification in humility and love.

● Keep these Scriptures in mind: I John 2:15-17; Romans 12:1,2; II Corinthians 6:14-18.

### **ὡσαύτως** (in like manner)...

● With the same care that the men are to take in carrying out their responsibilities as leaders in the public assembly (I Timothy 2:1-8) the women are to adorn themselves appropriately in the public assembly, not detracting from the glory that is the Lord's (I Timothy 2:9,10; James 2:1-4).

● This modesty of dress is not limited to the public assembly, but it is for life in general (I Peter 3:1-6); it characterizes “women professing godliness.”

### **καὶ τὰς γυναῖκας [γυνή]** (also the women)...

● Although this matter of modest apparel applies also to men, it seems to be more of a problem with women than men as the apostles always mention women when writing about it.

● The person all wrapped up in style, and the person all wrapped up in sports, many times has a problem even considering, let alone accepting, what the Bible has to say about modesty.

### **ἐν καταστολῇ** (in apparel)...

● This word translated “apparel” (*kata-stolé*) literally means down (*kata*) to send (*stolé*); it is just the opposite of sending up, to make short (shorts).

● “Long robe”—*Young's Analytical Concordance*

● “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Genesis 3:21; also notice 3:7-10).

● Meaning of this Hebrew word translated “coats”: “a tunic, long coat”—*Young's Analytical Concordance*; “tunic, a long shirt-like garment...”—*Theological Words of the Old Testament*; “A tunic...generally with sleeves, to the knees, but seldom to the ankles, Gen. 3:21”—*Wilson's O.T. Word Studies*.

(Continued on Next Page)

- The purpose of clothing is to cover, to conceal; not to reveal.
- Exodus 20:26; Revelation 3:17; 16:15.
- Matthew 5:27-30; Job 31:1; II Samuel 11:2-4.

## κοσμιῶ [κόσμιος] (modest)...

● The words translated “modest” and “adorn” have the same root origin and are cognate with the word translated “world” (*kosmos*) elsewhere in the N.T.; the word *kosmos*, for world, literally signifies that which has been arranged.

- The word translated “modest” here means “decorous, well-ordered”; moderate, orderly, seemly.
- *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* gives the following definitions of modest:
  - (1) Placing a moderate or low estimate on one's own merits; not forward or boastful.
  - (2) Evincing, or arising from lack of boldness, presumption, display, etc.; moderate, unpretentious; as a modest request or home.
  - (3) Observing the proprieties of sex; chaste; decent.
- All of these meanings seem to be inherent in the word “modest” in I Timothy.

## μετὰ αἰδοῦς [αἰδώς] (with shamefacedness)...

● What is the meaning of the word translated “shamefacedness”? Thayer's lexicon has this to say about this Greek word *aidos* as compared with a synonym: “*Aidos* is prominently objective in its reference, having regard for others...It is often said that *aidos* precedes and prevents the shameful act...*Aidos* would always restrain a good man from an unworthy act.”

● It is a sense of virtuous shame which has a special regard and respect in reference to others. The other kind of shame is a shame of guilt; but the good kind of shame is that which would prevent the occurrence of guilt.

● In view of this, it is shocking to realize that the actual styles of dress in the woman's world today are much of the time based on sex appeal (trying to look sexually alluring and enticing). Also, this has come down into the children's world (*NEWSWEEK*, April 26, 1993, “Showing Too Much, Too Soon,” “What ever happened to jumpers and overalls?” page 59; July 26, 1993, “Sex, Kids and the Slut Look,” page 8).

● Mary Quant, the originator-designer of the miniskirt of the 1960's, said quite frankly that the purpose of the miniskirt was intended “to bring men to bed.” That is, the miniskirt was to say to every man, “look at these legs. What do they make you think of?”

● The whole theory behind lipstick and the use of makeup is wrong from the Christian viewpoint. Quotations from cosmetic advertisements:

- “We help American women stay sexy.”
- “Intriguing eyeshadows...Luscious lipsticks.”
- “Creates color with all-out sizzle, all-out shimmer...today's new mood of excitement for you.”
- “For lips just born to be kissed, a sensuous flavored lip glosser with an all-out shine...Use on naked lips for a blush of color or over lipstick...so sexy, juicy, shiny. It's almost sinful.”

● **JEREMIAH 4:30**, “And when thou are spoiled, what wilt thou do? *Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou ren-test THY FACE WITH PAINTING, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair*; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.”

● **EZEKIEL 23:40,41**, “And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent: and, lo, they came: for whom *thou didst wash thyself, PAINTEDST THY EYES, and deckedst thyself with ornaments. And satest upon a stately bed*, and a table prepared before it, whereupon thou hast set mine incense and mine oil.”

● **PROVERBS 6:25**, “Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her *EYELIDS*.”

(Continued on Next Page)

● “Paint used by the Hebrew women, a powder producing a black colour, commonly prepared from antimony, or from lead ore and zinc, which they mixed with water, and spread upon the eye-lids in such a way that the white of the eyes might appear more white by being surrounded by a black margin.”—*Wilson’s O.T. Word Studies*

● Why paint (makeup) was used:

(1) To aggrandize their appearance so as to imposingly impress themselves on others (vain-glory).

(2) To make them look more sexually enticing, alluring, and seductive (sensuous).

● Consequently seriously consider Matthew 5:27-30; 18:6 (I Corinthians 8:12).

● As a matter of illustration and interest, in the centuries following the apostles early church leaders quoted I Timothy 2 and I Peter 3 in opposing immodesty of dress and cosmetics of every kind; reading their writings, it seems women used every imaginable cosmetic, very much like today (such writers were Tertullian, 140-230 A.D.; Clement of Alexander, 150-200 A.D.; Cyprian, 200-258 A.D.).

## καὶ σωφροσύνης [σωφροσύνη] (and sobriety)...

● This word translated “sobriety” is a compound word, *sos* (sound) + *phrén* (mind).

● “For whether we be beside ourselves [crazy], it is to God: or whether we be **sober** [sane], it is for your cause” (II Corinthians 5:13).

● “But he said, I am not mad [crazy], most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and **soberness** [sanity]” (Acts 26:25).

● Also, a variation of the same word is translated in Mark 5:15, “And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his **right mind**: and they were afraid.”

● Let us be in our right mind. The Lord wants us to have some sense about us (be sane, sober); to dress immodestly, whether from the viewpoint of indecent exposure (trying to look sexy) or simply being vainglorious, doesn’t make much sense for the real Christian.

## κοσμεῖν [κοσμέω] (to adorn)...

● As already pointed out, this comes from the same root as the word translated “modest,” and “world” (*kosmos*) and basically signifies to arrange, and that which is arranged. The back side of this command is that we will arrange, or adorn, ourselves (and it will be in a neat and decent way); its very meaning prohibits appearing sloppy.

## ἑαυτάς (themselves)...

## μὴ ἐν πλέγμασιν [πλέγμα] (not in broided)...

● “NOT” is prohibitive. Moderating steps are in the right direction. Prohibitive action is conclusive. This is the kind of “moderation” that Paul is talking about here. “Women professing godliness” are NOT to be adorned with “broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array [expensive clothing].”

● Juvenal (“Satire,” vi.): “The attendants will vote on the dressing of the hair as if a question of reputation or of life were at stake, so great is the trouble she takes in quest of beauty; with so many tiers does she load, with so many continuous stories does she build upon on high her head. She is tall as Andromache in front, behind she is shorter.”

● Gold was interwoven in the broided hair.

● Christian women should avoid extreme hairdos.

## ἢ χρυσῶ [χρῦσός] (or gold)...

(Continued on Next Page)

● The Old Testament was a materialistic system, an *antitype* of the New Testament, which is spiritual. The Old Testament promised a land flowing with milk and honey; the Old Testament featured a physical, political kingdom; physical blessings were evidence of God's favor; in this material system, the display of gold would seem to indicate evidence of God's blessing and favor. The New Testament is spiritual, and its emphasis is just the opposite of the Old Testament.

● The appearance of a visitor in their assembly wearing gold was a novelty (James 2:2,4).

● An honorable use of gold is in purposes of utility, as signet ring and chain with symbol of authority (Genesis 41:42; Luke 15:22).

**ἡ μαργαρίταις [μαργαρίτης] (or pearls)...**

● Christians rather are concerned about the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:45,46), which involves the kingdom of heaven, not the physical.

**ἡ ἱματισμῷ [ἱματισμος] πολυτελεῖ  
[πολυτελής] (or garments expensive)...**

● I Peter 3:3,4; James 5:1-3.

**ἀλλ' [ἀλλά] ὅ πρέπει (but the becomes)...**

**γυναιξὶν (women)...**

**ἐπαγγελλομέναις (professing)...**

**θεοσεβειαν (godliness, the fear of God)...**

**δι' [διά] ἔργων (with works)...**

**ἀγαθῶν (good).**

● Look into the mirror of God's Word to see if you are spiritually adorned (James 1:21-25).

● In baptism we put on Christ (Galatians 3:27); we are clothed in his righteousness. The Holy Spirit produces his likeness in our lives as we live for him (Galatians 5:22,23).

● **HYMN:** "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me; All his wonderful passion and purity; May his Spirit divine all my being refine; Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me...From the dawn of the morning to close of day; In example, in deeds, and in all you say; Lay your gifts at his feet; ever strive to keep sweet; Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."

● Carefully consider I Peter 3:4; Luke 10:38-42; Acts 9:36-41; Philippians 4:3; I Timothy 5:10; II Timothy 1:5; Titus 2:3-5; etc.

● "Women professing godliness," physically and spiritually, should adorn themselves in a very different way from the ungodly women of this world; how you dress is a reflection of your self-image, just who you think you are, or what message you wish to convey to the world. Does the world see in you a vain, materialistic person? a painted sex object? or, a "woman professing godliness" (whose physical adornment appropriately corresponds with her spiritual adornment)?

● Remember I John 2:15-17; Romans 12:1,2; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1

● Don't let the world brainwash or intimidate you.

**—James E. Gibbons**

# THE DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY AND THOSE 31 DEGREE TILTED TURNS

**THE FACILITIES** of the DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY, appropriately dubbed the "World Center of Racing," are very interesting. We are told the whole area takes in 450 acres. The massive grandstands, overlooked by a 15-story tower, will seat 100,000 people. NASCAR conducts two races here each year, while 8 are run altogether. There is a 2.5 mile trioval and a 3.56 mile road course. On the race track, turns like 2 and 4 have an awesome 31 degree high bank. Racing cars have to be going at least 75 miles an hour just to keep from turning over. When the turn is completed, the bank tilts back to 9 degrees, which one would think would be less intimidating. Not so; this is a very dangerous part of the track as it drops off so fast. There is not as much air pressure underneath the car. The driver must be on his toes to avoid disaster. He must indeed be a careful driver. (And as a footnote thought, there are between 42-44 laps before pit stops).

Being a Christian, this information immediately drew our attention to another race. No, we are not talking about the materialistic rat race that we witness every day. Rather, thoughts come to mind of the race every Christian must run in living the Christian life. Paul uses the illustration of racing more than once, and says, "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). This race is not run in competition with others; rather, all who finish the course are winners (II Timothy 4:6-8). The race must be successfully completed.

Carrying this illustration of a race a step further, and finding a parallel in the DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY, we find there will be many tilted turns. Like the 31 degree turns that require a continued speed of 75 miles an hour or more, lest the car turn over, we must press on in the Christian life. If we slow down or stop when the going gets rough, or is less than smooth, it will be disastrous. To stop is to flop. We will turn over, fall, and crash in our Christian life. Then when we are coming out of such rugged experiences, we must keep a level head to keep from veering off the track (even as the race car driver enters the less tilted 9 degree bank). The pit stops are necessary too, if we are to run the rugged course of this life as a Christian. We need the Lord's church, the Word, and one another to win the race.

Let us press on (Philippians 3:13,14; I Corinthians 9:24-27). Victory is for all who actually finish the Christian race (Revelation 2:10).—**J.E.G.**   □

## The Seven Beatitudes in the Book of Revelation

**THE BOOK** of Revelation contains many references to the number seven. The number seven is connected with completeness, unity, fullness, totality, perfection or bringing to an end. A careful study of the seven beatitudes of Revelation reveals this.

1. *"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear..."* (Revelation 1:3).
2. *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."* (Revelation 14:13).
3. *"Blessed is he that watcheth..."* (Revelation 16:15).
4. *"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb..."* (Revelation 19:9).
5. *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection..."* (Revelation 20:6).
6. *"Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book"* (Revelation 22:7).
7. *"Blessed are they that do his commandments..."* (Revelation 22:14).

The word blessed is the same word that is used in the beatitudes in Matthew 5 and Luke 6. It is translated from the Greek word *markarios* and promises happiness and the highest good to the characters who are thus blessed.—**Selected**   □

**HAVING become the favored objects and recipients of God's mercy and grace, we are to be channels of this mercy and grace to others.**

## Worldly Womanhood (I Timothy 2:9,10)

She has her hair put up in tiers,  
And from her ears hang chandeliers;  
Her lips are painted red as blood—  
All badges of her "womanhood."

She drapes herself in clothing tight,  
A sexy object to the sight;  
All bright, aglitter, and aglow,  
She makes herself a "one man" show.

—**By James E. Gibbons**

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(Book by James E. Gibbons)

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If you have not gotten your copy, feel free to order at \$5.00 (to help pay for printing and mailing). If you order five or more copies, they are \$4.00 each.

Inconsistent Both Ways

YOU CAN mark it down that the church member who is inconsistent in his church attendance will be inconsistent in his living (or is it the other way around, or is it both ways?).

(CLIP AND MAIL)

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Answers to:

BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Genesis 12:10; 2. Genesis 35:18; 3. Genesis 50:24-26; 4. Joshua 6:1-4; 5. II Samuel 12:9-12; 6. I Chronicles 21; 7. The word simply means worthless (i.e., a worthless person) and is not to be taken as a personal name—Deuteronomy 13:13; Judges 19:22; I Kings 21:10,13; II Corinthians 6:15; etc. 8. Deuteronomy 16:16; Exodus 23:14-17; 9. Acts 2:1; Leviticus 23:15,16; 10. Psalms 14 and Psalms 53; 11. Isaiah 1; 12. Matthew 4:3,6; 27:40; 13. Luke 8:1-3; 14. Acts 19:9,10; 15. Acts 21:27-29, etc. 16. Acts 28:30; 17. Ephesians 3:3; Romans 16:25; 18. I John 4:19; 19. Revelation 1:9; 20. Revelation 21:21.

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