

# The Sword AND Staff

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

● With this article we are taking a "break" from the "going on unto perfection" series and will continue later—Editor

## WASTEFULNESS AND FRUGALITY (in the Light of the Bible)

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**W**HAT are the thoughts that enter and flash through your mind when the word "waste" is heard? We may think of things being squandered, put to no good use, rendered useless, or even destroyed. We may think of an affluent society, extravagance, and people thoughtlessly being careless and irresponsible with material things (not careful or resourceful in their management and use). Thoughts of big government, big spending and the military may enter our minds. A billboard reads, "A brain is an awful thing to waste." Someone said of former president Clinton in the light of his potential and folly, "What a waste!" The word "waste" makes us think of a wasteland. Television has been called "the great American wasteland." A sick person is said to "waste away."

Does the Bible have anything to say about waste or being wasteful? Or, to approach this from a positive perspective, does the Bible have anything to say about being frugal or saving?

### I. IS IT WRONG TO BE WASTEFUL?

#### A Self-Evident Truth

There are certain things that are self-evident. Paul says that nature itself teaches us certain things. In the Bible it is mostly understood and implied that being wasteful is wrong more than being directly stated. However, notice Deuteronomy 20:19 and 20. This is Old Testament, but nonetheless consider the thrust of the thought behind the instructions given here. "When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is

man's life) to employ them in the siege: Only the trees which thou knowest that they be not trees for meat [food], thou shalt destroy and cut them down: and thou shalt build bulwarks against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued."



#### Was the Ointment Wasted?

Let us take a look at the New Testament. This was toward the end of the ministry of Jesus. We read (Mark 14:3ff), "And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he [Jesus] sat at meat,

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## THE SWORD AND STAFF

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—THANK YOU—

## Proverbially *SPEAKING...*

*I WOULDN'T miss heaven for the world, would you?*

In the process of getting ready for that better world at the same time we make this world better.

*To see the bright side of life, come out of the darkness into the light.*

On a street called Straight Saul of Tarsus got on the straight and narrow way (Acts 9:10-18; 22:10-16).

*Repeat the "Lord's Prayer" to help you get started when you find it hard to pray.*

Only a risen Savior can make it possible for you to arise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-5).

*It is good to be set in your ways if your ways are the ways of God.*

A proper relation to God will prompt us to have a proper relation to our fellowman made in the image of God.

*We should be tough-minded, but not hard-hearted.*

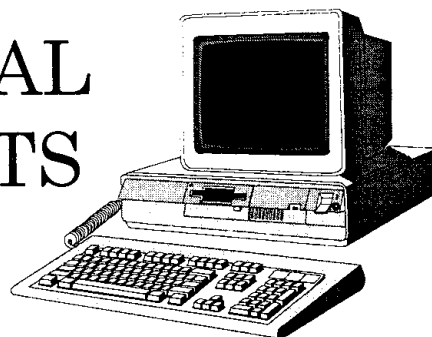
We may not be what we think we are, but we are what we think.

*As a man grows wiser, he talks less and says more.*

When patience wears thin, the fabric of endurance comes apart.

*Hope is faith that is alive and well.* □

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS



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

*This article in its original form was written about a dozen years ago. We thought it very timely to present it at this time, in view of the trends in our society, but the situation now has changed so rapidly that we are made to think in terms of an avalanche instead of erosion. Therefore, we have updated the thrust of the article to fit our present situation. Indeed, the times are alarming in which we live!—Editor*

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

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

However, for many years now the ill winds of unfavorable change have been blowing across our land. Definitely, all is not

well. Whether covertly or openly (perhaps first covertly and then blatantly open), secular humanism has been and is asserting its ungodly (and undesirable) influence upon society at every level, as they impact our nation trying to reverse the noble legacy coming from our forefathers. The high regard for religion and its influence upon society, along with favored treatment of religion, are on the wane. Government is no longer a protector of public morals. In some cases it is not even neutral, but is promoter of the delinquency of its citizens. The high court ruling of no prayer or Bible reading in the public schools, which implies that such is irrelevant to life, is but one of the milestones in this departure. While denying freedom of speech in reference to religion in the public schools, but at the same time allowing almost anything else, they have recklessly opened the floodgate for all kinds of repercussions. In the name of freedom of speech through magazines, movies, television and now the Internet, pornography, vulgarity and obscenity hits us in the face. Abortion, which heretofore had been legally regarded as criminal (murder), not only now is legal, but in the past has even been funded by the government for those who could not pay. Before they were "penknifed" by the radical "liberals," the law books universally looked upon the practice of homosexuality as a "crime against nature." Now same sex partners are getting employee benefits as husband and wife, and it only seems a matter of time until they will be given legal status as such. In the meantime the dreaded disease AIDS spreads. Gambling is still illegal in most states, but almost every state is in the gambling business "big time." This continues even though these headlines were read some time ago in the *Dayton Daily News* (Ohio): "GAMBLING ADDICTIONS ARE REPORTEDLY INCREASING," and "SOME COUNSELORS BLAMES STATE LOTTERY GAMES." In many places, the government has long been in the liquor business. Yes, government is contributing to the very delinquency of its citizens instead of being their guardian.

With this disregard for the unofficial regard that has been for religion in the past, our society has been coming apart at the seams it seems. Perhaps this is just one of the symptoms of the larger problem of the godless and ungodly times in which we are living. In such a climate, the landmarks of honesty and old-fashioned morality are fast eroding. So many American homes are being shattered by divorce. And, alarmingly, people are not getting the message from AIDS, but are talking about practicing "safe sex" as they continue in their immorality and perversion. Of ancient Israel Hosea wrote, "For

they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind..." (Hosea 8:7). Proverbs 14:34 reads, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

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



## EDITORIAL

# Byways

### "I WILL THAT MEN PRAY EVERYWHERE"

**S**OMEHOW this choice bit of newsworthy information escaped my attention when it happened three years ago. Having checked it out in the archives of *The Oak Ridger* newspaper and other places, I feel it is good to share this with you (especially if you likewise were not aware of it at the time). And as a matter of public record, the local legislative representative from Tennessee had this inserted in the Congressional Record in Washington. Our country is in bad shape and has wandered far from what the founding fathers had in mind as secular humanists have largely hijacked it for their own godless, and many times ungodly, purposes.

On September 1, 2000 Jody McLoud the principal of Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee stood up and delivered a much-needed and an alarming statement over the public address system at the season's opening football game, protesting a recent Supreme Court decision against having prayer before football games. Here is the full content of what he said.

*"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the national anthem to honor God and country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of federal case law.*

*"As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it an alternative lifestyle, and if someone is offended, that's OK.*

*"I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it safe sex. If*

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## EDITORIAL *Byways*

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*someone is offended, that's OK.*

*"I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem.*

*"I can designate a school day as Earth Day and involve students in activities to religiously worship and praise the goddess, mother earth, and call it ecology.*

*"I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depict people with strong, traditional, Christian convictions as simple minded and ignorant and call it enlightenment.*

*"However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and ask him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, federal case law is violated.*

*"This appears to be, at best, inconsistent and, at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and everyone except God and his commandments.*

*"Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be, at best, inconsistent and, at worst, hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.*

*"For this reason, I shall Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and refrain from praying at this time. However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God, and to ask him in the name of Jesus to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law yet."*

I find the vocalization of most of this very commendable and well worded. From what we understand, spontaneous prayer followed at that football game. Too long the silent majority has been silent as our freedom of speech and of religion has been bit by bit chiseled away.

Mr. McCloud's words were well expressed, and we laud him for them, but we question the last part of his statement. Christ's words, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's" had reference to taxation, not prayer (Matthew 22:15-22). Prayer is not in the jurisdiction of "Caesar." Christians are citizens of a heavenly kingdom, as well as an earthly, and the authority of the heavenly supersedes that of the earthly. If the laws imposed by man conflict with the spiritual laws laid down by God, there is no question mark about where a Christian stands.

Let us illustrate. Christ, who has all authority (Matthew 28:18), commanded, "Go ye into *all the*

*world*, and preach the gospel to *every* creature" (Mark 16:15). In the process of doing this, the apostles clashed with the rulers in Jerusalem. In the 4th chapter of Acts we read about Peter and John's experience, and in the 5th chapter all of the apostles. Peter and John were jailed over-night for preaching and before being released the next day were commanded "not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus" (4:18). "But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (4:19,20). In chapter 5 all of the apostles were jailed, but during the night the "angel of the Lord...opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life" (5:18-20). They did just this in accordance with the Great Commission and what the angel said. Again with hostility they were apprehended and brought before the highest court of Israel (the "council," the Sanhedrin). Here they were strongly reprehended with the words, "Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine..." "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to *obey* God rather than men" (5:28,29). This word "obey" in the original language of the New Testament is *peitharchoo*, which means to obey a ruler, one in authority. Really, what the apostles were saying is that God was their ruler, superseding what anyone else had to say. He is over all. We do what He says.

This is likewise true in this matter of prayer. The apostle Paul plainly stated, and his words stand as the Word of God (1 Corinthians 14:37), "I will therefore that men *pray everywhere*, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting" (1 Timothy 2:8). The Supreme Court of the United States is not supreme. The court of heaven is. "We ought to *obey God* rather than men" (Acts 5:29). □

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## WASTEFULNESS AND FRUGALITY (in the Light of the Bible)

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there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious [expensive]; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?" We glean from this the impression that people commonly had the conviction that waste was wrong. But Jesus reassured them that it was not a wasteful thing that had taken place. Providen-

tially she was getting him ready for his impending death and subsequent burial.

### Wasteful Management

Jesus told a parable involving waste. "And he said unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? Give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward" (Luke 16:1,2). Irresponsible management of his master's household and goods was looked upon as squandering and waste. He was to be held accountable.

### A Story of Waste



The 15th chapter of Luke vividly portrays waste, especially in the story of the prodigal son. We read, "And he [Jesus] said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his field to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him..." (Luke 15:11-32). Here we see waste in terms of material things and in a human life. He "*wasted* his substance with *riotous* living." The word translated "wasted" (*diaskorpizo*) means to run through, scatter, and dissipate. The word translated "riotous" actually comes from the root meaning to save, with the negating "a" in front of it (*asotos*, i.e. *a* + *sotos*, from word for save), which would indicate unsaved (and, interestingly, from this root we get "Savior"). He was reckless and

wasteful with his material things as they were expended in unsaved living (like there was no tomorrow). He was throwing his life away. He soon found that the person with extravagant and expensive tastes could see the day when he had little to taste. He was "the last of the big spenders."

### Lessons in Frugality

Looking at this subject from the positive viewpoint, an unforgettable lesson in frugality is seen in the miracles of Jesus feeding the mass multitudes with the loaves and the fishes. In fact, in these two miracles are lessons in compassion and generosity as well as frugality. The feeding of the 5,000 was so impressive that each of the four gospel writers saw fit to include it in his account of the life of Christ (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14ff). The feeding of the 4,000 is found in only two of the gospels (Matthew 15:29-39; Mark 8:1-9).

### The Left-Overs Were Saved

The miracle of the feeding of 5,000 men, not counting women and children, took place in their being fed by Christ from five loaves and two fish supplied by a little boy. Jesus and his disciples had gone by boat to the northeastern slopes of the Sea of Galilee to escape the overwhelming pressures of a busy ministry (they didn't even have time to eat) and in quest of a little reprieve and rest. But the multitudes wouldn't have it that way and excitedly followed him by foot, coming out of the many cities, until they came to where Jesus was. Instead of being disgruntled, being moved with tender feelings of compassion, he taught them and healed them. But now the day was fast fading and empty stomachs have a way of letting a person know that he needs to eat. However, they were in a "desert" place removed from primary sources of food supply. In their excitement of following Jesus they had not looked ahead, except one little fellow was found to have five loaves and two fishes. By the Lord simply taking the lad's lunch, praying and breaking the loaves and fishes, a momentous miracle took place. Five thousand men, not counting women and children, were fed. It is interesting that twelve small wicker baskets full of fragments were taken up. The leftovers were not thrown away. In the feeding of the 4,000 on another occasion, it is said that seven big baskets were taken up. Later, after the feeding of the 5,000, the disciples would be criticized by the Pharisees from Jerusalem for eating bread with unwashed hands (perhaps referring to the very bread that was left over from the miracle) (Mark 7:1,2ff). However, here is what we want to notice. If God incarnate, who made heaven and earth, practiced frugality, not being wasteful, this must be important and a lesson for us. Let us practice frugality. (Continued on Next Page)

## **WISDOM AND FRUGALITY**

**(in the Light of the Bible)**

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### **II. BEING WASTEFUL AND FRUGAL IN OTHER WAYS**

#### **The Slothful Person**

Proverbs 18:9 reads, "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." We might call the lazy person a twin brother to the great waster. He is in the same family, or a very close kinsman. He is wasting time and the possibilities of useful things that could be accomplished. Proverbs 24:30-34 pictures the wasteful and harmful consequences of being lazy. "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." Proverbs 6:6-11 gives similar and further admonitions to the lazy person. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hand to sleep; So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and they want as an armed man." Any way that you look at it, the lazy person is a wasteful person.

Doing nothing with the many opportunities and resources placed at our disposal is wrong. It is a great waste. Likewise in the parable of the talents, the man who had received only one talent, but had done nothing with it, is called by our Lord a "wicked and slothful [lazy] servant" (Matthew 25:26), thus also being placed in the category of a great waster (Proverbs 18:9).

#### **Savings in the Bank of Heaven**

In our diligence and the practice of frugality we are to lay up treasures in heaven by good works in the benevolent use of our material possessions. The Lord admonished in the Sermon on the Mount, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 6:19,20). On another occasion he told the inquiring rich young ruler, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and

give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (Matthew 19:21). This is very much like putting our savings in the bank of heaven, thus being eternally frugal and not wasteful. That was really the essence of Paul's instructions to Timothy as to how he should admonish the wealthy members in the church at Ephesus where he was preaching (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

#### **Wealth, Wasteful Living and Its Consequence**

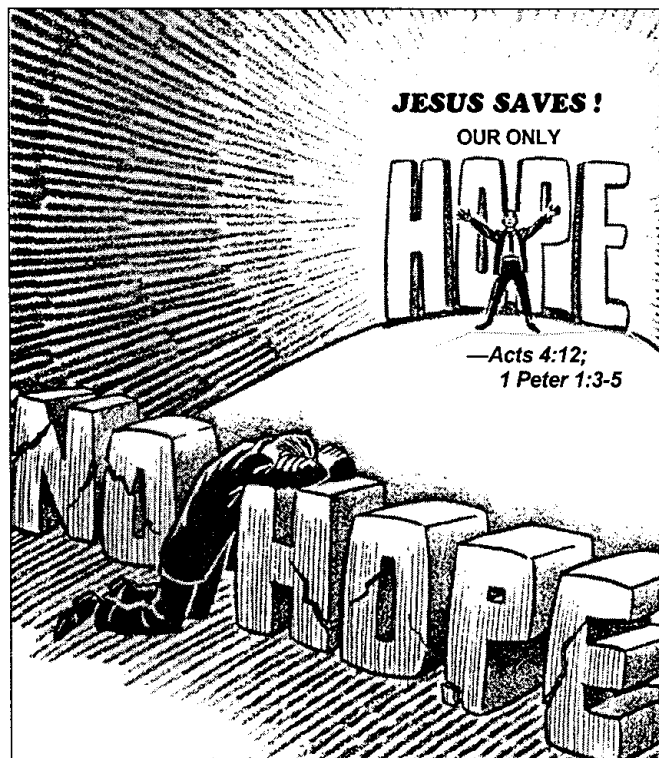
The non-slothful person is wasteful, even though he practices frugality, if he only lives for himself. To be self-indulgent, lavishing our wealth unsparingly upon ourselves, is to disregard the Lord's teachings. Jesus in a parable told of a rich farmer who only lived for himself (Luke 12:16-21). His life was totally egocentric in the accumulation and disposal of his wealth, as he would eat, drink and be merry. Notice the lavish use of the pronoun "I" as he lavished all upon himself. Consequently God said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." In another story Jesus told about "a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day" (Luke 16:19-31). We know the rest of the story involving this man and Lazarus. The rich man died and in hell lifted up his eyes, being in torment. In this life he had wasted his substance selfishly upon himself, not laying up treasures in heaven, as Lazarus was only given the crumbs that fell from his table. Paul described the self-indulgent widow who lived in luxury, like these rich men just mentioned, with these words, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Timothy 5:6). They who practice such a life style will find that they have no bank account in heaven when they come to the end of the way. They have lived a wasted life.

#### **Wasting One's Life and Time**

As earlier intimated in this article, the prodigal son wasted his life as well as his substance. Life is too short to be squandered and wasted. Life is made up of time. The 90th Psalm is pointing out the shortness and frailty of life. The Psalmist, who is thought to be Moses in this case, says, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten [70 years]; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years [80 years], yet is their strength [their boast is only] labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off and we fly away" (verse 10). Then this wise admonition follows: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (verse 12). The apostle



Paul in the same vein of thought, exhorts, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15,16). We dare not waste or "kill" time. The person who is killing time is murdering opportunities. "Only one life will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."



**The Embodiment of a Lesson**

In the feeding of the multitudes, as we noticed, Jesus left us a positive lesson in frugality as opposed to wastefulness. Now in another way, like in everything else, we find the embodiment of a lesson in the Lord Jesus Christ himself. While enmeshed in his earthly ministry, the Lord asserted, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Then after the interesting encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus said to his disciples, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:34,35). Of another time we read of a similar experience. "When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:36-38).

### **The Highest Level of Frugality**

Certainly this was frugality from another perspective and on a higher and greater scale. Before the birth of Jesus the angel had announced, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The Lord came in his ministry declaring that "the Son of man is come to save that which was lost" (Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10). Years later the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." (1 Timothy 1:15). Now, looking at Christ from the viewpoint of eternity, Hebrews 7:25 states, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Yes, the word "save" in the language of the New Testament, as pointed out in connection with the prodigal son, is just the opposite of "riotous" (unsaved or not saving). The Lord Jesus advanced the highest level of frugality in the saving of souls and points us in that direction. A human life is an awful thing to waste. □

### **A HUNDRED THOUSAND SOULS A DAY**

A hundred thousand souls a day  
Are passing one by one away  
In Christless guilt and gloom.  
Without one ray of hope or light  
With future as dark as endless night  
They're passing to their doom

They're passing, passing fast away  
A hundred thousand souls a day  
In Christless guilt and gloom.  
O church of Christ, what will you say  
When in the awful judgment day  
They charge you with their doom?

*—Author Unknown*

### **Answering a Skeptic**

**A** SKEPTIC in London in speaking of the Bible said it was quite impossible in these days to believe in any book whose author was unknown. A Christian asked him if the compiler of the multiplication table was known. "No," he answered. "Then, of course, you don't believe in it," persisted the other. "Oh, yes, I believe in it because it works well." "So does the Bible," was the rejoinder, and the skeptic had no more to say.—*Selected* □

# Evangelism, Three Ways

● By James E. Gibbons

**O**UR ENGLISH WORD “evangelize” has a two-prong meaning, (1) to preach the gospel, and (2) to convert to Christianity. Actually there are three Greek words in the New Testament that serve as a defining backdrop to our modern word “evangelize.” They are (1) *euaggelizo* (evangelizo), which means to preach the message of glad tidings, (2) *euaggelistes* (evangelistes), a messenger of the glad tidings, and (3) *euaggelion* (euangelion), the message of glad tidings. Of course the message of glad tidings (good news) is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) and consequently the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of eternal life. Evangelism is the effort and process of getting out the glad tidings. Behind all of this is the Great Commission spoken by our Lord on the peak of his resurrection glory.

Let us notice three different ways that evangelism takes place.

## I. EXEMPLARY EVANGELISM

### “They Also May Without the Word Be Won”

Exemplary Evangelism is underscored in 1 Peter 3:1-4. Peter exhorted Christian women who have unbelieving husbands. He tells them to be “in subjection to your [their] own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also *may without the word be won* by the conversation of the wives.” The word “conversation” here (KJV) is an old English word meaning their conduct, their behavior—the way that they lived, their lifestyle. Their chaste manner of living, not frivolously engrossed in adorning themselves like the women of the world, would make an impact on the unbelieving husband; especially if there was the adornment of the Spirit—a changed life. The best proof of Christianity is Christianity as evidenced in Christian living. It would make a believer out of the husband. Paul had this in mind in 1 Corinthians 7:16 when he said, “For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy [unbelieving] husband?” (by staying with him and being a real Christian).

### Being “Salt” and “Light”

The Lord Jesus taught, “Ye are the salt of the earth...Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt preserves and seasons by simply being salt. We are to “let” our light shine, not shine it. Simply be a real Christian. Paul admonished the Philippians, “Do all things without murmurings

and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life...” (Philippians 2:14-16). The conversion

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## BIBLE QUESTIONS

### (Random Questions Over the Bible)

1. Where in the Bible is the first mention of the “twelve tribes of Israel” as such (as the twelve tribes of Israel)?
2. Who in the Bible lost his birthright because of sexual improprieties?
3. Although God promised the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) the land of Canaan, what was the only property that we know they owned during their lifetime?
4. When Moses wrote the book of Genesis, looking back at that time, the land of Goshen was also known as what?
5. Where is the first time horses are mentioned in the Bible?
6. Who in the Bible lost his life and brought havoc to a whole nation because he wanted fancy clothes and wealth?
7. Where were the bones of Joseph buried in the land of Canaan after the children of Israel’s conquest of the land?
8. Which of the twelve tribes of Israel had its inheritance (tribal territory) within the bounds of another tribe?
9. In the Jewish calendar, when did the day of Pentecost come?
10. What are the two times mentioned in the Scriptures that angels ministered unto Jesus?
11. In which one of the four gospel accounts is Jerusalem twice called the “holy city”?
12. Why did the Jews on at least two occasions take up stones to stone Jesus?
13. Which of the gospel writers is the only one that tells us a colt and its mother were involved in the triumphal entry to Jerusalem, not just a colt alone?
14. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira that resulted in them losing their life?
15. Where was Paul preaching when a young man fell asleep, fell out the window and was taken up dead (and what was his name)?
16. To what church in the New Testament are there two books written, and another one was written before these that we don’t have?
17. Which New Testament writers refer to the human body as a tent?
18. Of whom does Paul refer as “my own son” in the faith?
19. Where is the only place the word “hell” representing the Greek word *gehenna* is found in the New Testament outside of the synoptic gospel (Matthew, Mark and Luke)?
20. Where in the Old Testament and where in the New Testament is the triple holy (“holy, holy, holy”) used in praising God?

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



# READERS'

## ...Response

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

### FLORIDA:

■ "...Thank you again for the work you do. You are bringing out problems we face in the church without a lot of 'commotion.' We need to be informed and I appreciate it so much...God bless your continued work for the Father."

### TENNESSEE:

■ "The \_\_\_\_\_ church respectfully requests to be removed from the mailing list." (E-mail)

■ "Your paper *THE SWORD AND STAFF* is a very Scriptural, very enlightening, and very important paper for saints and sinners alike to read. I always look forward to receiving the paper and reading it. I am a minister of the gospel, and I believe I could prepare many good sermons from your paper. Keep up the good work.

"I tore the clipping from your paper. The bound volumes I wish for you to send me include one each that you have listed..."

### KENTUCKY:

■ "Please send me a [complimentary] copy of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*..." (E-mail, Web page response)

### VIRGINIA:

■ "Please remove the ...[church]...from your mailing list. We would like not to receive further publications...Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter."

### WEST VIRGINIA:

■ "Thanks for the very insightful *SWORD AND STAFF* newsletter. Your articles on 'end-time prophecy' are part of only a handful of folks that I know of who are actually on the right track. And that is saying something after 25 years of studying the Scriptures myself and hearing the 'popular status quo' of thinking on the subject..." (E-mail)

### PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "Keep up the good work."

### NEW YORK:

■ "We would like to order 5 *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*..."

### OHIO:

■ "Please remove me from your mailing list."

■ "...I look forward to seeing your paper in my mail and it is a blessing to read every issue."

### INDIANA:

■ "Please remove us from your mailing list." (E-mail)

■ "Recently you published 20 [Bible] questions in your publication. They were so good that we put them into our church newsletter asking people to find the answers. The response has been tremendous and there is even a person in our local jail who has taken up the challenge to finding the answers..." (E-mail)

### MISSOURI:

■ "I trust this finds you well. I got your [Volume 41] No. 2 paper. I sure did like the article on faith. Thank you. I would like to have another 4 copies of the paper if you have them..."

### TEXAS:

■ "Please send *THE SWORD AND STAFF* to...Thanking you for all the work you are doing for the cause of Christ."

■ "...The current issue of *THE SWORD AND STAFF* was printed with me in mind. I've never read anything that was as uplifting and prepared for my needs, as this issue. I'm sure the Lord led that it was for me, and I've read it again, and will again ..." (E-mail)

■ "My husband and I just finished reading page by page, cover to cover, finishing at 5 a.m. 'The Life of Faith, Perfecting and Exercising Faith, No. 7, Last Part.' We enjoy every issue...We agree with the reader that said, 'The magazine *THE SWORD AND STAFF* is the best I have ever read. It teaches truth from the Bible. Keep doing the good work. May God continue to bless you'."

### OKLAHOMA:

■ "I always look forward to receiving *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. Thank you.

"Enclosed is a small contribution to help."

■ "Please send the bound volumes marked on the enclosed order blank...I would like the bound volumes to donate to our church library so all our members have access to this paper.

"Thank you."

### NEBRASKA:

■ "Please update the address...We enjoy your magazine very much!" (E-mail)

### WYOMING:

■ "Thank you for keeping us on your mailing list. I enjoy every issue. There are so few publications that I can whole-heartedly recommend to others..."

(Continued on Next Page)

## READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

### OREGON:

■ "Please remove from your mailing list."

■ "I have three bound volumes of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*, which I enjoy and consider a valuable addition to my Bible library and help for my continuing Bible education. To complete my collection of available bound publication, I would like to receive the five bound volumes from 1987 through 1996 as indicated on the order form as well as the 2000-2001..."

■ "...I have read *THE SWORD AND STAFF* received at the church. Many Scriptures you use, and when I have this reading material, I don't want to keep others awaiting to read it. So I'd very much like to be on your mailing list.

*"I really appreciate your many hours in the Scripture and printing of THE SWORD AND STAFF.*

*"I also would like to mention, I pray for your continued preaching and teaching the sound doctrine in the church..."*

*"To come to the 'full knowledge' in Jesus Christ is a hard work in the Lord..."*

*"Thank you for your time in this matter. God be with you all."*

### UNITED STATES:

■ "Your web site is really great. Thank you! Very helpful in prep for my classes. Thanks!" (E-mail, web page response).

■ "I read your response to 'You mentioned church of the New Testament. Wouldn't Church of Christ be more appropriate?' I agree with your answer! But could we possibly identify the body of Christ as the Christian Church (Acts 11:26)? Thanks." (E-mail)

**Answer:** In Acts 11:26 individuals are called Christians: The disciples were called Christians, not Christian Church. It is a name aside from church.—**Editor**

■ **A question about greeting one another with a hug and a kiss, and in particular the opposite sex:**

**Answer:** If I understand your letter right, you have a question about embracing and kissing the opposite sex as a greeting in the church. Certainly there are admonitions in the New Testament like Romans 16:16, "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you." But, what are the practical details of this? From my study I have found the practice seems to have been between people of the same sex, not the opposite sex. In the light of other Scriptures and principles, embracing and kissing the opposite sex would seem improper and with some could arouse feelings and unwholesome thoughts. Such feelings are wrong (Matthew 5:27-30). Yes, we do preach against dancing because of the closeness of the body with the opposite sex. The same principle looks like would apply here. Let us reserve the closeness of body contact to our mates as God has ordained and which is fitting and proper.

I do believe in warmth and cordiality in our greetings as brothers and sisters in Christ. Too many

times churches are cold and do not project a feeling of love. Visitors feel unwelcome. It shouldn't be this way. But at the same time let us abide within the principles of the Scripture.—**Editor**

■ "In the recent issue of *The Sword and Staff*, an article was printed that quoted Bill Gates. Do you have an exact reference or source for this? If so could you email it to me please? I would like to use the information in the article, but I cannot without substantiation. Your understanding is greatly appreciated..." (E-mail)

### BILL GATES, ETC.

**Editor's E-mail Reply:** "It looks like I have some retracting to do. I unwisely assumed because this little article was in a church bulletin, and its content was great, that its source was accurately reported [and since the school where it was supposed to have taken place was named]. I was wrong. I e-mailed the principal of the said high school mentioned in the speech attributed to Bill Gates (which I should have done first). Below is [my letter and] his reply. In the next issue of the paper I will comment on this. I am sorry. (However, I did say that it was 'reported' to have been said by Bill Gates, which is not completely dogmatic, but yet should not have been reprinted as such). Misleading."

**Editor's E-mail to California Principal:** "I have a little reprint article that attributes Bill Gates speaking at Mt. Whitney High School involving eleven different rules in facing life. I would like to verify that he indeed spoke on this..."

**Principal's E-mail Reply:** "NO, absolutely not. I have had this question come up numerous times. I have no idea as to where it started. It has become an urban legend. I have been at Mt. Whitney and have overseen graduation for 24 years. I can assure you that Mr. Gates has NEVER been to our campus, or spoken to our students. I only wish I knew how this got started, and had a dollar for every time I have been asked, we would then have enough money to open a new technology building, maybe using some of Mr. Gates own equipment. Sorry."

**E-mail from Original Inquirer (after sending the above to him):** "Thank you so much for your reply. I think I know about Bill Gates enough to know he would not say such things of wisdom for youth. His point of view is mostly vision for technology and money making. But your reply shows your faith and ministry in action by willingness to work so hard and together. You have blessed me."

**Editor's Note:** It is a puzzle as to how someone could write such words of wisdom and then falsely attribute them to Bill Gates (if indeed this is how this came about). Also, the selected article about the Harvard-Stamford story seems to have gone through some embellishment. Sometimes such stories are enhanced and embellished in the process of their repeated telling (especially if what is told happened a long time ago). Also, many recycled articles on the e-mail circuit need to be taken with a grain of salt.

**CHILE:**

■ *"Heartfelt greetings in the faith of Jesus. Peace forever. THE SWORD AND STAFF paper came into my hands, Volume 2 1996 Number 3. It was given to me and I would like to receive it. How can I obtain it? Is there some place in Chile that I can buy it? Please answer."* (Translated)

**GHANA:**

■ *"Grace and mercy from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to your heart always.*

*"I have been receiving THE SWORD AND STAFF for the past two years or so, and I feel I need to share some few thoughts with you. I share some one or two things with you. I am someone born and bred a Methodist. (In fact, my late father was a Methodist preacher). I am now an Evangelist...Reading most of your answers or replica on certain issues has been very delightful and insightful to say the least. People still can't forgive me for leaving Methodism since I rose to be a key leader here. The crossover, to me, appears to be something of a singular blessing. I am writing this letter to encourage you to keep up with the good job.*

*"Equally beneficial has been brother Elliott's series on the Bible and prophecy. I have had the privilege to speak on the regional FM radio station here and two subjects chosen were on the 'RAPTURE' and the 'MILLENNIUM'—all based mainly on studies from brother Elliott's articles. The Proverbials and Barbs with a Point have all been very illuminating.*

*"We pray that such a publication would find its way, not only among the Spanish [and English] but all other major world languages.*

*"May the Good Lord richly bless such a noble enterprise!"*

**INDIA:**

■ *"...I am receiving your SWORD AND STAFF. I observed your articles on premillennium, which is a most important and vital topic. In India almost all denominations [are involved in this] with the experience of contact studies. I understand that your lessons are of immense use. Will you permit me use them in translating and publishing them?" (E-mail)* □

**A Note About Vaughn Elliott's  
Forthcoming Book**

**M**ANY have expressed an interest and asked about it, so a word is in order about the status of Vaughn Elliott's forthcoming book on prophecy. In our correspondence with him, he told us, "Putting everything together, writing new parts, editing and correcting and improving what was written is taking much longer than I expected and much longer than I wish it would be...It is my aim-hope-goal (but not a promise) to complete all work on the text of the 19 chapters by the end of the year. Then I will have plenty of work to do on both a topical and

Scripture index..." And after that it is to be printed.

This has been more involved than anticipated. But we look forward to a book that will be a worthy addition to anyone's library and a handy reference source of needed material, as well as a valuable help to our personal understanding of Bible prophecy. □



**Only a Minute?**

**B**Y THE TIME you finish reading this article, 245 babies will arrive and 106 people will die somewhere in the world. This happens every minute of every day somewhere in the world (World Vital Events, U.S. Census Bureau, September, 2003). What can you do in a minute? You can pray to the Lord about a friend who is lost. You can read a few verses of Scripture. You can count your blessings. You can encourage a friend. You can write a short note. You can make a brief phone call. You can invite a friend to come to church. You can pray for your preacher and elders.

Once a minute has gone by, you cannot retrieve it, no matter how badly you want to. Think a minute before you say something you will regret. Count to 100 before you do a hurtful act. Calm down a minute when you get angry. Walk away from temptation for a minute.

What good is a minute? It can be worth a great deal if it is used to do good for another. It can make a memory that will last a lifetime. It can bring sunshine to the soul that will last all day. Use your minutes and make the most of them (Eph. 5:16).

Minutes make the day; and when the day is done, how you have used your minutes will reveal what you are doing with your life.—*Phil Sanders* □



**Claim to Fame, His Acclaim**

Our only claim to fame, and thus acclaim,  
Is that we are God's child and wear His name.  
Christ's precious blood has washed away our  
sin,  
And by his love and grace we're born again.

—*By James E. Gibbons*



**Highminded**

**TO BE highminded** about physical things is bad, (1 Timothy 6:17), but to be highminded about spiritual things is even worse (Romans 11:20) (because true spirituality is supposed to produce humility). □



# Evangelism, Three Ways

(Continued from Page 8)

the Thessalonians in their turning from idolatry and living changed lives accomplished this (1 Thessalonians 1:6-10).

## “That the Word of God Be Not Blasphemed”

We must be an embodiment of our message. It is a message of hope that produces purity of life. If we do not embody our message, what we are (and are not) speaks so loudly that people can't hear what we have to say. This was many times true of the Jews who lived among the Gentiles in the first century. Read Romans 2:17-24. They made their boast of the law, but at the same time by blatantly breaking the law they dishonored God. Their lives did not represent what they taught. Consequently Paul asserted that “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.” Just the opposite of making believers out the Gentiles, they made the name of God a curse word. Therefore, Paul repeatedly admonished and urged Christians to be consistent in their living (Titus 2:4-10; 1 Timothy 6:1; Colossians 3:22,23). Be the real thing.

## “An Example of the Believers”

Not only was young Timothy admonished to preach the word, the message of his own life was to be addressed first. Listen. “*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*” (1 Timothy 4:16). He was to be “an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). This needs to come through clear and plain. It is a “must,” it will convert people within itself, and it absolutely is a prerequisite before all other ways of evangelism can be genuinely effective.

## II. CASUAL, SPONTANEOUS EVANGELISM

### “I Believed, and Therefore Have I Spoken”

After the resurrection of Christ from the dead, initially the sharing of such news was spontaneous. How could one keep silent about such a happening (and in view of it what it implied for all of mankind, after learning about it)? The two men on their way to Emmaus found themselves talking about this (Luke 24:13-24), and then experienced the confirmation of what really took place by Christ himself (Luke 24:25-35). They didn't have to be told to return to Jerusalem and tell others about what they now knew. The apostle Paul asserted, “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

## As You Go, Make Disciples

Some have seen the emphasis in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) as parallel with what we are trying to bring out under this point. Here the Lord said, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations [makes disciples], baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” We are told that in the language of the New Testament the words “Go,” “baptizing,” and “teaching” are participles with only the verb “make disciples” (KJV, “teach all nations”) being imperative (not a participle). In other words, the thrust would be something like this: As you are *going*, **MAKE DISCIPLES**, *baptizing* and *teaching* them all things. In this line of thought, they were to make disciples as they went about their everyday walk of life. It would be more of a casual, spontaneous transaction.

## The Woman at the Well

Perhaps we can see this in Jesus himself. An illustration of this is seen in his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5-42). In asking the woman for a drink of water, it opened the door for an extended discussion. She went away into the city and said, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” (4:29) “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman...” (4:39). Others personally checked it out, and said, “Now we believe, not because of thy [the woman's] saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world” (4:42). A religious subject came up, and Jesus took it from there.

## “And When Peter Saw It,” Etc.

The book of Acts provides more illustrations of this. “Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer...” (Acts 3). They had to go past a lame beggar to enter the temple. He was a familiar fixture to everyone who came that way, as he was laid there daily. So when this man through the power of God was miraculously healed by the apostles, and was seen leaping and walking and praising God, it caused quite a stir. “All the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.” Then we read, “And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people...” What an opportunity to speak up for Christ, and he spontaneously responded to it. He preached the gospel to them. Acts 8:4 reads, “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.” The rank and file of the church were dispersed in this first full-scale persecution. This

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### Little Things

**S**PRINGS are little things, but they are sources of large streams; a helm is a little thing, but we know its use and power; nails and pegs are little things, but they hold the parts of a large building together; a word, a look, a smile, a frown, are all little things, but powerful for good or evil. Think of this, and mind the little things.—*Hillis* □

### BARBS... with a Point

**PEOPLE** hard of hearing (spiritually) have a hard time seeing (spiritually).

*The simple reason some people cannot find themselves is that they are lost.*

When family ties and ties to the world are stronger than ties in the Lord, it can tie a lot of knots in the Lord's work.

*To take a stand for the right is good, but we need to do more than just stand there.*

If a person has embraced an irrational religion, we cannot expect him to be rational in considering other things (religious or otherwise).

*Humanists would throw America's rich "Christian heritage" out the window and slam the door.*

A person may think of himself as being "mainstream," but that is mostly meaningless as it constitutes the convergence of mixed and muddled streams that have lost their distinctive identity in coming together.

*If it is easy for you to get upset, you are a setup for the devil (Ephesians 4:26,27).*

The worldly-minded person in his thoughts of religion is impressed by worldly things, but the spiritually-minded person is only impressed by spiritual things.

*Negatives are developed in the darkroom of unbelief and despair.*

By all means avoid going down the wrong road; even though you may get back on the right one again, you have become familiar with the wrong, making it easier for you to go that way again—*beware!*

*If you are extravagant and have expensive tastes, you may see the day when you have little to taste.*

To get to the top, you must start at the bottom; you can't build a house by constructing the roof before you have a foundation (roofs are not suspended in the air unattached).

*Sometimes we have to open our ears before we can get our eyes open.*

The discontent associated with much of worry has its roots in covetousness (Matthew 6:19-34; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; Hebrews 13:5).

*The blood of Christ will not cover the sins that we try to (hide) cover.*

Why be a \_\_\_\_\_ [supply the name of your denomination] when you can be just a Christian and that alone (like you read about in the New Testament)?

*We reap what we sow, but we also reap the consequences of not sowing.*

In some "church" assemblies if you didn't know that you were supposed to be in "church," you would think that you were in the middle of a rock and roll concert.

*Don't die before your time; as long as there is life in your body, live it out until it is all gone.*

Some people, who seem to be so "cock-eyed" sure about their religious convictions, could well be described as being "cross-eyed" (in more ways than one).

*The unconverted and fleshly man many times likes worship that appeals to the flesh filled with pomp and ceremony.*

Some insecure people try to make themselves appear to be what they are not in the artificial and ostentatious display of material things.

*Too many times prayers are meant for the ears of the people more than they are for God.*

The person who is afraid to get his hands dirty needs to be reminded that his body was made from the dust of the earth and will return to it (Genesis 2:7; 3:19).

*If you slow down, old age will catch up with you.*

The old ship of Zion tossed about by every wind of doctrine will have a hard time reaching heaven's shore.

*For the work ethic to work, you must work.*

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, a lot of people must really love the church. □

### Where the Credit Belongs

**IT IS NOT** the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.—*T. Roosevelt* □

# Evangelism, Three Ways

*(Continued from Page 12)*

wasn't planned, and what took place just happened. In an informal, unregimented way they carried the gospel message with them. They spontaneously dispensed the good news as they were dispersed.

Yes, people will talk. And in such casual exchange of words with acquaintances, or even strangers, opportunities are often available to speak up. Let us not be ashamed or hesitant to do so. In an "unstaged" and relaxed atmosphere share your faith with others. Let it naturally come from your heart. Backed by sincere and conscientious Christian living, it could mean eternal life for someone.

## III. PLANNED, CONCERTED EVANGELISM

### An Imperative Command and Imperative Action

Certainly the Great Commission may have had that "evangelize as you go" aspect, but behind it was the command of the Lord that called for imperative action, as they were to go "into all the world." Besides Matthew's account, Mark makes this very evident (Mark 16:15-20) as he concludes his account by saying, "And they went forth, and preached every where..." Initially they may have been slow to move on out, as they evangelized Jerusalem, but persecution and the conversion of Paul turned this around. God prodded them with the household of Cornelius experience (Acts 10). The church at Antioch sent out Paul [Saul] and Barnabas (Acts 13:1-3). The chapters that follow in the book of Acts tell of their concerted efforts throughout the Mediterranean World. In Romans 10:15, Paul asked, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"

### The "Home Base" for This Action

Of course today the local church is "home base" for all planned and concerted action. The church is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), and "the Spirit and the bride say, Come" (Revelation 22:17). The manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church (Ephesians 3:10). Inasmuch as the local church is the extent of ecclesiastical organization found in the New Testament, the local church itself is the "missionary society" to accomplish its mission in the world. The local church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas out, and they reported back to it. It seems like today that men have leap-frogged Scriptural precedence and gone on with their own devices. Any organization beyond the local church is denominationalism and a step back toward Rome.

### Planned and Concerted Efforts

Besides the work of the evangelist who is spearheading evangelism, although preachers today are more like priestly clergymen, planned and concerted efforts in conjunction with the church can be

and are undertaken in many ways. Gospel meetings, canvassing a community, and knocking on doors fall into this category. To that could be added home Bible studies, broadcasting on the radio and publishing gospel literature. The list goes on. We could add all legitimate, honorable and spiritual undertakings that are in harmony with the Scriptures. The message of salvation must be gotten out. A world is lost in sin. Evangelize. That is what the church is all about.

### EVANGELIZE! EVANGELIZE!

Through all the earth in Jesus' name!  
Give us a watchword for the hour,  
A thrilling word, a word of power!  
A battle cry, a flaming breath,  
That calls to conquest or to death!  
A word to rouse the church from rest,  
To heed the Master's high behest!  
The call is given: ye hosts arise!  
Our watchword is evangelize!  
The glad evangel now proclaim,  
Through all the earth, in Jesus' name!  
This word is ringing through the skies:  
Evangelize! Evangelize!  
To dying men, a fallen race,  
Make known the gift of Gospel grace!  
The world that now in darkness lies,  
Evangelize! Evangelize!



## Why He Named Them This

**A**N OLD SCOTSMAN was operating a small rowboat for transporting passengers across one of the little lakes in Scotland. One day a passenger noticed that he had carved on one oar the word "Faith" and on the other oar the word "Works." Curiosity led him to ask the meaning of this. The old man said, "I will show you." He dropped one oar and plied the other called "Works," and they just went around in circles. Then he dropped that oar and began to ply the one called "Faith", and the little boat went around in circles again—this time the other way around. After this demonstration, the old man picked up both "Faith" and "Works" and plying both oars together sped swiftly over the water, explaining to his inquiring passenger, "You see, that is the way it is in life as well as in the boat."—*Selected* □



## The Power of a Single Sin

**T**HERE was but one crack in the lantern, and the wind found it and blew out the candle. How great a mischief one unguarded point of character may cause us! One spark blew up the ammunition and shook the whole country for miles around. One leak sank the vessel and drowned all on board. One wound may kill the body, one sin destroy the soul.

—*Charles Spurgeon*, The Quotable Spurgeon, (Wheaton: Harold Shaw Publishers, Inc, 1990) □





“Precious Bible, Book Divine”

**T**HE BIBLE is everywhere to be found. It is read in jungles, deserts, plains, Antarctic, the Arctic. Among the heathen, pagan, idolater, Jew, Muslim, Zen, Confucius, Hindus and in every nation of the world it finds willing hearts. Ships put out to sea with it, soldiers go into battle with it, sailors pray holding it, Marines have it in their body armor, air-men count it as survival gear, and the Coast Guard is never far from it. Hermits, socialites, rich and poor, Popes and kings hover over it. It adorns libraries, tables, and halls of Congress, supreme courts, pews, pulpits, judge’s platforms, and drawers of hotels. Presidents, judges, statesmen, jurors, defendants, lawyers, mayors and city officials all swear by it. Brides and grooms pledge love upon it. It sheds a hallowed influence upon sacred and other gatherings.

The precepts, laws, love and promises taught in the Bible have furnished elements of morality and strengthened resolve in times of distress and trials more than any other volume known to man. The pilgrim can check his progress marked out each step of the way. Patriarchs died holding it clasped to their bosom. Thousands have passed from this life with its sacred text read over them. This noble book has supplied the longer influence over law and order than any other book known to man. It has guided the grandest motives for spiritual triumphs known to man. It is literally woven into the laws, history, literature, medicine, and science of countless nations. Few books are worth reading that do not quote, reflect, ponder or mention the Bible’s pages.

Many who read and study its pages have been consumed to find out its mysteries and yet a child can read it with ease and find therein ideals for life, family ties, worth, values and a beacon for life’s ways. Kings, prime ministers, presidents, statesmen, servants and mankind all prostrate themselves asking to know the God of its pages. All come away from its pages profoundly different. Despire it, reject it or throw it away, the Bible still remains the world’s most valued book.

The Bible is a doorway through which young and old pass to deeper consciousness and understanding of the mysteries of life and godliness. It stresses service, freedom, morality, spirituality, and goodness. It opens the eyes to see the future and causes cringing when reflecting on the past. In its pages man is ushered into the council of God and granted a partial view of eternity with or without Him. Cultures of the Western World have flourished and have been mighty in morals and spiritual values. Pagan philosophies, decadent and immoral religions

of the Eastern World have might and power only by the sword because their morality is flawed.

When the Bible is read with a sense of urgency to find the love which comes from above, guidance for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it will be found and enacted. No one questions the influence of the Bible in America when they read, “We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States of America...” (Preamble to the constitution of the United States). “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble...” (First Amendment).

How precious is the Book divine,  
By inspiration given,  
Bright as a lamp its precepts mine,  
To guide my soul to heaven.  
  
It sweetly cheers my drooping heart,  
In this dark vale of tears,  
Light to my life it still imparts  
And quells my rising fears.  
  
This lamp thru all the tedious night  
Of life shall guide my way  
Till I behold the clearer light  
Of an eternal day.  
  
Precious Bible, book divine!  
Precious treasure, thou art mine,  
Lamp to my feet, and a light to my way,  
To guide me safely home.

(“The Precious Book Divine” by L. O. Sanderson).

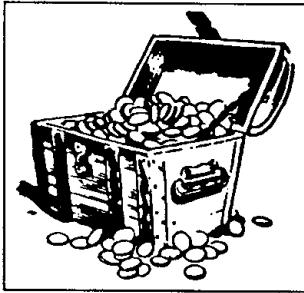
—Don Hatch □

**Answers to:  
BIBLE QUESTIONS**

- 1. Genesis 49:28    2. 1 Chronicles 5:1 (Genesis 35:22);    3. Genesis 23; Genesis 33:18-20; Genesis 48:22; John 4:5;    4. Genesis 47:11 (4-6);    5. Genesis 47:17;    6. Joshua 7;    7. Genesis 50:24-26; Joshua 24:32;    8. Joshua 19:1,9;    9. Acts 2:1; Leviticus 23:15,16 (50 days after the Passover);    10. Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43;    11. Matthew 4:5; Matthew 27:53;    12. John 8:56-59; John 10:30-33;    13. Matthew 21:1-16; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19;    14. Acts 5:1-11;    15. Acts 20:5-12;    16. The church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 5:9-11);    17. Paul (2 Corinthians 5:1,4; Peter (2 Peter 1:13,14);    18. Timothy (1 Timothy 1:2); Titus (Titus 1:4);    19. James 3:6;    20. Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8. □

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**"You Mustn't Quit"**

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest! if you must—but never quit.  
Life is queer, with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out;  
Stick to your task, though the pace seems slow—  
You may succeed with one more blow.  
Success and failure turned inside out—  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt—  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems afar;  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—  
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

—*Selected*

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