

The Sword AND Staff

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

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”



● By JAMES E. GIBBONS—1535 W. Fairfield Drive
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INTRODUCTION:

1. This is a question of vital concern to all of us.

- (1) All have sinned (Romans 3:10,23).
- (2) All must die (Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:12).
- (3) All must stand before the judgment seat of God (2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:41,46; Revelation 20:11-15).
- (4) We cannot be good enough to save ourselves (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8,9).

2. The answer to this question must come from the New Testament.

- (1) When the New Testament came in force (Hebrews 9:15-17).
- (2) During the earthly ministry of Christ, the promise was only to the Jews (Matthew 10:5, 6; 15:24).
- (3) After his death and resurrection, salvation is available to all (Mark 16:15; 1 Tim. 2:4-6).
- (4) God's dealings with mankind before the coming of the New Testament were preparatory (Galatians 3:24; 4:4; John 1:17).

3. We can do something toward our salvation, toward being saved.

- (1) God has done, and is doing, His part (John 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Ephesians. 2:8, 9; 2 Peter 3:9).
- (2) Man must respond in doing his part (Hebrews 5:8, 9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Romans 2:8,9; Acts 2:40,41; Romans 14:12; Revelation 22:14).
- (3) NOTE: In accepting salvation, man's works are responsive works of faith and obedience, not works of righteousness (merit)—all is done in the context of the grace of God.

4. It is recommended that the seeker of truth study the book of Acts, a Spirit inspired history of the early church and the “book of conversions.”

- (1) You will notice that answers given to different people vary a little under different circumstances (Acts 2:38; 8:35-37; 16:29-33; 22:16; etc.)
- (2) No single verse of Scripture can mean any less than what it says, but it can mean more in the light of other Scripture (all of the New Testament must be taken into consideration).
- (3) In the book of Acts different people were at different stages in their conversion; FOR EXAMPLE, if a person already believed and confessed, it was not necessary to tell him to believe, but they told him to repent and be baptized, etc.

I. I MUST BELIEVE.

A. This is important.

1. I cannot please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6).
2. I am condemned already if I do not believe (John 3:18).
3. All things in Christianity hinge on faith.
 - (1) We are justified by faith (Romans 5:1).

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—THANK YOU—

Proverbially **SPEAKING...**

HOPE insulates against discouragement and despair.

Repentance is a change of mind that produces a change of life.

God is love (1 John 4:8), but love is not necessarily God.

It is only in getting ready to die that we really learn how to live.

People with warm hearts are not as likely to get cold feet.

If you would enhance your image, just remember that you were made in the "image" and "likeness" of God (and live accordingly).

Let your word be your bond, and then be bound by your word.

By not wasting your time, you will find that you have more time to get things done.

Living the restrained life produces unrestrained joy, contentment, and happiness.

Manners have more to do with what manner of person you are, rather than a set of rules.

Live so close to God that there will be no room for the devil to come between. □

EDITORIAL COMMENTS



THE WORD OF GOD CAME UNTO JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

RECENTLY in reading Luke chapter 3, verses 1 and 2, some truths impacted this writer in a way that he had not seen them before. No doubt, Luke, being the exact historian that he was, was simply nailing down a time frame for what he was recording here. That was his primary purpose in giving this information. However, and nonetheless, truth beyond this can make an impact upon us as we read it.

Luke 3:1 and 2 reads: *"Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness."*

In this picture, it is almost like the writer Luke is leapfrogging the political greats and religious dignitaries of his day. First, Tiberius Caesar, the head of the great Roman Empire is named. Next, Pilate, the Roman governor in the Eastern Mediterranean world, appears. Then the local rulers in that area are mentioned: Herod, Philip, and Lysanias. Finally jumping from the political realm to the religious, he zeroes in on Annas and Caiaphas (the highest religious dignitaries in the land), Annas being the former high priest and Caiaphas the present one. Yes, it is almost like God is leapfrogging these men as they are named first, and then it says, *"The word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness."* It is almost like all of the worldly greats are bypassed as the word of God finally comes to rest upon a rugged and unpretentious man of the desert in the backcountry of Judea. That is not the way the world would do it, with its "pomp and circumstance," but that is the way that God does it.

Backing up one chapter in Luke (and about 30 years of time), another historical setting is pegged for us, with great and wonderful happenings and applications coming from this, exceeding that of chapter 3. The virgin birth of the Son of God takes place. Of Mary, a simple and obscure handmaiden of the Lord, it is recorded, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). From the viewpoint of the world, this would be the most unlikely way for the eternal God, the most august of all beings, to make His entrance into the world! But "the Word was made flesh, and

dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-4, 14). And growing up in Nazareth, a place that lacked prestige and bordered ill repute, it was asked, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:45, 46). Then he climaxed His mission on earth by dying upon the old rugged cross. In the Roman world only slaves and the worst kind of criminals suffered such a fate. But this became the central message in preaching salvation to a lost world. Paul said, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18). He went on to say, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence" (1:27-29).

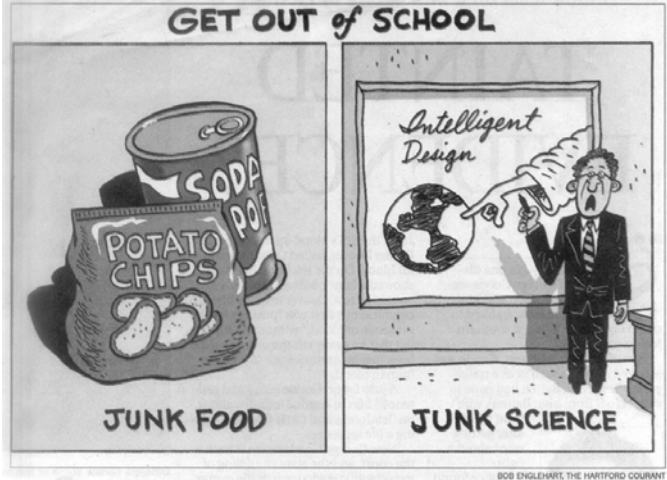
Other illustrations can be drawn from the Scriptures that show the way the world looks at things in contrast with God. In 2 Kings Chapter 5, we read, "Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable...a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper." A little Jewish girl who was servant in Naaman's household, said to Naaman's wife, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy." This word got to the king of Syria. The king sent a letter to the king of Israel with "ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of silver, and ten changes of raiment" as gifts, saying, "I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy." Thinking as the world thinks, he had come to the wrong person. But then finally when he did see the prophet Elisha, and was told to dip seven times in the Jordan River to be cleansed, this didn't set well with him. He thought Elisha would do some "great thing" to bring it about, and then, even if he dipped, how inferior was the Jordan River to his thinking than the rivers back in Syria. His servants finally talked him into doing what was told him and he was cleansed. God's path is the way of humility.

A great verse of Scripture is found in Isaiah 57:15, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite

ones." "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James. 4:6). Let us ever be of this disposition. □

EDITORIAL

Byways



AN E-MAIL JOTTED OFF TO BELITTLING CARTOONISTS

THIS WRITER likes to try to keep abreast of the news, whether it be by the newspapers or other means. This finds me also checking the news on the internet. Among such sites visited is the *Washington Post*. I like to look at the political cartoons, but I have gotten tired of them making fun of "Intelligent Design," actually belittling those who hold to such convictions. I hurriedly jotted off an informal e-mail note to some of these fellows that is represented in the following words. I thought it might be of interest to you (and perhaps it conveys your very feelings, too).

"You fellows belittle the concept of intelligent design. The skies are blue and the foliage of the earth is green. These are the two most restful colors to the eyes. Good sense! Intelligence! We couldn't have done it better. Consider the human body. In this marvelous and intricate system, everything points to purpose. It has so many complex and integrated functions, each harmonizing and synchronized with the rest of the body. Amazing beyond our understanding! And the DNA message that brings it all into being. Mind boggling! But we are told it just happened. Evolved. But to say that an automobile just happened, even with its very simple design and systems, comparatively speaking, would make us a source of laughter. Then there is the display of awesome power all about us in the

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(2) We walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).

(3) We are kept by faith (1 Peter 1:5; Hebrews 10:35-39).

B. What is faith?

1. It is not knowledge (sight) (2 Corinthians 11:6).
2. Faith and believing are the same thing (Hebrews 11:6).
3. The Scriptural definition of faith (Hebrews 11:1).
4. What we believe in particular in becoming a Christian (Romans 10:9, 10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
5. Faith is explicit trust.

C. How does faith come?

1. Initial faith does not come by praying for it (James 1:6-8).
2. It comes from the written word of testimony (John 20:30,31).
3. It comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 1:18).

D. Will faith alone save?

1. The devils believe and tremble, and yet they are lost (James 2:19).
2. Faith without works is dead, being alone (James 2:17, 20, 24, 26).
3. We are simply coming to God as we believe (Hebrews 11:6; 10:22).

II. I MUST REPENT.

A. This is important.

1. John the baptizer, forerunner of Christ, preached repentance (Matthew 3:2).
2. The Lord Jesus preached repentance (Matthew 4:17; Luke 13:3,5).
3. It was included in the Great Commission (Luke 24:47).
4. The apostles preached repentance (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; etc.).

B. What is repentance?

1. Prayer and repentance are not necessarily the same thing (Acts 8:22; Genesis 6:6; Exodus 13:17, even used in a non-religious sense).

2. It is a change of mind that results in a change of action (Matthew 21:28-30).
3. It is a change of heart that produces a changed life, as we bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance (Acts 26:10; Luke 3:7-14).
4. It is a change of heart about God, sin and righteousness—the spiritual heart includes our intellect, our will and our emotions.

C. What causes repentance?

1. The Holy Spirit helps bring this about (John 16:8-11).
2. The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12).
3. The goodness of God leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).
4. Godly sorrow for sins works repentance unto salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10).



**JESUS DIED
on the cross**

because

**man's best
was not good enough.**

III. I MUST CONFESS.

A. This is important.

1. Generally speaking, Christ will not confess us to God the Father unless we confess him before men (Matthew 10:32).
2. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45; 2 Corinthians 4:13).
3. We were disobedient and unbelieving publicly, and now it is fitting that we confess our faith publicly.

B. What must I confess?

1. The Scriptures do not say for an alien sinner to confess his individual sins before the public.
2. It is a public confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9, 10; 1 Timothy 6:12).
3. It is a confession of Christ (Matthew 10:32).
4. A good example of the good confession and what followed (Acts 8:35-39).

C. How and where must I confess?

1. I confess with my mouth (Romans 10:9, 10).
2. I confess before men (Matthew 10:32).
3. This confession is done initially, but not then only; it is to be continued throughout the remainder of our lives.

IV. I MUST BE BAPTIZED.

A. This is important.

1. Christ commanded it (Mark 16:15,16; Matthew 28:18-20).
 - (1) If we love him, we will keep his commandments (John 14:15; Acts 2:41).
 - (2) Those who do his commandments have a right to the tree of life (Revelation 22:14).
 - (3) Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).
2. The Spirit inspired apostles preached and taught it (Acts 2:38; 8:35-38; Romans 6; etc.).
 - (1) Notice what will happen to anyone who would preach other than the apostles' doctrine (Galatians 1:8).
 - (2) The apostle Peter actually said that baptism saved us (1 Peter 3:20, 21).

B. What is baptism?

1. There is but one baptism (Ephesians 4:5).
 - (1) The one given in the Great Commission would continue unto the end of the world or age (Matthew 28:19, 20).
 - (2) The baptism of John, Jewish washings, the special "charismatic" baptism of the Holy Spirit, etc., served their purposes—now there is only one abiding baptism unique and peculiar to the Christian religion.
2. In the light of the Bible, that would be the immersion of the Great Commission.
 - (1) In reference to immersion, consider the way that Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:16).
 - (2) The way the Ethiopian was baptized (Acts 8:38, 39).
 - (3) Paul makes it very plain that we are buried in baptism (Romans 6:4,5; Colossians 2:12).
 - (4) The purpose of the valid baptism of the New Testament follows.

C. What is the purpose of baptism?

1. Our sins are forgiven when we are baptized.
 - (1) We are baptized for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38).
 - (2) Our sins are washed away, put away, when we are baptized (Acts 22:16; Colossians 2:11, 12).

- (3) The blood of Christ washes away our sins (Revelation 1:5).
- (4) We are baptized into the death of Christ, where the blood spiritually speaking is applied in washing away our sins (Romans 6:2-4).

2. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit into our lives.

- (1) This gift is promised with baptism and obedience (Acts 2:38,39; Acts 5:32).
- (2) We are none of Christ's without the Spirit (Romans 8:9).
- (3) Because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within us there will be a glorious resurrection (Romans 8:11).

3. The way we enter the kingdom of Christ.

- (1) By being born of the water and the Spirit we enter the kingdom (John 3:5; Colossians 1:13).
- (2) The necessity of this is seen in that Christ will present the kingdom up to the Father in the end (1 Corinthians 15:24).

4. It puts us into Christ (Galatians 3:27).

- (1) Thus, we are no longer under condemnation (Romans 8:1).
- (2) We are now new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

5. It puts us into the body of Christ, the church.

- (1) We are baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:12, 13).
- (2) On the day of Pentecost, those who repented and were baptized were added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:41, 47).
- (3) Christ is the savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23-27), and he purchased the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

6. We obey the gospel when we are baptized.

- (1) The very core of the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- (2) By dying to sin, being buried and raised from the waters of baptism, we OBEY THE GOSPEL (the death, burial and resurrection of Christ), arising to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4, 17; 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17).

7. By baptism we are saved.

- (1) The person who believes and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16).

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The Practice of Tattooing in the Roman Empire

THE LATIN word for “tattoo” was *stigma*, and our modern meaning of stigmatize, as a pejorative, has clearly evolved from the Latin. It was slaves, gladiators, criminals, and later, soldiers, who were tattooed, as an identifying mark.

Upper class Romans did not partake in tattooing, which they associated with either marginal groups, or foreigners, such as Thracians, who were known to tattoo extensively. The emperor Caligula is said to have forced individuals of rank to become tattooed as an embarrassment.

In late antiquity, the Roman army consisted largely of mercenaries, they were tattooed in order that deserters could be identified.

The sixth century Roman physician, Aetius, wrote that:

“Stigmata are the marks which are made on the face and other parts of the body. We see such marks on the hands of soldiers. To perform the operation they use ink made according to this formula: Egyptian pine wood (acacia) and especially the bark, one pound; corroded bronze, two ounces; gall, two ounces; vitriol, one ounce. Mix well and sift... First wash the place to be tattooed with leek juice and then prick in the design with pointed needles until blood is drawn. Then rub in the ink.”

The Christian emperor Constantine, ca. 325 AD, decreed that individuals condemned to fight as gladiators or to work in the mines could be tattooed on the legs or the hands, but not on the face, because “the face, which has been formed in the image of the divine beauty, should be defiled as little as possible.”

In 787, Pope Hadrian the First prohibited tattooing altogether, due to its association with superstition, paganism, and the marginal classes. □

—David G. Neelin, *Timeline: Ancient Rome*

“Grow A Little New Wood Every Year”

WHEN LONGFELLOW was well along in years, his head as white as snow, but his cheeks as red as a rose, an ardent admirer asked him how it was that he was able to keep so vigorous and write so beautifully.

Pointing to a blooming apple tree nearby, he replied, “That apple tree is very old, but I never saw prettier blossoms on it than those it now bears. The tree grows a little new wood every year, and I suppose it is out of that new wood that those blossoms come. Like the apple tree, I try to grow a little new wood every year.”

We all ought to do what Longfellow did. We cannot head off the one great event that happens to all; but we can keep on “growing new wood,” and in that way keep on blossoming to the end.—*Selected* □

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- (2) The apostle Peter said that baptism saved us (1 Peter 3:21—also consider what Peter said in Acts 2:38 again and 1 Peter 1:22, 23).
- (3) If we have sincerely met the prerequisites of genuine faith (belief and trust), life-changing repentance and the good confession, baptism is the time and the place where we enter into the fullness of salvation—we have become recipients of God’s amazing grace.
- (4) Remember Titus 3:5, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]” (and verses 6 and 7 that follow; also Ephesians 2:8,9).

THE PURPOSE of this study is to show what you must do to be saved from your past sins so that you may enter into the joy and fullness of salvation. When you have accepted God’s grace (unmerited favor) through Christ Jesus, as we have outlined, forgiveness of sins is yours. You will never have to face those sins again (Hebrews 8:12). You have the promise of everlasting life and the hope of heaven is yours.

HOWEVER, you must be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10; Matthew 10:22; Hebrews 3:12-14). The purpose of this present study is not to show what all is involved here. Read the epistles to find out what is involved (Romans through Jude, especially). It will suffice for our present purposes to say you are not to forsake the assembly of the Lord’s church (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:22-26). You must grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 1:2-11), be filled with love (1 Corinthians 13), and keep yourself unspotted from the world (James 1:27). We simply point you to God’s Word (Acts 20:32). Never get side-tracked from it.

You are a child of God and God will not leave you an orphan. And what a wonderful Savior we have! What a wonderful salvation is ours! □

EDITORIAL *Byways*

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world of nature. It is not just erratic power. It is harnessed by intelligence. Set laws. Laws that can be depended upon. That is why there can be such a thing as science. And this is nothing less than Supreme Intelligence. Otherwise, everything would be complete chaos. A mess! But to acknowledge design is to imply an Omniscient Designer, God, which egocentric man is not ready to accept. Design implies creation. Creation implies a Creator. Creation likewise implies purpose, purpose implies responsibility, and responsibility implies accountability. Spiritually speaking, we are made in God's image. Thus, we are accountable beings. Is this the reason many prefer to believe in evolution? They don't want to accept responsibility and, consequently, accountability? They want to do their own thing. Could this be the case?"

At this writing, there has been no response from the cartoonists. The cartoon at the first of this little article appeared in a local newspaper. □



Help to Quit Smoking

NICOTINE: Many people have a difficult time when they try to stop smoking. This is because nicotine is an addictive drug. Nicotine may be as addictive as heroin or cocaine. It may take two or three tries before a person is finally able to quit smoking. Each attempt to quit makes it easier for a person to tell what helps and what makes it more difficult to quit.

Reasons to Quit:

- Non-smokers have a longer life expectancy.
- Lowers the risk of heart attack, stroke, and cancer.
- During pregnancy not smoking improves the chances of having a healthy baby.
- People that you live with will be healthier.

- Money that was spent on tobacco can be used for other things.

5 Steps to Quitting:

- Get Ready!
- Set a date to quit
- Change your environment
- Review your past attempts to quit
- Once you quit, don't smoke

Get support and encouragement

- Tell friends, family and co-workers that you are quitting
- Talk to your physician
- Get counseling

Learn new skills and behaviors

- Distract yourself
- Change your routine
- Reduce your stress
- Do something enjoyable
- Drink water and other fluids...

Results:

Although it is not easy to quit, the benefit is well worth the effort. Not smoking will improve your health and prolong your life...

—From Leaflet Northern Hospital of
Surry County, Mt. Airy, NC

[And if you are a professed Christian, this is all a part of respecting your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, while you are perfecting your holiness in the fear of God, 2 Corinthians 7:1—Editor].

Roman Sentinel Still Standing at His Post of Duty

WHEN POMPEII was destroyed, there were very many buried in the ruins of it, who were afterwards found in very different situations. There were some found who were in the streets, as if they had been attempting to make their escape. There were some found in deep vaults, as if they had gone thither for security. There were some found in lofty chambers; but where did they find the Roman sentinel? They found him standing at the city gate, with his hand still grasping his weapon, where he had been placed by his commanding officer; and there, while the lava stream rolled, he had stood at his post; and there, after a thousand years had passed away, he was still found standing. So let Christians remain standing in their place of duty, in the post at which their Captain has placed them. —*Selected* □

GREAT NEWS, THANKSGIVING, AND LOOKING AHEAD!

GETTING out *The Sword and Staff* had become a colossal task. The paper has been printed on a small A B Dick press in the basement of the editor's house, and with the help of a small band of Christians, it was assembled, addressed and gotten into the mail. We had gone this route years ago, rather than using a commercial printer, because of the exorbitant cost involved in paying for such a project. Now, with a full mailing list exceeding 20,000 (and growing), getting out the paper had become a task involving hundreds of hours, besides the expense (whether trying to economize or not). So, when "out of the blue" we were approached by a publishing company in Sugar Creek, Ohio, soliciting the job of printing *The Sword and Staff*, and even addressing and mailing it, we first thought "no way!" This would involve too much money (although it was a reasonable offer). But, with lingering thoughts, we pondered, "Could this be of the Lord?" (And especially in view of our task becoming more and more time consuming).

As you learned about this possibility, many of you gave the "green light" that you thought this was the route we should take. And you backed it with your contributions. We sincerely thank you. Consequently, the last issue for the year 2005 and this issue were printed and mailed to you from Ohio. Considering everything, we believe this is what we should do and it is our plan to continue doing this. We believe it is the Lord's leading. The paper is still the same paper. We are totally in control, doing the writing, layout, and formatting. From our computer, we convert the paper to permanent PDF files (the way you see it in print) and through the Internet by e-mail send it to our Ohio printer. They take it from there to print, address and to mail it.

Besides still printing the Spanish edition, *La Espada y El Cayado*, (a much smaller mailing list), this will eventually free us with more time for printing tracts and booklets; also binding thousands of volumes of *The Sword and Staff* (and extended writing). From time to time people have asked why we didn't put certain of our articles in tract or booklet form for wider distribution. The time factor has been a problem. Well, now we are moving in that direction. If there are certain articles that you think should be "thus done," let us know, and we will consider doing them. Even if they are articles in back issues of *The Sword and Staff* that you would like to see put in print this

way, just let us know. You might even say how many you would want. We will go from there.

In fact, we have already printed "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" (featured in this issue) in a small 12-page tract format, small enough to fit into a man's shirt pocket. On the back page of this issue of the paper you will find a listing of other booklets and materials now available. Let us know how many copies you want. There is no charge for this material, but if you could make a contribution to help with the printing and mailing cost involved, it would be appreciated.—*Editor* □

BIBLE QUESTIONS

(Random Questions Over the Bible)

1. What two men in the Old Testament were taken from this life without dying?
2. Although Reuben was the firstborn of Jacob, why was he denied the birthright, and who received it instead of him?
3. What were four different times in the Bible that people miraculously passed through water on dry ground to get on the other side?
4. What was the ancient name of the city of Jerusalem?
5. What man in the Bible had a wife and a sister that had the same name?
6. What was the name of the general over all of King David's army?
7. Why was King Uzziah of Judah afflicted with leprosy and remained a leper unto the day of his death?
8. Who said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD"?
9. What did the Psalmist say that God had removed from us "as far as the east is from the west"?
10. "A word fitly spoken is like" unto what, according to the book of Proverbs?
11. What is the longest word in the Bible (KJV)?
12. Although Judah was going into Babylonian captivity, why was Jeremiah commanded of God to buy land?
13. What was the name of Simon Peter's father?
14. Where are four places listings of the apostles found in the New Testament?
15. What was the origin of the people called "Samaritans" in the New Testament?
16. On which day of the week did Jesus ascend from the mount of Olives back to heaven?
17. What man from the church at Philippi visited Paul when he was a prisoner at Rome, bringing support and ministering to his needs?
18. What man in the New Testament was called "the beloved physician" by the apostle Paul?
19. What was the name of Timothy's grandmother and his mother?
20. Where in the New Testament do we find the second epistle written to the church at Ephesus?

(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:

■ "I would like to order 5 copies of *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*. Also would like for you to add a name to *THE SWORD AND STAFF* mailing list...May the Lord bless you with many more years in His service."

■ "Do you still have copies of *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*? I would like two additional copies, one for our church and one for a friend who is in prison...Thank you for your witness and words of life. I enjoy your articles and your position. My prayer is that our God blesses you well in your work..."

GEORGIA:

■ "Please send me one book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*. Enjoy *THE SWORD AND STAFF* very much. Sorry I haven't sent some money sooner. Use the remainder to help send this good news out."

SOUTH CAROLINA:

■ "I love your paper very much. Keep up the good work, and may God bless all!"

NORTH CAROLINA:

■ "I have seen a copy of *THE SWORD AND STAFF* and I love it. Please send me a copy and tell me how I can keep getting them. Thanks." (E-mail)

■ "Enclosed is a check...please send me four more copies of *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* and keep the change for where ever it is most needed."

■ "Thank you for sending me *THE SWORD AND STAFF* for so long without a renewal contribution from me. I feel really ashamed of my neglect to help a

brother who so faithfully serves the Lord as His messenger. Forgive me—I pray the Lord will also forgive me. I can't read the small print anymore, but my husband reads it to me. He enjoys it as much as I and it has helped us to grow in our spiritual endeavors. It seems the blinder I get (physically) the more I see (spiritually)!

"This contribution is sent in love (and repentance). Hope you are blessed with good health and happiness for many years to come."

TENNESSEE:

■ "Please send me one copy of the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*."

VIRGINIA:

■ "Would you please send me a copy of the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* and a copy of the book *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*. Enclosed is a check...as a contribution."

KENTUCKY:

■ "So glad to hear that you have contracted out the printing of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*..."

"I have enjoyed *THE SWORD AND STAFF* since 1989, and I still look forward to every issue."

"I only wish I could do more to help in the printing of such an inspiring work. We pray for you every day."

WEST VIRGINIA:

■ "Thank you, Mr. Gibbons, for all the hard work and time you have put into the study and spreading of God's Word correctly. Many write words that don't mean anything because they don't tell it the way it is. Such as *LEFT BEHIND*. I have the *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* book and it is right. Thanks again for spreading God's Word. Put me on the mailing list...Please send me all [all of the *BOUND VOLUMES*] I have checked, plus 5 copies of the *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*."

PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "Please send 8 copies of the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* by David Vaughn Elliott. Enclosed find a check...I have read and reread the book and recommend it to anyone wanting insight into church history and end time prophecy. Great book!"

MASSACHUSETTS:

■ "Thank you for your work in *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. We are thankful for you and your family."

OHIO:

■ "Thank you for all of your work in publishing *THE SWORD AND STAFF*! The issue just received is tops..."

■ "Thank you very much for sending me *THE SWORD AND STAFF* all these years. I enjoy reading them very much. I pass them on to others."

(Continued on Next Page)

READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

■ "Please send the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* to the list [list of nine people]..."

ILLINOIS:

■ "Please find enclosed my contribution to support your ministry. Please send me a copy of *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*; also a copy of bound volume 2001-2002 of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*.

"Thank you and God bless you."

MINNESOTA:

■ "Please send 2 copies of *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*. Enjoy your paper...May God bless."

MISSOURI:

■ "Please send me one copy of the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*. I enjoy *THE SWORD AND STAFF* very much..."

LOUISIANA:

■ "Thanks for your great paper. Please send me a copy of *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*."

TEXAS:

■ "Thanks very much for keeping me on your mailing list. I enjoy *THE SWORD AND STAFF*."

■ "I love *THE SWORD AND STAFF*, but an e-mail version would be even more useful than a hard copy. Is this available? If so, please send. The study of sexuality was especially good. God bless." (E-mail)

(Editor: We post some material selected from *The Sword and Staff* on our website along, but do not have an e-mail version per se. Check out our site.)

■ "...Am looking forward to the 200 resupply tracts [Christianity Without Denominations]. So many times folks won't take the time to read lengthy information. Hopefully this one will create a spiritual thirst..."

■ "I trust this finds you all in health. What a blessing to have your time free for other printing projects.

"I've always marveled at your sending out those thousands of *THE SWORD AND STAFF* from your basement printing room! What a desire to reach the lost, but God saw and blest.

"Thank you for the Truth found in each issue. I can't imagine not receiving it."

KANSAS:

■ "God bless you for *THE SWORD AND STAFF* (as I know He has). I've been blessed by your paper (magazine) and in turn have blessed others with the wisdom and truth."

CALIFORNIA:

■ "I just read volume 34, 1996 of your publication and it contains much that preachers and other Christians should know. I save your papers...which I distribute to a few in the local congregation..."

"God has given you the ability to write articles that will bless saints and sinners. I'm thankful that you

are 'farming out' some of the labor so you can pray and write more.

"Your publication has been a spiritual blessing to me for years. I will continue to pray God's blessing on your efforts as you serve Him."

OREGON:

■ "Please remove my name from your mailing list immediately."

■ "Please send me one copy of *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* and 5 copies of *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*. I teach a ladies' Bible class...and one of my ladies, who receives several copies, always brings me a copy of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I so enjoy it and look forward to it each time."

■ "I would like to purchase your 1987-2005 bound volumes and be put on your mailing list...Add one book of poems, please."

■ "I wish to continue receiving *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I look forward to every issue. Thank you for upholding the Word of God.

"May your good work be blessed!"

GUYANA:

■ "It is time that I let you know how much I appreciate your publication of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I find it quite informative on the Word of God and I like your style overall in presenting your paper. May God bless your every effort in revealing His truth to His people..."

"I would be so happy to have a copy of David Elliott's book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* and a copy of *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*. Enclosed is a cheque to cover the required cost of the two books and the remainder is my contribution to your ministry in recognition of it's spiritual value, especially to me..."

CHILE:

■ "A brotherly greeting in the name of the Lord. Thank you very much, my dear brother, for blessing me with your paper. Your topics are a great blessing to me and I use them to preach in the church and I share your topics and sayings.

"May the Lord supply all of your needs, and please keep sending it; they will always be useful to me." □



Free Bible Study Software

HERE IS some good news for those who thought they couldn't afford to buy Bible study software, a free Bible software program. The name of the program is **e-Sword**. There are multitudes of free download "add-ons" that are available. You choose what you want or don't want. It is an excellent program to accelerate Bible study. Following is the web address to contact to download this program.

<http://www.e-sword.net> □

After **BAPTISM** What?

THERE are important things that come before baptism, as well as those that come after we are baptized. Before baptism, if we are to become a real Christian, we must count the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:27-30). Then with this there is repentance and the public confession of faith in Christ that must take place (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:35-38). Now through baptism we enter into a new life (Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27; 2 Corinthians 5:17). As a Christian, there are many wonderful promises and great privileges laid out before us. But we must understand there are great responsibilities, too.

Before becoming a Christian, we counted the cost inasmuch as we were able, being limited by what we knew. However, we entered a commitment to follow Christ wherever this would lead us. He not only is our Savior, but the Lord of our lives. It was like signing a blank check. We signed it, but the exact amount was left blank to be filled in by the Lord himself. Then as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, we are made to realize more exactly the extent and fullness of this commitment. We learn more and more about what follows baptism. We have committed ourselves to a lifetime of putting it into practice.

What follows baptism? Let's check this out more in detail from the Scriptures. That's what this little article is all about. We want to make a "go" of it in being a real Christian.

WHAT FOLLOWS BAPTISM IS IMPLIED IN BAPTISM

1. Baptism Is for the Remission of Sins and to Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

The New Testament makes it plain that our sins are taken away upon being baptized, as we are baptized for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Colossians 2:11-13). Saul (Paul) was told to "arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16). The blood of Christ does this (Revelation 1:5). If our sins are taken away, forgiven, it is implied that the life of sin is not the way we should be living now. Paul questioned the Christians at Rome, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1,2). The apostle

John plainly stated, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin [does not make a practice of sin]..." (1 John 3:9). He just before this had written, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth [goes right on sinning] hath not seen him, neither known him" (Read 1 John 3:5-10). In understanding this, also read 1 John 2:24 and 1:8-10. He is not saying we cannot sin, but that we do not make a practice of sinning. Following baptism, we resolutely pursue a life of righteousness. The Lord did not come to save us in our sins, but from our sins (Matthew 1:21). And since we received the Holy Spirit that implies we are to live a holy life (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

2. Baptism Is a Burial and a Resurrection (Romans 6:3, 4; Colossians 2:12; 3:1)

Again Paul wrote in Romans 6:4, "Therefore we are buried with him [Christ] by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in newness of life." Indeed, physically speaking, baptism is a burial as the Greek word for baptize is *baptizo*, which means to immerse, to dip. The representation in baptism is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. These truths are called the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Then, when we become a Christian, it is said that we "obey the gospel" (Romans 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17). Even as Christ was crucified, buried and raised from the dead, we, spiritually speaking, are to do the same. Not only is something physical taking place when we are buried in the watery grave of baptism, spiritually we have died to sin, are burying the "old man" of sin and are being raised to walk in "newness of life." And Paul adds an additional parallel to this in Colossians 3:1, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." This follows baptism.

3. Baptism Is the Climaxing Part of Being Born of Water and the Spirit, the New Birth (John 3:3, 5)

Looking forward to his coming kingdom, Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." This is parallel in thought and meaning to 1 Peter 1:22 and 23, which reads, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lieth and abideth for ever." Likewise Acts 2:38 and

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After Baptism, What?

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1 Corinthians 6:11 should be understood in this connection (as well as Titus 3:5).

In conversion, a new birth has taken place. We have become children of God. Following a natural birth, a newborn baby comes into the world hungry. In the same vein of thought, the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:2 instructs new Christians, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." This follows baptism. He had just written in 1:22 and 23 that "being born again," we should "love one another with a pure heart fervently." This fits in well with what the apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:14, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." It is natural for brothers and sisters to love one another. They really don't have to put forth an effort. Likewise it should come naturally, spiritually speaking, to love brothers and sisters who are in the family of God. This comes with true conversion. This comes with baptism.

4. By Baptism We Enter into God's Grace and the Fullness of Salvation (Mark 16:16; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21)

In giving the Great Commission, our Lord and Savior asserted in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." Titus 3:5 explicitly says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]." Following this, it goes on to say that thus we are "justified by his grace" (3:7). Peter states in 1 Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." The figure is the water carrying Noah's family over to a world cleansed of sin by the Flood. The water of baptism within itself and by itself alone can do nothing, but as a composite of all the spiritual prerequisites coming together "by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" we are therewith saved. It is not "baptismal regeneration" as some would belittlingly say.

How great and glorious is the occasion of salvation! The blessedness of this experience overflows in joy and happiness. Philip baptized the Ethiopian in Acts 8, and when they were come up out of the water, "he went on his way rejoicing" (8:39). In Acts 16:33 and 34 we find that at the "same hour of the night" when the Philippian jailor was baptized, he "rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."

We have accepted God's "amazing grace." The joy of salvation is ours following baptism.

But in our joy we need to remember Paul's solemn admonition in Philippians 2:12 that we should "work out your [our] own salvation with fear and trembling." This follows baptism. We have accepted salvation. But we have a personal responsibility involving our salvation. Now we are to apply ourselves and bring our salvation to its conclusion, "that ye receive not the grace of God in vain" (2 Corinthians 6:1). And let us remember what the writer of Hebrews soberly asked, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3). This is a serious matter.

But a blessed assurance and invitation is ours since we have entered into God's grace. This implies that the throne of grace in heaven may, can and should be frequently approached. We have a "high priest" in heaven, Jesus, who has tender feelings for us. Consequently, Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Contrary to what some believe, let us never forget that a person can fall from grace. This is found in black and white in Hebrews 12:14 and 15, and Galatians 5:4. We can also receive God's grace in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1). So, with Paul, we point you to the Word of God. "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). Let us always be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord (2 Peter 3:18).

All of this follows baptism. What has taken place in baptism implies what should follow baptism. Let us realize what has taken place and live accordingly.

SCRIPTURES SHOWING WHAT FOLLOWS BAPTISM

1. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

Now in further examining what follows baptism, let us notice the Great Commission. Matthew's account lays it out quite plainly for us, as the Lord on the peak of his resurrection glory imperatively gives directions as to what His disciples were to do next. We read, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power [authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples of] all nations, 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 com-

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“Make Him Thirsty”

THE YOUNG SALESMAN was disappointed about losing a big sale, and as he talked with his sales manager he lamented, “I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water but you can’t make him drink.” The manager replied, “Son, take my advice: your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty.” So it is with evangelism. Our lives should be so filled with Christ that they create a thirst for the Gospel.—**Selected** □



BARBS ...with a POINT

WORKS speak louder than words.

Grace does not change the enormity of sin; it only magnifies the extent of it.

Sinners find it hard to believe in the resurrection when Christians are not living the resurrected life.

If you have a “hit or miss” religion, you will probably miss heaven.

If you read your Bible and pray every day, when the church meets it will be hard to keep you away.

Too many times when men are lifted up, their hearts become lifted up.

If we don’t pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), we will de cease without praying (Luke 18:1).

If you do not, and will not, honor the God who made you, you are a dishonorable person.

The most dangerous place to live in America is in a mother’s womb (since the legalization of abortion in 1973, over 40 million babies have been killed).

The person who “prides” himself in saying all that he thinks is not thinking (Proverbs 29:11, 20).

Creation implies purpose, purpose implies responsibility, and responsibility implies accountability (so that’s why some people rather believe in evolution?).

It seems that some politicians can’t tell the truth, and others can’t tell the difference.

Some people say they don’t want to break God’s laws, but don’t hesitate to try to bend them to fit their situation; however, you can’t bend them without breaking them.

One thing some children learn at their mother’s knee is how to dodge hot cigarette ashes.

Having a “hobby horse” is like a default setting on a computer; the person (or preacher) inordinately absorbed and obsessed with a subject will always come back to it, and it will dominate his speech (whether in talking or preaching).

If it makes no difference what you believe, it makes no difference if you believe.

We live in a mixed up world; some politicians are opposed to war, but at the same time have no scruples about killing unborn babies by the millions.

If you are picky and judgmental of others, expect others to be judgmental of you.

Perfecting holiness, in the absolute and from the human perspective, must always be a process and a work in progress only attained in and by the grace of God.

If what you believe is not worth dying for, it probably is not worth living for either.

When people stay out of church to go hunting, do they think they will go to that “happy hunting ground” in the sky bye and bye when they die?

If you have a good heart, you will not have a bad mouth (Luke 6:45).

If people have not counted the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33), it is hard to count on them to be a disciple.

When the books are opened on the Day of Judgment, every man’s life will be an open book.

Self-seeking religious “leaders” find it easier to fleece the flock after they have first pulled the wool over their eyes.

It is hard for some people to go the second mile because they have never gone the first.

God is more impressed with how little you have left after giving than by how much you have given (Luke 21:1-4).

Let your speech be better than silence, or be silent. □



The Greek Word *Agape*

THE GREEK word *agape* (love) seems to have been virtually a Christian invention—a new word for a new thing (apart from about twenty occurrences in the Greek version of the Old Testament, it is almost non-existent before the New Testament). *Agape* draws its meaning directly from the revelation of God in Christ. It is not a form of natural affection, however, intense, but a supernatural fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). It is a matter of will rather than feeling (for Christians must love even those they dislike—Matt. 5:44-48). It is the basic element in Christ-likeness.

Read 1 Corinthians 13 and note what these verses have to say about the primacy (vv. 1-3) and permanence (vv. 8-13) of love; note, too, the profile of love (vv. 4-7) which they give.—**Selected** □

After Baptism, What?

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manded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world [age]. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20). The gospel is to be taught (preached) to all people, thus producing faith and helping them count the cost before entering into discipleship. Upon being baptized and following baptism, they are more in particular to be taught to “observe all things” that Christ has commanded. The apostle Paul looked upon the responsibility of the preacher in doing this as very important (Acts 20:26, 27; 1 Timothy 4:16). The new Christian will find throughout the New Testament what is involved in observing all things that Christ has commanded. This follows baptism.

2. The Converts on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:36-42)

These people cried out to Peter and the rest of the apostles on the day of Pentecost, following the crucifixion of Christ, wanting to know what they should do. They were told, “Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [Spirit].” Peter continued. This promise is given to “you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” This inclusively included every person who would ever be converted. We all come to God the same way as we become recipients of God’s grace. Upon saying this, Peter exhorted and urged them to, “Save yourselves from this untoward [crooked] generation.” “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” There was no gain-saying, like so many times experienced today when we appeal to these very words of the apostle Peter, but “they that gladly received his word were baptized.” And here in verse 42 of Acts chapter 2 we see what followed baptism.

Yes, they were baptized, and following baptism we read that they “continued stedfastly...” What they continued stedfastly in can be looked upon as public worship, or each part can be broken down and examined individually as each new convert puts it into practice. They continued stedfastly in “the apostles’ doctrine.” This involved the apostles’ teaching (echoes of Matthew 28:20). They were being taught, and they unhesitatingly put what they learned into practice. “Fellowship” is next listed. In their sharing this is evident, and as we find else-

where in the New Testament “fellowship” means giving (Philippians 1:5; 4:15). We give; we share. “Breaking of bread” follows. We believe this refers to the Lord’s Supper. Read 1 Corinthians 10:16 and Acts 20:7. The early church observed the Lord’s supper every Lord’s Day (Sunday, the first day of the week), and the day of Pentecost fell upon the first day of the week (Leviticus 23:15, 16). How fitting that the church on the day of its inception observed the Lord’s Supper. Verse 42 concludes with “prayers.” The church was born in a prayer meeting (Acts 1:14), and now continues and thrives in an atmosphere of prayer. It is the lifeline of the church and especially of the new Christian as he moves on into the Christian life. All of these things followed baptism, whether looking upon this as the public worship or individually lived out in the life of each person. Let us likewise be steadfast in this matter.

3. Admonitions in Colossians (Colossians 2:12; 3:1 and Following)

Colossians 2:12 reads, “Buried with him [Christ] in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” Then, fittingly, Colossians 3:1 (and following) resumes the thought. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.” Obviously this follows baptism.

Colossians 3:1 and what follows in this chapter highlights what comes after baptism. Let us study this carefully and put it into practice.

“Things Above” and “Things on the Earth”

- “If ye then be risen with Christ, *seek those things which are above*, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).
- “Set your affections on *things above*, not on *things on the earth*. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (3:2,3).
- “Mortify [put to death] therefore your members which are *upon the earth*; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection [passion], evil concupiscence [evil desire], and covetousness, which is idolatry” (3:5).

“Put Off” and “Put On”

- “But now ye also *put off* all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth” (3:8).
- “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have *put off* the old man with his deeds” (3:9).
- “And have *put on* the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (3:10).

- **“Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies [tender mercies], kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (3:12,13).
- “And above all these things **put on** charity [love], which is the bond of perfectness” (3:14).
- **“Let” These things Take Place**
- “And **let** the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful” (3:15).
- **“Let** the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (3:16).
- **“All in the Name of the Lord”**
- “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (3:17).

4. The Admonitions in Hebrews 10:22-25

The writer of the epistle of Hebrews in Hebrews 10:22 and following may well have baptism, and what should follow baptism, in mind. A parallel is drawn from the Old Testament. The priests washed in the laver and were cleansed before entering the temple to serve God. Being aware of this, the Hebrews’ writer admonishes, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” With the “let us” admonition, he continues with thoughts in this connection.

Having drawn near with cleansing, there is the admonition, **“Let us** hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).” As we “hold fast,” another admonition follows, “And **let us** consider one another to provoke [to stir up] unto love and to good works.” We are to encourage one another in the Christian walk (“unto love and good works”). With that being said, the following is added, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Faithful church attendance is to follow baptism, as we are admonished to be a source of encouragement and help to one another.

This 10th chapter of Hebrews is concluded with a fitting admonition. “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience that, after ye have

done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” (Heb. 10:35-39).

IN CONCLUSION, let us never forget the great responsibilities that come with being baptized, and at the same time let us always remember the many wonderful promises and privileges that are decidedly ours. Being a Christian is the most rewarding and promising life that can be lived, and as the apostle Paul asserted, “Having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1 Timothy 4:8). And so “for the joy that is set before” us, “let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1, 2). Heaven awaits. Amen.

—By James E. Gibbons □

Happiness keeps You Sweet,
Trials keep You Strong,
Sorrows keep You Human,
Failures keep You Humble,
Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only God keeps You
Going! ~ Selected

**Answers to:
BIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Genesis 5:24 (Hebrews 11:5); 2 Kings 2:1-11; 2. 1 Chronicles 5:1, 2; Genesis 35:22; 49:4; 3. (1) Exodus 14:19-31; (2) Joshua 3:9-17 (4:18) (3) 2 Kings 2:8; (4) 2 Kings 2:14; 4. 1 Chronicles 11:4 (Judges 19:10); 5. 1 Samuel 25:40-42; 1 Chronicles 2:15, 16; 6. 1 Chronicles 27:34; 2 Samuel 8:16; 7. 2 Chronicles 26:16-21; 8. Job 1:20,21; 9. Psalms 103:12; 10. Proverbs 25:11; 11. Isaiah 8:1; 12. To indicate that although they were going into captivity, they would return to possess the land (Jeremiah 32:6-44); 13. Matthew 16:17; John 1:42; 14. (1) Matthew 10:2-4; (2) Mark 3:14-19; (3) Luke 6:13-16; (4) Acts 1:13; 15. John 4:9 (2 Kings 17:24); 16. Jesus arose from the grave on the first day of the week, Sunday (Luke 24:1-6). He was seen off and on for forty days from his resurrection (that was on Sunday), and counting the forty days that would make the day of his ascension fall on Thursday; 17. Philippians 2:25; 4:18; 18. Colossians 4:14; 19. 2 Timothy 1:5; 20. Revelation 2:1-7. □

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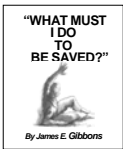
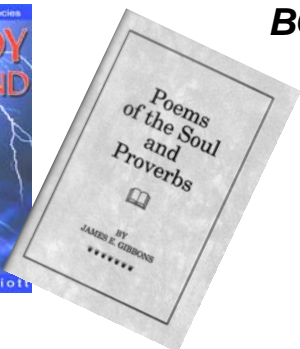
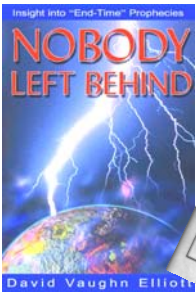
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