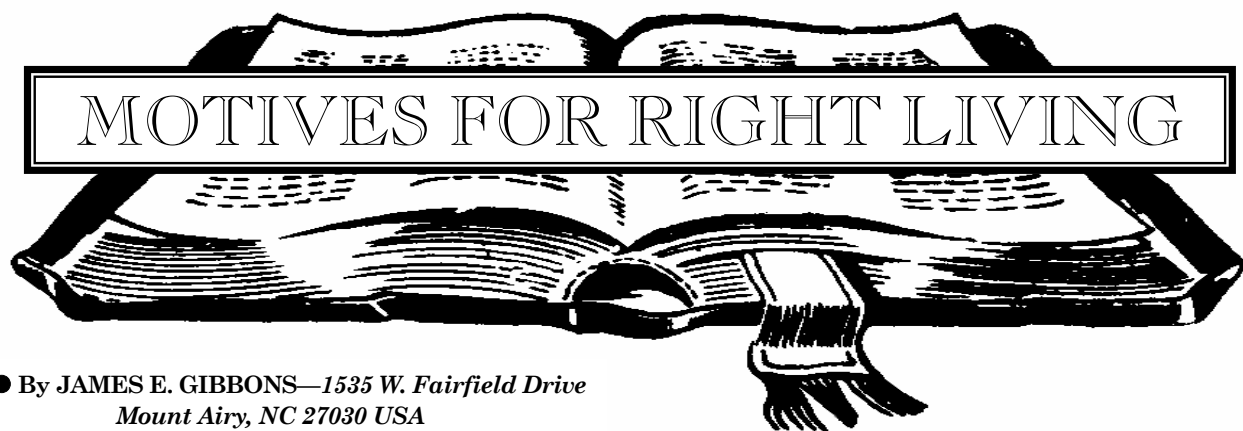


The Sword AND Staff

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



● By JAMES E. GIBBONS—1535 W. Fairfield Drive
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CHRISTIANITY is a religion that demands our motives be right. We must obey from the heart that “form of doctrine which was delivered” unto us (Romans 6:17), or otherwise we will only have a “form of godliness...denying the power thereof” (2 Timothy 3:5). Obedience without the proper motive, and motivation, will avail us nothing. If we are just seeking to please men, or to receive the praise of men like the hypocritical Pharisees, the supposed “good deed” will actually become a work of iniquity (Matthew 6:2,5,16; 7:21-23). Didn’t our Lord say, “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *doeth* the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? and then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, *ye that work iniquity*.” Even partaking of the Lord’s supper without discerning the body and blood of the Lord can result in eating and drinking damnation (judgment) to our souls (1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

The New Testament presents many motives for right living, so let’s notice some of them. The apostle Paul speaks of the “manifold wisdom of God” (Ephesians 3:10). The teachings of God have many folds to them, and the wise person will consider all

of them and not just pick one facet and say “this only.” This is true in reference to “motives for right living.” There are positive factors and there are negative factors that influence us in what we do, but the positive ones are the most noble and should be the most compelling.

Really, what motivates you? What motivates all of us in serving the Lord?

I. THE LOVE OF GOD

That well-known verse of Scripture, John 3:16, reads, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Later on in the gospel of John, the Lord Jesus himself said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). (And he is our friend, the friend of sinners). Consequently, we are told that the preaching of the cross is the power of God unto salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18). It moves people to want to respond to such a compelling message of love. And in this connection, Romans 2:4 tells us about God’s “goodness and forbearance and longsuffering,” with the “goodness of God” highlighted, being what leads us to repentance. Jude, in his admonition and efforts to try to save errant teachers, said, “And of some have compassion, making a difference...” (Jude verse 22). John unquestionably asserts, “We love

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—THANK YOU—

Proverbially **SPEAKING...**

JOY is happiness intensified.

Good works are essential, not as works of merit, but as the evidence and expression of faith.

The way to heaven is a "one way street" (Ephesians 4:4-6; John 10:1).

Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon yield to that which is about us.

Unless God is in the picture, everything is out of focus.

Life is as simple and as complex as the alphabet; the ABC's are very elementary, but from the right combination of letters and words are written the most advanced books of science and learning.

If we would stand up for righteousness, we must be down on sin.

Trust in God, and lean not upon your own understanding, and you will find life less demanding.

Hard work is good therapy for the troubled soul.

Practice a little extra kindness to make up for the lack of it out there in the cruel, cold world.

Charity is love in action.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS



"THE LAW WAS GIVEN BY MOSES, BUT GRACE AND TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST"

DISTINCTIVE Christian doctrine and that which is to be practiced by the church is embodied in the New Testament. Talking about the New Testament, the writer of the book of Hebrews said, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Hebrews 9:16, 17). The New Testament came into force when Jesus died on the cross of Calvary. Everything before the New Testament was preparatory. Paul tells us in Galatians 3, having reference to the Old Testament law, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster [the Old Testament]" (verses 24 and 25). During the ministry of Christ, leading up to his crucifixion and the termination of the Old Testament law on the cross (Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14), he taught many things in anticipation of the New Testament. But they were still living under the Law of Moses, the Old Testament. To not realize this is to end up with many misunderstandings.

One misunderstanding that commonly stands out today is an appeal to the thief on the cross as proof that we don't really have to be baptized. After all, didn't Jesus say to the thief, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43), and he wasn't baptized? But remember the Scripture in Hebrews (9:16,17). The New Testament didn't come into force until Jesus was dead, like a man's last will and testament. Its terms could not be executed before then. Also, the apostle Paul makes it plain that we are buried with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:38). There was no way that a person could be buried with Christ in baptism before he was actually buried. The appeal and application to the thief on the cross just does not fit the picture. And the appeal to the so-called "sinner's prayer" in Luke 18:9-14 (to be saved) just doesn't fit into the picture either. The man who prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner" was not an alien sinner calling upon God, but a follower of God under the Law of Moses (equivalent to a backslidden Christian). He was praying in the Jewish temple. The New Testament hadn't begun. After the Lord's death and resurrection, in giving the Great Commission, he said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). Then in Acts 2:38, with the establishment of the church, Peter said, "Repent,

and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [Spirit].”

To understand the makeup of the Old Testament is to better understand the New Testament. The Old Testament, although having some basic eternal truths, was an imperfect system given to imperfect man to “show” up his need of a perfect solution to his sin problem. Within this system there were some basic moral truths, some ritualistic and ceremonial matters (animal sacrifices, purifications, etc.), and some accommodation to imperfect man in his imperfect state until that which was perfect came. Its laws governed a nation of people. It had a shadow of good things to come (Hebrews 10:1), although imperfect itself. Its symbolism and prophecies pointed to the New Testament. It was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24, 25). It was something that was imposed after the main promises involving God’s eternal purpose were given to Abraham (Galatians 3:9-24). But it had a purpose. John said the law came by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). The writer of Hebrews said that the Law made nothing perfect (Hebrews 7:19). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, referring back to the Old Testament Law, said, “You have heard it said...but I say unto you” (Matthew 5:21, 27, 33, 38, 43, etc.). The teachings of Christ go deeper than just an external legalistic system. The heart must be involved. Indications of the imperfection of the Old Testament and its accommodation to imperfect man, until that which was perfect was come, can be seen in many ways.

Notice the radical differences from the teachings of Christ as voiced in the psalm book of the Old Testament. Psalms 139:21 and 22 read: “I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.” Looking back to the Old Testament, Jesus plainly said, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy” (Matthew 5:43-48). “But,” the Lord continued, “I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven...” Then David wrote in Psalms 144:1, which as Christians makes us sit back and wonder, “Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight.” Does this sound like what we read in the New Testament that we live by today? (Matthew 26:52; John 18:36; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4)

Read Luke 9:51-56 that follows. “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias [Elijah] did? [2 Kings 1:9-15] But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.” Plainly, this teaching is just the opposite of the Old Testament and the Psalms as noted in the paragraph just before.



The worship of the Old Testament was very much different from that of the New Testament. In the Old Testament they offered up animal sacrifices, and incense, which appealed to the sensual side of man, filling their nostrils at times. Then, different from the way we look at things today, on one occasion David danced with all his might and leaped before the LORD, much to the displeasure of his wife, Michal. But God was pleased with it and dealt unfavorably with his wife for her attitude (2 Samuel 6:12-23). It seems that God at times accommodated primitive man with his primitive emotions. However, in the New Testament, in reference to the church assembled for worship, Paul wrote, “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

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Corinthians 14:40). Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). We are to "offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).

Another example of God accommodating imperfect man until that which was perfect was come is found in Matthew 19:3-9. The Pharisees questioned Jesus about marriage and divorce, and what Moses allowed. Divorce originally was not in God's plan. The Lord explained the situation. "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." This seems to be an appendage to the law, perhaps with Deuteronomy 24:1 in mind. This was not what God commanded, or wanted, but Moses permitted (and evidently God), according to Christ. Without the changed hearts that the gospel produces in real conversion, and grace to help, man was not accomplishing true obedience. God's revelation was still in the process of being progressively given. However, the Lord says now, "Who-soever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery" (Matthew 19:9).

The apostle Paul asked, "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed [Christ] should come..." (Galatians 3:19). And, looking back now, Romans 15:4 states, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Although we are not living under the Old Testament Scriptures, we can learn from them great lessons on faith and obedience. We know that God was there to encourage and help His people. When we make application of Old Testament Scriptures for lessons in reference to Christianity, they should be filtered through the New Testament. The New Testament, and New Testament practice, did not come into force until Jesus died on the cross. This is what we live by today.

Remember: "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). We are now under the New Testament, God's "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). Amen! □

Is the Lord "on Our Side"?

AT a White House dinner, a churchman offered a benediction and closed with the pious affirmation: "The Lord is on our side."

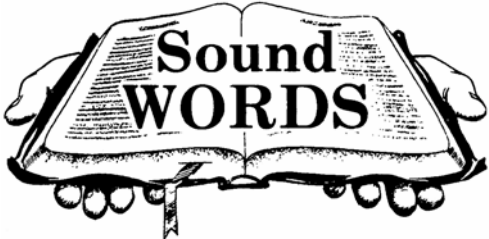
When President Lincoln did not respond to this sentiment, someone asked him, "Don't you believe, Mr. President, that the Lord is always on the side of the right?"

"I am not concerned about that," was Lincoln's answer, "for we know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. My concern is that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side."—*Selected* □

A Restatement of the Policy "The Sword and Staff"

The Sword and Staff is no organization, company or commercial enterprise. The expression, *The Sword and Staff*, simply refers to the Word of God in its presentation ("Preach the Word" II Timothy 4:2—"Feed the Flock" I Peter 5:2). This paper is a preaching/teaching publication and that alone. Consequently, no church news items or outside advertisements are accepted or featured. To reverse this policy, would find us unable to handle all of the material that we would receive, considering the relatively small size of the paper and the limited number of times it comes out in a year. For the very same reasons, outside writings are not solicited (although some are used occasionally). The paper, as you see it, represents the editor's humble and singular effort to get out God's message, not fettered by traditional schools of thought, and to be of service to the Lord. We wish to be identified by and with the church of the New Testament, and that alone. □

"Hold fast the form of sound words..."



"...Sound speech, that cannot be condemned"
(2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 2:8).

UNDER "Sound Words" this time, let us deal with a different category of "sound speech." The apostle Paul wrote, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

XXX—SEX—XXX

Perhaps in no category is the need greater than that of talking about "sound speech" in reference to sex. Each generation has its "cool dude" and groovy way of talking. But, indicative of the depravity and

corruption of the times in which we live today, much of the “cool dude” and groovy talk that is used by many young people (including girls), and even older people, has the common denominator of sex. And the words are not just academically spoken, or even words suggestively implying sex, that are spewed out. They are unabashedly explicit. They are blatantly vile and unrepeatable in this article (and decent society). They are the most depraved and words right from the gutter. Whatever they are doing, it is sex (even if it is not sex). How something acts, it is sex. How something is not liked, it is sex. What they call one another, it is sex (and in the most vile and unthinkable terms). It is Sodom and Gomorrah all over again, only on a larger scale that we are witnessing today (if we are to go by what is being said).

God made us male and female (Genesis 1:27). It was evident that it was not good that man should be alone, so God made a companion for man. Then Genesis 2:24 reads, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be **one flesh**.” Being “one flesh,” according to the apostle Paul, means sexual union (1 Corinthians 6:16). This relationship in the context of marriage is most sacred and meaningful. It is as sacred as life itself, for by this means life is passed on to each successive generation. If we don’t respect our sexuality, we will not respect what our sexuality produces—*other human beings*. Adulterers, Sodomites and fornicators have always been dealt with harshly by God. Hebrews 13:4 reads, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers [**fornicators**] and **adulterers** God will judge.” Revelation 21:8 tells us that “the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers [**the sexually immoral**], and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone...”

Consequently, our sexuality is to be respected from every angle, even including the way we talk. The apostle Paul admonishes in Ephesians 5, beginning with verse 3, “But fornication, and all [sexual] uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor **foolish talking**, nor **jesting**, which are not convenient [proper, decent]: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger [fornicator], nor [sexually] unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience” (5:3-7). “Foolish talking” means words spoken like a moron, stupid. The word translated “jesting” has reference to words that are easily turned. They are suggestive and may have a double off-color mean-

ing, sexually speaking. Paul went on to say in Ephesians 5:12, “For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.”

In view of this, what of the words that not only are off-color and just plain stupid, but are totally black with depravity? The “cool dude” and groovy way of talking leaves nothing to the imagination. The uninitiated (those not used to this kind of talk) are shocked and overwhelmed at the mere brazenness and vulgarity of it. The words, awful as they are, are indicative of a far greater problem, because Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34).

Beloved, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29). Let such never be heard among Christians. Then if we happened to hear such unsavory talk, living in this world, let us be like righteous Lot. “For that righteous man dwelling among them [in Sodom and Gomorrah], in seeing and hearing, **vexed** his righteous soul from day to day...” (2 Peter 2:6-9). “Vexed” means he was bothered and tortured by what he saw and heard. Let us never become used to it. Our sexuality is sacred, not something dirty. And remember that our Lord said, “For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matthew 12:37). Amen! So be it. □

(For a more detailed Scriptural study on the Christian view of sex, order our booklet, *A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality*.)



MOTIVES FOR RIGHT LIVING...

(Continued from Page 1)

him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). This all-engulfing love emanating from God, (for “God is love” 1 John 4:8, 19), ignites with responding love on our part. Didn’t our Lord say to his disciples, “If ye love me, keep my commandments”? (John 14:15) Then John further made it even more emphatic when he wrote, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous [burdensome]” (1 John 5:3).

Mercy and Grace

This love of God, from the viewpoint and perspective of sinful man, finds its expression in mercy and grace. Mercy is punishment that has been withheld and grace is favor that has been bestowed in forgiveness and restored relationship to God. Mercy and grace are not a license for us to sin, but they furnish the most compelling motivation to do that which is right (unless we have a misunderstanding of what grace is all about).

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MOTIVES FOR RIGHT LIVING...

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"By the Mercies of God"

After developing the great theme of justification by faith in the first 11 chapters of Romans, Paul turns to the practical application and outworking of it in our lives. He writes, "I beseech you **therefore**, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1,2). Paul is saying, "Therefore," on the basis of all that I have said about what God has done to bring about our salvation, "by the mercies of God" to present our bodies as a living sacrifice in doing that which is right. God's mercy has brought about our salvation, and now these "mercies" should motivate and move us on in living righteously. We respond to this love in loving obedience.

"For the Grace of God"

In reference to grace, Paul writes to Titus, "For **the grace of God** that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11,12). Although we are not saved by works, as Paul points out in Ephesians 2:8-10, he makes it clear, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained [appointed] that we should walk in them." Grace, the positive manifestation of God's love, places us into a context of works, actually moving us spontaneously and unselfishly to that end.

II. PERSONAL AWARENESS OF GOD

Hebrews 11:6 reads, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." God is real and God is personal, personal to the point that "he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." This deep

and personal faith produces works in our lives. Check out James 2:14-26. Here James personally contends, "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." There is a direct relationship between our faith and what we do. Faith in the reality of God is the compelling impetus that moves us to do that which is right. As believers, our lives are constantly lived under the personal awareness of God. The stronger our faith, the more it will impact our lives.

The Early Church

This personal awareness of God produced the unity and liberality in the early church. The kingdom of God came with power in its inception on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 (Mark 9:1). Christ had been raised from the dead and ascended back to heaven. The apostles were boldly proclaiming this news, accompanied by miraculous manifestations. We read, "And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat [food] with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved [those that were being saved]" (Acts 2:43-47). Further note this in Acts 4:31-35.

Paul's Charge to Timothy

The apostle Paul solemnly reminds Timothy, and appeals to the reality of God and the world to come, as motivation for Timothy to faithfully carry out his work as a preacher of the gospel. Notice the following references.

- **"I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (1 Timothy 5:21).**
- **"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth [makes alive] all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Timothy 6:13,14).**
- **"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick [living] and the dead at this appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word; be**

instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:1, 2).

Yes, a constant awareness of the reality of God is primary in motivating right living from any angle that we choose to look at it. It is simply a matter of realizing the reality of our situation. God is, and “in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

III. BEING CHILDREN OF GOD

Looking to the establishment of the church and the coming Christian age, the Lord said to Nicodemus, “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” (John 3:5). When we become a Christian, there is a spiritual birth that takes place and we become children of God. Paul wrote, “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:6). Certainly Christ is the only begotten Son of God, deity incarnate, that took the form of man in bringing about our salvation. But we are nonetheless children of God in a secondary sense through a spiritual birth in our restoration to God.

“Sons and Daughters”

Seizing upon this concept, Paul admonishes the sinning Corinthian Christians, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 6:17-7:1). Paul appeals to them on the basis of them being received of God, and being uniquely treated as His children, to live a separated life from this world. These promises should make them want to “cleanse” themselves from “all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God [fear, an added motivating factor].” Could anything be more noble and elevated than being called “sons and daughters” of God? And then, living accordingly? This is a challenge.

“Joint-Heirs with Christ”

In Romans 8:17, Paul adds another motivating thought in connection with being regarded as children of God. He says, “And if [we are] children, then [we are] heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...” This same truth is also brought out in Galatians 4:7, “...and if [you are] a son, then

[you are] an heir of God through Christ.” Carrying this thought to its conclusion, Revelation 21:7 states, “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” And this is throughout eternity. Read the verses leading up to Revelation 21:7.

IV. THE UNCHANGEABLENESS OF GOD

The unchangeableness of God is a great motivating and stabilizing factor in consistency and stability, likewise, being accomplished in our lives. James tells us that, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Coupled with that, we are repeatedly told in the Scriptures that God “cannot lie” (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18-20).

“Therefore”

In Paul’s prayer in behalf of the Ephesian Christians (Ephesians 3:14-21), he points them to this unchanging God, by saying, “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20). These words are followed by a “therefore” in Ephesians 4:1, “I *therefore*, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love,” and the words go on. This power of the unchanging God was to be tapped unto as motivation and impetus in living the Christian life.

Yesterday, Today, and Forever

The writer of Hebrews unhesitatingly and assuredly states, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). He draws from this truth in the admonition that follows in the next verse, “Be not carried about with divers [various] and strange doctrines...” The Lord is unchangeable, and his teachings are likewise unchangeable. This moves us to assuredly anchor our souls to them for time and eternity.

V. THE GODLY INFLUENCE OF OTHERS

Perhaps in what we are going to say here, motivation and inspiration overlap. The 11th chapter of Hebrews deals with the great subject of faith, with our attention drawn to outstanding heroes of faith who trusted God long ago. The chapter then ends with a summation of multiplied examples of these people, what happened to them, and how that faith sustained them, even including unnamed people. Then the application is made in chapter 12.

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MOTIVES FOR RIGHT LIVING...

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“Great Cloud of Witnesses”

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1,2). The “wherefore” draws our attention to these heroes of faith called “a great cloud of witnesses” as motivation and inspiration for running the Christian race (living righteously). Then Jesus is pointed to as our ultimate example.

Lois and Eunice

To encourage Timothy, Paul wrote, “I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” (2 Timothy 1:5). With this same vein of thought, we further read in 2 Timothy 3:14 and 15, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou has known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

VI. THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

There is a day of judgment coming for all men. The apostle Paul, standing on the slopes of the Acropolis (Mars’ Hill) with the Parthenon enshrining the image of Athena the goddess of wisdom at its summit, concluded his message to these people, saying, “And the times of this ignorance God winked at [overlooked]; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained [appointed]; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30,31). Repentance is enjoined upon this audience, and the reason they should repent is that there is a day of judgment coming. All have sinned, all must die, and all must face the judgment (Romans 3:23; Hebrews 9:27). We are responsible, accountable moral beings. Where we will spend eternity is in the balance. We need to be ready for that day. What a strong motivation to move us to repentance! And then to be found faithfully living the Christian life!

That Great and Awful Day

There are various events associated with that great and awful day; among them being the second coming of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:11), the destruction of this world (2 Peter 3:7-12), the judgment of the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:4-11), the giving of the “crown” of everlasting life (2 Timothy 4:6-8; Revela-

(Continued on Page 10)

BIBLE QUESTIONS

(Random Questions Over the Bible)

1. How old were Abraham and Sarah when their son of promise, Isaac, was born?
2. After receiving the Ten Commandments and coming down from the mountain, why did Moses put a veil over his face when speaking to the people?
3. What two, better known, Old Testament people bear the name that means the same as Jesus?
4. In the conquest of Canaan, of all the Canaanite people, who were the only ones who made peace with Israel, and were spared the sword, and how did this come about?
5. What did the Jebusites, who at that time possessed the city of Jerusalem, defiantly say to David, thinking their city could never be taken?
6. When the angel of the Lord appeared to the parents of Samson, and told them about the coming birth of their unusual son, in what unusual way did he make his exit when leaving them?
7. Which two psalms in the Old Testament are identical?
8. What “fruit” in the ancient world was thought to have aphrodisiac properties and was some sort of love potion?
9. The prophet Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of which kings of Judah?
10. Among the Jews, what was the day of the week that we call Friday called?
11. What four times in the gospel of Matthew does it explicitly say that messages were communicated to man by means of dreams?
12. Humanly speaking, how much older was John the Baptist than Jesus?
13. In what more of a restrictive way is the term “Jew” used in the gospel of John?
14. Where was Jesus when he preached the sermon on the bread of life?
15. What prayer in the New Testament is known as the great high priestly prayer of Christ?
16. When they came to arrest Jesus, and Simon Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest, which ear was it?
17. Who did Jesus designate to take care of his mother as he was dying on the cross?
18. Where is the last time that Mary the mother of Jesus is mentioned in the New Testament?
19. According to the apostle Paul, the law is fulfilled in one “word” (or saying)—*what is that word*?
20. What verse in the book of Hebrews would indicate that this book was written before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D.?

(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. □

NORTH CAROLINA:

■ *"I thank you so much for THE SWORD AND STAFF. What an encouragement it is to this preacher. Find enclosed a check...Please send me one copy of NOBODY LEFT BEHIND. Use the rest of the money as you see fit for your ministry."*

■ *"I hope this finds you blessed by good health, happiness and all the other blessings that God provides for His servants."*

"Enclosed is a check to cover the printing, postage and handling of the requested booklets. Anything left can be applied to whatever you deem necessary to help you with the wonderful work you are doing. We (my family and I) thank you so much for sharing your talent in THE SWORD AND STAFF."

■ *"Thank you so much for your prompt attention to my order. I received it today and in very good shape..."*

"Your work for the Lord has been a true blessing to me, and I'm sure to a lot of other people. Getting the true Word of the Lord out to so many people, compared to what is being preached in most of our pulpits today, is a great work and I pray that our good God will allow you many more years to do so..."

"Thanks again for the material! I have already read a lot of it and am looking forward to many more days of enjoying all of it."

TENNESSEE:

■ *"Please send the following booklets and whatever is left over, please put in to your expense for THE SWORD AND STAFF."*

"Please continue sending them to me [the paper]. I enjoy them very much. Keep up the good work and

may the Good Lord continue to bless each of you and your work."

VIRGINIA:

■ *"Please send the book, NOBODY LEFT BEHIND. Thank you. Keep up the good work."*

■ *"I have two more names I want you to put on your mailing list...Thanks! Wish everyone would read your paper and do what it says. People sure do need the Lord this day and time. May God bless you physically and spiritually, and supply all of your needs. I thank God for your stand for the Lord."*

PENNSYLVANIA:

■ *"We all enjoy and learn from your publication... Please keep up the good work and may God bless you richly."*

■ *"We were pleased to see you again and enjoy a short visit. I especially appreciate the scripturally accurate writings in THE SWORD AND STAFF. We pray for your continued health and ability to publish THE SWORD AND STAFF."*

■ *"...I praise God that He made such a believer as you and caused you to start publishing THE SWORD AND STAFF. Your recent issue was perfect. I started reading my copy—did not quit until I had read it through..."*

"Please continue to write...by God's grace you tell the truth to the public. We need the truth today. Our USA seems to be going wacky with all the so-called modern day generation. The USA is headed way downhill if the people do not turn back to God and His way for us to live and govern the country He has given us."

"Thank you, dear Christian, for loving God and Jesus and the Bible like you do. May God BLESS you and continue to use you to help the world know the word of God!"

NEW YORK:

■ *"Thank you for all your efforts evangelizing the lost world through THE SWORD AND STAFF and time and love you have given to the work is priceless..."*

OHIO:

■ *"Thanks so much for the study on 'Remembering the Last Words of People in the Bible.' I plan to study each case more in depth and do a sermon series in the next year or so."*

"I appreciate the articles and insights you share with all of us."

■ *"I have received your publication for a while and truly believe it is an excellent source for Christians. I am sending along a small token for helping in your printing and mailing expenses; also I have requested some of the various tracts and booklet. Thank you very much."*

■ *"I hope that all is well...God is gracious to all of us, even when we are under affliction of any sort. We need*

(Continued on Next Page)

READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

only to compare ourselves with those who are suffering persecution because of their faith to realize this fact.

"I am writing to ask for the article mentioned in the latest issue, **Volume 45, Number 1**, entitled 'Pimp My Ride, i.e. Modern-Day Church Succumbs to the Culture.'

"In the area where I live it is nearly impossible to find a Church of Christ that hasn't given in to the 'entertainment' style of 'worship'. Satan usually has some type of counterfeit to deceive those who choose to be ignorant. It seems to me that he has taken the great commission from our LORD and substituted a few words. His rendering goes something like this.

"Go ye into the Church and make it as worldly as you can. Teach them that baptism is optional. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a myth, and I will keep you entertained with music, sports, and performances of all types. Teach them to disregard the old ancient book of out-dated stories, and I will make you feel good, because after all, it's all about you.

"I must admit that the Church has failed, in part, to obey Matthew 28:19-20. Perhaps that is because we don't really believe His words in the last part of verse 18...

"Thank you for your devotion to, and love for, the TRUTH."

INDIANA:

■ "Thanks for *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. It is very much appreciated. Here is a check to help it keep coming."

ILLINOIS:

■ "Thank you for sending this paper, but please remove us from your mailing list."

■ "Years have gone by and I suppose this pamphlet [*THE SWORD AND STAFF*] is no longer in existence, but I found this old copy and I had to try. It was then so useful. My life has so changed since then, but I would, if it exists, like to receive copies. I don't have much hope but God says to try. My address is..."

■ "We enjoy *THE SWORD AND STAFF* so very much. It is always so refreshing and uplifting to see such a publication with positive and edifying articles that are filled with God's love in spirit and truth. I am so thankful for your service to the Lord. Keep up the good work..."

"Also here is my order for 5 copies of *POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS*. Also enclosed is order for some booklets."

LOUISIANA:

■ "This note is long overdue. I want to express my thanks for your labor of love through the years for printing a wonderful paper and true to God's Word. I really enjoy reading the paper..."

TEXAS:

■ "*THE SWORD AND STAFF* arrived and was so appreciated. The problem being—I'm so happy to read it that I don't lay it down until the final page...Keep well. Keep writing the Truth, which is almost a 'lost treasure' in our world."

NEBRASKA:

■ "We very much appreciate *THE SWORD AND STAFF* [papers] that you send to our congregation... They are enjoyed by many in the congregation. The work that you do is much needed. Please continue in your good work and do not give in to the pressures of conforming to the ideologies of this world..."

MONTANA:

■ "I've just read *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND* and enjoyed it very much. I will keep it in circulation, but want a copy to give to a friend. I was impressed by the way brother Elliott so decisively nailed down everything he said; very well written..."



MOTIVES FOR RIGHT LIVING...

(Continued from Page 8)

tion 2:10); yes, man going away to his eternal destiny (Matthew 25:31-46). Indeed, these are compulsive and moving motives to get right with God and to live right.

Somber Warnings

Among the many somber warnings and admonitions found throughout the book of Hebrews, the writer asks a question, which to ask is to answer: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?" (Hebrews 2:3).

VII. THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

In this random and overlapping study, let us consider one more point. Interestingly, and reassuringly, John writes in 1 John 3:1-3, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons [children] of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." Again, here are multiple motives. But notice the hope laid before us. We don't know what our resurrected bodies will be like in eternity, but, as children of God, we know they will be like his (Christ's) glorious body (as we see him then). That being the case, John



states, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Therefore, Be Always Abounding

And with the apostle Paul in that great chapter on the resurrection we can cry out in jubilation and then take heed to his admonition. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory...But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Therefore**, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:55-58).

Reaping Life Everlasting

Then we take heed to a similar exhortation spoken by Paul elsewhere, "For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:7-9). With such a great hope, and motivation, let us press on. Amen! □

The Bible, Its Authors

THE BIBLE itself is a standing and an astonishing miracle. Written, fragment by fragment, throughout the course of fifteen centuries, under different states of society, and in different lan-

guages, by persons of the most opposite tempers, talents, and conditions, learned and unlearned, prince and peasant, bond and free; cast into every form of instructive composition and good writing, history, prophecy, poetry, allegory, emblematic representation, precept, example, proverbs, disquisition, epistle, sermon, prayer—in short all rational shapes of human discourse; and treating, moreover, of subjects not obvious, but most difficult;—its authors are not found, like other writers, contradicting one another upon the most ordinary matters of fact and opinion, but are at harmony upon the whole of their sublime and momentous scheme. —*MacLagan* □

God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

HE is not the "father of the faithful" as his father Abraham. He is not the exciting "Supplanter" his son Jacob was called. He never did anything spectacular, yet the Bible refers to our God as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Abraham was a giant—we can understand the "God of Abraham." Jacob had qualities from which heroes are made—it is easy to understand the "God of Jacob." But the "God of Isaac"? What did Isaac ever do? He was born, got married, tended his flock, dug wells and died. Not very interesting? Yet here he is right along with Abraham and Jacob as one of God's great men.

And herein is the great truth. How many of us are "Abrahams?" How many of us are "Jacobs?" Most of us are "Isaacs." What did Isaac do? Actually he did just what God wanted him to do. He was an obedient son, a faithful husband, a good provider. No scandal is associated with his name. He was a good man from the cradle to the grave. God needed Isaac just as the church today could not do without its "Isaacs."

We have some "Abrahams" and some "Jacobs" in the church, thank God for them. But thank God for our "Isaacs." They will never do anything spectacular, but when the preacher stands to preach, there they are in their place and giving their support. When the teacher gets up to teach, they are there. The greatest mistake in life is to do *nothing*. Isaac did what he could and his name will be forever immortalized in the words: "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Our God loves the "Isaacs" as well as the "Abrahams" and "Jacobs." However, it is a mistake to be an "Isaac" when we could be an "Abraham" or "Jacob." □

Isaac Watts, the Father of English Hymnody

ONE of the greatest hymns ever written, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," was written by Isaac Watts 300 years ago (1707). What we are told about this man and his writing of hymns is highly interesting. His work was so impressive that he has been called the father of English hymnody.

Isaac Watts was born in 1674 in Southampton, England and died the 25th of November, 1748. He lived in a time when the state religion was very unfriendly toward dissenters. His life overlapped with the latter part of that of John Bunyan who, during his imprisonment for his religious beliefs, wrote the well-known classic *Pilgrim's Progress*. As a non-conformist, Isaac Watts' father likewise experienced imprisonment.

We are told that young Watts showed an unusual aptitude for study and learned Latin at the age of five, Greek at nine, French at eleven, and Hebrew at thirteen. He began to write poetic verses of good quality when he was quite young. As a small boy, once during the family prayer time, he began to laugh. His father, disturbed, asked him why he had done this. He replied that he had heard something and opened his eyes to see a mouse climbing a rope in the corner. He immediately versified his thoughts,

*"A little mouse for want of stairs
Ran up a rope to say its prayers."*

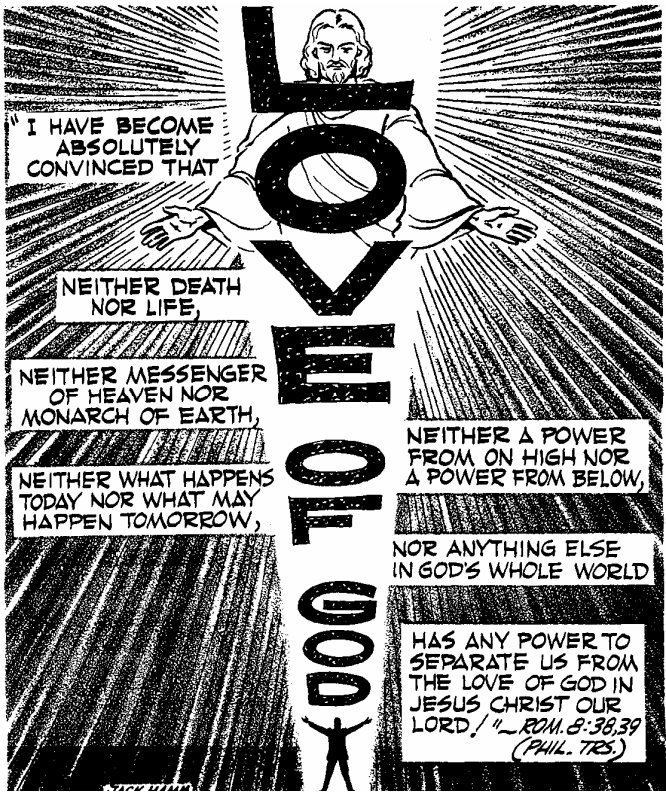
His father didn't think this was funny, and therewith disciplined him. In the midst of this, Isaac cried out,

*"Father, father, mercy take,
And I will no more verses make."*

When he was older, being bored, he complained about the quality of the religious songs that were being sung in his day. With the break from Catholicism, its choirs, its chants and limited singing, Protestants, trying to be Scriptural, had adapted the Psalms to sing, while singing them in a stilted manner and without distinctive Christian content. With Isaac's expression of discontent, his father challenged him to come forth with something better. Between the years of 20 and 22, "hymns poured from his pen with the impetus of a true genius." He is credited with writing from 600 to 750 hymns in his lifetime.

Among those hymns are "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Alas and Did My Savior Bleed," and "Joy to the World." "When I Survey the Won-

drous Cross" has been called the greatest hymn in the English language. It is so expressive.—J.E.G.



Higher Criticism and a Parody (Higher Criticism Method of Bible Study Applied to "Old Mother Hubbard")

IN ORDER to expose the utter folly of the so-called "critical" methods, J.W. McGarvey—once described by the *London Times* as the greatest Bible scholar on either side of the Atlantic—authored (in 1893) a piece titled, "A Literary Analysis of an Ancient Poem." The hilarious satire throws a floodlight upon the absurdity of the critical ideology. The well-known poem, analyzed by Professor McGarvey, reads as follows:

*Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard,
To get her poor dog a bone.
When she got there, the cupboard was bare,
And so the poor dog had none.*

Pursuing the same sort of methodology as that employed by those who dissect the Bible into its alleged literary sources, Professor McGarvey presented the following parody of this nursery rhyme. [Note: We have paragraphed McGarvey's composition for easier reading.]

"In the uncritical ages of the past, this poem was believed to be the composition of a single person—a very ancient English woman by the name of

(Continued on Page 14)

Possible Explanation

SOMEONE has interestingly suggested this possible explanation of demon possession that was common in early New Testament times. God became flesh in Christ, so the devil, wanting to duplicate God, tried to become flesh by demon possession. □



BARBS

...with a POINT



VIRTUE has more preachers than practitioners.

If truth is not absolute, then there is no such thing as truth.

If something is basically wrong, no amount of praying or preaching can make it morally right.

We can never be right with God without being righteous.

When you bury that old man of sin in baptism, be sure that you leave him there when you arise to walk in newness of life.

Christian is as Christian does and Christian does because of who he is.

Consistency is a jewel of great price for which most people are not willing to pay the price of being consistent.

There is nothing like work, coupled with prayer, in getting the Lord's work done (Acts 6:4).

The person, who lets the way the wind blows determine the way he goes, will be blown about by every wind of doctrine.

If you don't stand for something, you will likely fall for anything.

The only organization the Lord has ever instituted to do the work of the church is the church (and the church has its being in local, autonomous units).

If you do not respect and love the truth, you will likewise not respect or love God's messenger of truth.

In these days of materialism, compromise and apostasy, about the only place that we can find a New Testament church is between the pages of the New Testament.

Many entrapped in man-made theological boxes will not be found in that city foursquare.

Most religious movements amount to nothing more than meteorites that briefly light up the horizon as they pass across the skies of time to burn out, leaving behind a denominational cinder and debris.

The trouble with sectarianism is that men take part of the truth and treat it like it is all of the truth.

When we move away from the local church in its simple organization and function, regardless which route we take, we are headed back to Rome.

Many, who once stood for something, after many years of standing, seem to have sat down.

Real Christian unity is a spiritual unity realized and experienced in the context of the local church, not a denominational unity brought on and artificially imposed from beyond the bounds of the local church.

It is hard for a team of horses to pull a load when one is kicking all of the time.

Too many times today the modern church is self-indulgent while the world at large is starving both physically and spiritually.

Many times we are not getting anything done because we are not doing anything.

Some people who are preoccupied with garnishing the sepulchers of the "prophets" (Matthew 23:29), perhaps with view of hoping theirs will be embellished someday, need to revisit the sepulcher of the resurrected Christ (this is the person and tomb that should be the focus of our attention).

It seems that modern man would like to be religious without being religious.

In this modern day of apostasy, before being hasty to "try" something **new** in the church, it would be wise to see if it squared with the **NEW** Testament (1 Thesalonians 5:21,22)

Modern psychology tends to place the guilt on everyone except the personal guilt on the offending party.

Many years from now, archaeologists excavating the ruins of our present generation may well conclude that sports were an integral part of religion, since so many church facilities include a gymnasium.

The flames of hostility are easily extinguished when smothered by love.

We should be resolved to stand for God and truth, and that alone, even if it means that we must stand alone (and sometimes it does mean that). □



Statements about the O.T. and the N.T. Text of the Bible

"The Hebrew Bible has come down to us through the scrupulous care of ancient scribes who copied the original text in successive generations..."

"There is more manuscript support for the New Testament than any other body of ancient literature [secular or otherwise]..."

—Preface to NKJV

Higher Criticism and a Parody...

(Continued from Page 12)

Goose. Whether we should style her Mrs. Goose, or Miss Goose, we have no means of deciding with certainty, for the stories which have come down to historical times concerning her are mostly legendary. It might be supposed that the title "mother" would settle this difficult question; but, as in certain convents of our day, venerable spinsters are styled *Mother*, so may it have been in the days of Goose.

"But, leaving this interesting question as one for further historical inquiry, we turn to the poem itself, and by applying to it the scientific process of literary analysis, we find that the document did not originate, as our fathers have supposed, from a single author, but that it is a composite structure, at least two original documents having been composed within it by a Redactor. This appears from the incongruities between the two traditions which evidently underlie the poem.

"One of these traditions represents the heroine of the poem, a venerable Mrs. Hubbard, as a benevolent woman, who loved her dog, as appears from the fact that she went to the cupboard to get him some food. If we had the whole story, we should doubtless find that she did this every time the dog was hungry, and as she surely would not go to the cupboard for the dog's food unless she knew there was some in the cupboard, we can easily fill out the story of her benevolence by assuming that she put something away for the dog when she ate her own meals.

"Now, in direct conflict with this, the other tradition had it that she kept the dog "poor;" for he is called her "poor dog;" and, in keeping with this fact, instead of giving him meat, she gave him nothing but *bones*. Indeed, so extreme was her stinginess toward the poor dog that, according to this tradition, she actually put away the bones in the cupboard with which to mock the poor dog's hunger.

"A woman could scarcely be represented more inconsistently than Mrs. Hubbard was by these two traditions; and consequently none but those who are fettered by tradition, can fail to see that the two must have originated from two different authors.

"For the sake of distinction, we shall style one of the authors, Goose A, and the other, Goose B. In these two forms, then, the traditions concerning this ancient owner of a dog came down from prehistoric times. At length there arose a literary age in England, and then R [Redactor] put together into one the accounts written by the two geese, but failed to conceal their incongruities, so that unto

this day, Mother Hubbard is placed in the ridiculous light of going to the cupboard when there was nothing in it; of going there, notwithstanding her kindness to her dog, to tantalize him by getting him a mere *bone*; and to cap the climax, of going all the way to the cupboard to get the bone when she knew very well that not a bone was there.

"Some people are unscientific enough to think, that in thus analyzing the poem, we are seeking to destroy its value; but every one who has the critical faculty developed can see that this ancient household lyric is much more precious to our souls since we have come to understand its structure; and that, contradictory as its two source documents were, it is a blessed thing that, in the providence of God, both have been preserved in such a form that critical analysis is capable of separating and restoring them"—**Wayne Jackson** (*Biblical Criticism*, Cincinnati: Standard Publishing, 1910, pp. 34-36). □

Prayer Reportedly Heard On Radio Program

"HEAVENLY FATHER, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"

— **Paul Harvey** "*The Rest of the Story*" □

Who Makes Mistakes?

**Be not concerned nor surprised,
If what you do is criticized;
Mistakes are made, we can't deny,
But only made by folks who try.**

—*Selected*

For Purposes of Being Informed...

**Word for Word Information
from an Internet Encyclopedia on
the Origin of What is Called
“Christian Rock” Music**

CHRISTIAN ROCK MUSIC did not exist in 1967, but an unknown band* straight from the beer halls with long hair, beards and wild clothing was about to change everything. The band never limited itself to one kind of music, so in 1967 at the suggestion of Reverend Paine [campus minister]...the psychedelic rock band began writing rock music for church with a serious intent to get the music across. They took Rock n Roll into churches, assisting in an actual Mass with communion. The music they created was named the *Electric Liturgy*, sometimes called the *Electric Mass*. By January 1968, after months of writing, the Mind Garage had finished the *Electric Liturgy* and was practicing in Reverend Paine’s attic with the premier performance a few weeks away. *Then, as cymbals crashed and voices called for love and thanksgiving, babies squealed and happy smiles spontaneously flickered across the congregation, those dirty beatnick-hippies had a new image.* “I didn’t know they were like THAT!” one woman exclaimed. “That was beautiful”.

By July of 1968, the term “theo-rock” was coined in the Village Voice in reference to The Mind Garage. By the end of 1968 the Mind Garage had performed the *Electric Liturgy* live more than a dozen times, each time with people dancing in the isles. The persistent efforts by the Mind Garage to contemporize religious music succeeded in church after church, and state after state, and broke down the barriers between church and rock and roll, creating an environment where a whole new genre of rock and roll could thrive. By January, 1970, they had accomplished what they set out to do. Today the genre is called Christian Rock. The early beginnings are well documented from 1967 to 1970 in the local and national magazines, news-papers and TV shows of the late sixties including ABC and NBC TV, The Village Voice, Billboard and Rolling Stone magazine...

The most famous Mind Garage poster was controversial and depicts a semi-nude woman surrounded by the group. However it was used several times as the cover for service booklets, most notably in **St. Mark’s Episcopal Church** in the Bowery, New York City. A nude woman was too controversial for most church bulletins in

mainstream conservative America of 1968, so a variation of the poster, was made by covering the nude woman with a banner saying, “Welcome to the Electric Liturgy”...

* In 1967, the Glass Menagerie group disbanded, and Larry McClurg, Jack Bond, and Norris Lytton added John Vaughan and Ted Smith to form a new, as yet unnamed band. All were students at West Virginia University. There they met the fiery, young, controversial and imaginative campus minister, Reverend Michael Paine, whose wife, Tori, named the band. While still known only locally, the group recorded an original single 45 rpm “Asphalt Mother” along with a cover of “Reach Out”, which sold well in Morgantown and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and is now a collectors item.

—from *Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia*
Under MIND GARAGE



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Answers to:
BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Genesis 17:17; Romans 4:19; 2. Exodus 34:28-35; 2 Corinthians 3:7-13; 3. **Joshua**, who was the leader of Israel after Moses’ death (Deuteronomy 31:23; etc.) and **Joshua**, high priest (Zechariah, chapter 3; etc.); 4. Joshua chapter 9; Joshua 11:19; 5. 2 Samuel 5:6-10; 6. Judges 13:1-24; 7. Psalms 14 and 53; 8. Song of Solomon 7:13; Genesis 30:14-18; 9. Isaiah 1:1; 10. Mark 15:42; 11. Matthew 1:20; 2:12; 2:13; 27:19; 12. Luke 1:24-28;; 13. John 7:1; 11:54; 20:19; 14. John 6:59 (6:32-59); 15. John 17; 16. John 18:10; 17. John 19:25-27; 18. Acts 1:14; 19. Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:10; 20. Hebrews 8:4 indicates the temple was still standing and the priests were still serving in it. □

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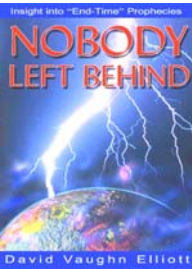
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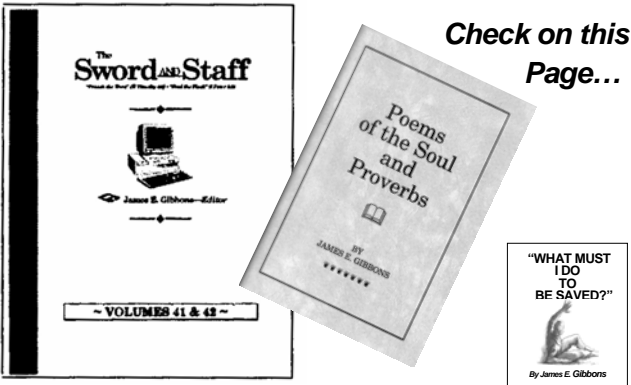
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