



By Jim Waldron

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Jim E. Waldron



Jim E. Waldron was born November 4, 1935, in Nashville, Tennessee. He was baptized by Calvin Parker at West Nashville Heights in 1953. He finished high school at Bellevue, Nashville in 1955. He attended David Lipscomb College from 1955–57 and from 1959–60, graduating with a B.A. in History from Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee in 1961. Ten years later at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville he graduated with an M.S. in Extension Education from the College of Agriculture.

Waldron has preached in East Tennessee and North Carolina twelve and a half years, four years in Australia (1971–75), three years in Pakistan (1967–70), and two and a half years in middle Tennessee.

Waldron has taught in schools of preaching for eight years; in Karachi, Pakistan; Sydney, N.S.W., Australia; and Knoxville, Tennessee. He taught in public school in 1962–63. Waldron has participated in six public debates, two of which are in print – one on the 1000 year reign and one on the subject of marriage, divorce and remarriage.

Waldron met his wife, the former Laura Gary of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, at David Lipscomb, and was married February 22, 1958. The Waldrons have four children: Gary Stephen, born January 29, 1959; Philip Calvin, born August 3, 1961; Mark Bryan, born March 25, 1963; and Kamni Ruth, born December 1, 1967, whom they adopted in Pakistan in 1969. Stephen is married to the former Dorcas Pugh of Ashland City, Tennessee. Dorcas is the granddaughter of the late Dorris Wilson, a beloved gospel preacher in Cheatham County, Tennessee. Philip is married to the former Donna Durham of LaVergne, Tennessee.

A permanent contact for the Waldrons is in care of W.E. Gary, Box 233, Route 1, Harriman, Tennessee 37748, U.S.A.

NOTE: Since the foregoing was written, The Waldrons have moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where they work with a local congregation.

A Statement From The Publisher

I have known Bro. Jim Waldron and family for the past several years. To be more exact, we came in contact with each other back in the mid-1960's. At that time we had just returned home after spending some four years in Karachi, Pakistan. Having planned originally to go to India, we still wanted to go there, but we just couldn't walk off and leave the work that we had already begun. That was where Jim and family came in. They were also thinking about going to India, but since visas were not available, then we encouraged them to think about going to Karachi. We didn't have visas to India either but we thought if we could just go there that we might be able to find a way to stay.

Anyway, by August of 1967 we returned to Karachi to carry on the work there until the Waldrons could come. They came a little later and so the stage was set for us to move on. In the mean time, we got a call from an American family to come to Colombo, Sri Lanka to begin the church there. As it turned out, things worked out so that we did go by Colombo and later to New Delhi where we continue to work to this day.

But back to the Waldrons. They worked in Pakistan for some time and later when they were unable to get new visas to proceed with their work there, then they moved to Australia where they put in another period of work. Over in the early part of the 1980's they also labored for some time in Hong Kong. At this present time Jim preaches for a congregation of the Lord's church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Especially while in Australia, Jim wrote a number of the articles appearing in this book. You will note in particular that several of them deal specifically with things that occurred while he and his family lived in that country. Then on moving to Hong Kong, he continued to write, and it was during that time that he, at my request, compiled this series of materials for publication in this form.

Jim touches on a number of very important and timely themes. He writes out of a feeling for the need that something be said at the time. His sincerity can easily be sensed in what he says and how he says it. I personally believe that these writings will continue to be helpful to those who read them. It may be that the things said here will be very beneficial to any number of your friends and contacts, and we invite you to assist us in getting this book into the hands of as many people as possible.

Thank you, Jim, for writing these articles and for allowing us to print them so that they might be more widely used. As we work together, in this way, as well as in other ways, we can help and encourage one another in the Lord's work, and together we can evangelize the world. Lord, hasten the day!

J.C. Choate
Singapore
Sept. 10, 1985

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Part I

THE LITTLE
RED SCHOOL BOOK
THAT WAS BLUE

The Little Red School Book

The little Red School Book was a vile little book published world-wide in the late 1960's or early 70's. It showed up in Australia as a tabloid for free distribution in mid-1972. This author wrote three articles for the local paper in Windsor, New South Wales about the book. These articles provoked several letters to the editor. Two of these are included, one by a Mrs. H. of Windsor, in opposition to my articles and one in commendation by Mrs. E. M. Hurst of Kurrajong, N.S.W. The latter place being a small village fifty miles west of the Sydney Central Post Office in the Blue Mountains on the road to Bathhurst.

The word "blue" in the title is used in the sense of "improper or indecent, such as a "blue joke or a blue movie." This term is more often used in British or Aussie English than in American. These articles led to others, many of which are reproduced here for your enjoyment.

What About The Little Red School Book?

As a Christian and family man I have been more and more concerned about the growing menace of pornography in our community. Yet, the purveyors of filth have even now become more vile than ever as they have resorted to publishing this villainous little manual on immorality and do it yourself anarchy for free distribution among our school children.

For months it has been true that a man could not send his nine or ten year old son to the newsstand for a paper or for a school pencil without the child being exposed to lewd pictures and corrupt books; yet, now worse filth is being given away to school children free. "The Little Red School Book," which has been selling at the newsstand for \$1.75, but is now available without charge in tabloid form, was according to the tabloid edition, published first in Denmark in 1969, and has since then gone through fifteen editions in such countries as Finland, Germany, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, America, Italy, Spain, Britain, New Zealand and other countries. The authors are said to be Soren Hensen and Jasper Jensen and the translator from Danish was Berit Thornberry. The tabloid edition published in Sydney, gives what is said to be a fictitious publisher S. De Mercy, Thor Publications, 22 Catch St. Kenso.

The material in the publication uses the most vile and lewd terms to discuss adultery, fornication, homosexuality and all uncleanness, and at the same time is written to school children urging them to experiment in these gross immoralities and perversions. It also encourages rebellion on the part of children against all authority of parents, government and God. It is set not only against all that Christians hold dear, but against every man who is moral and cares about the sanity and happiness of his children and his home.

Such publications are diametrically opposed to the faith that we as God's people hold dear, as it is written, "Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9—10, N.A.S.).

This writer has written five newspapers in the Sydney area, the police and also sent a letter to the Prime Minister in Canberra concerning the continued growth of pornographic materials in our area and he urges you to do likewise. "To him therefore that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." The way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Write a letter today.

Be Honest With Your Children **— Mrs. H.** (Opposition Letter)

(To the editor) Sir, May I answer the learned evangelist, Jim E. Waldron, re "The Little Red School Book."

As an adult in a so-called free-thinking society, I am more than amazed at the furore that this book is causing. Like any other book, people will use their own discretion as to whether they will purchase and read it or not. As for children seeing the book, reading it and being corrupted by some of the words used, then Mr. Waldron has not listened too closely to various groups of children and even individual children as they "throw" some of these words around trying to be "with it."

These children have most probably never had the so-called "filthy words" discussed with them at home and therefore do not realize that even those words have meanings other than to be used to sound "smart." Is it not better to be honest with your children, so that if a publication such as this comes their way, they will then be able to look at it objectively and discuss it openly and freely at home.

I would also say that most homes have on their bookshelves a copy of the Bible, portions of which contain some rather pornographic material. Should this world-wide publication be kept from the children and ultimately banned? The reference re the "Kingdom of Heaven" didn't seem to fit most ideas of so-called forgiving Gods.

May I remind Mr. Waldron that one of Christ's most ardent followers was in fact a prostitute – Mary Magdalene. Will we, as married fornicators and idolaters of our respective spouses be refused entry when our time eventually comes? Will the effeminates and homosexuals – only that through fate of birth – also be refused entry? Can any of us who have so-called sinned in any other way be resigned to being left behind? I think not.

The church is always bemoaning the fact that their attendances are dropping – what else can they expect when they are so dogmatic and biased in their teachings and opinions and not even willing to discuss current issues with their remaining "flock."

Let us all be more willing to have the time to listen to the other man's point of view and even if we don't agree with him, at least give him a fair hearing.

Mr. Waldron may well listen to the words of a famous philosopher who said: "I may not always agree with what you say but I will defend to the end your God-given right to say it." Mrs. H. of Windsor.

Answer to Mrs. H.

Mrs. H. seems to think that since various groups of children use lewd words that is reason enough to allow free distribution of the L.R.S. Book.

Being honest with one's children does not mean allowing them to read such trash as the L.R.S.B. God's word says there are some things "it is a shame even to speak of" (Ephesians 5:12). God's word asks of some, "Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jeremiah 8:12). Maybe some women (and men) like Mrs. H. can speak of these shameful things without blushing, but not those who fear God.

Mrs. H's reference to the Bible and pornography shows how little she knows about the former. We recognize the Bible tells about immoral acts taking place, but we deny they are pornographic. God's book is about saving people from such.

The reference to the kingdom of heaven from I Corinthians 6:9-11 which says, "neither fornicator ... nor effeminate, nor homosexuals ... shall inherit the kingdom of God" goes on to say "such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

No, the immoral cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven, but if they will repent, turn to God and do works worthy of repentance (Acts 26:20) they can be sanctified in Christ Jesus. Would that all the Mrs. H's in the world repent and be baptized into Jesus.

The Scriptures nowhere call Mary Magdalene a prostitute. The scriptures say Christ cast seven demons out of her (Mark 16:9), but it is a baseless assumption to say she was a harlot. However, I hasten to add, Christ receives prostitutes when they come to him in repentance. In fact he told the hypocritical chief priests of his day “the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you” (Matthew 21:31). Rahab of Jericho was a harlot, but she turned to God and was saved (James 2:25). Mrs. H. does not seem to realize that all of us who are Christians are saved sinners. Jesus came to save sinners. We are saints (Romans 1:7) by virtue of the fact we have been “sanctified” in Christ, that is, set apart for his service. We as sinners come into Christ by faith, repentance, and immersion in water.

To refer to “married fornicators” shows how naive Mrs. H. is about the teaching of God on sexuality, God who made man with his sexual nature (Genesis 1:26–28) said, “Let marriage be had in honor among all and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).

In marriage “the bed of marriage” is right and honorable and holy; it is outside of God ordained marriage that it is fornication or adultery. It is typical of such as the L.R.S.B. to pretend that godly men think that the sexual relationship is wrong in and of itself. Such is the devil’s lie.

Another of the devil’s lies: homosexuals are that way “through fate of birth.” Homosexuals are made, not born. If a man does not feel he wants to marry a woman, he can be a eunuch. But he cannot be a pervert. God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.

The churches are bemoaning the lack of attendance be-

cause they have compromised with the likes of Mrs. H. Liberal churches have let down the fence to (as they hoped) get the crowd in. But instead the members saw little difference with the church and the world so they went out. Churches that stand for something are growing.

I will not defend anyone's right to spread obscenities such as the Little Red School Book, but will rather oppose such with all my powers of speech and pen.

The Home And The Little Red School Book

That every line of the Little Red School Book is not vile and provocative we recognize, but only a casual review of the whole book will show that any good within it is simply sheep's clothing for a very ungodly wolf.

For example, the section which speaks of the harmful (albeit it confuses the issue by associating coffee and tea with "durgs") effects of narcotics is not bad, but why champion the danger of drugs to the body in a book while promoting sexual perversions and fornication which destroy bodies and homes. As it is written: "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (I Corinthians 6:18). The promoting of perversions and fornication is the most objectionable feature of the book for these two sins strike directly at the basic building block of a moral society. The home is the basic unit of the neighborhood, the community and the nation. Such publica-

tions as the Little Red School Book are to the home what cancer is to the body.

The God-ordained home formed by the marriage of one man and one woman to each other in love provides the best environment for any society's upcoming generation. Therefore it is written "for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:5-6). "And wherefore one? He sought a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth" (Malachi 2:15).

More On The Little Red School Book

Is the controversy over The Little Red School Book a "tempest in a teapot" or do parents and educators have real cause to fear its influence on the upcoming generation? Certainly in recent years the growing menace of pornography has exposed our children to a virtual flood of mind-polluting materials. Yet, generally the purveyors of filth have been motivated by greed for the all mighty dollar; but, when a vile book which has been selling for \$1.75 is distributed free to children at school bus stops or opposite school grounds it begins to appear that someone wants to deliberately destroy our way of life.

A strong clue as to who is behind this corrupt little manual on do-it-yourself anarchy is found on page 12

where teachers are called paper tigers. For years the godless communist propaganda machines have reviled the leading nations of the western world as being paper tigers. Now our children are being taught to see their teachers as paper tigers. Not only this, but in a cunningly devised fashion the authors of The Little Red School Book teach the children to undermine school discipline and have confrontations with the school authorities in such things as boycotts and strikes.

One of the ironic things about this book is that the vile, filthy, ungodly way it treats the subject of sex will lead many young people to read it out of curiosity and not only have their minds corrupted in the matter of sexual morality, but they will drink in the spirit of rebellion against authority. This spirit will lead to rebellion against parents, educators, the nation and ultimately against God.

Another ironic thing in our times is that many religious leaders with their modernistic approach to the sacred scriptures which causes them to deny such things as the Biblical account of creation, the virgin birth, the resurrection, and Bible morality, have laid a fertile field in the hearts of many for such corruption as that of The Little Red School Book to grow.

Purpose To Corrupt Young – Mrs E. M. Hurst

(To the editor) Sir, May I congratulate Mr. Jim Waldron on his stand against the distribution of The Little Red School Book and similar types of mind pollution.

With all the protests against various types of pollution, Mr. Waldron is the only courageous voice against the worst pollution – that of the mind of the child.

Mrs. H. of Windsor, referring to the Bible, has apparently adopted her own interpretations. May I remind her that Christ never showed anger towards a repentant sinner as was evident in his treatment of Mary Magdalene, of the woman taken in adultery, but advised her to “sin no more.” To the woman who had several husbands, but showed humility, he revealed his identity and forgave her because through weakness she had sinned but she was humble and repentant. To Peter, who denied him, he showed no anger, only forgiveness.

Traders in pornography and advocates of abortion should take warning from the fact that the gentle, forgiving Jesus spoke in a different tone when referring to “one who hurts the conscience of one of these little ones, that believe in me, he had better have been drowned in the depths of the sea, with a mill-stone hung about his neck.” Woe to the world, for the hurt done to consciences! It must needs be that such hurt should come, but woe to the man through whom it comes.

Christ also said, “He who gives welcome to such a child as this, in my name, gives welcome to me.” “See to it that you do not treat one of these little ones with contempt.” For hypocrites, tempters, and “vipers” Jesus showed no gentleness.

Once again, I commend Mr. Waldron and his wonderful workers in the little Church of Christ at Kurrajong for their power for good in the district and their efforts to open the eyes of the gullible, apathetic members of the community to the insidious force behind such publica-

tions, the express purpose of which is to corrupt the young and cause friction between them and their parents or teachers, as they also try to cause friction in other sections of the community and the world everywhere. Mrs. E. M. Hurst, July 5, 1972.

Part II

CURRENT ISSUES

Abortion

There are one or two denominational groups that run around making it their business to speak evil of governments and authority as though all governments were of the devil. That “the wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget God” (Psalms 9:17), we know and teach most assuredly warning men continually that they should “repent, and turn to God doing works worthy of repentance” (Acts 26:20); but we also know “there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that withstand shall receive to themselves judgement. For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil” (Romans 13:1–3). Again God’s word says, “I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men; for kings and all that are in high places, that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity” (I Timothy 2:12).

We therefore, thank the God of all grace for the members of Parliament who cast a vote against the abortion bill and thereby cast a vote against the further demoralization of this great nation and a vote for the lives of many little babies, who are helpless, harmless and undefiled (Matthew 19:14).

Yet, the price of liberty whether political, religious or moral is eternal vigilance. Thus the effort to restore that church which shook the ungodliness and immorality of the Roman Empire from center to circumference must be pursued with vigor. The restoration of the original apostolic church of Christ in name, worship, organization, doctrine, purity and practice is an absolute must if we would

help to curtail the political, social and sexual immorality that is consuming western society.

Abortion on demand legislation is just the symptom of the disease that is destroying western civilization. There have been a number of forces, which have led the way in the demoralization of western man. Not among the least of these are: 1) the Playboy Philosophy of Hugh Hefner started in the fifties to exploit the use of sexual lust to sell magazines and to fill night clubs, which paved the way for newsstands in virtually every city, town and village from New York to Perth via Sydney to be covered with lewd women in provocative poses to excite the lust of men, while God's word says "whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28) and "they who practice such things cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5: 21); 2) the seductive and lascivious (that which produces lust) dress, which was born in Hollywood and on the French Riviera, but now excites men's passions to adultery and even rape on the beaches and main streets around the world; 3) the liberal theologians with their soft attitude toward and even their advocacy of the new life style of sexual freedom and situation ethics, which condones lying to keep from hurting one's feelings, sex out of marriage, sodomy, etc.; 4) the mass media with its mania for the spectacular, bizarre and lewd and its willingness to put a microphone in front of the immoralist, the God-is-dead sect and the haters of everything that is morally right and honorable such as the home, and the family; 5) and the soft politician who thinks a statesman is a Neanderthal man, and who seeks to pamper every peevish bunch of loud mouths who are bent on anarchy and have no higher ambition in this life than to simply remove all laws against "carnal knowledge." These and other things have set the morally defunct stage for the abortion on demand people

and only a return to Biblical morality and righteousness by thousands can provide the salt to preserve western civilization.

Hired Killers

In I Corinthians chapter 5 the apostle Paul warned the church at Corinth that it was absolutely essential that they excommunicate one of their prominent members, who was living in an adulterous incestuous situation, declaring unto them that such an ungodly situation was not even named among the heathen. Such is the case with the “Christian”? nations today of western society.

In the United States for example the Supreme Court on January 22, 1973, rendered a decision on abortion which overturned all state laws and permitted abortions until the seven month. Here is a court in a supposedly Christian nation stepping in to allow the execution of little unborn infants. We ask as Pontius Pilate did of Jesus “Why, what evil hath he done?” What crime has the little fetus done that he should be executed or murdered? We cry out when we hear of a mobster taking a contract on another man’s life to kill him for money; we equally deplore the crime of those who hired him. Mickey Walker, a faithful gospel preacher, writing some years ago in the U.S. to oppose these ungodly executions of unborn infants, said “What difference is there in a hoodlum who take a contract on the life of another for hire and a doctor who is hired by the parents of an innocent fetus to take his life? They are both paid assassins. A physician needs to realize that when he has a pregnant woman in his care he has two patients. Yet, over 115,000 legalized abortions were performed at

\$1000 each in New York in 1972 by doctors who have abandoned the ancient provisions of the Hippocratic Oath for this lucrative type practice.”

The truth of the matter is that the unborn child is guilty of no sin or crime whatsoever for God’s word says “the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father” (Ez. 18:20). The problem so very often involved, when someone wants to kill the fetus, is that the mother and father cared so little for themselves and their God-given ability to produce children that they refused to marry and committed fornication, or some couple got to slipping around on their own husband or wife and committed adultery. Thus the parents, not the unborn baby, are guilty before God as fornicators and God’s word warns, “Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (I Corinthians 6:9–10).

Just now the ugly prospect of abortion on demand raises its morally repulsive head in our midst. Shall we sit idly by while evil men and women demand for themselves, and anybody else, license and an open season on unborn children? God forbid! Write a letter today opposing this crime against God and humanity.

Slaughtering The Innocent

Dr. and Mrs. Wilke in their *Handbook on Abortion* (Hiltz Publishing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio) have written, “Our newly enacted permissive abortion laws (in western socie-

ty) ... represent a complete about-face, a total rejection of one of the core values of western man, and an acceptance of a new ethic in which life has only a relative value (and) man will now be allowed to exist only if he measures up to certain standards of independence, physical perfection, or utilitarian usefulness to others.”

The abortion on demand people in our society are crying that women have a right to rid themselves of unwanted babies. They have judged already that little helpless and harmless unborn babies are no more worthy of life or liberty than a tumor or a hunk of meat. How long after government officials and courts start allowing doctors to kill unborn babies will it be before they start allowing deformed and feeble-minded children to be put out of the way; only a very naive individual who knows absolutely nothing about history would say we are not headed down that road. The *paterfamilias* of ancient Rome, which gave the father power of life and death over his children, led to sickly and deformed children being drowned immediately at birth, and so many females were simply exposed to die that professionalists gathered them up and raised them until they could be sold as slaves.

The sixth chapter of Proverbs names seven things that are an abomination to the living God and one of these is “hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:17). Little children are so innocent of all sin and crime that Jesus said “except ye turn, and become as little children, he shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18: 3). In passing we note the doctrine that little children have inherited sin is as far from the truth as mid-day is from mid-night else how could Jesus have even used little children as the perfect example for those who must be born again to enter the kingdom (See John 3:5). God will not hold guiltless the doctors who shed the innocent blood of

unborn babies, nor the calloused parents who allow it to be done. Their only hope, if they have already sinned in this way, is to turn to Christ in faith, true repentance and baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:36–38).

Hitler, who destroyed innocent people because they did not measure up to his standards, is the classic example in modern history of a government official using his power to destroy innocent blood. A Nazi judge said to an American judge in Nuremburg concerning the atrocities of the Third Reich, “I never knew it would come to this.” The American replied, “It came to this the first time you condemned an innocent life” (Wilke p. 5).

There is a loud clamor going up in some quarters to abolish laws against immorality and against abortion, saying laws force people into clandestine affairs and that fewer laws will make for less lawlessness, but this is absolute nonsense even as God’s word says, “Law was not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and unruly, for the ungodly and sinners, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for abusers of themselves with men (homosexuals), for menstealers, for liars, for false swearers and if there be any other thing contrary to sound doctrine” (I Timothy 1:9–10). Some men will be lawless whether there are laws or not and law is a must to control such.

Beverage Alcohol

An unknown poet once wrote a poem after the tenor of these words: “Another name for a pub is a bar, The fittest

of its names by far; A bar to heaven, a door to hell, Whoever named it, named it well. A bar to manliness and wealth, A door to want and broken health. A bar to honor, pride and fame, A door to grief, sin and shame. A bar to hopes, a bar to prayer, A door to darkness and despair. An honored, useful life, A door to brawling, senseless strife. A bar to all that's true and brave, A door to every drunkard's grave. A bar to joys that home imparts, A door to tears and aching hearts. A bar to heaven, a door to hell; Whoever named it, named it well."

Solomon the wiseman wrote by inspiration: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; and whosoever erreth thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). Again he said: "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper." (Proverbs 23:29-32).

The current issue of the Medical Journal of Australia confirms again what was stated in this column last week, and that is, that at least half of all road deaths involves beverage alcohol. The editorial pointed out that the vast majority of the people in the nation, and especially men, did drink and many consumed a large dose of alcohol. Heavy drinking increased with age between 20 and 60 and then decreased sharply.

The editorial went on to report exactly as this writer affirmed last week that there is social pressure in our communities to cause young men to drink. The editorial stated, "In young men under 25, there is considerable social pres-

sure from time to time to drink recklessly and to drive recklessly, and to do both together.”

Not only is beverage alcohol responsible in half the fatalities on the highway but it is a major factor in putting “dutch courage” into those who commit crimes of violence. Many who commit armed robbery, murder or rape would never do so if their minds were not dazed with alcohol in their blood.

Yet, in our society the advertisers and sellers of this devil’s brew are treated like respected citizens while their victims are drowning at the bottom of a bottle or getting themselves into trouble that never would have come on them if it had not been for beverage alcohol. Cigarettes are harmful, but they never have nor never will touch side, top or bottom in producing the untold misery that alcohol does. Yet, they carry a warning on them while beverage alcohol is proclaimed as the drink of “distinction.” We believe it is the drink of “extinction.”

1001

On 2 November 1973 it was announced that one thousand and one persons had been killed on the highways of New South Wales, and the highway death toll seemed headed to another all-time record for the year. Many factors cause the increased carnage on the highways such as more cars with more powerful engines, but by far the greatest single factor in highway deaths is beverage alcohol for more than fifty per cent of all highway deaths in New South Wales involves the use of beverage alcohol. This is true in spite of a campaign by public authorities against

drinking and driving, according to a study by the Department of Motor Transport (Drinking and Driving in Sydney, Kathleen Freedman, et. al. May, 1973). In fact "the survey provided evidence of direct social pressures to drink and drive in particular social situations such as a party or at the pub, nearly 50 per cent (of the men in the survey) said that people filling up your glasses made it difficult to limit your drinks at a party. Young men between 25 and 29 appeared to be most vulnerable to this sort of pressure." (Ibid. p. 19).

The statement makes it clear that when a young man is arrested for driving with the prescribed amount of alcohol in his blood, loses his licence, and receives a heavy fine it may well be that he was pressured into drinking and driving. We do not justify the driver, but we think the people who are serving the booze ought to recognize their sin of putting the bottle into the hands of young drivers. The liquor advertisements say, the man of distinction drinks whiskey, scotch or bourbon, but a man who drinks it may well be a man of "extinction" on the highway. Parents drink booze before their youngsters, never thinking of the harmful example they are setting. Church people lobby in court for more booze to be sold in more communities, never thinking of the bad influence on the youngsters of the community.

Clergymen are often just as ready to take a high ball as their parishioners. God's word teaches a church member who is a drunkard should be disfellowshipped, (I Corinthians 5:11), but most churches have so many social drinkers in them you could not withdraw from a drunk if you wanted to!

God's word says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him

drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness” (Habakkuk 2:15).

The next time you hear of a young man killed on the highway because of beverage alcohol, think of the parent, publican or party giver who handed him the bottle. No wonder the young people think the over-30 age group is hypocritical.

The Curse of Gambling

Behind the veneer of glamor and excitement there lies the misery of financial disaster, broken homes and sometimes even suicide of those who have been unable to control their gambling. In an emotional climate conducive to excessive gambling there are always those who will gamble foolishly or extravagantly, but more tragic still are those who are particularly vulnerable to the compulsive-type addiction. Rather like the alcoholic with his first drink, once they begin to gamble they lose all control and will gamble away every cent they can lay their hands on. The American Mental Health Association estimates that there are six million compulsive gamblers in the U.S.A. alone. “Most people gamble for money,” said Rick, a compulsive gambler in his mid-forties with twenty years of solid betting behind him, “but I worked two jobs for five years just so that I could keep up my gambling, and even then I ended up in prison.

“When my wife and family were with me I got so low I used to rob the kids’ piggy bank at times ;most of the stuff in our home was pawned more than once, and when I had a big win I used to buy my wife something valuable –

something that would bring back a good price if I needed money in a hurry. When the craze grips me I do things that would make a sane man sick.”

In a Sydney club is a solitary business man standing at the poker machine gallery, playing two twenty-cent machines simultaneously. His eyes are glazed and his movements almost automatic. For thirty-five minutes he inserts coins and pulls the handles, one with each hand, pausing only to cash more cheques over the bar-counter. In that time he puts an estimated hundred and twenty dollars into those machines and the returns from both possibly total forty. He walks out with a completely expressionless face. There are thousands like this man in Australia. Such is the power of a compulsion. (Life Line, Alan Walker, Collins Press, London, 1967).

As the above quotes from Mr. Alan Walker's Life Line show, gambling takes hold of people and destroys them financially, morally and spiritually; yet vested interest groups like clubs, syndicates and racketeers continue to push for more opportunities to fleece the public, urging law makers to liberalize the laws against gambling, which does untold harm to lives and communities.

God's word says "thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7), and gambling is motivated from a strong lust to have another's possessions without a fair value or for honest labor. Again God's word says "covetousness is idolatry" Colossians 3:5. This is because covetousness is a strong passion after material possession in the way an infidel follows after a stone god.

The Hobart Casino

On Sunday afternoon 12 August this writer returned from a speaking engagement in Hobart. Hobart, whose natural setting must surely be one of the most beautiful in all the world, is taken with the new man-made attraction she has, the Casino. The newspaper there prints every little scrap of news concerning the gamblers' paradise in Tasmania. The Casino building is beautiful, but it is a monument to man's lust for other men's money.

God's word says "covetousness is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5) and the Casino has been built to fleece people of their money, while they are being conned into thinking they can fleece the professional gamblers and their games.

Some glory in such enterprises because they are tourist attractions but they also attract other things. The U.S. cities like Las Vegas and Reno who have made themselves famous by attracting tourists with human greed as the driving factor have found themselves attracting mobsters who buy into legal gambling casinos to give them the status of respectability.

Such enterprises as the Hobart Casino also create a demand for night shows and night club acts that are inevitably vulgar and lewd. God's word says "let no filthy communication proceed out of your mouths" (Ephesians 4:29). Yet, already big time entertainers are being brought to Hobart who tell their dirty little jokes and dance their lewd poses to the merriment of audiences.

Jokes are already being made about the lack of call girls

in Hobart, but big time gambling spawns such. Nevada has caravan parks full of them. God's word warns young men of the dangers of the prostitute: "For the lips of a strange woman drop honey. And her mouth is smoother than oil: but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death" (Proverbs 5:3-5).

Yet, someone says the abuses of such gambling casinos can be policed. Famous last words! Police can be corrupted and big time gambling is what provides sufficient funds to bribe and corrupt government officials. Legalizing gambling and winking at illegal games in big town restaurants is a major way to foster corruption in our cities and communities.

A more pathetic problem with fostering gambling in community action groups, schools and even religious organizations is the use of gambling to raise funds for a good cause. Such is to use the old adage the end justifies the means, which simply is not true.

When adults condemn big time gambling in Hobart, King's Cross or Las Vegas, and yet put out their little roulette wheels, toy racing dogs and cake raffles, in small towns all around the country, it is no wonder the young people often think older people are hypocritical. Such "Innocent" amusements are the nursery schools for big gambling and our young people can see our inconsistency. God's word says "thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7), and gambling is motivated from a strong lust to have another's possessions without a fair value or for honest labor.

Churches and Homosexuals

Last week the Australian Council of Churches after a five day conference in Melbourne came out saying that because of the great scientific knowledge in the 20th Century the teaching of the Bible against homosexuality was to be disregarded for our day.

This statement is very revealing as to the clerics' basic belief in the inspiration of the Scriptures. God's word says "no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21), and again Jesus himself said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

In marriage the sex act is right, honorable and pure according to God (Hebrews 13:4), but God strongly condemns perversions for his word says, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature; and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness ..." (Romans 1:26, 27).

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because the men had given up natural desires and burned in their lust for "strange flesh" (Genesis 19:1-5, Jude 7). Hardly a month ago a mother in Sydney had to fight a man to save her little two year old boy from being dragged into the man's car.

Now these religious leaders come out condemning the Bible as being antiquated and making their pronouncements, "God has created life in a great variety of forms ...

homosexuality is one such form.” Well do the scriptures speak of such religious leaders, who are yes men to the world: “This people honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me” (Matthew 15:8).

Friend, where does your preacher stand on these sins which destroy the home and mock the marriage vow? What good does it do for local churches to write letters against an immoral film like “Last Tango in Paris” and then turn around and send their annual dues to the A.C. of C. which can lead millions to sin because of their pious platitudes? No wonder young people think the established churches are hypocritical and have a double standard! God’s word says that to bid Godspeed to such false teachers is to be partakers with them in their evil deeds (II John 9–11).

Preachers! Four hundred years ago a little-known German preacher saw the religious world in a low state of morality and sought to reform the situation. Which one of you have the backbone not just to help reform the decadent religious scene, but to restore the pure unperverted gospel of Jesus to our community and the world? Commit your life to preach “the whole council of God” (I Peter 4:11), and do Bible things in Bible ways and call Bible things by Bible names.

What Is Sin?

The simple answer to this question is found in the word of God, even as it is written, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law” (II John 3:4). Thus when a man disobeys the commandments and teachings of God he is

committing sin. Sin is an act or thought one does and not – contrary to popular opinion and religious tradition – what one inherits.

For the scriptures say, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). That is, they have acted – done things of their own will to bring them short of God’s glory. Isaiah 53:6 shows sin is an act of will, not an inherited thing, when it says, “All we like sheep have gone astray” – not born astray. The ancient Israelites affirmed that a child inherited sin with this proverb to teach it: “The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge” (Ezekiel 18:2), but the Lord God declared to them, “Ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel” (Ezekiel 18:3). Again he continued, “The soul that sinneth it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son (Ezekiel 18:20). The scriptures affirm the effect of Adam’s sin, death passed to all men, but not the guilt (Romans 5:12–14).

Jesus plainly taught that sin’s defilement of man comes from his heart for he said, “That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these things come from within, and defile the man.” (Mark 7:20–23). Little children can suffer from the evil environment of sin brought on by parents or older family members (Exodus 20:5) and even learn at an early age to mimic the cursing, swearing and vulgar talk of their elders, but it is only a mocking action for God said, “The imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth” (not his babyhood or childhood) (Genesis 8:21). In fact, Jesus himself when he walked this earth as deity incarnate, Emmanuel

(Matthew 1:23), showed little children are sinless when he said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:14). That is, little children are like those born again who are in the kingdom (cf. John 3:1-5). This is made more clear in Matthew 18:3 for Jesus said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Since sin comes from the heart, from the age of accountability (from our youth) and sin is the transgression of God's will, then adults are more in need of Bible study than are our little children. Thus we urge all men everywhere to study God's word and not be so foolish as to equate the learning of scripture with only a child's needs.

Sin And The Human Will

The great Nineteenth Century writer of novels, Nathaniel Hawthorne, once wrote a short story in which he illustrated that the surrender of the human will to do an act that is evil, is sin. In other words, if one harbors a lustful passion, even though circumstances prevent its fulfillment, he nevertheless is guilty of that sin.

Here via the "Gospel Vidette", Richard Stephen, editor, is a synopsis of Mr. Hawthorne's story: "Hawthorne presents his story through the use of four characters. One is an elderly man, respectable and well-liked, in fact quite typical of the average 'good man' who is retired and content with old-age. One evening as Mr. Smith sits in solitude in his living room, three strange visitors come into

his life. The three are Fancy, Memory and Conscience. Fancy carries a showbox with which to show pictures.

As the four gather around, Fancy begins showing pictures. The first is the scene of a young girl looking up at her seducer, cowered and ashamed. As Mr. Smith interestedly gazes at the picture, he is suddenly taken back because he recognizes the girl to be a close friend of his from long in the past. Memory very soon adds to this astonishment by recalling for Mr. Smith that he himself is the man in the scene. Mr. Smith protests firmly. He never seduced the girl. Why, in fact, she died a respectable widow only a while back! Conscience, nevertheless, affirms that the man indeed is Mr. Smith and pronounces him guilty of the crime portrayed because there had been a time when Mr. Smith urgently desired to commit the act although he actually never did so."

Jesus taught the same lesson when he said, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

"In the second scene men are gathered around a card table. One man has arisen, picked up a bottle and hurled it at another, and thus the victim lies dead on the floor. Mr. Smith surveys this second picture of Fancy's rather closely, and again he is suddenly horrified! The dead man on the floor was a dear friend of his from out of the past. He is even more shocked as Memory assures him of being the murderer. Indeed the man had only recently died of natural causes and had considered Mr. Smith such a close friend that he had left him his inheritance. Not so, Conscience proclaims, for there had been a time in the distant past when in a fit of anger, Mr. Smith had hurled a bottle at his friend. The bottle had missed but the thought had not."

Jesus said, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: And ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:15).

The third picture shows a middle-aged man stealing food and clothing from three orphaned children. Mr. Smith is aghast! Again he is the villain in the picture. Memory and Conscience have stepped forward and reminded him that although he never physically committed the act, he once considered a plan to go to court to gain an inheritance that was to go to some orphans. Thus, he was guilty of the deed." Even so the scriptures say, "If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself" (James 2:15-17).

Men will give account to God for their thoughts (Matthew 15:19) and their deeds (II Corinthians 5:10).

Is Western Society Doomed?

God commands men that they should all everywhere repent; inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31). This statement was made by the apostle Paul as he stood in the midst of the Areopagus, which was the very centre of Greek culture and intelligence as found in the city famous for its scholars, Athens. Paul had found the Athenians wholly given to the worship of material gods, a worship which dominated both Greek and Roman

culture in the first century and had led them to depravity described by Paul later as he wrote to Rome:

“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever, Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural functions for that which is unnatural and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the women and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, malice, gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful, and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them” (Romans 1:25–32).

These vices had led to a cheap disregard for human life so that abortion, exposure of unwanted children, suicide, and wholesale slaughter of gladiators was the order of the day; and into the midst of this came Paul and his fellow Christians preaching repentance and the hope of eternal life through the resurrected Jesus. Their preaching made such an impact on that sin-crazed society that their enemies declared they had “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:7).

Their impact was such that the Roman governor Pliny wrote to the Emperor Trajan less than one hundred years

after Christ's death, burial and resurrection, telling that the Christians had caused the heathen temples and sacrifices to be forsaken (Letters of Younger Pliny, Book 10:96).

The sad thing today is that western society which pretends to be Christian is so enamored with this material world that we find on every hand efforts to mimic the Hedonism with all its sensual lusts, that was found among the ancient pagans. Nothing but a restoration of the plain preaching against sin and a call to repentance as found in the New Testament can save western society from being sucked down the drain pipe of immorality.

Already the night is upon us as the abortion-on-demand crowd so vividly portrays with its willingness to exterminate the most harmless, helpless and innocent of the human kind because they are unwanted. The militancy of sodomites in California and other places is yet another example.

Mr. Murphy And Your Home

According to the *Australian* 8 December 1973 Federal Attorney General Murphy over-ruled two censorship boards to allow "a Swedish sex education film to be released in Australia."

According to the same report "the two censorship boards had considered 'language of love' unsuitable for community theatres," and "government officials conceded yesterday the only reason the film was released now was because of Senator Murphy's views on film censorship."

With the lewd films that are already being shown in community theatres it is fairly obvious that censorship boards do not have much conviction about the danger of community pollution in the form of pornography.

Yet; here is not one, but two such boards that have knocked "Language of Love" back as not being fit for community consumption; yet, Senator Murphy, who is supposed to be a servant of the people, has the audacity to over-ride them, and to allow this home destroying propaganda to be released in the communities around the nation.

How far will this present trend go? The local book shops get more bold in displaying porn, the TV people race one another to see who can make the cheapest film with the most shock, and the movies cast up filth into our communities like dirt from a polluted river.

All of which has come about because of a vocal minority. A vocal minority who wants to exploit sexual lust for greed. It is a well known fact that pornography is a multi-million dollar industry.

This loud crying group who gets the ear of politicians and makes out it should have the "freedom" (license) to see and sell whatever their wicked imaginations can dream up, while the silent majority has its communities, neighborhoods, and homes corrupted. Then there is freedom for nobody; God's people believe in liberty in law (James 1:25).

The millions of average people who love, and in some way attempt to follow the humble man of Galilee, are ignored; yet it is strictly this group that must make itself heard if western society is to be preserved. If the home is

destroyed then western society will fold like a Chinese lantern.

God's word says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

There must be a restoration of moral responsibility in the mass media and those who oversee it.

Yet more important than this is the need of a restoration of a strong faith in Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Friends, we urge you to demand of your religious leaders that they preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26), and that they oppose denominational councils that uphold immorality.

Pornography And The Destination Of Freedom

Mr Cleon Skousen wrote THE NAKED COMMUNIST. On 10 January 1963, a list of 45 "current Communist goals" appeared in the Congressional Record of the United States, having been taken from the above book.

One who notes those 45 goals will be amazed at the progress this insidious atheistic system has made in perpetuating those goals here in this land which has greatly blessed its inhabitants with individual freedom.

Let us note just a few of those goals which are aimed against the moral fibre and the home in western society.

Number 24 on the list was: "Eliminate all laws governing obscenity by calling them 'censorship' and a violation of free speech and a free press." Number 25 was: "Break-down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and T.V."

Here are some of the others, listed according to the number assigned to them in the U.S. Congressional Record: 26. "Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as normal, natural and healthy."

27. "Infiltrate the church and replace revealed religion with 'social' religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity, which does not need a 'religious' crutch."

28. "Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in the schools on grounds that it violates the principle of separation of church and state."

40. "Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce."

Little observation is needed to know that these goals are being pushed (not to say crammed) down the throats of the people in the western world.

The night is far spent and the day is at hand, but still many sleep. This is not the time for sunshine soldiers of the cross and summertime Christians.

God-fearing people must fight the good fight of faith or have their faith taken from them (cf. Jude 3).

God's word says, "The fool has said in his heart there is

no God" (Psalms 14:11), and Marxism is atheistic to the core; and the so-called "liberation" movements have as their goal the destruction of the faith and the enslavement of the masses under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The present push to spread filth into every home in this land ought not to be overlooked as a work by greedy purveyors of filth which destroys the home and does the the work of those who hate faith in the living God.

Number 96

In the current issue of "TV Times" (November 29, 1973) there is an article on Channel Ten's Number 96 asking "How Far Can They Go?" The article then proceeds to say they have screened drugs, rape, incest, violence and homosexuality. Then the writers of the program proceed to brag they will "jump the gun" and screen immoral acts between dogs and humans.

The writers, according to the article, also simply dismissed the fears of educators and community leaders that Number 96 was harming our children, but it is a fact that thousands of homes are being corrupted by the vile acts on this program. One of the writers pointed out people could turn the program off if they did not want to watch it, but we ask why should thousands of mothers in Sydney have to run to their TV to turn it off just because a handful of men with no moral scruples at Channel Ten want to make a million with melodramatic acting and shock pictures of sin? Again we point out that often parents are not home and the children have access to filth. Again Channel Ten has the filth as advertisement spots during the day.

It is a cardinal point of history that the degradation of the home has been the ruin of nations. To be quite frank, Channel Ten's present course of teaching anti-home propaganda by audio and visual means is leading our community toward the standards of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Governor-General Sir Paul Hasluck has stated: "At present, in Australia, I would suggest that there is more constant and persistent invasion of privacy by evil influence than by good. What is lewd and suggestive is persistently thrust under notice. What is violent and criminal is presented romantically, and successful greed and very earthly emulations of sin are shown with glamor in ways that make it difficult for even the youngest and most carefully protected to avoid contamination. The stimulation of sexuality and aggression is constant. One of the consequences of the new attitudes is that the right or the power of society to take action to protect any of its members, even the innocent, from these influences or to check the attacks on their privacy, is being challenged." (Court, J.H., *Changing Community Standards*, Lutheran Publishing House, 205 Halifax St., Adelaide, S.A., p. 35).

Those who promote Number 96 are leaders in this evil attack and influence on the privacy of the home.

God's word says: "For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness ... who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affection: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that

which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient: Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whispers, back-biters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who, knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Romans 1:18, 25—32).

Friends, we urge you to buy a copy of the current issue of “TV Times” for yourself and write to them and to the community, state, and national leaders. We must act now to stop the cancer for if we do not, more lewd and vile programs will come on other stations as “96” takes the lead.

Part III

**DENOMINA-
TIONALISM**

“Born Again Christians”

Jesus of Nazareth who is “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Revelation 5) declared in John 3:5, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except one be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”.

There is a lot being said in these days about “born again Christians”, but in the language of everyday people “there ain’t no other kind”. If a person is born again he is a Christian. If he is a Christian he is born again.

The Holy Spirit begets the sinner in the new birth (I Peter 1:23, James 1:18), to put one into Christ: “for as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

When preachers teach the new birth by the Spirit without water, they are not following the Lord’s nor the Spirit’s directions on the subject. Jesus said, “Except one be born of water [just plain old water, not the water of physical birth] and of the Spirit” (the Spirit’s directions in the holy scriptures), that is, to be immersed in water to be born again, then he cannot enter the Lord’s kingdom or church to be a Christian.

Division

Nearly seventy years ago (April 14, 1912) one of the finest ships ever built, *The Titanic*, went down with 1500 lives; she had been built as a great sea going vessel, but when the sea got into her she went down. The church is in the world to preach the gospel to all creation in order that the world might be saved, even as Jesus said, “Go ye

into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15–16). Yet, the various denominations have so compromised with the world that people on the outside can see little or no difference between the lives of worldly people and church members. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

One thing that has led to the continual weakness of the established churches is their divisions into sectarian parties. The scriptures condemn immorality as sin, but along with this it also condemns “jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties” (Galatians 5:20) as works of the flesh. Now who has been more guilty of such sins as these than the various denominations in “Christendom”?

Jesus promised to build his church in Matthew 16:18, even as it is written, “Upon this rock I will build my church”. He promised only to build his church and never promised to make all the denominations that are now in the world. Yet, because of powerful religious leaders pulling factions after them and because each sect has written its own creed book or catechism to (as they think) supplement the Bible and to protect their own sectarian views, we now have more than three hundred parties in the world all professing to follow Christ. However, the Savior, himself, said “every city or house divided against itself shall not stand” (Matthew 12:25). Thus, we now see this coming to pass as church buildings close their doors and sit like ghost houses on the landscape as hundreds of new families rush past them into eternity, ignoring them as antiquated institutions that have failed them. This disenchantment with denominationalism is particularly observable among young people where they find even local congregations

split into cliques, parties and factions led by vested interest groups who see their house of splinters coming down, but are so wedded to their traditions they will not turn to the word of God to find relief. Jesus said, "Full well do ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your traditions" (Mark 7:9).

God is to be glorified in his people (the church) for his word says, "Unto him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever" (Ephesians 3:21). Yet, denominationalism and religious traditions have so turned the masses away from religion that it will take major surgery with the sword of the Spirit (the word of God, Ephesians 6:17) to make them see and understand the truth about the one original church which Christ established in Jerusalem in 30 A.D. and which the "gates of hades" were never to prevail against.

Remember Christ Jesus our Lord said: "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" (Matthew 7:21); and that his work of redemption was not only to save us from sin, but to redeem us from "vain conversation (manner of life) received by tradition from your fathers" (I Peter 1:18). Let us call people out of the Babylon of denominationalism.

The Ecumenical Movement

What is the difference between the non-denominational plea of churches of Christ to unite all believers in Christ and the Ecumenical Movement? The Ecumenical Movement in practice is striving to unite the existing parties in

Christendom by pooling denominational machinery, property and personnel with little regard for the basic teachings of the scriptures. For example, a recent study conducted by the Survey Research Centre of the University of California at Berkeley attests that many members of Protestant denominations disbelieve the deity of Christ. To be quite specific, 32 per cent of the Congregationalists, 24 per cent of the Methodists, and 16 per cent of the Episcopalians (Anglican Communion U.S.) do not believe that Jesus is the divine Son of God. Moreover, 43 per cent of all Protestants were reported not to believe in the virgin birth of Christ.

In addition to this, 72 per cent of the Congregationalists, 63 per cent of the Methodists, 59 per cent of the Episcopalians, 43 per cent of the Presbyterians, 50 per cent of the Disciples of Christ, 50 per cent of the American Baptists, and 31 per cent of the American Lutherans do not believe that Christ ever performed a miracle. Finally, 35 per cent of all Protestants do not believe Christ's promise of eternal life (Dr. W.S. Banowsky, Pepperdine University, L.A., Calif.).

The survey revealed that the greatest unbelief concerning Christ and his deity is being bred within the very denominations whose voices are loudest in favor of the Ecumenical Movement.

This simply means that the Ecumenical Movement is a failure from its outset if the ones most in favor of it are the loudest in their opposition to the supreme authority and Lordship of Jesus of Nazareth. God will not uphold such a system that denies the great Biblical truths concerning his Son and "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).

Christ prayed that all believers in him might be united in order that the world might believe that he had been sent from the Father, even as it is written “that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me” (John 17:21).

Unity cannot be achieved by an amalgamation of sects, parties and denominations as though these were finance corporations, because people are not chattel. Unity of believers in Christ can only come by total commitment of those believers to the Christ who “existing in the form of God” (Philippians 2:6) emptied himself; “became flesh”; (John 1:14); was born of a virgin (Matthew 1.23); went about “healing all that were oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10:38); tasted of death for every man (Hebrews 2:9); was raised the third day (I Corinthians 15:4) to be seated on the throne of David (Acts 2:30–31) at God’s right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come” (Ephesians 1:20–21).

When believers show such commitment by obeying this one with all authority (Matthew 28:18) in submitting to the words of the Spirit to “Repent and be baptized (immersed) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), then God will add them to that one church which Christ promised to build (Matthew 16:18). Even as it is written, “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). One cannot join the Church of Christ as one does a human organization like a denomination, but if he will obey Christ, God himself will add him or join him to the body of Christ, the church (Ephesians 1:22–23). Unity of believers in Christ is possible by the restoration of the one orig-

inal church of Christ in name, worship, doctrine and mission.

Christian Festivals ?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, which is the very heart of the Christian system, is a historical fact, firmly witnessed and described in the Bible, but Easter which is purported to be a celebration of Christ's resurrection is not based on scripture. At this present stage in history the "Christianity" that most people see is covered with so much tapestry from the dark ages, so much hair splitting from the various sects, so much infidelity from the modernistic theologians, and so much Judaism from the Sabbatarians, that the average man despairs to find the simple life of a disciple whose only desire is to serve the humble man of Galilee.

People are generally more upset by being shown that their traditions are wrong than they are when the Bible or God is attacked. Concerning Easter, for example, one finds that to criticize the Easter festival is considered by many to be virtually blasphemy, when in reality the term "Easter" comes from an ancient mythological Anglo-Saxon goddess, "Eastre" (New Webster's Dictionary of the English Language, p. 273) and the Easter celebration is based on tradition not on scripture. In plain language, the simple doctrine of Christ in the New Testament has been weighted down with tradition just as the Old Testament scriptures were in Christ's time. Thus, he said to the clerics of his day, "Full well do ye reject the commandments of God, that ye may keep your tradition" (Matthew 7:9), and again he declared, "But in vain do they worship me teaching as their doctrine the precepts of men" (Mark 7:7).

Another example of a human tradition with no basis in scripture is Lent. Neither Christ nor his apostles ever required or taught people to observe Lent. Christ gave the apostles (the twelve) the power to bind and loose God's will for this age (Matthew 18:18) and that because they were to be inspired with the Holy Spirit who would teach them "all things" (John 14:26). When men add their traditions, creeds, catechism, or Watchtowerisms to the Christian system and bind them on people they rest under a curse, even as it is written, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; which is not another; but there be some that would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again. If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:6-9).

Here it is promised that men or angels who pervert the New Testament doctrine of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which was administered by the apostles (II Corinthians 3:6), rest under a curse. Notice the warning is not in this case to those who would abandon the Christian system as found in the New Testament, but a warning not to pervert the true gospel. It only takes a little poison to contaminate good food, and it only takes the binding of human traditions and commandments to corrupt the faith "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

Is The Christian Religion A Freak ?

A little over 1900 years ago Jesus of Nazareth visited a

small city called Caesarea Philippi, some twenty-five miles north of the Sea of Galilee, which lies on the road from Tyre to Damascus. As he and the twelve came into the suburbs of the town he inquired of the Apostles as to whom the masses were saying he was. After several answers were given, such as, "some say John the Baptist; some Elijah; and others Jeremiah." Jesus asked, "But who do you say I am?" To which Peter promptly replied, "Thou art the Christ." Jesus then said, "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:13-19).

In less than three years after this conversation had taken place, Jesus had risen to immense popularity among the masses of Israel (John 12:19), but because of the envy of the Jewish leaders (Matthews 27:18) he had been arrested and executed at their instigation by the Roman occupation forces. Yet, thanks be to God that three days later on a Sunday morning the tomb where he had been buried was empty and Christ appeared alive to the Apostles, even eating with them as he had before his death (John 21:12-14).

Then forty days after his resurrection, and after charging them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized (immersed) shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16), he ascended back to heaven where he had been with the Father before his mission to this earth (John 17:5, Philippians 2:5-9). Then ten days later he sent the Comforter or Holy Spirit to the Apostles as he had promised in a baptismal form (Acts 1:4-8). Speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit these twelve Apostles began that church which Christ had promised to build. They began it just fifty days after his resurrection, with three thousand Jewish converts in Jerusalem. Even as it is written "they that received his (Peter's) word

were baptized and there were added unto them in that day about 3000 souls” (Acts 2:41). Now we ask the question, to what denomination did those 3000 belong?

Shortly afterwards Luke, the historian and medical doctor, who wrote “The Acts of the Apostles,” recorded that there were about 5000 in this church at Jerusalem not counting women (Acts 4:4). To what denomination did they belong?

Later the people of Samaria, some thirty-five miles north of Jerusalem, came into the faith (Acts 8:4–12). Did they join a denomination? When the Ethiopian nobleman obeyed the gospel in the deserted region on the road toward what is now called the Gaza Strip, what denomination did he join? What about Lydia the first convert in Europe (Acts 16:14)? Did she belong to a denomination? The answer is that none of these disciples of Christ joined any denomination: they were all simply added to the family of God or to the church of Christ which he had promised to build. They belonged to that communion of Christians that was non-denominational as Christ was the one head over his one body, the one church. Even as it is written, God “put all things in subjection under his (Jesus) feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body ...” (Ephesians 1:22–23; cf. Ephesians 4:4). Denominationalism makes a freak with one head, Christ, and many bodies.

Faith Healers

The miracles of the Lord Jesus and the Apostles recorded in the New Testament were genuine. Even his enemies

admitted he did “many signs” or miracles (John 11:47). The miracles by the Lord and the Apostles were to confirm the revelation of the gospel while it was in oral or spoken form (Mark 16:20), Hebrews 2:1–4). However, when God’s revelation of his will to man was perfect or complete the confirming signs were to cease (I Corinthians 13:3–13). During the first century before God gave his completed or perfected revelation the signs were necessary to confirm the spoken word. Since it has been spoken, confirmed and written down as it is now in the 66 books of our Bible, the confirming signs are no longer necessary. With the death of the last Apostle (around A.D. 96) the miraculous gifts ceased for they were the ones who supplied miraculous spiritual gifts (Acts 8:18).

However, in our day we have a group of so-called faith healers who exploit the masses for money. They claim the power to heal if you have enough faith. They couldn’t heal a pin scratch.

If these modern miracle workers can heal as they claim, like Christ and the Apostles, why did their king out in Tulsa have to manipulate hospital authorities in Oklahoma to get them to vote him a hospital. The area was already saturated with hospital beds.

If Oral Roberts and his followers could work miracles they would close hospitals not open them.

Jesus Only

“Hear, O Israel; Jehovah our God is one Jehovah: and thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart and

with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deuteronomy 6:4). This is the most famous of scripture quotations among the Jewish people. Their daily worship begins with it.

It declares that the God of the Bible is the absolute infinite one that is to be adored and worshipped, but this verse also shows something of the plurality within the one supreme Deity for the text says, “Jehovah our God (Hebrew plural Elohim) is one Jehovah.” Connecting this with expression of God speaking of himself as “us” and “our” in such passages as Genesis 1:26 we see that the Old Testament does teach the uni-plural nature of our God.

However, it was left for the New Testament witness to reveal to us the persons who partake of the nature of God or the Godhead. For example Philippians 2:5–7 says, “Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.”

This passage shows that the one revealed to us as Jesus Christ existed with God in the form of God before emptying himself to take human form. Concerning this we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. And the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” (John 1:1–2). “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth. (John 1:14) Again Jesus himself prayed: “And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with God before the World was.” (John 17:5)

Thus the scriptures show that Jesus existed with God

before the world was, and before he took on the form of a servant, and that he was given the world by God His Father.

There is the Father (one), and the Son (one). They both partake of Godhead (Acts 17:29, Matthew 2:23, Ephesians 4:6).

To claim that “Jesus Only” makes up the Godhead is to deny the Father and Son relationship. Such is an anti-christ doctrine (I John 5:22).

Non-Denominational?

Why is the church of Christ non-denominational? In John 17:20–21 Jesus virtually in the shadow of the cross prayed, “Neither for these (the apostles) only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word, that they (the believers) may all be one, even as thou, Father, art in me and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me.” Again, it is written, “Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgement” (I Corinthians 1:10). Yet, in spite of Christ’s prayer in the very face of death and the admonition in I Corinthians that God’s people be not divided we find believers in Christ throughout the world divided into more than 300 sects, parties and denominations.

With such division, which is also condemned by the scriptures as a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19–21), among the people, who profess to follow the meek and

lowly man of Galilee, is it any wonder that we find infidelity growing in western society? As unity among God's people produces belief (John 17:21) so division produces infidelity. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). Again Jesus, who is Prince of Peace, said, "Every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25). We show our true love to Jesus by loving one another, not by producing and maintaining sectarian barriers. Even now the lack of love among the average believers in Christ, the Church cliques and the denominational conglomerates have caused Jesus' statement, "a house divided against itself shall not stand," to be fulfilled as we see the established denominations disappearing like smoke in a whirlwind. The public is not blind to the unoccupied pews, empty pulpits and vacant church houses. Parents are frantic about the worldliness, sins and immorality engulfing their children and yet because of the liberalism and modernism among the denominational hierarchy they read in the papers how this or that religious bigwig has announced that premartial sex (fornication, I Corinthians 6:9) or homosexuality (sodomy, Deuteronomy 23:17) is alright if it's a meaningful relationship. God forbid! For such sins as these "cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience" (Colossians 3:5-6).

Yet the astonishing thing about this situation is that many religious leaders see their schismatic little houses falling down, but rather than abandon them for pure simple New Testament Christianity they try to breathe life into the dying form by working one preacher to death serving four or five churches or by selling church property to boost sagging salaries because of lagging contributions.

Thus it is that those people making up the church of Christ must continue to renounce all sectarianism, simply

be Christians only (Acts 11:26), and emphasize the need for all men to belong to the one original apostolic church of Christ. We must not add one more party to the list of 300 or so already in existence. Being non-denominational is not being inter-denominational, but is to be simply non-sectarian Christians serving the living God with the Bible as our only rule and guide in faith and practice.

Preaching Drunks Into Heaven

Bruce's Gap is a small community at the edge of the Cumberland Mountains in Campbell County, Tennessee. While living in that county in the early sixties this writer was told of a girl from that community who killed herself in a car accident while drunk.

However, the preacher who preached her funeral preached her right into heaven for he said, "I remember when she was saved right over there" (pointing to a certain place).

Now that poor girl had preached her own funeral and that preacher could not have affected her either way, but this kind of preaching points up one of the major reasons why the churches and the clergy are so little respected for their convictions.

The false doctrine which says, "Once saved always saved," or "Once in grace always in grace" has given many people, and especially young people, a false sense of security that no matter how they live the preacher will preach them into heaven.

However, the word of God plainly shows men can fall

from grace after being saved on becoming Christians. For example, the Gentiles of Galatia had become Christians and had been saved, however they began to accept the theories on the law of the Judaizing teachers (Galatians 1:6), therefore the Holy Spirit warned them “Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law, ye are fallen away from grace” (Galatians 5:4).

In contradiction to such Bible teaching, however, pulpits are filled with men who teach “that a child of God, saved by the blood, stays saved forever and may never so sin as to be finally lost in Hell”.

A man must obey the gospel to be saved (II Thessalonians 1:6–9) and he must continue to “walk in the light, as he (Jesus) is in the light” (I John 1:7) or as Jesus said, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

The Secret Rapture

Some years ago the wife of a minister who believed in the theories of the natural 1000 years reign asked her husband for a text on the secret rapture in order to teach her ladies class on the subject. The preacher’s reply was I Thessalonians 4:13–18.

But she said, “I’ve read that scripture and it is about the noisiest thing in the Bible.”

And truly it is, for it states the Lord “shall descend from heaven, with a *shout*, with the *voice* of the archangel, and with the *trump* of God ...” (I Thessalonians 4:16).

The fact of the matter is the Bible never names or discusses a so-called rapture, secret or otherwise. Just like the doctrine of the earthly, 1000 years reign of Jesus it is the figment of the imagination of the carnal minds of theologians.

There will be no rapture because there will not be two resurrections. King Jesus stated while on this earth: “Marvel not at this for the hour cometh, in which all (good and evil) that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth ...” (John 5:28–29). The good and evil will be raised at the same hour, not seven or one thousand years apart. They will all be judged at the same time (Matthew 25:31–46).

According to John 6:39,40,44 the righteous will be raised at the last day, but the clergy’s theories on the rapture has the righteous being raised 367,816 days before the last day (1007 years including 251 leap years).

Jesus’ kingdom is a spiritual empire into which sinners have been translated since the first century. Even as it is written of God the Father “who delivered us (Paul and the Christians in Colossae) out of the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the son of his love” (Colossians 1:13).

You must “be born of water and the Spirit” (John 3:5) in order to enter that spiritual empire of Jesus. Don’t miss out because of the vain suppositions of dispensationalism.

Tongues

The charismatic movement is the broad name given to an emotional type religion in which the followers claim the power of miraculous gifts and especially the power of tongues. Earlier in this century it was known as Pentecostalism from the Pentecost feast day of Acts 2 when the Apostles (the twelve) spoke in tongues.

However, the so-called tongues today are nothing at all like those of the Apostles on Pentecost for at that time “every man heard them speaking in their own language” (Acts 2:6). These tongues were the languages of the people gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Pentecost. They were not the foolish non-sensical babblings that are uttered by “charismatics” today.

But someone says, “I mean the ecstatic languages of I Corinthians 14”. However, the tongues or languages of I Corinthians, though not understood by the local home church (14:2), they did edify or build up the speaker (14:4) and they were for a sign to unbelievers or strangers (14:22). If a believer of one culture were to speak to an unbeliever of another in the unbeliever’s own tongue by a miracle it would be a great sign. But the non-sensical babbling of the charismatics is a sign of nothing to nobody (excuse the double negative).

When God’s perfect *gift* of revelation to man was completed, that is, the scriptures, the age of “prophecies”, “tongues” and supernatural gifts of “knowledge” ceased (I Corinthians 13:8–10).

Unite The People

Evidence continues to increase which shows that there is a strong silent majority in the nation that would support stronger controls over immorality in the television, movies, and printed materials. This large group needs to be united to prevent the purveyors of filth, violence and horror from continuing their corruption of our communities.

In Tasmania recently, Mr. Peter Daniels, who is head of the Community Standards organization in South Australia stated, "Overseas experience had shown that abolition of censorship caused increased crime and sex deviation rites. Sweden, the world's most permissive country, now has the highest rates for venereal disease, divorce and illegitimacy, and the second highest rate for suicide."

Yet there is a very vocal minority in this land of freedom that would like to destroy all freedom by crying: freedom from all law and restraint, when actually they do not want freedom — they want licence to peddle their mind polluting filth in every newspaper shop, every movie, house, and in every lounge room by way of the T.V.

Much of the media feeds on the lewd and the bizarre. We are proud of the people in the mass media that strive to keep their standards high, but much of it seeks not only to corrupt the beautiful, sacred, God-given right of sex, which God ordained in marriage to give man an honorable way to satisfy this basic desire, but it also glories in violence, horror, and blood.

The silent majority which must endure these encroachments on their homes, families and communities must unite, if they would effectively combat this growing

cancer. Yet, there must be a common denominator on which they can unite. That common denominator ought to be nothing less than the simple teachings of Jesus as something like 80 per cent of all the people claim to be his followers.

However, the sects and denominations among us are a disgrace to the religion of Christ, and leave the masses who would combat the greedy purveyors of filth as sheep scattered on the mountains with no shepherds. Jesus our King, himself, said a house divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 12:25). Again our Lord personally prayed that all of us who believe in him would be one (John 17:20–21).

The ecumenical movement which works toward an amalgamation of denominations has all but died; besides the fact it fails to bring about the basic desire for unity that total commitment to Christ will.

To have real unity as believers in Christ, so we can combat the forces of greed and freedom destroying ideology, we must render total commitment to Christ as King of Kings (I Timothy 6:15).

Yet, local churches cannot do this as long as they have denominational loyalties. Thus we urge you as individuals and local church boards to sever your relationships from human denominations, as all local churches in New Testament times were autonomous or self-ruled (Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1), united in love and doctrine without denominational bureaucracy, conferences, conventions, etc.

Again, we urge you to adopt only the name Christian (Acts 11:26) as your religious name. Also give up such human traditions (Matthew 15:3) as infant baptism, which

has no basis in scripture, and adopt believer's baptism (immersion) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16).

Is Man Wholly Mortal?

Is man a rational spirit being or is he wholly mortal? Atheists, evolutionists, and communists declare man is the product of this earth, having had his beginning with the dead matter in a primeval ocean; thus, the end product is wholly mortal and when man dies the whole person returns to the ground as so much fertilizer and inorganic matter.

Some breed of evolutionists (theistic) of course are hybrids in their concepts of man, and claim there is a creator, but he was so incapable at his task he had to strain man through the sieve of the beast of the field over millions of years before he could finally produce homo-sapiens. Then again, this same breed views God as a little deceitful as he claimed to have created all creatures on this earth in six days (Genesis chapter one) when in reality (according to them) it took eons.

Yet, there are those around who are militantly religious in spreading their propaganda from house to house, mass media, etc., but they too teach man is wholly mortal; these are the soul-sleeping sects. Though they oppose the doctrine of the evolution of man and affirm man was created by God, they still line up with the unbelievers in declaring man as a person is wholly mortal.

The scriptures declare: "God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). Thus accord-

ing to the scriptures, God said let us, (Father, Son and Holy Spirit, see Matthew 28:19) make man after our image. That is, God who is Spirit (John 4:24) created man a similar being and clothed him with flesh made from the dust. Again the scriptures say "Jehovah .. formeth the spirit of man within him" (Zechariah 12:1), and "we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:28). Since man is the offspring of God, who is absolute spirit, men ought not to think themselves or declare mankind is wholly mortal.

After Solomon had expressed the vanity of all life under the sun (see Ecclesiastes 9), he then said, "the dust returneth to the earth as it was, and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7). When man as spirit leaves the body, a tent of clay, he must remain in hades until the resurrection even as Christ's soul remained in hades while his body was in the tomb outside Jerusalem until his resurrection; for the scriptures say of Christ, that "neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption" (Acts 2:31). Hades means "the common receptacle of disembodied spirits: Luke 16:23; Acts 2:27,31" according to Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, p. 11. Hades is the waiting room for souls until resurrection and judgement when all must stand before Christ to give an account of their deeds in the body (II Corinthians 5:10). There is no such place as purgatory; it is a figment of a business-like mind from the dark ages and obscures the Biblical teaching about hades and the final place of punishment (hell), resurrection and judgement.

We urge you to realise you are a rational spirit being made in God's image and prepare to meet your maker, for there is no second chance after this life.

Wrong Orders

Several years ago there was a disastrous train wreck in New York State. The engineer whose train had caused the catastrophe was found alive, but pinned under his engine. In great agony he took a piece of yellow paper from his pocket and thrust it out to his would-be rescuers saying, take this, it will show I was given the wrong orders.

Just so, many people are going to go before the judgement bar of God saying, "I was given the wrong orders."

The scriptures plainly show that we must all stand before the judgement seat of Christ; even as it is written, "For we must all be made manifest before the judgement seat of Christ: that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10), and again "for we shall all stand before the judgement seat of God" (Romans 14:10).

Many leaders of the people who mold public opinion in religion, politics, science and education, who feel like God will reward them at judgement for their good service to humanity are going to be sadly disappointed because their service has been according to their own will or their own traditions, or erroneous philosophy. For God's word says, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Leaders in religion will bear a special responsibility to God for the things they have taught; for God's word warns "Be not many teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgement" (James 3:1). Religious leaders who have saddled the Christian faith with vain traditions that adulterate its purity and simplicity rest under a curse (Galatians 1:7-9). In other words, the masses who have been led astray with human creed books, hierarchal system, false baptisms and superstitious rituals that have no authority in the word of God are going to face God and cry we were given the wrong orders.

Some often excuse themselves by saying, "It is not my fault if our leader is wrong," but God's word says, "If the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14).

Let faithful men of God everywhere faithfully reject the vain traditions of men and give the right orders to a lost and dying world.

Part IV

EVIDENCE

Atheism And Evolution

When a believer asks where the solar system came from, if there was no creator, often the infidel will reply with a question, "Where did God come from?" That the Bible regards the existence of the Eternal Invisible God as a foregone conclusion, we do not deny. For example, the scriptures simply begin with, "In the beginning God created the heavens and earth" (Genesis 1:1). Again in Exodus 3:14 Jehovah God told Moses that he was "I AM," that is, the Eternal Presence. Jesus Christ of Nazareth who was Immanuel, i.e. God with us, while on the earth was and is partaker of the same divine nature; for he, too, said "I AM" (John 8:58). Also, the scriptures state concerning Jesus as the Word, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by; and without him was not anything made that hath been made" (John 1:1-3).

Since the Bible regards the existence of the Eternal Spirit (John 4:24) as a foregone conclusion, and whereas the "invisible things of him (God) since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity" (Romans 1:20); we affirm that it is more rational and reasonable to accept God as the Eternal Creator of all things than to accept the belief that physical matter is eternal or that matter just happened to come into existence and then it (matter) did the creating of all things by spontaneous generation.

To believe that the non-conscious, non-living, non-intelligent, amoral earth created man, who is a conscious, living, intelligent and moral being is totally irrational and

unworthy of even being called a faith. Yet, this is exactly the position atheistic evolution holds; for it affirms that man evolved by means of one cell springing out of a primeval ocean, that the one cell became a worm, the worm a fish, the fish a frog, the frog a lizard, the lizard a bird, the bird a mammal, the mammal an ape and the ape a man. Then they (certain atheists) claim man as the bourgeoisie (upper class) created (imagined) God as a spook to frighten the proletariat of the peasant class. Such infidels have dead matter creating not only the most remarkable organism upon this earth, man, but also they have the same dead matter creating the concept of God.

Does the vase of clay make the potter or does the potter make the vase? The answer to believers is obvious. But the sum of atheism and evolution is the foolishness of saying dead matter created the rational creature, man, and the living God.

Therefore we conclude that the Bible position is: God is the Eternal Spirit who made all things is true, reasonable and rational. No hypothesis man has or can devise touches the beauty and power of it side, top or bottom.

Is Creation A Babylonian Myth?

Is Moses' account of creation a Babylonian myth or is it the eternal truth of how man came into existence? For better than one hundred years some of the greatest minds of the world have tried to prove the evolution of man from one cell in a primeval ocean to modern man. Billions of

dollars have been spent in research to prove evolution, yet even man's travel to the moon has not enhanced the evolutionary hypothesis, but has strengthened faith in an eternal creator.

In fact, since Darwin's *Origin of Species* came from the press in 1859, all the research to disprove creation by divine fiat and all the billions spent just to prove evolution has found that evolutionists cannot tell where even the ocean came from, let alone the first living cell. They know no mechanism that would cause evolution to work; and the fossil record favors creation instead of evolution.

Moses wrote, "And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). This scriptural view of man puts him on the plane of being a spiritual being made in God's image, only a little lower than the angels (Psalms 8:5), but evolution puts man on the plane of being just a little higher than the other mammals (apes, cows, pigs, dogs, etc.). God forbid!

Jesus believed the Mosaic account of creation for he based his eternal teachings on the sacredness of marriage of Genesis chapter two which tells of God's creation of man from the dust and woman from a rib of man (Genesis 2: 18-25, Matthew 19:1-9).

Jesus said, "From the beginning of creation God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). Evolutionists believe it took millions of years for the thing which was to become man to bootstrap itself up through the bugs and beasts until it evolved into male and female. Then they believe it took eons more before it could stand erect as homo-sapien (modern man).

If this were true how would we account for man's rational spirit, which thinks (Proverbs 23:7), reasons (Mark 2:6), mediates (Psalms 19:4) and believes (Romans 10:10). No beast can do these things. Man is not a higher form of the antropoid apes. Man is a spirit clothed in flesh for he is made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27, Ecclesiastes 12:7) for God is Spirit (John 4:24).

What can we expect of children if they are taught they are just a superior form of beast that has become dominant on this planet. Should our children be taught they are a product of endless years of evolution or that they are the offspring of God (Acts 17:28)?

Faith And Infidelity

Is faith in God really more reasonable than agnosticism, infidelity or atheism? The former of these three means holding a position which says, "I do not know if there is a God or not." The second means unbelief in general, and the latter means advocating that there is no God.

God's word says, "For every house is builded by some one; but he that built all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4). The Taj Mahal, which was built by Shah Jehan in Agra, India, in the seventeenth century is considered to be one of the world's most beautiful buildings. It stands today as a monument to its builder, and no one would be so naive as to suggest that it came about by blind chance. Every building bears witness to its maker or creator.

The universe of which our earth is a part is an orderly house, a cosmos. The earth itself revolves on its axis and

tilts the 23 degrees for its seasons with better precision than the finest watch; it contains food, water and air for its inhabitants; and it is just the right distance from the sun to sustain man and to allow him to develop the face of the earth. Thus, the earth, too, is an orderly house that bears witness to its Creator or Maker.

Again the design all around us in the universe and every living thing demands a Supreme Designer. The Psalmist stated, "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalms 19:1), and again David said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalms 139:14). Not only is the human body a delicately balanced machine, but even the little creatures about us declare the infinite intelligence of their designer.

Consider for example the egg of a hen. Infidelity cannot tell which came first, the hen or the egg, but Christians know in the beginning God created birds and they produced eggs. Nor is an egg a thing to be looked down upon for when the temperature of a hen's egg is raised to about 99 degrees fahrenheit over a continuous period of 21 days a remarkable little "computer" takes hold in the egg and produces a totally new organism. This can be done with one egg or twenty thousand in an incubator, which will produce shelf after shelf of little golden chicks that declare the glory of their Infinite Designer, God.

If a man seriously suggested the incubator had simply evolved by the blind forces of nature people would think him ready for a padded cell, but one little chick is a thousand times more mysterious in its design than an incubator made by man. Is it any wonder the scriptures say, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is not God" (Psalms 14:1).

Flood Geology

Historical geology has purported to have explained the various phenomena seen in the earth's crust by the theories of uniformitarianism, which says that the known agencies at work today such as erosion, deposition, volcanism and rock movements are sufficient to produce the features of the earth if they are given sufficient time. In other words the term "uniformitarianism" means that present processes seen in the earth and in weather have always gone on uniformly and catastrophies (like the flood described in the Bible) have not occurred to radically change the earth's surface.

Yet, the interested observer can easily see in mountains or roadway cuts that the earth's surface has at one time been subjected to the most gruelling buckling, folding and uplifting action at a time when the earth's surface was apparently more pliable. The large amounts of igneous rocks (fire or volcanic formed), the ice age and the tremendous amounts of buried vegetation which is now carbonized into coal are only a few other things that negate the philosophies of uniformitarianism.

The historical statement of a world wide deluge by Moses in Genesis 6–8 which swept over the earth's surface for a year more readily explains the cause for the present features in our earth's crust. Also David the ancient King of Israel by inspiration clearly showed the flood of Noah's age was the cause of the deep ocean valleys and the uplifting, folding and buckling of the continental masses:

“Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a vesture; The waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice thy thunder they hasted away. The moun-

tains rose, the valleys sank down unto the place which thou hadst founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; That they turn not again to cover the earth” (Psalm 104:6–9).

This passage quite clearly speaks of the catastrophic influence on the earth of the flood at the time of Noah. The context shows he is talking about the flood of Genesis 6–8 for Psalm 104:9 makes clear reference to the rainbow covenant (cf. Genesis 9:11–12; Jeremiah 5:22).

The Holy Spirit of David said, “The mountains rose, the valleys sank down.” This is an obvious reference to the massive continental uplifts and the sinking of the ocean floors or of the valleys that hold the oceans. Before the massive layers of sedimentation could consolidate and harden they were folded and lifted up like the folds in a giant rug when it is pushed together. The cuts made for the interstate highways through such places as the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee clearly show the folding, and rippling of the soft earth at the time “the mountains rose (and) the valleys sank down.” Also in these mountains, great layers of vegetation, now carbonized into coal, can be seen all interspersed with fossils, limestone and sandstone all laid down at the time of the flood. In fact the strip mining through Appalachi has laid bare the history of the deluge of Noah in stone.

Uniformitarianism geology with its theory about the development of major geological features being formed by gradual processes over long periods of time leaves mountain building or the science of orogeny shrouded in mystery. Thus it is imperative that geologists recognize their need of special revelation as a basic guideline. For “the fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7).

No one can properly know the earth's geology unless he accepts special revelation's affirmation that during the great flood "the mountains rose, the valleys sank down."

Noah's Flood

The universal flood in the time of Noah was the greatest catastrophe that has ever come upon the earth. The Biblical description cannot be dismissed as the story of a local flood in the Tigris and Euphrates River Valley.

For example, these Bible passages plainly describe a deluge that engulfed the face of the globe: (Genesis 6:17) "And, I, behold, I do bring the flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, form under heaven; everything that is in the earth shall die" (Genesis 6:17). "For yet seven days and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the ground" (Genesis 7:4). "And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high mountains that were under the whole heaven were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered" (Genesis 7:19-20). "And every living thing was destroyed that was upon the face of the ground, both man and cattle, and creeping things and birds of the heavens; and they were with him in the ark" (Genesis 7: 23). "And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of the flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth" (Genesis 9:11).

Many modernistic and liberal theologians have dismiss-

ed these statements by Moses as myth, but Jesus Christ of Nazareth not only believed the Mosaic account of the flood, but used the historical fact of its occurrence to assure mankind of his second coming. For we read: "And as were the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of man." (Matthew 24:37-39).

Again the apostle Peter knowing by inspiration that in the last days mockers would come against the doctrine of God, used the historical fact of the flood to warn them of the destruction of the world by fire; even as it is written: "knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts, and saying "Where is the promise of his coming? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they wilfully forget, that there were heavens from of old, and an earth compacted out of waters and amidst water, by the word of God; by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgement and destruction of ungodly men" (II Peter 3:3-7).

The vain philosophies of men, such as uniformitarianism, which denies the Biblical doctrine of the world wide catastrophe known as the flood, lull men into a false sense of security in relation to the impending judgement. It is imperative for God's people to make the world aware that "as it came to pass in the days of Noah, even so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26).

The Resurrection

Many people in the western world are experimenting with various religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, or Islam. They often contend that there is good in all these systems or philosophies. Yet, the one thing that sets the religion of Christ over against all other systems is the resurrection of the dead. The dominant theme of the New Testament is Christ and his resurrection. People who are truly servants of Christ know that if Christ has not been raised their entire way of life is vain. Even as it is written: "If Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised" (I Corinthians 15:14-15). Some religions like Islam speak of life after death, but the tombs of the founders of such systems are still on this earth. They too need a resurrected savior like Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Science with its wonder drugs has brought the life expectancy on the average to seventy years for people in the western world. Yet, the word of God spoke of man's life expectancy as being about seventy years in 1000 B.C. For Moses wrote: "The days of our years are threescore years and ten or even by reason of strength fourscore" (Psalm 90:10), and now after 3000 years "the paths of glory (still) lead but to the grave." Man with all his education, science, and computers in the last half of the 20th Century still can expect to live only seventy or eighty years. In simple language they have not abolished the mortuaries, cemeteries, or crematoriums. From the standpoint of this life, being dead is pretty permanent these days. Thus, man can only hope for eternal life through Jesus Christ. Even as it is written: "Our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished

death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (II Timothy 1:10).

The resurrection of Jesus is a well documented and established fact of history. Any lawful court of man will accept the eyewitness testimony of two or three men, but the apostles were twelve and gave their lives for testifying that Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead. Even as the apostle Peter said concerning himself and the other eleven apostles: “This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:32).

Thus God’s word “commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent; inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man who he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30–31).

Interestingly enough, even though the resurrection is the heart of the doctrine of Christ the traditional festival called Easter has no basis in scripture. Neither Christ nor his apostles ever authorized a celebration called Easter. The only celebration given to Christians is the Lord’s Supper in which we proclaim his death until he comes again (I Corinthians 11:23–26).

Satellites And God

The orderly motion found in the movement of the natural satellites and the planets demand the acceptance of a prime mover; that is, the moon’s regular motion about our

planet and the earth's regular and orderly movement about the sun demand the acceptance of some force in the beginning that could put them in their present orbits in such a way that they would maintain their speed and proper positions.

"Friendship 7," which was one of the first of the man made satellites, carried Lt. Col. J.H. Glenn at the speed of 17,545 m.p.h. around the earth. To do this the Atlas-D rocket booster developed 360,000 pounds of thrust, but once "Friendship 7" was in orbit it continued to circle the earth through inertia. Just so it is with the earth in her orbit and the moon in hers. Think what thrust it would take to put the moon in orbit or the earth in orbit about the sun.

The American taxpayer would think a person mad if he even half-way seriously suggested that it was simply by blind chance that "Friendship 7" went into orbit. Yet, unbelievers are bold to affirm that there is no God necessary to have put the earth in its present orbit or to position the earth's one natural satellite as it presently is. God's word declares "when I consider thy heavens the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou has ordained; what is man, that thou are mindful of him" (Psalms 8:3-4). God is mindful of man and even knows of his puny efforts to put satellites in orbit, but some men are so calloused in heart as to live unmindful of God, who caused us to live on a satellite of the sun, called Earth.

Is it any wonder that the former Rabbi, Saul of Tarsus, after becoming a Christian, said to the great intellectuals of the Aereopagus in Athens, "The God that made the world and all things therein, he being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, see-

ing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he be not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:24-28).

Theological Modernism And The Faith

Theological modernism declares that the Bible is not God's truth, but that it does contain truth from God. Such theologians according to their own theories must search out the truth for the masses. They suggest a need to demythologize the Bible. They are not above branding the Bible account of creation, the fall of man into sin, the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the crossing of the Red Sea, the story of Jonah, the virgin birth and even the resurrection of our Lord as myth. But to do so is to fly in the face of the eternal God and his Son. Many churches which have been drifting in the tide of classical liberalism over the past one hundred years now drink from the modernist's cup.

Attributing the supernatural events of the Bible to mythology is to lower God's book to that of human wisdom and defy the Creator "who made the earth and the sea, and all that in them is" (Acts 14:15). Such a philosophy humanizes the Bible and leaves men with hope only in this life and no prospect of immortality, which our Savior, Christ Jesus, made possible when he "abolished death, and

brought life and immortality to light through the gospel (II Timothy 1:10).

It is only by knowing the gospel of the eternal Father and his Son that a person can obtain immortality for the Son, himself, declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). The written word alone is able to thoroughly furnish a man unto every good work, as it is written, "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

The scriptures did not come by human wisdom, but "men spake from God being moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21). Therefore, faith must be based on the written word of God not in the modernistic pronouncements of an unbelieving clergy in Christendom.

Among the churches of Christ the Bible must always serve as the only rule and guide in faith and practice lest we drift into the limbo of theological liberalism and even modernism. The apostle Paul stated to the eldership of the church of Christ in Ephesus around 60 A.D., "Wherefore, I testify unto you this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God. It is possible to preach some Bible and still not preach the whole counsel of God. In matters of the true religion of Christ we must speak only as the Bible speaks, even as it is written, "If any man speaketh, as it were the oracles of God" (I Peter 4:11). If we cease to do so we will have no right to exist.

Part V

HEAVEN

The Reality Of Heaven

What does the Bible teach about heaven? Is it a real place? Jesus, who had come down from heaven (John 3:13), having “counted not the being on equality with God a thing to be grasped” (Philippians 2:6), knew of the accommodation situation in heaven; thus he said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you” (John 14:2). He then said, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2—3). Now that Christ went to heaven to prepare this place is evident, for the Hebrew writer declares, “Christ entered . . . into heaven itself, now to appear before the face of God for us” (Hebrews 9:24).

The apostle Peter declared the present physical heavens and earth would be destroyed (II Peter 3:7—11) and then described the eternal dwelling place of God’s saints as a “new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness” (II Peter 3:13), not the old earth renovated. Many couples here, young and old, must live in old houses patched up and renovated, but the obedient will have a mansion in the Father’s house in heaven.

Yet, many are looking for their reward here. Some are forgetting God and holding down two jobs to pay for a brick veneer mansion of this earth. Others are slaving night and day and on weekends to make a living, yet not having time to live a life for Jesus, which will bring eternal life. Jesus said, “He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it (Matthew 10:39); that is, if one says I will give my life to serve Jesus he will have abundant life here and in the end eternal life.

Simon Peter who had been in the fishing business on a

small lake in north Palestine once asked Jesus about this very thing of forsaking one's own planned life for service to Christ: "Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, of mother, or father, or children, or lands for my sake, and for the gospel's sake, but he shall receive a hundred fold now in this time, houses and brethren, and sisters and mothers, and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:31). This does not mean one had to be a fulltime preacher or teacher for the Lord but it does mean every part of one's life – his job, his time, his money and his talents must be dedicated to the Master's service.

Jesus said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20–21).

The same Simon Peter mentioned above wrote later in life to Christians of "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:4). Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people; therefore we urge all to repent (Luke 13:3).

The Hope Of Israel

Is Palestine the hope of Israel? With every flare up in the Middle East some religious group comes out shouting it is all described in the Bible and God is fulfilling his promise to Abraham.

But the truth of the matter is that God fulfilled his land promise to Israel centuries ago. Joshua declared some 1400

years before Christ, "So Jehovah gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein" (Jos. 21:43); and again, "There failed not aught of any good thing which Jehovah had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass" (Jos. 21:45).

The contention is made, "But Abraham did not personally get the land." But Abraham did inherit the land in his seed. As an illustration of how this was possible we might note King Saul was rejected from being King of Israel because of personal disobedience (I Sam. 16:2), but as God's anointed (see I Sam. 26:9,10) he reigned for forty years and the throne of Israel was lost to him in his son, Ishbosheth (I Sam. 2:4). Just so Abraham was promised the land of Palestine because of personal obedience (Gen. 12:1-4) but he inherited the land in his seed (Gen. 12:7; 15:18). See also Nehemiah 9:7 where the inspired writer declared God had performed his words unto Abraham concerning the land covenant.

Now it would not be right to accept the speculation of the modern prognosticators that say the land promise is yet to be fulfilled. Both Joshua and Nehemiah plainly declared that God had performed his word concerning the land promise to Abraham.

In fact, the Hebrew writer tells us plainly that Abraham did not personally want the land. Abraham and his fellow servants of the living God: Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob, went so far as to declare that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Heb. 11:13). The Holy Spirit by the same writer tells us they desired a better land, "that is a heavenly" (Heb. 11:15). This old physical heavens and earth are stored up unto fire (II Pet. 3:7-10) and at the second coming of Christ "the heavens being on fire shall be dis-

solved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (II Pet. 3:12). The land of Palestine is not the hope of Israel for that promise was fulfilled, but Israel’s hope is in Jesus the resurrected Lord.

The Eternal Inheritance

It is written in Hebrews 12:22–28, “But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels to the general assembly and church of the first born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better than that of Abel ... Wherefore receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe for our God is a consuming fire.”

The Hebrew Christians were thus told that they had come to the heavenly Jerusalem, Mt. Zion and to God the judge of all, to Jesus, to innumerable hosts of angels (the general assembly), the church, and the spirits of just men made perfect (Hebrews 12:22–24), then the writer declares to them, “Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken” (Hebrews 12:28). His purpose is to show how God has caused the saints to receive the kingdom even as he had promised through Daniel (Daniel 7:18), and to show how God has forged all his subjects into one glorious fellowship: the kingdom of heaven. The one fellowship is forged in, through, by and for Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the beloved Son of the Father. To this testifies the Holy Spirit when he says God purposed: “Unto a dispensation of the

fulness of the times, to sum up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens, and the things upon the earth" (Ephesians 1:9–10).

Thus to be living on the earth as a member of the church of Christ is to be receiving, sharing, enjoying, and partaking of God's mighty empire, "the kingdom of the Son of his love". Those right now being added to the church of Christ from East and West are sitting down in the kingdom with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, (Matthew 8:11) as well as myriads of angels.

Hebrew 12:22–28 plainly shows that to be a member of the Lord's church is to be a citizen of the kingdom of Heaven (Philippians 3:20); then again it makes it clear why we are strangers and pilgrims upon this planet (I Peter 2:11). Also it is a reassurance that when this earth is burned up (II Peter 3:10), we who are in the church will be ushered into the everlasting domain of God (II Peter 1:1), i.e. we are now in the kingdom, but must go to heaven to obtain our kingdom inheritance (Matthew 25:34). We can illustrate it this way: An Australian man who works for Qantas Airways in the United States, is a citizen of the Commonwealth, but he must return to Australia to have his inheritance in the Commonwealth. Christians have already been translated into the kingdom (Colossians 1:13) and "are fellow-citizens with the saints (Ephesians 2:19), but they must leave this earth (I Thessalonians 4:17) to obtain their inheritance in the eternal domicile of the kingdom.

Part VI

**JUDGEMENT TO
COME**

Judgement To Come

Man is a rational being created in the image of the eternal God (Genesis 1:26–27), who dwells temporarily on this planet earth, and it is necessary for man to give an account to God as to how he has lived. The scriptures declare: “We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10). It is therefore imperative that each person take stock of his or her life realizing that every deed will be brought into judgement after death. “As it is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgement” (Hebrews 9:27).

Eternal punishment was originally planned for Satan, the arch enemy of God, and for Satan’s fellow demons, but when men and women insist on serving Satan and/or their own selfish ends, they too must suffer with Satan. Listen to the words of Jesus on this very point as he prophesied of himself on the future throne of judgement: “When the Son of Man shall come in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats ... Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:31,32,41).

Since we all must die and give an account to God for our deeds at judgement and face the awful prospect of being punished eternally, it is absolutely necessary for us to serve God acceptably in this life. For God “commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world

in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30–31).

Judgement

Daniel Webster, one of America’s greatest senators in the last century, was often praised for his brilliant logic and thinking ability. On one occasion it is said of the great statesmen that he was asked what was the greatest thought he had entertained. His reply was that I have a soul and must stand before God in the judgement.

Just so the inevitability of judgement ought to be impressed on our minds, even as it is written, “It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgement” (Hebrews 9:27).

Science has given us better health and increased our life-span from what it was at the turn of the century until now it averages about 70 years for most of us in the western world; however, this is still as it was in the day of the Psalmists, who wrote hundreds of years before Christ, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; or even by reason of strength fourscore years; ... (Life) is soon gone, and we fly away” (Psalms 90:10). Then “man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets” and “then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:5,7).

Science has been a great servant in health, sanitation, food production, etc., but she has not abolished the ceme-

tery, the mortuary and the crematorium. Thus, when man's spirit returns to God he reserves it unto judgement (2 Peter 2:4,9; Revelation 20:12-15); and Christ who knew the problems and sufferings that mankind knows will be the judge. Even as it is written, "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10).

Because of this judgement "the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, the murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). God does not wish that any should perish this way (II Peter 3:9), but when men insist on using all their time (including Sundays) for their own gain or they persist in unbelief or ungodliness then they ought not to expect eternal life as a gift for ignoring their creator.

Prophets Of Doom

More and more as western society grows softer and sicker, sinful peddlers of false systems rush about to frighten people into thinking that the end of time is imminent. They are just sure that they can read the "signs" and tell us, "look out," it is almost on us.

The truth of the matter is that Jesus said to his early disciples they would be able to anticipate the destruction of Jerusalem (see Matthew 24:1-34), which occurred some 40 years after his death and resurrection, but that

his second coming would be like that of a thief and thus no signs would be given for his second coming (Matthew 24:35–44).

The rise of evil in this generation is deplorable and must be fought tooth and nail by God-fearing people, but it is not yet as bad as the corruption was in the days of Rome's decline, as any one who wants to take the time to read of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire will see. Granted, we are on the road to a licentious society, like that of Greece and Rome, but total darkness has not yet set in, and there are still God-fearing people who have not yet bowed their knee to Baal.

It would be ludicrous to see the prophets of doom snatch at every bit of bad news to proclaim their "look out" policy if it did not involve the eternal welfare of souls.

The truth of the matter is that no human knows when the day of judgement is to come (Mark 13:31–32), and thus men need to be prepared all the time.

It does no good and much harm for cults and self-appointed prophets to go about prophesying doom like William Miller did in the early 1800's. Miller prophesied that Christ would return in 1843–44, but it did not happen. Later, Charles Russell got in on the act, but he passed off the scene with just as little success in getting Christ to come back when he said he would.

The best way to overcome the fears that the prophets of doom stir up is for men and women to know their Bible. Why not read the Bible through this year, beginning with the New Testament of our Lord Jesus.

Also, to combat the false teachers the simple followers

of Jesus need to unite; not in some super sect, but as Christians belonging only to the original communion of Christ's disciples.

The Reality Of Eternal Hell

During the last one hundred years the rise of modernism and liberalism in the established denominations has led to a watering down or complete rejection of the Biblical truth concerning the reality of a burning hell. Aiding and abetting the modernist during this time, in his rejection of the truth against eternal punishment for sin after this life, has been those religious sects which deny that man has a rational spirit that continues to live after separation from the body. By pulling such Biblical verses as Ecclesiastes 3:19,20 and Ecclesiastes 9:5 out of their context, they deny that man is a spirit being clothed in flesh, made in God's image (Genesis 1:26,27, John 4:24); then they proceed to deny the Biblical truth about the wicked being cast into eternal punishment after judgement.

In Matthew 25:46 Jesus said concerning the fate of the unrighteous after the great day of judgement: "And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life." From this passage it is abundantly clear that as long as the righteous enjoy life (eternal), just that long the wicked will suffer punishment (eternal). People who rationalise that God would not punish sinners that way just do not believe all that the scriptures say, nor the enormity of the crime of sin against God. Sins like lying, drunkenness, adultery, perversions, lust, greed, extortions, cursing, lasciviousness, and false religion, are crimes against God, for John 3:4 says "sin is lawlessness."

The wages for the crime of sin against God is death, and God hath sent Jesus to save man from the guilt of his sins. Obey Jesus so he can save you from hell (II Thessalonians 1:7—9).

Jesus was so plain about sin and the reality of a fiery hell, he said, "Whosoever shall say Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire" (Matthew 5:22). Yet it is so characteristic of men to call their fellowmen such vile terms as "fool" or even "stupid fool". How ungodly! For just such wicked and sinful speech, unrepentant men and women shall go "into hell, into the unquenchable fire" (Mark 9:44). An unquenchable fire cannot be a physical, materialistic fire, but must be one of an eternal enduring nature. In a similar strong figure, Revelation 21:8 describes the horror of eternal punishment to our finite minds like this: "But the fearful, and the unbelieving and the abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Taking Stock

Man is a rational being created in the image of the eternal God, who dwells temporarily on this planet earth. It will be necessary for man to give an account to God as to how he has lived. For the scriptures declare: "We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10). It is therefore imperative that each person take stock of his or her life realizing that every deed will be brought into judgement after death. "As it is appointed

unto men once to die and after this the judgement” (Hebrews 9:27). Eternal punishment was originally planned for Satan the arch enemy of God and men, along with his fellow demons, but when men and women insist on serving Satan, and/or their own selfish ends they too must suffer with Satan.

Listen to the words of Jesus on this very point as he prophesied of himself on the future throne of judgement:

“When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats ... Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:31, 32, 41).

Since we all must die and give an account to God for our deeds in judgement, and because we face the awful prospect of being punished eternally, it is absolutely necessary for us to serve God acceptably in this life.

The Word Will Judge Us

Man is a rational spiritual being made in God’s image, which will give an account before Christ in judgement, and we affirm that the standard will be the word of God. Notice what Jesus said about this, “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).

Catholics and Anglicans say, “Our church puts a lot of stock in its oral traditions, will they not be a part of the judgement standard?” The answer is no, for Jesus himself said concerning religious traditions, “Ye leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men. And he said unto them, full well do ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your tradition” (Mark 7:8–9).

According to the word of God, the standard for us in judgement will be the words of Jesus and that standard will be written; for we read, “The dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works (Revelation 20:12). These books are the small books of the Bible. Those who lived before the cross will be judged according to the Old Testament system and those of us who live today will be judged by the law of Christ in the New Testament (James 2:12).

Therefore, it is imperative that we read and study the books of the Bible. Let me urge you to at least read the New Testament of Jesus through before this year ends. There are 261 chapters in the New Covenant of Christ, and by reading just five chapters a day you can complete the whole New Testament in just 52 days. Parents, let me urge you to buy your child a personal Bible with large readable print and require them to read a portion every day. Do not let your child grow to manhood or womanhood without at least having read the life story of the greatest one who ever lived.

Part VII

THE KINGDOM

Jesus Is King

The great prophet, Isaiah said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Again Gabriel said to Jesus' mother, "And behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:31-32).

The exaltation of Christ "upon the throne of kingdom of Jehovah over Israel" (I Chronicles 28:5), i.e., "the throne of Jehovah" (I Chronicles 29:23) or "the throne of David over Israel" (II Samuel 3:10), has already taken place, for we read in Revelation 3:21, "I also overcame, and sat down with my Father in his throne." When did this take place?

The answer is the ancient feast day, Pentecost, just fifty days after the resurrection, and ten days after his ascension in the year of our Lord 33 (C. E. 30) some 1950 years ago. We know this beyond a shadow of a doubt because the Holy Spirit on that Pentecost by the mouth of Peter quoted from both Psalm 132 about David's son on his throne and Psalm 110 about Christ ruling from God's right hand (Acts 2:30-36). Peter said on that day, "Let all Israel know assuredly" that God had raised up Jesus to place him on David's throne and to be at the Lord's right hand.

The Hebrew writer tells us, "When he had made purification of sins, (Christ) sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High" (Hebrews 1:3) and that the Father, who is God, said of the son "thy throne O God is forever and ever" (Hebrews 1:8). Thus, Jesus Christ is now ruling over the kingdom of God, spiritual Israel, (Philippians 3:3; Galatians 3:29; 6:16), and "he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be conquered is death" (I Corinthians 15:24-25).

The kingdom of Heaven upon this earth, the church of Christ, is under the rule of the monarch "who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (I Timothy 6:15) and rules heaven and earth from "the right hand of power" (Luke 22:69).

"The Lord's Prayer"

Christ announced in the first year of his ministry that the kingdom of Heaven was at hand (Matthew 4:17), he then taught his early disciples to pray "thy kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10), a little later he told the apostles some of them would not taste death until they had seen the kingdom come with power (Mark 9:1), then on Pentecost Sunday in late May in the year 30 A.D., his kingdom was established with about 3000 members on its first day (Acts 2:36-41) in the city of Jerusalem.

The scriptural facts will bring a question to mind to thinking people concerning what is commonly called the Lord's Prayer. This prayer which is found in Matthew 6:9-13 (cf. Luke 11:2-4), was in reality a model prayer

which Christ taught his disciples before his death, burial and resurrection and prior to the establishment of his kingdom on that eventful Pentecost over 1900 years ago.

For after the kingdom of Heaven was established in Jerusalem we read of Philip, the evangelist, preaching in an area about thirty-five miles away, called Samaria. Of these people we read, "But when they believed Philip preaching good things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women." Notice Philip did not tell them to believe and join a denomination and pray "thy kingdom come." Also note, he did not baptize any babies. Philip preached the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus to the people and they, as men and women, were born again of the water and the Spirit into the kingdom (cf. John 3:1-5). The new birth is for people who are old enough to believe and be baptized with understanding (Mark 16:15-16).

Again, after that above date no disciple in the New Testament ever prayed or taught anyone to pray "thy kingdom come." Why? Because the kingdom had come with power on Pentecost (Mark 9:1; Acts 2:1-4). The Christian Hebrews were in the process of receiving, sharing and enjoying the kingdom in the 1st Century, even as it was written concerning them, "Wherefore receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken" (Hebrew 12:28).

The prayer of Matthew 6:9-13 was a model for prayer, thus it is wrong to pray "thy kingdom come" now. Men and women must be seeking the kingdom (Matthew 6:33) and when they have been born again of the water and the Spirit into it as rational believers, they must then pray for it to be spread among men.

1950 Years Ago

Christ's great spiritual empire, the kingdom of Heaven, was founded in the year of our Lord, 33 (C.E. 30), on the ancient feast day, Pentecost, in the month we call May about 1950 years ago. Its establishment was foretold by Jesus: "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you. There are some here of them that stand by, who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power" (Mark 9:1). The future kingdomist, who maintains Christ's kingdom is yet future, runs square into the face of this plain scripture. The kingdom of Heaven was founded during the life time of Jesus' apostles; it could not have been founded after the first century.

The premillennialist (future kingdom advocates) who clutch at straws to save their theories and contend the transfiguration (Mark 9:2-13) fulfilled this statement are chasing the winds of unbelief for Jesus said some "shall in no wise taste of death till they see the kingdom" come. This meant some would not die, but it also meant some would. None standing by had tasted of death in the time lapse (only six days) between Jesus' prophecy (Mark 9:1) and the transfiguration (Mark 9:2), but we know two had tasted death by Pentecost, Christ and Judas.

This prophecy by Jesus has two important points which make it clear the kingdom of Heaven was founded on Pentecost. Remember Jesus said the kingdom would come in "the life time of some disciples and would come with power".

Now what power came in their life time? We read Luke 24:29, Jesus said, "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem,

until ye be endued with power from on High.” Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Here the apostles were plainly told the power from on high would come when the Holy Spirit came.

On Pentecost, just ten days after Christ’s ascension and just fifty days after his resurrection, the power promised of the Father from on high came upon the apostles by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Now the kingdom did come in the lifetime of those disciples or Christ is a false prophet. Christ said they would not “taste of death” until they had seen the kingdom come with power. Christ is no false prophet because the kingdom came on Pentecost with power.

Now you can escape Satan’s kingdom of darkness and be translated into the kingdom of Heaven (Colossians 1:13) by being added to the church of Christ (Acts 2:47) through faith in Jesus (John 8:24), repentance of their sins (Acts 26:20), and by being immersed in water for remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

The Prophets And The Kingdom

The New Testament shows clearly that the kingdom of Heaven was begun in Jerusalem just fifty days after Christ’s resurrection and ten days after his ascension, which was about 1950 years ago. (Matthew 3:1–2, 4:17; 16:18–19;

Mark 9:1) Sinners, youth and adults, must be born again of the water and the Spirit (John 3:5) to enter that kingdom. This is what a person does when he believes in Jesus according to the testimony of the Spirit in the written word of the gospel and is immersed in water for the remission of sins, even as it is required by Jesus himself: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Yet, one may wonder if the law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) corroborates the testimony of the New Testament. Since the same Holy Spirit guided the hearts and minds of the writers of both (II Peter 1:20–21; I Timothy 4:1; II Peter 3:15–16) then one can rest assured that it does.

Even as Isaiah wrote before 700 B.C., "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it" (Isaiah 2:2). Isaiah went on to prophesy that the word of the Lord would go out of Jerusalem at the time this great house of God was established; he also said the nations flowing into this house would beat their weapons of war into farming tools (Isaiah 2:3–4).

This prophecy points directly to the Pentecost date, in May of the year of our Lord, 33; for as Acts 2 records, Simon Peter of Galilee stood up with the other eleven apostles in Jerusalem, and said that date was of "the last days" (Acts 2:36–41).

A prophecy by Daniel, approximately 600 years before Christ stated, "And in the days of those kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be des-

troyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44). “Those kings” refers to the rulers of the fourth great empire, the Roman, depicted in a dream of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Thus the Book of Daniel revealed God would set up his eternal kingdom while Rome was ruling the world, and in fact, when the house of God (I Timothy 3:15) was established on Pentecost, Tiberius held the imperial throne in Rome and Pontius Pilate was Roman procurator over Jerusalem and Judea.

Therefore it can be clearly seen that the prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New reveal that the kingdom of heaven is among men, and that they must be born again now to enter the kingdom.

We urge you to seek first the kingdom (Matthew 6:33) and worship with God’s church in your area.

The Key Of The Kingdom

Jesus promised the apostle Peter, “I will give unto thee the key of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:18). Note that he did not promise that Peter would be head of the church, but promised him the keys. In other words, Peter was to be the door keeper, not the head, for Christ Jesus is the only head of his church. Even as it is written: “ ... The Father of Glory ... raised him (Christ) from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority and

power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:17–23). This passage from the pen of inspiration makes it plain that Christ is ruler and head of his church “in this world”. Any man, king or cleric, who exalts himself as though he were head of the church is presumptuous and is like that one of whom it was said: he “opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God setting himself forth as God” (II Thessalonians 2:3—4). Jesus was “Immanuel, which is being interpreted, God with us” (Matthew 1:23), and to try to push him out of his headship of the church “in this world” (Ephesians 1:21) is to exalt oneself against God. Also, we note that Christ promised all the twelve (apostles) the power to bind and loose (Matthew 18:18) as the Holy Spirit directed them (Mark 13:11).

The use of the keys of the kingdom first took place on Pentecost 30 A.D. (late May) when Peter with the eleven (Acts 2:14) lifted up his voice to proclaim Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection as an accomplished fact for the first time. On that day these twelve apostles preached Christ crucified in various languages to the Jews gathered in Jerusalem from different parts of the world; and convicted thousands of them that they had had a part in crucifying the Messiah, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Upon hearing that they had crucified the Lord of Glory, many of these Israelites “said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter in response to this question used the keys of the kingdom and opened the door for 3000 of those Israelites to enter the kingdom of God when he said: “Repent ye and be baptized (immersed) every one

of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:36–38). Latter day prophets who proclaim that the Kingdom of Christ is yet to be established in the future plainly ignore the fact that Peter used the keys of the kingdom in the first century and that those 3000 Jews on Pentecost 30 A.D. constituted the first citizens of the kingdom of heaven upon this earth. Those 3000 were added to the church (Acts 2:47) or translated into the kingdom of God's dear son just as the Colossians were a short time later (Colossians 1:12–14).

The Kingdom Of Heaven

While Tiberlius Caesar sat on the Imperial Throne of Rome and while Pontius Pilate was serving as governor of the Jewish state in Palestine, Jesus being about thirty years of age was immersed (baptized) by John in the Jordan River (Luke 3, Mark 1:9). Immediately upon being baptized he went into the bush and spent forty days without food (Matthew 4) to steel himself against the weaknesses of human flesh (Matthew 26:41). While there he had a remarkable encounter with the god of this world, Satan (II Corinthians 4:4), who tempted him to forget his mission to save humanity, but Jesus routed the Tempter, not with signs or new proclamations, but with the simple historical record, the written word (Luke 4:1–13), the Bible.

Upon his return to the populated regions in Palestine he began to preach the good news of the empire of heaven, saying, "Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Again it is written: "Now after John (the one who had baptized Jesus) was delivered up (to prison)

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:14–15).

Thus Jesus announced that the promised time for fulfillment of the kingdom prophecies (cf. Daniel 2:44, 7:18, Isaiah 2:2–4) had come and God’s mighty heavenly kingdom was at hand. In fact, it was so near, Jesus, about two years later, told the twelve apostles, Peter, Andrew, James, John, etc., that some of them would not die until they had seen “the kingdom of God come with power” (Mark 9:1). Thus only a little over three years after Jesus first began his ministry the kingdom of heaven was established. For shortly after Christ’s ascension to heaven the Holy Spirit came on the apostles and under his influence they began the kingdom of God on this earth with 3000 “charter” members (Acts 2:1–4). You, too, can be a citizen of this great spiritual empire (John 18:36, Philippians 3:20) by being born again “of the water and of the Spirit” (John 3:5).

Yet, even though the Bible plainly declares that the disciples of Christ of the first century were added to the kingdom (Colossians 1:13), during recent years as western society has declined in morality and the older denominations have begun to disappear, there have been renewed efforts to pump life into that old doctrine of the devil, premillennialism. The term premillennialism is made up of three parts: “pre” meaning before, “millennial” meaning 1,000 years, and “ism” referring to the doctrine that Christ’s kingdom has not been set up, but will be set up in the future on this earth for 1000 years. In fact, virtually every little pip-squeak out of modern (fleshly) Israel in the Middle East is exploited in some new tract or pamphlet by the premillennialists to say that some prophecy is being

fulfilled. Yet, this one thing they are ignorant of, God has cast out fleshy Israel (Galatians 4:28–31), though they can be grafted into the Spiritual nation of Israel if they will not continue in unbelief (Romans 11:1, 5, 23, 26; Galatians 3:26–29).

Thus we urge you dear reader to become a member of the church of Christ which he established (Matthew 16:18) and thus be a born-again citizen in the kingdom of heaven.

The Throne Of The Kingdom Of Jehovah

Radio and television news broadcasts continuously report the daily events of the Middle East. Speculations on what Egypt's president, Anwar Sadat, will do or what Israel's prime minister will say capture the imagination of millions.

Religious broadcasters constantly tell us the current events in the Middle East are signs of the imminent return of Jesus, the rapture, the great tribulation and the 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth.

These would be prophets of these latter days tell us Jesus is to be a divine king on an earthly throne and rule over the Israelis for a literal 1000 years. They confidently broadcast that Jesus will rule the earth from a literal throne in Palestine's Jerusalem. They tell us, *not* Ronald Reagan, but Jesus will bring peace to the Middle East and to the whole world in the millennium.

But we ask the question, does the Bible teach an earthly reign of Jesus for 1000 natural years on this planet? Does the Bible tell us there will be a secret rapture preceding the 100 years? Does the Bible teach there will be a great tribulation before Jesus begins to reign?

Friends, it is true our Lord Jesus is coming again, but we are here to assure you from God's Word that these latter day soothsayers do not know what they are talking about when they speak of Jesus' imminent return, the secret rapture, the tribulation and a 1000 years reign of Christ on earth. As careful students of Bible prophecy, we submit to you that the prophets forefold Jesus' rule was to be in heaven and not upon the earth.

But someone says, that is not true! Yet, it is. The prophets foretold of not a literal earthly reign of Jesus, but a spiritual reign at God's right hand. Not only, dear friends, can we prove this from the prophets and the New Testament, but we are prepared to stand in any public assembly with qualified proponents of the premillennial views and show from the scriptures that Jesus' reign is from heaven and it is not to be on a literal throne in Jerusalem.

Did not the Holy Spirit by the pen of Jude admonish, "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Again, did not the great apostle to the Gentiles affirm, "I am set for the defense of the gospel" (Philippians 1:16).

Yet, one of the significant characteristics of these modern prognosticators of the earthly reign of Jesus for 1000 years upon the earth is that they will not defend what they teach. Oh yes, they will use the radio and television to proclaim an imminent return of Jesus, a secret rapture, the tribulation and a literal 1000 year reign, but to try to get

one of the radio or television big wigs to defend their beliefs in public debate is like trying to catch a greased pig in a round house.

Though we will be criticized for telling you the truth of God's Word that there will not be an earthly 1000 year reign of Jesus, we do intend to do so; without fear of successful contradiction.

To begin our study of the rulership of King Jesus of Nazareth we want to study with you the true Biblical history of the Kingship over Israel.

Who was the first King of Israel? Many will answer, Saul, the son of the Kish of the tribe of Benjamin, but the first king to occupy the throne over Israel was the living God himself. For proof of this we note Samuel, the great prophet and judge of Israel, who lived in the eleventh century B.C., prayed to God and explained that the Israelis of his day had rejected him as judge for they had said, "Make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (I Samuel 8:5); but God said to Samuel, "they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not be king over them" (I Samuel 8:7). Later we find Samuel rebuking the people for desiring an earthly king like the nations around them saying, "Jehovah your God was your king" (I Samuel 13:12). God occupied the throne of Israel from heaven for it is written, "heaven is my throne" (Isaiah 66:1). Thus, God was the first king to reign on the throne of Israel. Now, bear in mind that a throne means not just a literal chair of state, but "sovereign power and dignity" over a people or nation. In fact, I Chronicles 29:23 tells us, "Then Solomon sat on *the throne of Jehovah* as king instead of Daivd his father and prospered." That is, the throne which David and Solomon occupied in the tenth century B.C. was actually God's throne over his people,

Israel. Even as David recognized when he said, God “hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the *throne of the kingdom of Jehovah* over Israel” (I Chronicles 28:5). Yet, in I Kings 2:12 we are told, “And Solomon sat upon the throne of David his father.” That is, Solomon’s throne was David’s throne, which in truth was God’s throne over his people, Israel.

Now we have seen that God was the first king to occupy the throne of Israel (I Samuel 8:7). And, we have also seen that the throne or “sovereign power and dignity” over Israel was called the throne of Jehovah when Solomon sat on it (I Chronicles 29:23). The same throne was called the throne of David (I Kings 2:12).

Therefore we submit to you that God was the first king of Israel and he ruled them from heaven. We also submit that when the ancient Israelites in the time of Samuel rejected God that it was rebellion against their king in heaven in favor of a king upon the earth.

Now in these last days, i.e., the Messianic age, Jesus has been raised, “to sit at his [God’s] right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come” (Ephesians 1:20–21). Yet, in spite of the clear Biblical teaching in the prophets of the Old Testament that the Messiah was to reign at God’s right hand (Psalm 110:1–5), in the Messianic age over all the earth, men insist he must come down to the earth in order to reign. They do not want the Lord Jesus to reign as sovereign from heaven. They are like the rebellions Israelis of old, they want a king upon the earth.

But the truth of the matter is this, that Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Savior of the world, was raised from the dead

in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy to be seated upon the throne of David, i.e., the throne of God at God's own right hand, which is the right hand of power (Luke 22:69).

In Acts chapter two of the New Testament we read where Peter said of the ancient King David, "... knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon his throne ... spake of the resurrection Christ ... (Acts 2:30–31). Then Peter said, "This Jesus did and raise up, whereof we all [that is, the apostles] are witnesses" (Acts 2:32). Peter again said of Jesus, "Being therefore by the right hand exalted ..." (Acts 2:33).

This exaltation of Jesus according to the Holy Spirit, who spoke by Peter's mouth, took place on Pentecost in the 33rd year of our Lord's earthly sojourn, immediately after his return to heaven. For just prior to the announcement by Peter and the other apostles on Pentecost that Jesus had been raised to sit on David's throne, which was in truth, as we have already observed, the throne of God over his people (cf. I Chronicles 28:5), Jesus had returned to heaven as a Son of Man in clouds. Even as the great man of God, Daniel, had seen in a prophetic vision six centuries previously (Daniel 7:13–14).

On this day, Pentecost, that is, the Pentecost feast day of Acts chapter 2, Peter declared to the Israelis "that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified" (Acts 2:36). This was the day of Jesus' exaltation in the heavenly places as spoken of by the Holy Spirit in Ephesians chapter one, for he stated by the pen of the apostle Paul, God "raised him (Jesus) from the dead, and made him sit at his right in the heavenly places, far above

all rule, and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named ..." (Ephesians 1:20-21).

Peter, after preaching the exaltation of Jesus to the throne of David, i.e., the throne of God in heaven over his people, declared to the Israelis, "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified" (Acts 2:36).

The Hebrews then cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent ye, and be immersed everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Three thousand Israelites who believed the words of the apostle were then immersed and added to the church or assembly of God's people which is his kingdom upon this earth. The true church of the living God is his kingdom upon this earth over which his Son now reigns, even as David reigned over God's people in Old Testament times.

Do not be deceived into believing the vain speculations of the modern prognosticators about a future earthly kingdom of Christ. Study your Bible and see that Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual empire over which he reigns now and you must be born again to enter it now. Jesus now rules "on the throne of the kingdom of Jehovah."

The Throne Of The Kingdom

Hal Lindsey, Billy Graham, Herbert W. Armstrong and a host of denominations have over the past three decades

been proclaiming that Christ will reign on this physical planet, Earth, for a thousand years sometime in the future. All of those like peas out of the same premillennial pod proclaim Christ is not now ruling as King on the throne of David, but that he will take up that authority or seat at his second coming.

Yet God's word plainly shows that Christ is now on the throne which his father David occupied and that he began that reign on Pentecost in the year of our Lord, 33 (C.E. 30). David did hold sovereign power and rule over the nation of Israel, the people of God, for when Nathan the prophet rebuked David for his sin with Bathsheba, he said, "Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, I anointed thee King over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul" (II Samuel 12:7). Yet David was not the first to occupy that throne.

The first to rule was God himself, for in the time of Samuel the Israelites desired a king like the nations round about them, which caused Samuel to say they had rejected him as their judge; however, "Jehovah said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee; for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not be king over them" (I Samuel 8:7).

Thus when God was king, the throne of Israel was in heaven, for Isaiah said, "Thus saith Jehovah, heaven is my throne, and earth is my foot-stool, what manner of house will ye build unto?" (Isaiah 66:1). Again we read in I Chronicles 29:23 that "Solomon sat on the throne of Jehovah as king instead of David his father and prospered" and David himself said this throne was over Israel: God "Hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of Jehovah over Israel (I Chronicles 28:5).

David also prophesied that Christ would sit on his throne: “Jehovah hath sworn unto David in truth; He will not turn from it: of the fruit of thy body will I sit upon thy throne (Psalms 132:11). Again David prophesied that the Christ would sit at the Lord’s right hand when he ruled, “Jehovah saith unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy foot-stool. Jehovah will send forth the rod of their strength out of Zion: Rule thou in the midst of thine enemies” (Psalms 110:1, 2).

Christ now reigns on this throne for Peter by inspiration of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:29–35 points plainly to the statements in Psalms 110:1 and 132:11 concerning Jesus’ rule on the throne of his father David as being fulfilled on that day.

Thus Jesus is now King of Kings (I Timothy 6:15) and we urge you to be obedient to him in order that you might be born of the water and the Spirit into his kingdom (John 3:3–5).

Part VIII

MARRIAGE

Adultery

The scriptures declare, "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Hebrews 13:4). The bed of marriage is honorable, right, holy and pure, but the same act engaged in before marriage is fornication. When young people (or old) slip out in their parked cars or their dark corners and commit fornication they are sinning against God, against each other, and against themselves for God's word declares: "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (I Corinthians 6:18).

God gave man his basic drives, including his sex drive, but he expects men and women to contain themselves for the honorable estate of marriage, even as he has said, "Because of fornications, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband" (I Corinthians 7 2). We might add that the Bible does not condone the double standard; God expects both men and women to keep themselves pure for marriage.

God has never minced words in condemning adultery for his Old Covenant said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14), and in the New Testament of our Lord Jesus it is repeated "Do not commit adultery" (Luke 18:20).

In fact, adultery or fornication is such a grievous crime against one's spouse and God it is the only thing for which Christ permits divorce. Even as he said, "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery (Matthew 19:

9–10). Again in Romans it is written: “For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress, though she be married to another man” (Romans 7:2–3). The scriptures state, “Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (I Corinthians 6:9–10, NAS). Yet, God will abundantly pardon people, young or old, rich or poor of fornication, adultery or any of these sins when they turn to him and bring forth fruits worthy of repentance (Acts 26:20).

A Better Solution Than Divorce

As flowers need the correct balance of air, light, soil and water to grow properly, so children need the love, emotional stability and security of a good home to mature properly. Jesus knew this when he set such stringent laws in force to safeguard marriage. As it is written, “What God hath joined together let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6). And again, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery” (Matthew 19:9); “and if she herself shall put away her husband and marry another, she committeth adultery” (Mark 10:12).

Couples who break their homes in frivolous divorce are doing untold harm to their children and to the nation as

a whole. For example, the late Sam Davis Tatum, a distinguished jurist of Nashville, Tennessee, who spent over a quarter of a century in dealing with juveniles in the court room, reported that ninety per cent of the children who came before him were from broken homes.

Not only this, but husbands and wives who live under the same roof but envelop their children in a crossfire of hatred and bitterness are doing their share in producing emotionally disturbed children. The modern solution for the latter problem has become divorce as many have counselled that divorce is better for a child than living in an emotionally charged atmosphere. How so? Since when do two wrongs make a right? Could the fighting couple not repent of the disgraceful conduct toward each other and toward their little ones? Could they not simply live separately temporarily until they could be reconciled? Even as it is written, "Should she (the wife) depart, let her remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband" (I Corinthians 7:11). God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) and he only allows it when a husband or wife has committed the heinous crime of fornication or adultery against their spouse (Matthew 5:32).

Enemies Of The Cross

Gospel mission efforts are being undermined by false teachers. Ninety-three percent of the world's 4.9 billion people live outside the United States, yet 95 percent of our evangelists are concentrating on the seven percent. Very few elderships have the courage or will to sponsor an overseas work. Fifty-eight percent of the world's population, 2.9 billion people, live in Asia alone. But there are fewer than 40 American evangelists in the entire continent.

Satan surely rejoices to know that he has so hindered the spread of the New Testament church. There are God-fearing elders and preachers who are seeking lost souls far and near. Yet while Satan and his agents spread atheistic communism to America's door in Nicaragua, Cuba and El Salvador, many church leaders couldn't care less about spreading the borders of Jesus' kingdom to other nations. Well did the Holy Spirit say of such, "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion."

Yet, it is not just through apathy, lethargy and a lackadaisical attitude in church leaders that hinders foreign mission work, but plain old fashioned false doctrine. In particular, I have in mind the current false theories being taught on marriage, divorce and remarriage.

For example, in 1981 in one Asian country, which has a population of 50 million (unbelievers) and is not too far from where we lived in Hong Kong, the American work force and the church were split by the bringing of the doctrine: "God's law of marriage does not apply to unbelievers." Current versions of this ungodly heresy cropped up in the U.S. a few years ago among the churches of Christ and now it is undermining the work in the field. As Paul said of some, those who teach such are "enemies of the cross of Christ."

There are at least six, maybe more, false theories currently being propagated to undermine the plain, powerful law of Jesus in Matthew 19:3-9. All have been dreamed up to get around the Biblical truth on marriage, divorce and remarriage. In particular, carnal minded men despise Matthew 19:9, which says, "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when he is put away committeth adultery."

Note these false theories conjured up to make void this plain statement of Jesus:

1. *The divorced fornicator is also free to remarry.* This doctrine claims to be true because it is said the divorced fornicator is no longer bound to his mate. True, but a divorced fornicator is by definition a “put away person,” and Jesus said, “he that marrieth one that is put away from a husband committeth adultery” (Luke 16:18).

2. *Christ’s law doesn’t even apply to non-Christians.* This concept is absurd in the face of Jesus’ statement, “From the beginning it hath not been so.” He didn’t say from Pentecost it won’t be so. Also he specifically spoke Matthew 19:9 to the Pharisees who were not his disciples and certainly not members of the church. If Christ’s law of marriage does not apply to unbelievers then their polygamy and concubinage are not sin, for it is God’s law applied by Jesus (Matthew 19:3–9) which condemns these as sin. Where is the lover of truth that can believe such foolishness: God’s law of marriage applies only to members of the church of Christ married to members of the church of Christ?

3. *A believer deserted by an unbeliever is free to marry another.* This theory is false because I Corinthians 7:15 does not say the believer is free to be divorced and remarried. It says he or she has not been made a slave (Gr. *De-doulotai*) to his or her mate. The Christian doesn’t have to lick the boots of the unbeliever for the sake of keeping him or her peacefully in the house. It is a lie to say this scripture gives the right of remarriage for desertion, and all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

4. *Baptism sanctifies an adulterous marriage.* If one says

hocus pocus over lead it won't change into gold, and baptizing an impenitent sinner won't bring remission of sins. He will go down a dry sinner and come up a wet one. The scriptures teach men "to repent, turn to God doing works worthy of repentance" (Acts 26:20). A sinner who steals a million dollars and still has that money in his power at the time of conversion cannot keep it. The adulterer who has married and has another man's wife in his power at the time of conversion cannot keep the woman. God requires "as a man hath, not as he hath not" (II Corinthians 8:12).

5. *Adultery is a one-time act in the "consummation" of an adulterous marriage, and succeeding similar acts are sanctified because of the new "marriage."* God says, "If, while the husband liveth, she be joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress" (Romans 7:3). But false teachers say if she is joined to another man she is a pretty young divorcee. God says she is an adulteress and he is an adulterer (Mark 10:11–12). Their bed of marriage is adultery, the first and each succeeding time they come to it.

6. *The legal acts of divorce and remarriage equal adultery, and are one time actions, thus the resulting marriage itself is not sinful.* This theory also holds the silly view that adultery in Matthew 19:9 means sexual immorality and the legal acts of divorce and remarriage are not adultery, but cause one to commit adultery in the new marriage. It is living in adultery, as God speaks of those who live in fornication: "Fornication ... wherein ye also once walked, when ye *lived* in those things" (Colossians 3:5–7).

It would be wonderful to always write with joy of the progress of the kingdom on this frontier of the continent where 2 thousand 900 million know not the Lord, but the danger of these false theories to world evangelism among those who do not know God compels me to speak. Well

did the Holy Spirit say, “There arose false prophets among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers ...” (II Peter 2:1).

Some might ask, why doesn't God just strike a false teacher dead when he rises up in the household of God. Yet, God's word gives the answer, “For there must be also factions (heresies) among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you” (I Corinthians 11:19). God tolerates the rise of factions among his people to see who will stand on the Lord's side.

This decade is not to be a time (if any ever was) for sunshine soldiers and summer-time patriots in the Kingdom of Jesus. The preachers, writers and professors who have espoused these heresies on adulterous marriages would fill the church with fornicators. They are like Jezebel of Revelation 2:20 who seduced men to think they could be God's servants and commit fornication. Such will destroy the church of Christ in this generation and obliterate our world-wide evangelistic effort. May God give us elders and preachers who will stand by the doctrine of the old rugged cross and, if necessary, die there.

The Government Of The Home

The scriptures require: “Wives be in subjection to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord. Fathers provoke not your children, that they be not discouraged” (Colossians 3:18–19).

Just as any sound government or business must have an executive, so a home must have a head. The simple but direct language in the above text is a remarkably sound way for a home to be governed. The wife being in subjection to the husband, the husband loving his wife, and the children obeying the parents is the simple key to sound home rule.

Christ bears rule over his own church and has given no man the right to claim to be universal head of his church. Even as it is written "And he (God) put all things in subjection under his (Jesus') feet and gave him to be head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:22). Peter the apostle was made as a gate keeper in Christ's church, but was never given the headship in the church of Christ (Matthew 16:18-19). Thus the church as Christ's bride (Revelation 22:17, Ephesians 5:32) is subject unto him and no other, so wives must be in subjection to their own husbands. The scriptures even admonish the older wives in the faith to teach the younger women "to love their husbands" and to be "obedient" unto them (Titus 2:3-5).

The husband must love his wife even as Christ loved his church, that is, even to the extent that he gave his life for the church (Ephesians 5:25, Acts 20:28). A man must love his wife enough to die in her stead if necessary. In fact, a man who loves his wife is really loving himself (Ephesians 5:28) for the two are one flesh (Ephesians 5:31).

Children are required to obey their parents and to honor them. In fact, God promises the lengthening of days to the child that so honors his parents (Ephesians 6:1-3). Disobedience to parents is classified with covetousness, arrogance and blasphemy as sins prevalent in the decline of society (II Timothy 3:1-5).

Make your home the kind of home where Jesus' word is the ultimate authority, for he said, "If you love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14:15), and again he said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Marriage And The Eternal Word

In recent years much ministerial teaching on the subject of marriage and divorce has taken a rather pragmatic approach to the subject. With thirty-six per cent of all new marriages breaking up in the United States there is an obvious need to be concerned about ministering to divorced people. However, compromise of the plain simple Biblical instructions on marriage, divorce and remarriage will not aid divorced people nor their posterity. Having come from a broken home that resulted in my having to change schools twenty-one times in eight years of grammar school, I believe I have some right to speak.

Compromising the gospel with any current fad in any generation in any country is not the way for ministers of Jesus Christ to treat his eternal word. The Savior himself said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). The gospel of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the one universal standard of spiritual values, morals, ethics and right conduct. Our commander-in-chief has ordered, "Go ye into all the world and preach the (one) gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). Shall we abandon the premise, "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the

man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work” (II Timothy 3:16–17). The faithful servant will exclaim, “God forbid.”

The Lord Jesus affirmed, “Everyone that putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth one that is put away from a husband committeth adultery (Luke 16:18). He gave only one exception to this rule, even as it is written, “And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery” (Matthew 19:9). Human wisdom cannot change this nor wishful thinking. God’s word proclaims, “The way of the transgressor is hard” (Proverbs 13:15). And Jesus himself affirmed “the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).

Fornication (*porneia*) is defined by Henry Thayer: “Properly of illicit sexual intercourse in general: Acts 15: 20, 29; 21:25 ...” (Page 532). Arndt and Gingrich state of fornication, “Of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse” (page 699). Such includes homosexual as well as heterosexual sins. As the astute Thayer points out concerning the references in Acts 15 and 21, fornication applies to sexual immorality in general. It is not as some contend limited to premarital sex in the New Testament. This is quite obvious from the inspired statement to the Corinthian church, “It is actually reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not even among the Gentiles, that one of you hath his father’s wife” (I Corinthians 5:1). Here a married woman is said to have been engaging in fornication, i.e., sexual immorality. Such immorality is the only scriptural grounds for which a man or woman may put away their wife or husband.

Nor is God’s law of marriage simply a church ordinance

for Jesus said, "But from the beginning of the creation, male and female made he them" (Mark 10:6). That is, Christ maintained the universality of the law of marriage prior to the establishment of the church as recorded in Acts 2.

Jesus said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). The eternal prospect of being judged by the eternal word demands that men deny themselves in this life in order to obtain eternal life. Let faithful ministers of the word faithfully teach the word on marriage and divorce in order that men might know their duty and do it. A gospel tempered by pragmatism, watered down by subjectivism and clothed in the existentialism of the twentieth century will not save homes now or souls eternally.

Morality And The Home

In conversation with the director of a detention home for boys a few months back, this writer asked him what percentage of his charges came from broken homes. He promptly replied about ninety per cent.

The late Sam Davis Tatum, a juvenile court judge for a quarter of a century in Nashville, Tennessee, stated in his book, *The Home*, that ninety per cent of the cases brought into his court were also from broken homes.

For the training and protection of the innocent there is nothing better than a loving mother and father joined in holy wedlock. God's word says that he makes two people

one (in marriage) because he seeks a godly seed (Malachi 2:15).

Again God's way says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6); and again, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction (discipline) shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15).

The sin of obedience to parents and the breakdown of the home is closely associated with the breakdown in morality in society.

Notice what God's word says on this very point, "But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come, men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, unholy, **DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS**, unthankful, **WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION**, implacable, slanderers, without self control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (II Timothy 3:1-4, see also Romans 1:18-32).

Stable homes are the very basis of society. Even the beasts of the field naturally strive to protect their young. Without strong homes with a strong father at the helm and a loving mother by his side the weak and innocent young will suffer and our neighborhoods, communities and nation with it.

Yet, there are forces very active in our midst to destroy the home. For example, Readers' Digest earlier this year documented the flood of filthy books being put out to destroy the home. Again the TV programs and films that glorify incest, adultery and perversions are very lethal weapons against the home.

Probably the most disgusting influence on the home, however, is that which was documented last week in this column concerning the "pious clergymen" in the Australian Council of Churches that came out condemning the word of God on homosexuality as being antiquated. The real danger in this is that local churches around the nation will continue to pay dues into this organisation.

However, we believe an awakening will come among the moral people in our local communities. You just can't fool all the people all the time.

The Royal Wedding

The wedding last Wednesday, November 14, 1973 of the Royal Princess and her young man was beautiful and thrilling because of its re-emphasis on the sacredness of marriage and of the home. It was wonderful to read of the bride speaking of herself with such words as, "Yes, perhaps I am a very old fashioned girl." This answer came in response to a question about her willingness to pledge obedience to her husband.

God's word confirms the wisdom of Princess Anne's decision about her marriage and home. For it says, "Wives, be in subjection of your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them; Children, obey your parents in all things for this is well-pleasing in the Lord," (Colossians 3:18-20).

In the Western world, while the television and the press are rolling out films and books which glorify every form of sin, perversion and ungodliness, that mocks the home,

degrades motherhood, and shames the sacredness of marriage, it behooves each man and woman who loves his family to speak out for God's truth about marriage, which says, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6).

While many young women romp the stage, the screen, the university campuses and even political offices, degrading themselves and womanhood in general, speaking lightly of their own promiscuous behavior, it is thrilling to have the young English Princess say humbly that perhaps she is an old fashioned girl.

The fact is, chastity, honor and holy living are not out of date, and marriage, family and the home are absolute musts for a lawful and peaceful society. Someone has truthfully said, "As the home goes, so goes the nation." Any nation that expects to endure and progress must maintain its homes to shield its youth from exploitation and crime. God's word says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

What we need is more leaders in the community, business, and the nation that take a stand for God, home and family. A nation whose homes are corrupted can be taken by the so-called liberation movements without firing a shot.

What God Hath Joined

How Old Is Marriage?

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," is often treated as a hollow phrase rather

than a hallowed one; but when Jesus spoke these words as recorded in Matthew 19:6, he was requiring that man not to tamper with the world's oldest institution.

Matthew quotes our Lord in this manner concerning the antiquity of marriage:

“Have ye not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?”

The Pharisees sought to ensnare Jesus by quoting Moses on putting away, but Jesus said that Moses had permitted divorce because of the calloused condition of his followers' hearts. Then he said “but from the beginning it was not so” (Matthew 19:9). Mark clarifies the term “from the beginning” by saying “from the beginning of creation” (Mark 10:6). It can be seen from these statements that God's law of marriage had its beginning at the time of the creation of our first parents (See Genesis 2:24).

God permitted a writing of divorcement under Moses' law, but Christ stated in the New Testament that only the original form of marriage was ever pleasing to the living God.

To Whom Does It Apply?

Some hold that the covenant of marriage is only a church ordinance, but here we see that the law was given thousands of years before the church was established. In fact, Christ re-emphasized the law in Matthew 19, before the church was established on Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2.

God's plan for marriage of one man and one woman

until death separates them (cf. Romans 7:2–3), which is called monogamy, is a covenant for all mankind. It is a covenant like that of the rainbow, which God made with all flesh (Genesis 9:16). Contrary to the belief of many, monogamy has been the most popular form of marriage in the history of the world. The *Encyclopedia Americana* states about marriage:

Polygamy and polyandry, as we have seen, always have been exceptional forms of marriage. The prevalent form of marriage among all people today, and probably among people in all times, has been some form of monogamy, or the union of one man and one woman.

(Marriage, Vol. 18, P. 312, 1959)

This statement shows that in general God's plan for marriage for all people has prevailed.

What Constitutes A Marriage?

Paul stated that things "written aforetime were written for our learning" (Romans 15:4); and by looking at Malachi, chapter two, we can get a scriptural explanation of what a marriage constitutes. In Malachi 2:14 we read:

"Because the Lord has been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously yet is she thy companion, and wife of thy covenant."

Here marriage is seen to be a covenant between a man and a woman with God as witness. This covenant to marry would involve getting a license in a modern society or involve the exchange of cows or pigs in more agrarian societies. Yet, it is a covenant in which the two give them-

selves mentally and physically. Romans 13:1 requires that it be sanctioned by the law of the land.

However, once man confirms a marriage covenant with a woman, both of them being free to marry, it becomes a lawful marriage with God as witness. The woman then becomes his life-long companion, for Paul said, "The woman that hath a husband is bound by the law to the husband while he liveth ..." (Romans 7:2). Or as Malachi put it, "Yet is she thy companion, and wife of thy covenant."

What Is The Purpose Of Marriage?

The first and oldest reason for marriage is companionship. For when Adam was naming the beasts he found none of them suitable as a companion. God recognized this when he said:

"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helpmeet for him" (Genesis 2:18).

Therefore, God performed the first operation, and took a rib out of the man, out of which he fashioned a woman. Then God presented the woman to the man and they become one. The oneness, that had been in Adam, was restored in marriage. Having this oneness in mind Paul wrote:

"Even so ought husbands also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his own wife loveth himself" (Ephesians 5:28).

Procreation is another purpose of marriage. For God commanded the man and the woman in Genesis 1:28, "Be fruitful and multiply." Again the scriptures say, "Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3). God loves children,

even as the Lord Jesus manifest when he said, "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for to such belongeth the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19: 14). Christians ought to want children and when they are physically unable to bear them, they ought to search the world over for an orphan child with whom they may share their blessings. Why should big homes, cars and blessings not be shared with the homeless waifs of this generation. Jesus said, "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me" (Matthew 19:5).

A third purpose for marriage is education of children. The prophet Malachi stated God wants two people to be one because he seeks "a godly seed" (Malachi 2:15). Two people may fornicate out of the wedlock and children result, but this is not God's desire. He wants two people to become one in order to produce godly seed.

Though marriage, where a man and woman have covenanted with each other in love as husband and wife, does not guarantee that children will be godly or even responsible citizens, no other arrangement has ever been found that can improve on its role or replace it.

Thus, homes ought to do their God given work; that is, raise children to be "godly". Children ought to be educated by the home to be responsible, hard-working Christians. Teaching one's offspring the word of God and teaching them to learn a trade is a vital part of such education.

Another purpose for marriage is to prevent fornication. In I Corinthians 7:2 Paul stated, "... because of fornication, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband." Again he said, "Let marriage be had in honor among all and the bed undefiled ..." (Hebrews 13:4).

The physical union, referred to in the last phrase from Hebrews 13:3, between man and woman, is sacred only in a lawful marriage. It is a privilege that a husband or wife is not to refuse to his or her lawful partner. For Paul said, "Defraud ye not one another, except it be with consent ..." (I Corinthians 7:5). Outside of marriage this physical union is fornication or adultery.

From the beginning of the human family God has had a marriage law. It is not just a church ordinance, but is a law bound on the whole human family. May the God of heaven help you to teach your child the meaning of "what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

the imagination. For example, the little country of Bangladesh which lies on the east of India has a land area equal to that of Arkansas, but while Arkansas has two million inhabitants, Bangladesh has 102 million. Our Lord Jesus died for these 102 million Bengalis.

China is the giant of Asia, and the world, with 1.05 billion people. The expected population of China just 14 years from now (2000 A.D.) is 1.2 billion. Today we cannot send gospel preachers into Communist China, yet she has opened her door to tourists and trade. She has also taken a step toward the West for Chairman Mao's sayings are out and English is in. Her people are vigorously learning English, not Russian. Surely churches ought to be sending gospel preachers to Taiwan and Hong Kong to learn the Chinese language so we will be ready with preachers and restoration literature as China further opens her doors.

Surely evangelists ought to prepare to preach in such a place as this where Christ has not already been named (cf. Romans 15:20). If God's people do not fill the hungry minds of the Chinese and all Asia with the pure unperverted gospel of Christ's Kingdom they will be filled with foolishness, superstition and error.

Other countries in Asia with massive populations include India with 750 million people, Indonesia with 171 million, Japan with 120 million, Pakistan with 99 million, Vietnam with 60 million, the Philippines with 57 million, Thailand with 53 million, South Korea with 43 million, Iran or Persia with 44 million, Burma with 37 million and there are still more. (1985 estimate from World Almanac).

Some of the 41 countries of Asia do have a few gospel

Part IX

MISSION WORK

Asia, Paul And The Kingdom

In New Testament times Asia was a Roman province on the southwestern corner of what we presently call Turkey. The name Asia is used twenty-one times in the New Testament and always applies to this area which contained the seven churches named in Revelation 1:11.

According to Luke, Paul entered the synagogue in Ephesus, "And spoke boldly for the space of three months, reasoning and persuading as to the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 19:8-10).

Today the name Asia applies to the largest continent on earth and stretches from the western end of Turkey to the islands of Japan and it contains 2.9 billion of the 4.9 billion people in the world. In other words, Asia contains 57 percent of the entire earth's population. How sad it is, that in this last half of the 20th century we cannot say "that all they that dwelt in Asia heard the word." It is true that we have some fine radio broadcasts going from such places as Taiwan and Sri Lanka into China and India, but there are less than 50 preachers from North America serving in the continent of Asia of our day. Of all North American evangelists serving in Asia, more than half of them are in two countries, leaving less than 25 serving in the other 39 countries of the continent.

The population of the various countries in Asia staggers

the imagination. For example, the little country of Bangladesh which lies on the east of India has a land area equal to that of Arkansas, but while Arkansas has two million inhabitants, Bangladesh has 102 million. Our Lord Jesus died for these 102 million Bengalis.

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Some of the 41 countries of Asia do have a few gospel

preachers including some native evangelists. But generally there are very few even of the latter, and most of these lack much training in the pure gospel. Men who know and love the restoration plea are truly needed in Asia to evangelize and conduct training schools.

It is horrible to contemplate that American boys should have to go again to Asia to fight and kill. How much better it would be to send evangelists there to teach them to love their neighbors, to love their enemies, even as we are required to do. God's church is his kingdom upon this planet and he expects us to "speak peace to the nations" (Zechariah 9:10), on behalf of the Messiah. All nations (ethnic groups) are to flow into his house or kingdom in these last days (Isaiah 2:2) whether they are wolves, lions, calves or lambs (Isaiah 11:6-7). Surely thousands of us ought to be in Asia "reasoning and persuading as to the things concerning the kingdom of God" in order that all who dwell in Asia may hear the Word of the Lord.

China

The population of China at the beginning of 1981 was 980 million. Its annual national increase according to the Population Reference Bureau, Washington D.C., was a low 1.2 per cent. However, even at this rate the population will top one billion in just two years.

Fortunately China is turning toward the West. Under the guidance of Deng Shao Ping, China is trying to modernize its business methods. This effort includes allowing companies from Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, the United States, Britain and others to build factories in China and

earn a profit. China also guarantees the companies the right to take their profit out of the country.

The modernization program also includes incentive pay to workers on the big state farms and bonuses in the government owned factories for more and better work by the laborers. Formerly under the strict communist philosophy the people of China would say, "If you don't work you receive \$40.00 a month pay, but if you work you can make even less." However, that foolishness is being remedied.

In fact, the government in the last two years has begun to encourage families to begin their own businesses. These family businesses which at present cannot hire outside labor can make a profit. This was absolutely forbidden under Mao.

Another movement in China toward the West is the effort to change the constitution on religion. At present the Chinese constitution specifically guarantees the right of people to believe and propagate atheism. Efforts are underway to have this clause dropped from the constitution.

What must the churches of Christ do? We must mount a great campaign to teach the gospel to these one billion souls made in the image of God. Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation."

In light of this the Corinth church of Christ has taken on the sponsorship of a literature for China program. These are churches that are raising funds for radio work and Bibles for China. However, theirs is a very limited effort in the field of producing literature for China.

Many denominations like the Mormons are producing

quality literature to tell the Chinese about their prophet Joe Smith. However, the Lord's people must mount a campaign to produce literature faithful to the Bible and one that emphasizes the restoration of the New Testament Church.

We are fully persuaded that God's hand is behind the opening of China for "the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Daniel 4:32, cf. Ephesians 1:18–23; Revelation 1:5).

China has not opened its doors to missionaries as such, and may not do so, but Christians can visit the country and carry Bibles and literature in.

This literature campaign is being coordinated in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is a British colony on the doorstep of China and quality literature can be produced there at a reasonable cost.

We urge you today to pray for China and become co-laborers with us in this effort to get gospel literature into the hands of the Chinese. Many Bibles are being prepared for China, but Bibles can and have been misused to teach sectarianism. We must prepare good literature on the New Testament church in order that the Chinese might know the truth about Christ and his kingdom. The treasurer in the government of Queen Candace, when asked if he understood the scriptures replied, "How can I, except someone guide me?" (Acts 8:31). Faithful men must teach the pure gospel faithfully (Galatians 1:6–9) and commit it unto faithful men (II Timothy 2:2).

Beloved, help us do this through a gospel literature program in Chinese.

Exciting Times

Rod Rutherford of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia heard that on 5 May, 1981, 21 Bibles had been carried into China, and he wrote, "We live in exciting times, don't we?"

And we do! Too many Christians live in the past wishing for the days of the apostles or pioneers. Look around us. Those of us privileged to live on the edge of the Western Pacific are living in the proximity of more people than anyone on earth at any time. Our King said, "Look on the field, that they are white already unto harvest" (John 4: 35).

By the beginning of 1990 Asia will have 3.057 billion which will be 58 percent of the world's 5.2 billion people. Just eight countries alone will contain 2.6 billion. These are China — 1.05 billion, India — 750 million, Indonesia — 178 million, Japan — 123 million, Bangladesh — 115 million, Pakistan — 113 million, Vietnam — 65 million and Thailand — 65 million.

Christians now living on the cutting edge of Asia are truly pioneers. At this very time we are laying the ground work for a harvest of souls. If God wills and it is laid well, millions will be taught and converted over the next 50 years. But we must train laborers for the fields. Train faithful men to train others (2 Timothy 2:2). Strengthen the Bible School at home and send more to the Four Seas College.

Twenty Thousand Eyes But Cannot See

Shatin, a little-known place in the rural area of Hong

Kong Colony, has a temple which contains 10,000 Buddhas. This rural region of the colony is known as the New Territories. It consists of 370 square miles which was leased by the British government in 1898 from China for 99 years.

There are thousands of shrines and temples to Buddha in Hong Kong. Some have one image and others have two, three or perhaps a dozen. But can you imagine the walls of a building lined with thousands of images of Buddha? Few Americans realize how many millions of people still worship images as they did in Paul's day. Intellectual Buddhists are fond of saying that Buddhism does not teach Buddha is a god, but no matter what they claim, that does not keep the masses from bowing before his image, praying to him and burning incense to him.

Yet, the twenty thousand eyes of the images of Buddha in Shatin cannot see. The twenty thousands ears cannot hear. The ten thousand mouths cannot speak. Well did Jeremiah say of such, "They are like a pillar, of turned work, and speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good" (Jeremiah 10:5). Again, Isaiah is more bold as he speaks of the foolishness of men who "lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, they hire a goldsmith, and he maketh it a god; they fall down, yea, they worship. They bear it upon the shoulder, they carry it, and set it in its place, and it standeth: yea, one may cry unto it, yet can it not answer, nor save him out of his trouble" (Isaiah 46:6-7).

Such kinds of idolatry rules Asia from Bombay to Tokyo. Even though China has been under the rule of atheistic Communism for thirty years the people still cling to their gods. In the recent past they had to hide their devo-

tions to their ancestors, to Buddha, or some other god, but with the change in the government's attitude since the death of Mao, the people have been allowed openly to burn their incense.

Thus the vast majority of Asia's more than two billion people give their devotions to images like those at Shatin who neither see, nor hear, nor speak. Millions of those who worship these false gods do not even know the name of Jesus. Those of us who live in the western world where the airways are filled with the name of Jesus of Nazareth are simply self-deluded if we think the whole world has heard of our Savior. Yet, it is written of Jesus, "And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). It is not through one's ancestors; Gautama, the Buddha; or Hari Krishna, that one is saved, but through Jesus.

However, for the masses to know Jesus they must hear of him. For it is written, "How shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14)? The gospel is God's power unto salvation, that gospel must be preached. It is not enough just to send people Bibles. If we want our children to learn math, do we just buy them an arithmetic book? No! We go to great expense to secure good teachers for them. Is teaching math as important as saving souls?

What right do westerners have to hear the gospel over and over again while millions in the East have never heard? Why should the Mormons have 120 American workers in Hong Kong on behalf of Joe Smith, while the churches of Christ have only three?

Shame! Shame! Shame! What will our beloved Lord say

in judgement to those of us who have done so little to promote the cause of the pure New Testament gospel?

Do Christians not constitute the Kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13) upon this planet? Should this kingdom not be militant on behalf of the King of Kings who rules the nations (Revelation 1:5)? Souls cannot be won for Jesus without self-sacrifice (Romans 12:1–2). One cannot be a disciple of Jesus without self-denial (Matthew 16:24). But what do we deny ourselves for the kingdom's sake?

Shall the masses continue into eternity with only blind, deaf and dumb idols to lead them? The prophet said, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). Can this not be in our day? Can we not inspire our youth to deny themselves for Jesus' sake?

Part X

PLAN OF SALVATION

Confess Christ As Lord

There are simple steps one must take in order to be translated from the world of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son (Colossians 1:13). Hearing, believing and repenting are necessary unto salvation: even as it is written, "So belief cometh of hearing and hearing by the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17); "and without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him" (Hebrews 11:6); "and again God commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent" (Acts 17:30).

It should be brought to mind right at this point that God requires all to undergo these steps on the road to salvation from past sins for "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34), and the gospel "is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). The observant person will note that infants cannot do either of these things toward the gospel; and there is no need, for little babies are born free from the taint of sin (denominational creeds not withstanding), and do not become subject to the need of salvation from sin until they have transgressed God's law "for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Man is sinful from his "youth" (Genesis 8:21), not from his infancy.

Again, hearing, believing and repenting are prerequisite to being baptized according to the scriptures (John 6:45, Mark 16:16, and Acts 2:38). Thus baptism is for adolescents and adults, not for "little children" whom sinners must become "as" in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).

Besides the three foregoing steps, one must take in his spiritual transformation, he must also confess his faith, for

God's word declares, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). That is, the faith one believes in his heart must be confessed openly. Jesus himself witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate (I Timothy 6:13) that he had been born to be King of God's non-violent empire, the Kingdom of Heaven (John 18:36-37). Paul said Timothy had made the good confession before many witnesses (I Timothy 6:12).

One should not make the mistake of believing the confession unto salvation prior to his baptism is a confession of a list of sins for one must turn from sin at the point of repentance. Neither should one believe the old Calvinistic doctrine that he must confess that he is saved before he is baptized, nor confess an experience that is "better felt than told." The latter is the old way to express an excuse for substituting emotions and feelings for obedience to the gospel. In this century theologians have latched onto a big word, existentialism, to give this "feeling" seminary respectability, but it is still the same old false system of "feeling religion" that preachers and people use to get around the plain commands found in the gospel.

Therefore, we urge you to confess Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life (Matthew 10:32, 33) and then obey the command of Christ to be baptized into him (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27).

Everyman

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not

perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16), and Jesus, the Son, deity incarnate (Matthew 1:23), endured the stigma of death by execution upon the cross for our sakes, even as it is written: "Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus: who existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:5-8). His humiliating trial, with the slaps, the jeers, the spit, the stripes, and the injustice of being sentenced to death by a judge who three times declared him innocent (Luke 23, See also Isaiah 53), he bore for the sake of all mankind, even as it is written: "We beheld him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for every man" (Hebrew 2:9).

Yet, every man does not automatically receive the benefits of Christ's death; this is why Christians are supposed to tell the gospel (good news of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection) to every creature (Mark 16:15). Then those who hear the gospel are to obey it because when Jesus comes the second time it will not be as Savior but as Judge and he will come "rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel, of our Lord Jesus" (II Thessalonians 1:7-8). Man is saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9), but he must accept that grace by doing God's will (Matthew 7:21), or in other words, by obeying the gospel (I Peter 1:22). Sinners must take certain steps in obeying the gospel. These are hearing the gospel (Romans 10:17), believing that gospel of Jesus (John 8:24), repentance from sin (Luke 13:3), and confession of the faith in one's heart (Romans 10:10).

The fifth step to take in obedience to the gospel is immersion (baptism) in water, for Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned (Mark 16:16). Again, the Holy Spirit declared in 30 A.D. on Pentecost, the birthday of the church of Christ, by the mouth of the apostle Peter: "Repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Man must accept Christ's command to be immersed. Dear reader, maybe your "pastor" denies the plain-teaching of God's word on baptism, but should we not "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). If one hundred preachers swore on one hundred Bibles that faith, repentance and baptism were not "unto the remission of your sins" and for "the gift of the Holy Spirit" to indwell in one's heart by faith, they would be wrong for the Bible says it is (Acts 2:38; cf. Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:14, 5:5).

Faith By The Word, Not Feeling

The scriptures declare "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Again we read, "The word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God" (I Corinthians 1:18); and again Paul wrote, "I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone what believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). Hearing of the death, burial and resurrection of the Son of God for our sakes is the way faith is produced. For through his death and resurrection Jesus gave all people the opportunity to be free

from the fear of death, even as it is written "that through death He (Jesus) might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15). Jesus gave this opportunity to be free from death to every man, for God's word affirms, "We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he by the grace of God should taste of death for every man!" (Hebrews 2:9). The doctrine that man ceases to exist at physical death and has no consciousness until the resurrection is so much foolishness, for Jesus said, "If a man keep my word, he shall never see death" (John 8:51), and again "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:26). That is, physical death to the faithful child of God is the dressing room for eternity. When he departs this life, though he does not go directly to heaven, his eternal home, he does go to be in the presence of Christ in hades (see Luke 23:43; Acts 2:31; II Corinthians 12:4) where he waits for the resurrection of all (John 5:28-29). "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10). As an example of this, Paul, the aged, expressed the desire to pass the veil of physical death, but recognized the need to remain in this world for the Christian's sake. Listen to him as he wrote from a Roman prison, "I am in a strait betwixt the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ; for it is far better" (Philippians 1:23). Being non-existent would not have been "far better," but being in paradise (Luke 23:43) would.

After Paul and other faithful servants of God are resurrected in their new bodies, fashioned for them in heaven

(II Corinthians 5:1–5), they, at the judgement bar of God will hear: “Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).

However, to be saved from sin, to be free from the fear of death, and have the hope of eternal life one must believe in God; even as it is written; 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” (Hebrews 11:6). Saving faith comes by the acceptance of the intelligent evidence concerning Jesus which is given in the New Testament by the Holy Spirit. It does not come by a faith learned or assumed by feeling or human experience.

Again, one must believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior of all men, for he said, “If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:24). Thus faith is absolutely essential to salvation, but one must not trust in faith alone or faith only, for Jesus said, “Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21). Faith only is the same kind of faith that devils have and is dead (James 2:19, 26).

So, to be saved you must obey (I Peter 1:22) Jesus and this means, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Remember also, “Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

Faith Must Produce Repentance

Hearing the gospel and believing it are necessary to salvation; even it is written, “So belief cometh of hearing,

and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17), and without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him” (Hebrew 11:6). When one believes the good news about Christ he then is in a position to become a child of God. Listen to John’s account of the gospel on this point: “But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believed on his name” (John 1:12). Jesus gave believers “the right” or “power” to become God’s children.

Belief in one’s heart must lead to actively doing the Father’s will in order for one to be born again into the kingdom, for Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

One thing which faith must produce is genuine repentance, for it is written, God “commandeth men that they should everywhere repent; inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; where of he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead (Acts 17:30–31).

What is repentance? Repentance is not just being sorry. For many an unrepentant man sits in the jail being very sorry he got caught. Often a person who gets caught embezzling his employer’s funds is sorry he got caught, but unrepentant. A man who cheats on his wife may be sorry when he is “caught” with a body-destroying disease, but

unrepentant. When young people are immoral they are often very sorry to be caught with the same disease but unrepentant. Such is a sorrow that works death, because it does not lead the person to repent of the sin which caused the getting caught. God's word says, "Godly sorrow, worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret; but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Corinthians 6:10).

It is written in God's word, "But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderous, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God; holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof ..." (II Timothy 3.1-5). Such last times are upon western civilization if the enormous amount of sin and crime are any indication. Crime index figures continue to rise. Men are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. They profess to have religion (which is usually faith only and is a dead faith, see James 5:19-26). Yet, the booze halls are full, the sexually transmitted diseases are rampant, the gambling dives are raking in the profits and the porno producers are filthy rich, I do mean filthy.

However, God's word declares men "should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance" (Acts 26:20), and again it is written, "Repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Jesus said Repent or Perish (Luke 13:3-5).

Saul Of Tarsus

Contrary to what you have heard many times, Saul of Tarsus was not saved on the road to Damascus. Jesus certainly appeared to him in the way (Acts 26:16). Also Saul acknowledged him as Lord when he said, "What shall I do Lord" (Acts 22:10), but Jesus replied, "Arise and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do (Acts 9:6, 22:10).

In the city Saul "was three days without sight, and did neither eat nor drink" (Acts 9:9). The time was spent in prayer (Acts 9:11). If he was saved he wasn't going on his way rejoicing as the nobleman from Ethiopia was after believing and being immersed (Acts 8:26-39).

In Damascus the first thing he was told to do was "arise and be baptized (immersed), and wash away thy sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16).

This was three days after having seen the Lord and after three days of fasting and praying. Wonder why preachers don't tell sinners today: "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name"? Nowadays, they say "Go on praying until you feel something" or "hold up your hand" or "sign a card". Somehow the simplicity of "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16) misses them.

There Is Water In The Plan

Jesus of Nazareth who has all authority in heaven and earth commanded: "Go ye into all the world, and preach

the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” (Mark 16:15–16).

It is amazing to observe the many “plans of salvation” that are preached from pulpits of this land and over the airways in contrast to the simple statement of Jesus above. There is the mourners bench plan, the altar call plan, the hold up your hand plan, the sign a card plan, the put your hand on the radio plan, etc. All of them are void of the Biblical requirement of belief AND baptism for salvation.

There is water in the Bible plan of salvation for the holy scriptures teach faith in Jesus and baptism in water are for (unto) remission of sins (cf. Acts 2:38). Any “plan” that leaves out the water baptism of the great commission (Matthew 28:19–20) is not according to the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

Saul of Tarsus was told to “arise and be baptized (immersed) and wash away thy sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16).

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Some years ago Ted Paull, a faithful gospel preacher in Australia, and this writer were in a photographer’s office in Sydney waiting to have some passport pictures made. While there we were engaged in conversation by a lady on religious matters. As she was an unbeliever she defended her position of unbelief by saying, “Well, you have a gift of faith, but I don’t have that gift.” This statement ex-

presses a widely held, albeit erroneous, conception about faith and how it is obtained. Many people, who do not believe in the living God who "made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein" (Acts 14:15), simply feel that their ignorance concerning the personal nature of God is because they have not had some mysterious experience with God.

Many probably feel this way simply because of a lack of knowledge about God, but others believe this because in some way they have been exposed to the false theories of John Calvin, a 16th century reformer, who held that God had predestined men to eternal salvation or eternal ruin, and if one was predestined to be saved he would not believe until God worked a miracle on him to cause him to believe.

However, faith is not a mysterious gift or feeling that one has forced into him or one "gets" like the itch: for God's word plainly declares: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). That a person can know God exists through the creation, the Bible plainly declares, even as it is written, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made ... so that they (men and women) are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Just as a beautiful house bears testimony to its architect and builder, so the earth with its beauty as demonstrated in the Tennessee Valley and the Smokey Mountains in the Autumn, bears witness to its Creator. Even as God's word declares, "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4).

Yet, just knowing that there is a builder does not mean we will believe in him or trust him to build our house. We

must know some things about the builder himself before we will want to contract with him. Just so it is with God, "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1), but we must have his word taught to us for us to know him, trust him and have confidence (faith) in him. Even as it is written in the prophets, "And they shall be all taught of God. Everyone therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me" (John 6:45), and again we repeat, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Thus, the first things to do in order to be saved is hear the gospel.

We therefore urge all to read their Bibles and base their lives upon the facts found therein concerning God and his only begotten son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth (John 1:4). Reading church manuals, prayer books, catechisms, Watch-towers, etc., does not produce faith. Reading and studying God's book, the Bible, does. When you have read and learned of the Father, we urge you to obey Jesus as he taught in the great commission: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

Part XI
PROBLEMS

Gymnasiums

According to the *World Book Encyclopedia* a gymnasium is a special room or building for instruction and practice in physical training. The word gymnasium comes to us from the Greek language. In ancient Greece the word was applied to public places set aside for athletic sports. The first gymnasium built in the United States was built at Amherst College in 1860. Gyms, as they are commonly called, are now found on the grounds of practically all schools and colleges in this country. Besides this, many organizations such as the Y.M.C.A.'s and certain churches have built gyms. It is to the question of the churches of Christ building gymnasiums that we now direct our attention.

The work of the church of Christ is to preach the gospel to the whole earth (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). That is the salvation of souls through evangelism. Saving the lost also involves the edifying or perfecting of those who are converted by means of evangelism, even as it is written: "Wherefore exhort one another, and build each other up even as also ye do" (I Thessalonians 5:11). This building up or edifying was and is to be done through exhortation as Barnabas exhorted new saints in Antioch to "cleave unto the Lord" (Acts 11:23). The third thing the church is authorized to do in its work of saving the lost is benevolence. For James says, "Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

A careful search of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament reveals that the church is to be totally absorbed in seeking and saving the lost and that evangelism, edifica-

tion, and the work of ministry (benevolence) are the only authorized means of so doing (cf. Ephesians 4:12). The church is no more authorized to make recreation and athletics a part of her work than she is to make instrumental music a part of her worship. Note what the much loved and esteemed B.C. Goodpasture wrote on this very point: "For the church to turn aside from its divine work to furnish amusement and recreation is to pervert its mission. It is to degrade its mission. Amusement and recreation should stem from the home rather than the church. The church, like Nehemiah, has a great work to do; and it should not come down on the plains of Ono to amuse and entertain. As the church turns its attention to amusement and recreation, it will be shorn off its power as Samson was when his hair was cut. Only as the church becomes worldly; as it pillows its head on the lap of Delilah; will it want to turn from its wanted course to relatively unimportant matters. Imagine Paul selecting and training a group of brethren to compete in the Isthmian games! Of his work at Corinth he said: 'For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.'" (Gospel Advocate, May 20, 1948, p.484).

The World Information Bank maintained by the Webb Chapel Church in Dallas, Texas reports that the churches of Christ have fewer than 500 missionaries serving on foreign fields while the Mormons and "Jehovah's Witnesses" number their foreign workers in the thousands. When we are doing so very little to reach the 4.9 billion lost souls of this world, how can we turn the resources of the church to the secularism of athletics and recreation.

There needs to be a renewal of commitment to "hold the pattern of sound words" (II Timothy 1:13) in reference to the church of the Lord Jesus. It is certain that that pattern does not reveal the church involved in building

gymnasiums, or making recreation and athletics a part of her work.

When Christians parents plan recreation or athletics in a Christ-like atmosphere for their children it is a fine thing. Such secular responsibilities fall on the home and family. However, we are at present in the churches of Christ in danger of perverting the work and responsibility the Lord has given his people to do in advancing the kingdom. In many places the situation with the church is very similar to the situation in Jerusalem as described by Ezekiel just prior to Jerusalem's fall to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. The prophet said of Jerusalem's leaders, "They have made no distinctions between the holy and the common ..." (Ezekiel 22:36). The work of the church of our Lord Jesus is a holy thing and it ought not to be perverted by getting the church into the business of providing and promoting athletics and recreation by building gymnasiums and such like. We ought to do as Ezekiel said would be done in the restoration, "teach (God's) people the difference between the holy and the common ..." (Ezekiel 44:23). That is, teach them what God has authorized the church to do, whether it is in the area of the worship or the work of the church.

When We Fully Believe

It is written about our Lord Jesus, "In none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). He himself said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Again it is written, "The Lord Jesus (shall be revealed) from heaven with the angels of

his power in flaming fire rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and the glory of his might" (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).

If we fully believe that our Jesus is the only Savior of all men everywhere; and that the knowledge of him, the gospel, which we have believed and obeyed, is the only hope of saving all men everywhere from eternal destruction, then

1. We will not find only a small minority in each congregation that does the work.
2. There will not be a lack of men who qualify themselves as elders and serve with joy.
3. There will not be so few who learn how to conduct cottage meetings and hold them.
4. Forty per cent of the Sunday morning crowd will not have to be begged to come back on Sunday night and Wednesday night.
5. Bible classes will not just be held one or two times a week.
6. Christians will be ashamed to wilfully forsake the assembly for company, for vacationing, for fishing, for recreation, for camping, etc.
7. Christian girls will shun boys who are sectarians and sinners in order to marry Christian boys.
8. Christian boys will date Christian girls instead of sinners.
9. Christians will not have to be begged to speak out against abortion, ERA, pornography, etc.
10. There will not be so much worldliness and so little discipline in our ranks.
11. There will not be so much apathy toward world evangelism.

Christians who are fully persuaded and fully believe that Jesus is the only Savior, who can rescue men from eternal separation from God will not be apathetic in their zeal for him or his cause. Strong or weak belief toward the fact that the gospel is the only power of God unto salvation (See Romans 1.16) is the key to zeal or lethargy among us. Belief that somehow God will save sinners, who know him not and/or have not obeyed the gospel, from a devil's hell because of their ignorance, is a placebo (medicine to merely humor the patient) that blunts the goal of universal conquest in Jesus' glorious name. Soldiers of Christ arise! Our Jesus and his gospel is the only hope of humanity. Examine yourself! Do you fully believe he is?