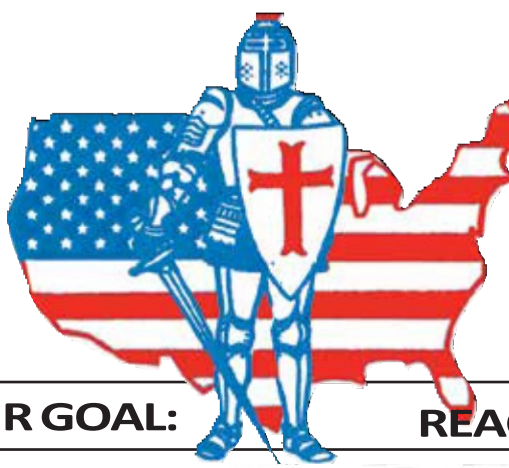




AMERICA'S

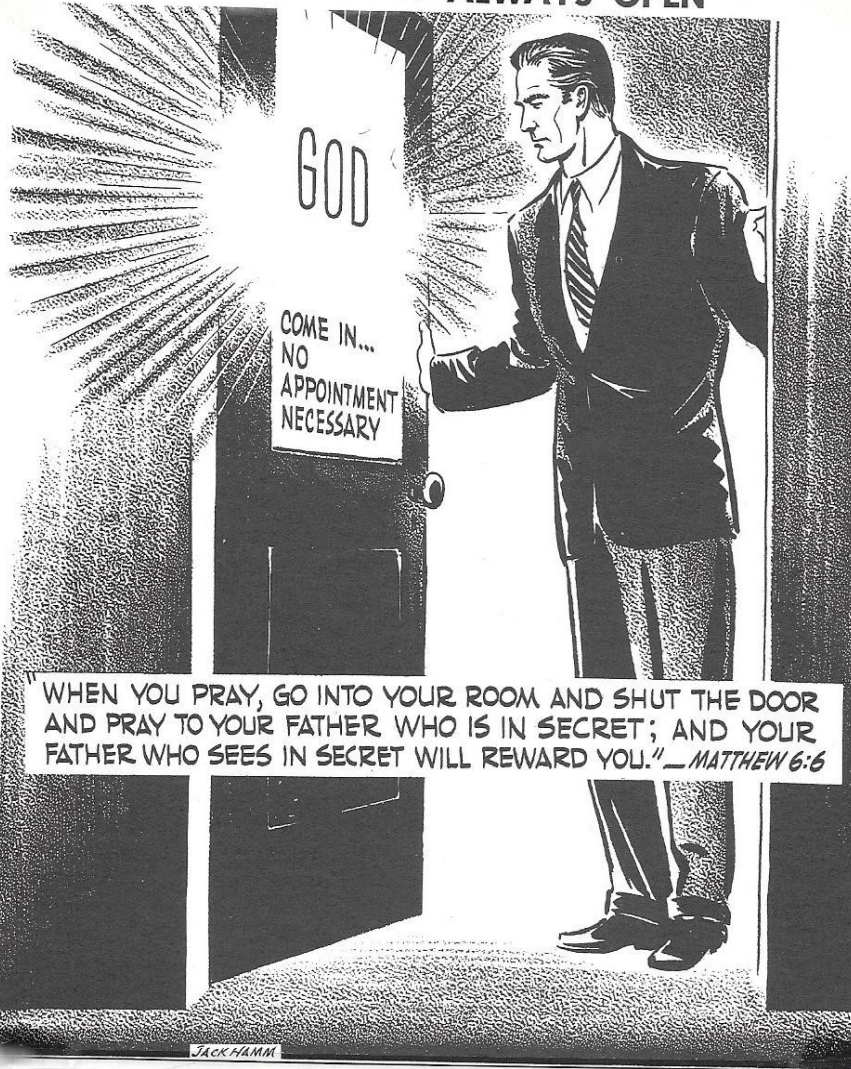
CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

May– June 2022

OUR GOAL:

REACHING FOR LOST SOULS FOR CHRIST WHILE THERE IS TIME

ALWAYS OPEN



In My Prayers Today

*'Upon my knees I spoke your name to God that loves us all.
I asked for strength to make it through on His great name I
called. Our daily steps are led by Him as He shows us the way.
That's why I felt He'd see you through in my prayers today.*

*So many things along life's way we do not understand.
We're tossed about and in the night we struggle for His hand.
But as we cling to every hope we somehow feebly say,
"I know I feel a calm from Him. in my prayers today."*

*Why these trials. and why the tests great questions fill my mind.
Answers seem so far away they are so hard to find.
And then I think. "The lord is near His blood has surely paid."
So I'll stand upon this fact in every prayer I pray.*

*So with each day through faith alone you walk in His new light.
You'll see revealed the daily steps to make it through the night,
Till one day soon in victory with joy you proudly say.
"lets journey on and serve the lord. He's with us all the way.*

Bro. Charles Grisham

America's Christian Newspaper
(non-profit org. Permit #15124)
Published Bi-monthly by Christian Tabernacle
Church P.O. Box 747 Madisonville, KY 42431
Free Subscription. Periodical postage paid at
Madisonville, KY 42431
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
America's Christian Newspaper, P.O. Box 747,
Madisonville, KY 42431

**CHRIST IS
THE ANSWER**

Greetings to the Saints of God!



Pastor Junior and Brenda Tingle

truly been blessed. We are looking forward to another year of great Conference services.

We are thankful to God for the good reports we have received from many that have attended the Western Ky Conference this could be our greatest year ever. Conference is only 6 weeks away please be in prayer for souls to be converted and lives changed. We have no way to evaluate the worth these gatherings are to our churches. Much work will be done let us come together in unity to make this the most spiritual, powerful conference we have ever been in. We have been in troublesome times many are coming to be refreshed in the Holy Ghost I'm believing God will pour out His spirit and meet many needs, how great it will be to be together again in fellowship and worship. Our desire is to see many new faces and see God work miracles in our midst all things are possible if we will agree together and seek God. We thank God for all of you that support and labor in Christ with us we are looking forward to seeing you in July God bless you.

Bro. Junior Tingle

So Much to Do

So much to do, Lord,
Until all have heard
Salvation's story
From Thy precious Word.
Come in Thy power
And fill me, I pray;
Fit me for service
And use me this day.
So little time, Lord,
So soon they will die,
Quickly, too quickly
The days hasten by.
Lord, I can see
That the harvest is white;
Where are the reapers?
Soon cometh the night!
Laborers are few and
The harvest is great,
Now we must reach them
Before it's too late.
Be Thou my guide
and My strength as I go,
Seeking to reach men
In sin and in woe.
So little time, Lord,
And so much to do;
So great the harvest,
The laborers so few.
Help me, Lord Jesus,
In service to be
Faithful and useful
Each moment for Thee.

If
You
Were
Arrested
For Being
A
Christian
Would
There
Be
Enough
Evidence
to
Convict
You?

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, I pray that this newspaper this month finds you filled with many blessings from the Lord. We here at Christian Tabernacle Church have many things to praise the Lord for, we have

The Christian Tabernacle Church



*1406 Tucker Schoolhouse Road
Madisonville, Kentucky 42434*

Phone:

270-584-4248

Service Schedule:

**Sunday Morning
Word & Worship
10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Evening Word &
Worship 6:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday Evening
Service 7:30 p.m.**

Please remember To pray for this Newspaper!

Don't Forget!

To write to America's Christian Newspaper if you want to be on our mailing list.

You can also text us your name and address to 270-339-0873 and we will be glad to send you the next issue.

Oh Yes! Don't forget to send a donation to keep this great paper alive.

OUR PRESENTATION TO CHRIST

VERY SOON THE CHURCH (the bride) shall be presented to the bridegroom, Jesus Christ. It will be a bride who is pleasing to Him and one who is willing to expend herself in pleasing her Bridegroom.

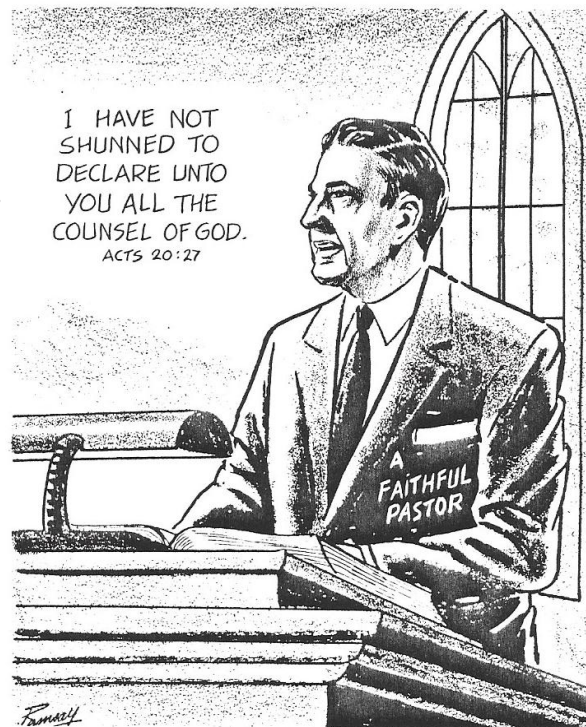
"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2).

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight . . . Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:21, 22, 27, 28).

We often boldly declare that we will walk into the presence of our Lord and make ourselves known to Him, but the Scriptures have something else to say on this subject. The Scriptures declare that we shall be presented to the Lord, just as a person is humbly presented to a modern-day king or president, by someone in the King's service. Someone is going to have to present us to Christ, and Paul plainly tells his converts that he will be the one who will present them. Since this is true, it stands that each real pastor, every preacher of the true gospel of Jesus Christ, every evangelist, has a heavy responsibility to his people to present a message that clearly defines their condition and their need, so that they can be properly and acceptably presented to the Lord.

Paul gives us, in Colossians, the condition in which the bride will stand in His sight on that day. First, she must be holy, for without holiness no man shall see God. There seems to be a modern confusion over what holiness is and what it is not, but one thing is clear: holiness is not a man-made, invented article or object. Holiness is the divine nature of Jesus Christ, living and controlling the mind and flesh. Holiness must come from the heart and soul of a Spirit-filled life, and must originate from the cry of the Spirit that dwells within. It cannot be the man made creeds and standards that man proclaims without a verse of Scripture to substantiate his law.

We are told to be holy, and holy we must be if we are to ever stand before the throne of Jesus Christ as His bride. Lives must be controlled by the Spirit to do and to think in a Christ-like manner. The church cannot, and will not, follow the fads of the world, nor will she want to do the things the world does, for her affection is set on the things of her Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Secondly, she will be unblameable, and unreprouvable in His sight. There is a difference in these attributes. Unblameable means to be innocent of causing any wrong;



unreprouvable means to be innocent of the least thing for which even the mildest correction is needed. Paul says that they who are in the bride of Christ will be presented to the Lord innocent of instigating any evil or even of deserving the least correction. How closely one needs to follow the leading of the Spirit of Christ, to be found in this condition. One cannot succeed in this in himself, but must be clothed with the holiness and perfection of the Lord.

The responsibility is this it is the duty of a pastor to preach in such a manner as to cause his hearers to appear in such condition. It is the preaching of the Word of God (not our man-made laws) that will fit the church for this presentation. As she hears the Word of God and follows it, she will cleanse and perfect her life in the fear of God. But it must be a dear and emphatic message which includes the truth that the carnal spirit of man is not pleasing to God, any more than the sinful actions and habits of man.

In 1 Thess. 3: 12,13 we read, "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

There is much in Scripture concerning our relations to one another, but I would like to emphasize it by saying this: God's relationship to us is determined by our relationships to one another. I have chosen my words and the order of them with care. God will feel towards us just as we feel towards one another. He said, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: That your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive,

neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11: 25,26).

So often we feel that our relationships to others make no difference, so long as we love the Lord! But it makes all the difference in the world (and also in the next). We could very well insert the word "love" in the last verse, for 1 John 3: 14 says: "We know what we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." We could also insert the word "give," for Luke 6:38 records Jesus as saying, "Give, and it shall be given unto you" And just before this he says, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned." You see. God's relationship to us is exactly what our relationship is to one another. It is important! Young Esther was, as other maidens, given into the care of the keeper of the virgins who had gathered at the palace to be presented to the king. It was the responsibility and obligation of the keeper of the virgins to see that, when they were presented to the king, they were clean bodily and without any physical blemish, and had had the correct diet. He was to give these maidens everything at his disposal that would purify and cleanse them and make them presentable before the king. We who preach the gospel are in the same position. Not only must we preach and present Christ and the things of Christ in such a way as to furnish 'the church with all that is necessary for her purification, but we must also guard against unscriptural and man made laws and standards that adulterate the Word of God. A final example in Scripture is found in the duties of the priesthood of Aaron. A priest would, on the day of atonement, first make the sacrifices and anoint all the appointments in the Tabernacle with the blood. After washing himself with water, anointing the appointments with oil, and changing his garments, he would then (and only then) go behind the veil and enter into the glorious presence of God. In order to be presented to the Lord, the church must first be washed in blood, baptized in water and Spirit (oil), and have a change of garments. As preachers of the gospel of Christ, we will some-day present our charges before the Lord Jesus Christ, just as Esther was presented to the king. It will be our responsibility to present them clean and spotless. so men of God, we need to feel the weight of this responsibility, and not lightly shrug it off. It must lay heavily upon us, for it is a solemn and tremendous position to which He has called us. It is not the glamorous job that many envision, but a task that could cause our own defeat if we do not discharge it soberly and carefully.

There shall be a bride, and she shall be a chaste virgin, holy and unblameable and unreprouvable before her Bridegroom. To help bring this about is our job and our calling.

End:

Bro Robert Roh

OH! MY PEOPLE!

Oh, that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! I should have soon subdued their enemies, and turned their hand against their adversaries. The haters of the Lord should have submitted themselves unto Him; but their time should have endured forever. He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat; and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied them. Psalms 81: 3-16.

But my people, saith the Lord, would none of my counsel; for they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. Therefore hath the glory of God been hidden from their eyes. Evil hath come into the land and destruction wasteth at noon day. The people to whom God gave the light of salvation, to restore the altar of the, Lord that has been thrown down for centuries, are drifting with the tide of worldly ambition and missing the mark of the high calling.

When the Spirit was poured out a few years ago all hearts were rejoicing in Jesus. Time after time the Holy Ghost, in exalting Jesus, would in turn prophesy through tongues and interpretation, or a voice more solemn than the natural voice of the speaker, and foretold of THESE DAYS we now behold. Little heed was given to those messages because of the counterfeits that entered therein; but if you were to review some of them that are hidden away somewhere you would be startled to note the accuracy of the fulfillment of the same.

We do not say that all of them were truly inspired, but there were some direct from God.

However that may be, we are facing the crisis foretold. Some have stumbled and fell; and some have been snared-and taken; while others through fear have failed to go on with God. Yet there are a few who are contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. Multitudes, multitudes, are in the valley of decision!

But I have made my choice forever!

I will follow the lowly Nazarene through the Jordan, through the Wilderness, through the Garden, through the Judgment Hall, through Calvary's rugged brow, and on and on until I sit down with Him in the throne of His glory. My soul is satisfied at bearing His reproach, the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformable unto His death.

Had we maintained and "ear hear what the Spirit saith," and walked in the ways of the Lord, what wonders might our God have performed; and what a sweeping victory have been wrought in "subduing" our enemies! Failing to understand God's ways and purpose many have cleaved to the tradition of the past, and like the golden wedge, the shekles of silver, and the babylonish garment,

Joshua 7:10-21, they have caused internal conflicts amid God's people, and our enemies have smitten us on every side. They boast themselves, and make wide their mouths, gloating over the "failures" of the Apostolic Faith Movements. But out of the midst of the camp comes a shout, "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when, I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me." Mic. 7:8.



Our only hope of victory is the destruction of Achan (troubler) and his forbidden treasures (traditions). See Joshua 7: 22-25; Matt. 15:1-13 and Gal 5:12. Every vine that our heavenly Father hath not planted must be rooted up. Achan must be stoned. The traditions of men and the cry of False prophets have hidden God's truths from His people. Tradition obstructed the view of entrance into the Kingdom of God. False prophets screaming Great Powers, and backslidden weaklings screaming, Wolf! Wolf! Latter Rain! have cause many to fail to declare the whole truth. But a beautiful door of entrance was exemplified at the river Jordan when our Shepherd entered in before us through "water and Spirit," leaving us an example, saying, "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." The righteousness of the law can only be fulfilled in us through Christ by the, new birth, and that is by being born of water and of the Spirit.

See Matt. 3:13-17; Rom. 8:3-4; 6:3-5; St. John 3:5; 10:2, 7, 9. The baptism of Jesus, in the Jordan is never used by modern theologians as an example of the new birth, but instead it is used to bolster up the Romanish idea of "three persons" (corporeal beings) in the godhead.

And all who are filled with such teachings are blinded to the deeper things of God, denying the only Lord that bought them. Acts 20:28; 2nd Pet. 2:1.

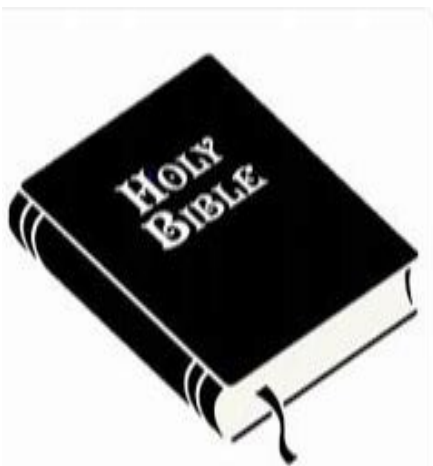
Now that we have been delivered from the errors of the past through being properly baptized into Christ (St. John 3:5; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:27) we have come into a rich storehouse of wisdom and knowledge of heavenly things, for in Him "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col. 2 :2-3.

Our souls are being fed with the finest of the wheat. Daily there cometh down from heaven to us "our daily bread." The beauties of the revelation of "the Father and Son" in Christ; the New Birth of water and of the Spirit; the seven Parables and the Seven Candlesticks; the closing of the dispensation; the Revelation of the Ages; the Federation of the Nations; and many others heretofore hidden mysteries of God, truly have become "hidden Manna" to our hearts.

He has promised us "Honey out of the Rock." ALL these promises are ours. The TEST of our loyalty to Christ is upon us. Let us then be true and faithful; press the battle to the gate; love your enemies, hate the devil and evil, but not those persons who are bound in his clutches to do evil. Pray for them in patience and wait. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Bishop G.T. Haywood

*The hardest secret for
a man to keep is his
opinion of himself*



Question.
Please explain the meaning of Psalm 110: 1.

Answer. Psalm 110: 1-5 reads: "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath."

The Psalmist David here prophesies of the coming of Christ the Messiah to Israel, and also to all the people who will accept Him. When Jesus was in the world, He quoted Psalm 110: 1

(see Matthew 22:44), when being questioned by the scribes concerning the authority by which He taught. After He had put them to

Questions & Answers

silence, no man dared ask Him any question at all (Mark 12: 34; Luke 20: 39, 40).

Jesus said to His questioners, "David therefore calleth him Lord, how is he then his son?" (Luke 20: 44).

In the Old Testament, David, as well as other prophets, foretold the Christ's coming to the world. In Psalm 110 David even referred to the order of His priesthood. He declared, "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." So He was of the order of Melchizedek, rather than of the order of Aaron. This is brought out more fully in Hebrews 6: 17 through 7: 21.

The apostle used another prophecy of David's in Hebrews 10: 5, 8, 9, "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: ... Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first (covenant), that he may establish the second." (This was a quotation from Psalm 40: 6-8.) On the day of Pentecost the Apostle Peter also quoted Psalm 110: 1 (see Acts 2: 34, 35), then added these words: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (verse 36).

The statement, "The Lord said unto my Lord," does not mean that there is a first and a second person in the Godhead, and that they are carrying on a conversation. We read another statement of God to David: "The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne" (Psalm 132: 11). As mentioned above, Paul quoted, "A body hast thou prepared me."

All this refers to the prophecy of Isaiah: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign, Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23).

Again 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" (Isaiah 9: 6).

This was fulfilled when " ... the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1: 14). The Word was made flesh when Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:8-17). By O.F Fauss

QUESTION

Why do our churches have so many rules? I get so frustrated when new rules are handed down to us. I thought getting the Holy Ghost set us free from man-made rules and bondage. but it seems like I am in more bondage now than I was before I was saved. Why cannot the Bible be the only rule we need?

Answer: It is true that we do have rules in our churches, and they should be based upon the Word of God. Rules are necessary to safeguard the testimony of the church. They also provide guidelines for conduct so that a Christian will not stray from his commitment to Jesus Christ.

You ask why the Bible cannot be the only rule we need. Many of our modern sins were unknown in Bible days. Ecclesiastes 7:29 says that "God made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." And when these "inventions" are made, they are evil when they pull a person away from his uprightness. In Bible times, they did not have such things as cigarettes, narcotics, motion pictures, television, professional sports, mini-skirts, and many other things that technology and modern lifestyles have given our generation. Since these things were invented after the Bible was written, we must have rules governing our conduct with respect to them. Although mature Christians should have their spiritual sensibilities keenly trained "to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14), it is sad to note that many do not, and therefore rules help these saints to know how to conduct themselves in an ungodly social climate.

A person may chafe against rules, but if he is truly spiritual and consecrated he would not do so; he would realize that rules serve to assist the church in keeping a lean fellowship from compromise and contamination, and to help people be ready for the soon return of our Lord. Bro. David Gray

Who Are We? • Where Are We? • Where Are We Going?

Bro Nathaniel A. Urshan

"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (I Corinthians 1:1, 2)

When PAUL addressed the church at Corinth, he addressed it in a very specific manner. He called them saints. He addressed them as "them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints."

If I understand this Book correctly, everybody that is born into the Kingdom of God becomes a saint of God if they will follow the Lord intensely. In another statement to the church at Corinth, (and I think this would also include the Church of all time), he said that "in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge." He was pointing out to us that our enrichment came from the presence of the Lord. I believe God enriches the Church. Finally, notice he identifies the future of the Church: Those who are a part of it shall be confirmed blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes the Church forgets its spiritual status. We forget who we are.

Who Are We?

We are not boasting about our position. Ours is not a place of arrogance. Ours is not a place of pride. Ours is a place of praise. We need to praise God for what He made us. It is He that has made us what we are.

We are living in a world that is harassing us by temptations. The Church that lives in the present world is constantly assailed by the numerous temptations.

While we fight this complex strangeness of the spirits that exist in the world, it's sometimes difficult for us to keep on course. That's why it is vital for us always to stop and think just who we are!

We are the Church; we're marked by a peculiarity. If there is any people that should stand out and be different from anybody else in the kind of world we live in, it should be the Church.

We are not to stand with heads held (high from the standpoint of our awesome position. The Church is to walk through the world in a sense of humility, because it remembers what it once was and where God brought it from.

I like what the Apostle Paul had to say about it. He said that as far as he was concerned, he was of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was blameless.

Then Paul went on to say that he counted all of that as nothing. He had one thought in mind: to win Christ. When he talked about winning Christ, He wanted to put Him on, to be like Him.

He went so far as to say he would like to know Him in the fellowship of His sufferings. Why would a man want to know Him in the fellowship of His sufferings? Suffering is not something we seek after. But Paul knew that there was something mighty powerful in the sufferings. This world has no charms for you. You have been lifted out of it, and you have been delivered from it.

Paul also said that he would like to know Him in the power of His resurrection. He knew something about that resurrection. We know Him in the power of His resurrection to a point; I want to know Him in the greater sense of the power of His resurrection. There's something that beats in my soul today. I wonder sometimes what it is human that I am, walking the streets of time. I wonder what is this something that motivates me, moves me, and says that I should pass by this or that because it doesn't belong to a child of God. That something is that power of resurrection. I feel it even as I stand in this pulpit today. I can hardly hold my feet on the ground!

We ask the question, Who are we? Many times we use the word church so glibly. The word church came from a word *ekklesia*. That word means the called out.

Every preacher that handles the Word of God needs to know that he is the "called out." You're called out from tradition, from unrighteousness, from the bondage of this world. You were set free by the power of the living God.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God" (I Peter 2:9, 10).

Before you found Him, you were nothing; you were not a people. Now you are the people of God, called by His beautiful name. The Church is God's investment; called from every culture.

Notice how he emphasizes a chosen generation. You're something special. You were chosen. You are a royal priesthood. That's why I say it's hard for us to keep our feet on the ground. And you are a holy nation. Somebody said today there were about 25 nations representing all the parts of the world at this conference; but we are one nation undivided, indivisible, under God. Our banner is a holy banner with the name of the Lord written all over it.

We're not only the Church; we're the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ. We're that special somebody that He's coming back to get one of these days. He's going to take us home. He told us, "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there ye may be also." We have a bridegroom that's got a place for us we could never even imagine. Paul got a little look at something. He could not tell what he had seen, but it made a great difference in Paul.

"I used to be upset when I had troubles. I used to be upset when I had tribulations. Now I glory in trials; now I glory in adversity."

"Why do you glory in tribulations? Why do you glory in adversities?"

"I've seen a city!" Paul would say. There are some pretenders to the bride. Note what the Word of God has to say about these pretenders:

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations" (Revelation 17:4).

She was decked out. That is a pretender. That is what she looks like. God doesn't want you to be a pretender. He wants you to be a contender. We do not want to be identified with the kind of ornamentation the world has to offer. What was this "pretender" doing? Note again the Word of God: "... and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:4, 5).

The woman was riding a beast. She was associated with what we know to be the Babylonian system that the world has to offer. That's not the Church. It is the pretender. She may look like the Church in the eyes of the world, but when God takes a look at her, He sees something altogether different.

I want you to get the picture of what the Church looks like-vastly different. She doesn't come with this so called greatness of grandeur. She doesn't come on the scene decked out with her golden attire. She just has a simplicity about her, but the simplicity is the very touch of God upon her.

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Revelation 19: 7-8). Take a look at that bride again. Fine linen, clean and white, is righteousness of the saints. There's no gold there. There's no crown of gold there. There's no filthiness of abomination. She is just plain, simple, clean, pure, white, holy. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:19, 20). (continued next page 7)

Who Are We? • Where Are We? • Where Are We Going?

You are not your own. You don't belong to yourself anymore. There's another will for you. There's another plan for you. Your body, your spirit belongs to God. Why? You are redeemed. You cannot in any sense of the word say I belong to myself.

Someone says, "I'm an independent." You are not. You are one of the most dependent people that ever lived. Who bought you? Jesus. He shed His' blood for you.

Who gave His life for you? Jesus did. Who do you belong to? Jesus.

Who are we? We are the Church of Philadelphia, Revelation 3:8:

"I know thy works: behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

What have you set before us, Lord? I believe He's set before us an open door in the world. Now that's basic, That's gospel. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. That's what Jesus said. That's the Church's challenge; that's the Church's commission. Generations do not change it.

It is as strong today as the day it was uttered. It has never lost its meaning. It has never lost it's freshness. It has never lost its responsibility.

We have an open door. No man can shut it. I like that. No hierarchy can shut it. No political system can shut it. No power of the bamboo curtain can shut it. No iron curtain can shut it.

Now here's the reason God has set that open door before us:

"And hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

I don't know any other church that has not denied His name. I know churches who say that that name doesn't mean much. They don't know what they are talking about. I want you to know that Jesus is the highest name in heaven and in earth. I want you to know that Jesus is the highest name under the earth. Jesus is the highest name in heaven. Take Elohim, take Jehovah with its compound attributes, put them all together. There's no name like Jesus.

"I'm going to keep you from that hour." Why? "Because you have kept my word and not denied my name." I don't know any other church that this fits but this Church. I don't know anybody that loves the Word of God like this Church loves it. I don't know anybody that loves that name like we love that name.

"Ye are the light of the world, a city that's set on a hill cannot be hid." God put, this Church in this world to be a light. He didn't confine you to the city of St. Louis. He didn't confine you to the city of Kansas City. He didn't confine you to Los Angeles, California. He didn't just say, you are a light of New York City. He said, "Ye are the light of the world." "Ye are the salt of the earth." The world is our field. The whole world is waiting for us. I can't forget what a young woman said to me one day. She had been lost into the depths of the sin with which this world will attract the youth. She had been broken by the ravages of it. Her character was torn, destroyed. The beauty of her own personal appearance had been marred by the powers of sin; but she found the Lord. While I was talking to her about the fact that she was now a redeemed child of God, she said, "but where were you ten years ago? Before I got into this, you could have saved me from so much, you could have kept me from so much." "I was looking into the face of a woman who was being used prior to salvation by the world for their abuse, for their sexual indulgence, and she had lost everything that was real and dear to her. The question was, "Where were you, the Church, when I needed you." That's why we are in the earth. We've got to reach them.

Where are We ?

We are now in a very unique time. We are in a specific time. We're in between the time that is called the beginning of sorrows and what is known as abounding sin. For when sin abounds, the love of many waxes cold. This is a day of promiscuity and permissiveness. I want to warn the youth of our conference today: The kind of world that we are living in is outside your hotel door. This world doesn't care for your purity; they do not care for your virginity; they don't care for your virtue. You anger them because you can stand in the middle of it, and retain your integrity. We are in between the beginning of sorrows and this abounding permissiveness that is all around us. Somewhere in this hour the Lord is going to come.

Note the parable of the virgins in Matthew 25. Jesus tells us that the lamps of the wise were trimmed and filled with oil. He tells us that the lamps of the foolish had no oil, but they were still virgins. You see, what it tells us also is something amazing they both, wise and foolish, slumbered and slept. They both knew something. They knew the bridegroom was coming. They didn't know what hour, but they knew he was coming. In Eastern custom, it wasn't the bridegroom's position or place to be on time. It's a little different than the custom of the West. The bride is the object and the focus of the attention of a marriage in the West. In those days, the bridegroom received the attention. He stayed with his father and his counselors long enough to get the kind of advice to make him a good man. And when they thought he was ready to be released to marriage, they sent him forth. Those ten virgins knew he was coming, but they didn't know what hour he was coming. Five slept with their lamps trimmed and filled. The lamps are a type of the Word of God. There are a lot of fundamental groups that are looking for the coming of the Lord. But all they have is the Word. They live on the right side of Calvary and on the wrong side of Pentecost. You still have to have both the Word of God and the Spirit of the Lord. We are living in that prophetic hour, that time when lamps need to be trimmed, burning, ready, and prepared for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are right in that hour and are living in a vital period of world affairs. Never in all of our history should our lamps burn like they should burn today.

I want you to know something today, friend; we are the Church of the living God, standing at the threshold of one of the greatest spiritual awakenings that we have ever had. I'm not talking now just about the great field that God has opened up to us. We can't sit in idleness. Where are we going? We are going to preach the gospel to every creature. We are going to walk the streets of our cities and witness.

continued page 8

Who Are We? • Where Are We? • Where Are We Going?

We are going to hand out tracts on every street corner. We are going to tell everybody about the great God that can redeem us. We are not going to sit down, in the idleness of our soul and absorb all the good things: We are not going to sit in a church or in a great gathering like this and just shout and glorify the name of God and eat from a bountiful table. That is not what He called us for. He called us to touch the world with our influence with the message that He has given us. Then He is going to take us home. We are going to that city called the City of God. But in the mean time we are going to reach this world with the gospel.

I wish the Church would do this with me today. I wish we would accept the commission of the Lord Jesus Christ absolutely anew. I wish you would say in your heart, preacher friend, saint of God-whoever you are, wherever you are-I am going to brighten that area with the light of the Gospel. I am going to take everything that God put within my disposal, and I'm going to use it to extend this Church into the far flung corners of the world that needs to hear the message of life. I'm going to let my light shine. I'm going to be that salt that God called me to be before the coming of the Lord.

With our directions set toward the New Jerusalem, I want you to know that He wants us to occupy till He comes. And in our occupying, we are to do everything we can to fulfill the great commission that He has given us. We have to put aside all the pettiness that sometimes characterizes our little feelings. We have to lay aside our own little political manipulations that don't amount to the snap of your finger. We have to let the name of the Lord be lifted up on high. We have to work shoulder-to-shoulder and heart-to-heart with a love that we have never had in our life before. And we have to see that the job gets done!

**Are you in the Church triumphant,
Are you in the Saviour's bride? Come
and be baptized into the body, And
forever more abide.**

end:

THE ARMOUR OF FAITH



Brothers and sisters, whoever reads this, whatever your situation, you have the opportunity to believe, as we do, in the name of the Lord Jesus, on the faith that is in Him unto salvation.

II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Our faith helps us find a better life, not life like the world gives. The world can give you the material things that will one day perish, rust or be stolen. But, the things God gives, no one can touch or take away. The things of God go into the depth of your heart and soul.

Romans 8:35, 37-39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? .. in all these things we are more than conquerors through him ... [nothing] shall be able to separate us from the love of God.

Hebrews 11: 1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Through faith " Faith is more than just believing - it's living and feeling. It's knowing something real and genuine is in our lives.

Problems, sicknesses, lack of money - any need - Jesus is greater than the need. His mercy, love and goodness is for you and for me, for everyone that truly believes in Him without doubt, without human reasoning.

Hebrews 11 :6, "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." Why wait for a blessing if we don't believe? How will we receive healing if we don't have faith? How can we be saved without hope?

Our hope and faith is in Christ Jesus. It is for and through Him that we live. There is no life without Him.

II Cor. 5:7, "We walk by faith, not by sight." Faith is the weapon in all the battles we face, it is the proof of your love for God. It is the way to obtain victory and to overcome wickedness and the enemy. Eph. 6: 11, "Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil ... Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of The faith and the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. Amen.

Luis Ortiz

The Old-Time Religion

The old time religion is that which was enjoyed by the prophets and apostles and taught by our Lord Himself. Today there is much said and little known about the old time religion. It is one thing to sing and preach about it and another to live by its standards, practice its spirit, and support its doctrines.

The old time religion, that of the prophets and apostles, was radical in its denunciation of sin and worldliness. When Achan's sin had brought defeat to Israel at Ai, God refused to be with them any more until they destroyed the accursed from among them (Josh-ua 7:12.) When David committed sins of adultery and murder, the prophet Nathan was specific in his preaching and faithfully cried out, "Thou an the man" (II Sam. 12:7.) Elijah fearlessly pronounced the judgments of God upon wicked Ahab and the painted, jewelry bedecked Jezebel because of their sins.

Isaiah, with a burning message from God, rebuked the proud daughters of Zion because of their worldly attire (Isa. 3: 16:24.) Paul, the apostle, speaks out plainly against worldly adornment when he commanded "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (I Tim. 2:9-

10.) Regarding this Peter wrote, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair and of wearing of gold or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also who trusted in God adorned themselves" (I Peter 3:3-5.) The farther away any movement gets from the Bible, the more lenient it becomes toward sin and worldliness.

Any ministry that does not cry out against specific forms of sin and worldliness, is blind to its responsibility to God, the Church, and a lost world.

The old time religion brought persecution. The prophets were not popular men. They were hated, denounced, ridiculed and despised. They "had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yes, moreover of bonds of imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheep-skins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented ... they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth" (Heb. 11:36-38.)

It was said of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, that he "had a revival or a riot everywhere he went." All of the apostles suffered severe persecution and most of them won the Martyrs crown as they went sweeping through the gates of glory. From its very nature a holy life in the world today brings antagonism and persecution. Jesus Himself said, "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." (John 16:2.)

**“From its very nature
a holy life in the world
today brings antago-
nism and persecution.”**

But He also said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecut-ed they the prophets which were before you." (Matt. 5:1 -12.)

The old time religion brought sacrificial giving. The prophets gave themselves so completely to their task that they had nothing. The early disciples sold all they had and invested in the kingdom of God. Pioneer preachers of holiness movement suffered dire need to preach its doctrine. There is no place for selfishness in the heart where Christ reigns supreme.

Christ must be saddened when many who bear His name spend their money for luxurious homes, fine automobiles, jewelry, video- T.V., expensive clothes, extravagant furniture and imposing buildings. Isaiah's question would be appropriate for day of extravagance. "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?" (Isa. 55:2.) The spirit of the Master has always been that of simple living and sacrificial giving.

*The old time religion brings a burden for the lost. Moses was so burdened for sinful Israel that he was willing to be blotted out for their sakes (Ex. 32:32.) The weeping Jeremiah was so impassioned for the lost that he cried, "Oh that my head were waters, mine eyes a fountain of tears. that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." (Jer. 9: 1.) Paul had such a concern that he was willing to become accursed from Christ for his lost kinsmen (Rom. 9:3.) The tragedy of our day is that so many who profess salvation have no passion for the lost. How can men be at ease in Zion with the nation paralyzed in the grip of sin. How can church members go from day to day with tearless eyes and light hearts, feasting and frolicking instead of praying and fasting. Oh, where are the men and women who will stand in the gap between a sin avenging God and a sinning humanity? May God help us to preach and live the old time religion for it is the only kind that will take us to heaven.
end:*

Sometimes

Sometimes-the load is too heavy

Sometimes-my faith is too small

Sometimes-the pain overwhelms me

Sometimes-I can't even crawl

Sometimes-the days pass so quickly

Sometimes-the nights are too long

Sometimes-God seems on a journey

Sometimes-He gives me a song

*Sometimes-the clouds hide the sun-
shine*

Sometimes-the winds blow so strong

Sometimes-in crowds I feel lonely

Sometimes-I like being alone

At all times-I know God is working to

show me His undying care

Ever and always-He loves me

*Not Sometimes-but always He's
there!*

Sylvia Occhipinti

THE PROSELYTER IS

NOTE: This article was first published back in 1961. The principles involved are not old, they are up-to-date. They are timeless.

The proselyter is a rascal first because of his inordinate desire for prestige and influence. Such a carnal lust often supersedes the real purpose of a God-called ministry and a commission endowed church.

It is a shame great enough to make angels weep when a minister with a message of life allows the lost to plunge into hell about him, while his major interest is diverted to the manipulation of those already saved to his own selfish interest.

Power, prestige, and influence can all be obtained by the allegiance of a large congregation.

The simple procuring of a large congregation to the proselyter becomes an end to itself. He is so stupified by his lust for power, prestige and influence that the salvation of the lost is important only as it builds his own castle. This is one of the great pit-falls of the ministry. When propagation of the gospel comes second and the gathering of a congregation first at the loss of layment and church alike, I am afraid someone has forgotten the primitive pattern.

Brother Layman, when you speak with a proselyter, you are talking to a spiritually sick man; one who has lost his true ministerial vision. Be nice to him, but let him alone. His interest in you ends within himself. Not in spirituality, and foreign missions, and evangelization and the general welfare of the church. Some of the most capable men in the Church fell into this trap of inordinate desire. His friends who knew him best confided that his weakness was not a lust for women, nor a lust for money, but a lust for power and prestige and influence all of which was found in large crowds.

Proselyting is wrong because the motives of the proselyter are wrong. It is wrong because the proselyter has wronged you, Brother Layman. You have been appraised not as a blood washed charge to be made into a product fit for heaven.



"You and your family are so welcome to our church, I'm sure your pastor won't miss you!"

YOU HAVE BEEN APPRAISED AS A MERE DIGIT IN THE SUM TOTAL OF WHAT THE PROSELYTER CONSIDERS IS SUCCESS. You are only another rung in his ladder of success to be used at will.

Second, the proselyter is sometimes inspired in his seductive work by a lust of money. Perhaps you have never considered this Brother Layman, but it all adds up very plain. Here, for example, is a family of four. The man's tithes average around \$24,000 a year. They also give for other causes, including the evangelist, missionaries, etc. That ONE FAMILY IS WORTH OVER \$29,000 A YEAR TO THE RASCAL. Proselyting is quite a lucrative game. Brother Layman, and in case you didn't happen to know it, you are the game.

I was once led to a garage by a come-on ad concerning a brake job. As a result, I was almost filched out of money more than it should have been. I do not plan to ever take my car back to that garage again. I have reason

to believe in their dealings. Their advertisement, I felt, was misleading and dishonest. But that was a relatively small sum.

The rascal who entices a family away from their church causes that church to lose over \$20,000 a year. Since the projection of his influence toward the family resulted in this loss then he must bear the responsibility. In five years time that will amount to \$100,000. Someone might object and say "not so, they are members now and their tithes belong here." I reply that you will be a very unwise man to forget why they are members of your church. I wonder how all this is going to add up in judgment?

Brother Layman, let me at this point leave the warning of the Apostle Peter with you, II Peter 2:3 "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." Peter was warning against the man with the wrong doctrine. My warning to you Brother Layman, is against the man with wrong motives. In either case, laymen are the merchandise laid upon the block of human greed. Have you ever heard of one preacher buying a pastorate or a congregation from another preacher at so much a head? However shocking that perhaps would be it is not as dastardly as stealing a congregation one at a time as a thief would steal a flock of sheep. There would be some type of fairness at least in a legal transaction. I have used the word "thief" in respect to a deliberate selfish play for human affection. It was said of Absalom, "THAT HE STOLE THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE." He seduced the gullible and the innocent. He diverted by sly tongue and sweet words their loyalty from another to himself and that to their own hurt.

In short, he played them for a sucker. "They came of their own accord," is an old story: but who doubts that there would never have been an uprising had there not been an Absalom. Many innocent people in Israel were expended (lost their lives) that day for a cause begotten in the womb of greed and selfishness. The layman, as always caught the thrust of that tug of personalities.

Bro J.T Pugh

GOD IS THE SAME

"I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

GOD IS DEAD, we read. The world could not explain Him away, they could not blaspheme Him away, they could not scare Him away with their wars and evil governments. But they have decided that He, not being seen, felt or heard (so they think), is decaying in His grave.

A small minority in the nominal church world has declared that God is dead. Others have written articles to the effect that God is very much alive. Yet even some of these do not have any real proof, for they do not know God in His power, nor have they actually felt His presence. One writer has recently proclaimed that the nominal church world has turned from the "upper room and fire, to the supper room and smoke." God can very well be dead to those who substitute parties and evening socials for soul-winning, which is supposed to be the main purpose of the church.

God is Alive!

He cannot be explained away by the brief statement, "God is dead," uttered by mere human lips. If God were dead, would not we all be dead?

If God is dead, who brings about those conditions that make it possible for man to live upon the earth? The earth is rotating upon its axis at the rate of approximately 1,000 miles per hour at the equator. If it rotated at the speed of only 100 miles per hour, our days and nights would be ten times as long. The heat of the sun would burn our crops and food supply in the daytime, and everything would freeze at night. On the other hand, if the earth rotated at the speed of 10,000 miles per hour, the friction from the atmosphere would burn everything to a cinder. Only the wisdom and the power of a living God keeps the earth rotating at just the right speed.

If our atmosphere were fifty percent thinner, we could not live in the inferno that would exist. If it were fifty percent thicker, we would get no sun at all, and thus all life on the earth would come to an end. We would not, in such atmosphere, be able to hear the faintest sound of a baby cooing, or the mighty roar of a jet streaking across the sky.

What power, other than that of God, could keep the atmosphere at just the right density?

Jesus Has All Power

Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28: 18). The voice that spoke these words which have come echoing through the centuries to our present atheistic, unbelieving generation is the same voice that spoke this world into existence. He called into being the very materials that man now uses to build large cities, and to destroy other cities. But there were no pre-existent materials for the Creator to us. He simply spoke the universe into existence. Then He formed man of the dust of the ground.

Yes, God still controls the forces of nature that allow us to live in a comfortable world. He, the God of the past, present, and future, controls it all.

God is the Same

God is the same as when He caused the waters of the Red Sea to part, and led Moses and the children of Israel through on dry land. His power is the same as when He brought the walls of Jericho crumbling to the ground, caused the fire to fall upon Elijah's sacrifice, and locked the jaws of lions to deliver Daniel.

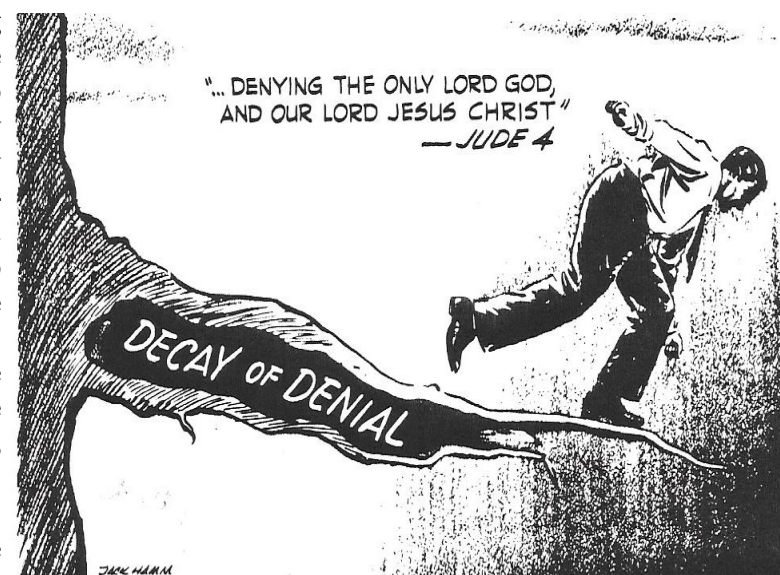
The Spirit that performed all these miracles is always the same. And the same Spirit that fell on the day of Pentecost, still falls in the midst of His people. If those who say that God is dead would only receive this same experience, they would see that God is very much alive. It is those who have never felt God's amazing love that say He does not exist. The old-time gospel is still as powerful as it was in the beginning of the original church.

The State of Things

The Apostle Paul sums up what I have tried to say, in these words: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves (and not of God), covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers (saying that God is dead), disobedient to

parents, unthankful (for the love that passes all understanding), unholy, Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof "

Paul foresaw the time when men would change. But, thank God, He does not change! By Kenneth R. Williams



God's Word To All

Listen my children, this is for you.
Read my word, and obey it too.
Love me and others, this is a must.
Live each day by faith, and learn to trust.
Obedience is better than sacrifice
Repent and receive everlasting life.
Put off the old man of doubt and sin
Let peace, love and joy come in.
You should live for Jesus every day,
Be careful what you do and say.
Others are watching the children of light
Take your stand, but stand for the right.
Knowing the truth that sets you free;
Letting Him have His way with thee.
A home in heaven is prepared for all,
Who will say yes to the Spirit's call.
Come one, come all, He pleads today
For Jesus is the truth, the way.
The way that is filled with peace and love,
And leads you to that home above.

by Lula Mae Owers

Lighten Up !

How to Get to Heaven?

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?"

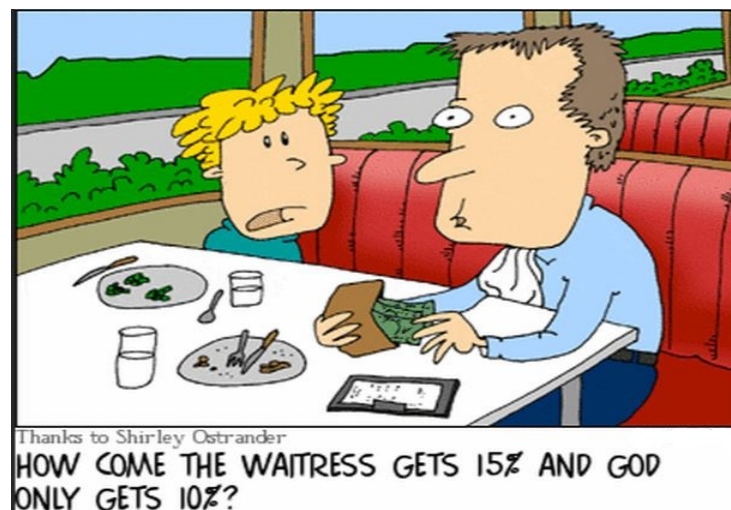
"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?"

Again, the answer was "NO!"

"Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

In the back of the room, a five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!"



COMMON SENSE

POLITICS:

It's time for both political parties to come to the aid of their country.

MARRIAGE:

All men make mistakes, but married men find out about them sooner.

COMMON SENSE :

It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense.

CHRISTIAN LIVING :

Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and is coming back tomorrow.

TRUTH:

Truth does not cease to exist because it is ignored.

LAZINESS:

Laziness is often mistaken for patience.

THE CARDIOLOGIST'S DIET :

If it tastes good, spit it out.

PRAYER & THE DEVIL :

The devil believes in the power of prayer more than anyone. He doesn't practices it. He suffers from it.

A Monkey's Perspective

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree

Discussing things as they're said to be.

Said one to the others: "Now listen you two, There's a certain rumor that can't be true

That man descended from our noble race –

Why, the very idea is a disgrace!

"No monkey ever deserted his wife,
Starved her babies and ruined her life;
And you've never known a mother monk

Leave her babies with others to bunk,

Or pass them on from one to another

'Til they scarcely know who is their mother.

"And another thing you'll never see –

A monk build a fence round a coconut tree,

Forbidding all other monks to taste

And letting the coconuts go to waste.

Why! if I built a fence round a coconut tree
Starvation would force you to steal from me.

"Here's another thing a monk won't do:

Go out at night and get in a stew,

Or use a gun or club or knife

To take some other monkey's life.

Yes, man descended, the ornery cuss,
But brother he didn't descend from us!"

TIME TO REAPPRAISE

When everything's coming your way, you might just be in the wrong lane. There are times in life that we need to take a look at where we are and where we're going. It's good to know that we're headed in the right direction.

Stephen Seaford

The Perfect Church

I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be;
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the straight and narrow way;
A church that has no empty pews;
Whose preacher never has the blues;
A church whose deacons always "deak"
And none whose proud and always meek,
Where gossips never peddle lies
or make complaints or criticize;
Where all are always sweet and kind
And all to others faults are blind.
Such perfect churches there maybe,
But none of them are known to me.
But still we'll work and pray and plan
To make this one the best we can.

unknown



Old Age

Old age is golden so I've heard said,
But sometimes I wonder as I crawl into bed,
with my ears in a drawer, and my teeth in a cup.
My eyes on a table until I wake up.
As sleep dims my vision I say to myself:
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
How do I know that my youth is all spent?
My get up and go has got up and went
But in spite of it all I'm able to grin
And think of the places my get up has been.

*The secret of success is to
start from scratch and keep
on scratching !*



WHITER THAN SNOW

by Irving D. Larson

Whiter than snow sounds like an impossibility, and yet the psalmist likens his spiritual purification as a result of God's washing as being even whiter than snow. When companies advertising their detergents want to use the ultimate comparison, they use the word snow. So, you can buy Ivory Snow, or Sno-Bol, or any one of a number of products with the word snow in its name or description. To those of us that live in the snow belt, there is nothing that looks so lovely and so white as a newly fallen snow, and yet, if you take a pan full of that snow and melt it down, you will find that there are impurities in it that were hidden by the glare of its whiteness, thus the necessity for being even whiter than snow, if we are to have a righteousness which is acceptable to God. Thank God, we have this in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is ours when we are washed in the blood of the Son of God.

There are two words in the Hebrew language that are used to indicate the different kinds of washing. One of them is a word which signifies the kind of washing which penetrates completely the thing washed, and cleanses it through and through. The other word is a word which means to wash the surface of an object without penetrating the object itself. Both these words are used very specifically and carefully in the scriptures to indicate the type of washing meant. The psalmist here uses the first word which means a thorough cleansing rather than just a surface cleansing. The next time you see a freshly fallen snow, let your heart rejoice that God, in Christ Jesus, has made you whiter than snow

'IF I WERE THE DEVIL'

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first -I'd begin with a campaign of whispers.

With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

'To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

'And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

'If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

'Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

'If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

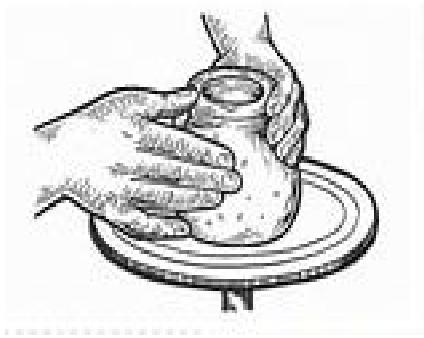
From Paul Harvey 1953

Sounds like 2022 !!!!



Think On These Things

GOD



The Potter

*The Potter takes His molding clay,
And with His love's rich skill
He twists and shapes and brings to light The
object of His will.*

*The finished work doth not appear At once;
nor do we see
The plan He has, the finished form This work
of His shall be.*

*At times the clay beneath His touch
Unwilling is to yield;
But He works on, rebuilds, reshapes, Till
goodness is revealed.*

*This Potter molds with patient love;
Perfection is His thought,
As from the ugly, barren mass
A masterpiece is wrought.*

*The task is long; the work is great; But on
He works with joy,
For in His mind He sees the whole Which
nothing must destroy.*

*God is the master Potter; yea,
My life, the clay He molds.
My twisted, shapeless, yielded will Within
His hands He holds.*

*I cannot see the finished work,
But 'neath His shaping hand
I place myself-my life shall be The
masterpiece He planned!*

unknown

Bible

*When I am tired, the Bible is my bed;
Or in the dark, the Bible is my light; When I am hungry, it
is vital bread;
Or fearful, it is armor for the fight. When I am sick, 'tis
healing medicine;
Or lonely, thronging friends I find therein
If I would work, the Bible is my tool;
Or play, it is a harp of happy sound.
If I am ignorant, it is my school;
If I am sinking, it is solid ground.
If I am cold, the Bible is my fire;
And wings, if boldly I aspire.
Should I be lost, the Bible is my guide;
Or naked, it is raiment, rich and warm. Am I imprisoned, it
is ranges wide;
Or tempest-tossed, a shelter from the
storm.
Would I adventure, 'tis a gallant sea;
Or would I rest, it is a flowery lea.
Does gloom oppress? The Bible is a sun.
Or ugliness? It is a garden fair.
Said Christ, "The Words I speak-the Scrip-
tures-all
Contain My life and Spirit: These I'll share With you if you
will come to Me in prayer."
Oh Lord, I come. And may I leave Thee, ne'er.*

Now

*Now is the day of salvation,
Someday you cannot be saved;
Hasten to make your decision,
Let not your choice be delayed.
This is your hour to receive Him,
Now is the time to believe;
Heed now His blest invitation,
Trust-and salvation receive.
Now you must answer the question, Shall I
accept Him today?
Now you must give Him your answer. Why
should you further delay?
Now is the time to receive Him,
Trusting His mercy today;
You may not have a tomorrow,
Turn to Him now while you may.
Now Jesus stands at your heart's door; Now he
would like to come in.
Now will you ask Him to enter,
Cleanse you and save you from sin?*

*The ways of God are true and sweet. He makes
a pathway for my feet.
He guides me to my final home,
And never lets me walk alone.*

My God.

*Wherever I may be He's near;
He intercepts the falling tear.
My burdens on His shoulders lay
As we commune from day to day.*

My friend and my God.

*The hand of God is strong and warm. He
shelters me amid life's storms, Inspires me with
hope and light,
And makes the darkness seem alright.*

My God.

*The heart of God is love and peace, And
though the cares of earth increase, He is a
trusting, faithful friend,
And One on whom I can depend.*

My Lord and my God.
- Maxine Clark

The Shield Of faith

*The shield of faith will always quench
The devil's fiery dart,
But if one lays the shield aside,
An arrow finds the heart.*

*How many mighty soldiers lie
Defeated in the dust,
Because they grew too careless with
Their shields of faith and trust.
Hours were spent in polishing
Their helmets to a gloss,
But then, through Satan's sneak attack
They suffered tragic loss.*

*The breastplate of God's righteousness
Of which they once were proud,
Is lying now all tarnished, through
Neglect which they allowed.*

*Their unused sandals stand forlorn,
A witness to defeat;
Mute warning, crying out to all,
"Our folly don't repeat."*

*These others once stood straight as you, And vowed to
never yield,
But though their sword was quick and sharp, They did
not use their shield.*

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Acts 2:38

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