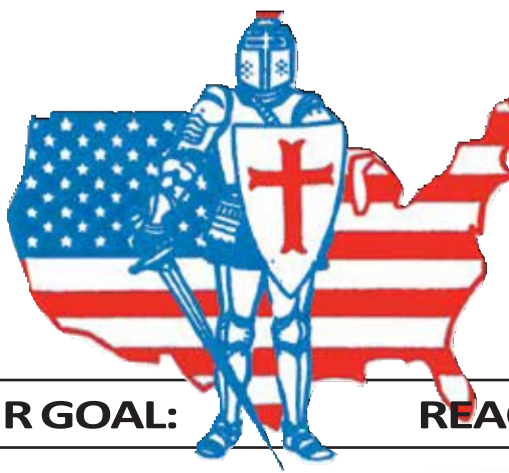




AMERICA'S

CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

Jan-Feb 2020

OUR GOAL:

REACHING FOR LOST SOULS FOR CHRIST WHILE THERE IS TIME

THE STAKES ARE HIGH



Eternity

How long is eternity? The simple answer, a very long time. Eternity is something we cannot even imagine or grasp. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "God has set eternity in their hearts." This means that all of us who are made in the image of God have an intuitive awareness that life does not stop at the grave. The Bible contains the most compelling and authoritative words ever said about life beyond the grave. It teaches that everyone who dies will be resurrected (Acts 24:15). Second, we know that everyone will give an account of their life before the holy God (Hebrews 9:27).

The Bible also tells us that, at this judgment, the issue will not be how great a sinner a person was in this life but what he or she did about it. Did that person obey the word of God according to the Bible Acts 2:38 the Bible teaches that those who have trusted in Christ will spend eternity with God in heaven, while those who refuse to bow to Christ will spend eternity in isolation from Him in hell.

Now if all this is true, then there are huge implications for those outside the family of God. I am grateful that the Bible is clear about life and death. the scripture makes it very clear.

The message of Scripture is that amazing grace has made everyone eligible. don't procrastinate on your salvation it's like playing a dangerous game of Russian roulette, the stakes are supremely high .

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CHRIST IS
THE ANSWER

Greetings to the Saints of God!



Pastor Junior and Brenda Tingle

The goal of this newspaper is that many will see the truth and obey it, but not only see it for themselves but will pass it onto others that others can be saved, America's Christian Newspaper is a small outreach we lack the means to reach out as great as we would like,

but it is our goal to touch as many as possible. This has always been our goal. Only as the church fulfills our missionary obligation do we justify our existence."

The true convert holds the Cup of Salvation in his trembling hands. He has seen the cost of his redemption. He sees that he was not redeemed with silver or gold, but with the precious Blood of Christ. "We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure in which we have received it" — P.F. Bresee Hell should be so real to us that its flames burn away apathy and motivate us to warn the lost. Do we see the unsaved as hell's future fuel? Do we understand that sinful humanity is the anvil of the justice of God? Have we ever been horrified or wept because we fear their fate? Let our hearts be broken with the things that breaks God's heart a lost world of sinners

How we need to be awakened to the reality of the desperate need of all who are without Christ! Before the beginning of time, God saw not only the cry of his heart, but the cry within every human heart.. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. Now the offer to sinful humanity is :“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). contained in this newspaper are the words to help a lost soul find his or her way to God. It has often been said all roads lead to Rome, meaning any road will get you there NOT SO with salvation.

Jesus said in John 10:1 Verily, verily I say unto you, that he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up any other way, is the same as a thief and a robber. There is but one plan of salvation, this is the message the lost world needs. The parting words of Christ Mark 16:15 Go ye into all the world or otherwise tell everyone that is lost of the good news of the gospel, that is what we are endeavoring to do with the Newspaper the true plan of salvation can be found in the pages of this paper.

Many that write us and support this work are continually helping us to reach many with the truth. it's clear from the New Testament that God does not expect every person to be a missionary but our job is to help others that are sending out the word and also to witness to those that are lost that they meet on a daily basis. We thank each and everyone that stand with us in prayer or support we are labours together in Christ

Bro. Junior Tingle

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
Bible Study
7:30 p.m.**

Please remember To pray for this Newspaper!

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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.



Questions & Answers

Great things are not accomplished by those who yield to trends and fads and popular opinion.

Question

One writer asks, "What do you think about wearing rings or jewelry?" Another, concerned about her small girls, writes: "I have two girls, ten and fifteen years of age. I have been teaching them (as I was taught) that in the light of godliness, and what the Bible said concerning proper apparel (especially in Deuteronomy 22:5), it was wrong for women and girls to wear slacks, jeans, leggings, and peddle-pushers; and also to wear short, tight skirts and form fitting dresses. It seems that some wear all these things, and do not think it wrong. Can you please help me?"

Answer:

One preacher said, "I would like to find out what kind of fruit Adam and Eve ate that made them realize they were naked, because I'd like to pass it around again." That statement was tongue-in-cheek, but the preacher was right, because many people need to have their eyes opened to what is appropriate and what is inappropriate. The world today is very confused with regard to how we ought to dress, but a Christian is not like the world. The secret of true holiness lies in one's heart and soul. When hearts are right and clean, little effort is needed to get people to obey the Scriptures, such as those concerning long hair and modest apparel for women. A Christian cannot be like the world. We are different! We have been called out of the world. First John 2:15 says, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Romans 12:2 says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Sadly, the problem of immodesty (lack of clothing) has affected Christians and has crept into the church. If we are going to please God, the matter must be delved into, and we need to be right regarding this subject. Whether or not we want to admit it, when a woman goes into public in a swimming suit or in a mini-skirt or shorts or with her midriff showing or wearing clothing that is too tight, she is doing something sinful.

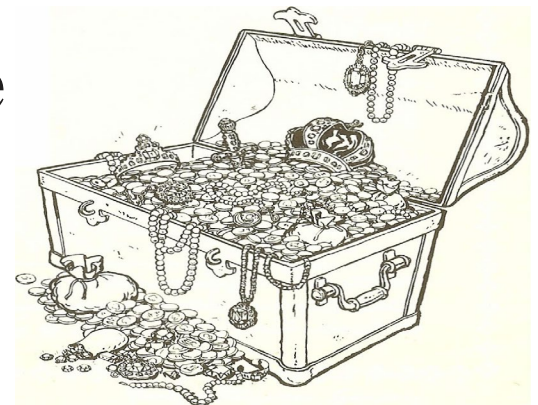
As to what I think about wearing rings and jewelry, something inside me rejects all such, even as it did more than a half century ago. no use of jewelry or ornaments of gold, silver, and jewels for personal adornment (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:1-6) also concerning holiness and dress to conform to the scriptural standards of decent and modest attire; we require Christians to wear shirts or Blouses with sleeves of modest length with sleeves below the elbows, pants and not shorts.

In answer to the mother's inquiry: Don't let the fashions and fads of this world swallow up your children. Modern styles are bordering upon those of Sodom. It is still possible for our women and girls to dress "as women professing godliness." It does not take the wearing of men's clothes by women to be an abomination in God's sight. Many of today's fashions for women alone are an abomination to Him, and are designed to inflame the lust of the opposite sex.

In the past, some who held themselves up as models of true holiness fell because of a bitter, jealous, hateful spirit. One with a "holier than thou" attitude will not survive, neither one with a boastful, self-righteous spirit. Remember the words of godly Hannah: "Talk no more exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed (1 Samuel 2:3). Most of the time, people who wear cosmetics, jewelry and enticing clothes are seeking love, attention and acceptance from others, or even acceptance of self.

An even more basic explanation would be that they come from a world where that is all they know, and have been taught from childhood up, you need these things to be attractive. But when they become Christians something beautiful happens: if they have an open spirit, they discover that God accepts them as they are in their natural beauty, they come to realize that he finds beauty in the spirit of man, not in the outward appearance. Therefore, out of a relationship based on love and gratitude they eventually lose this desire to decorate themselves and they forsake their old lifestyle for the simplicity of a Christ-centered lifestyle. If external holiness in dress is not developing in the life of a believer then immaturity, a worldly spirit or incorrect teaching is to blame. Too many times, the concern and fault of most churches is that they teach people how to become Christians, but never teach them how to live as Christians.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."



Beyond Belief A Biblical Study of Salvation (continued from Nov-Dec 2019 Issue)

Peter begins to preach to them (verses 14-36). Observe what happens in verse 37 after Peter finished preaching. 37Now when they heard this they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren what shall we do? Acts 2:37

Peter has now taken the doubters and mockers from unbelief to where they now believe. They are no longer mocking but, instead, are asking what they need to do. Also, remember, this "great salvation" would be confirmed by them that heard him. This question by unbelievers of "what shall we do" is asked to Peter and the rest of the apostles, the ones that just spent forty days with the Understand what has happened up to this point:

1.)They are at the right place - Jerusalem. 2.)They have the right man - Peter. 3.)Unbelievers have been taken to the point where they now believe and are asking, " ... what shall we do?" 4. For the first time since Jesus ascension, salvation is about to be taught to a lost world. To skip this next verse and to go to any other scripture is not rightly dividing the Word of God. In answer to the question what shall we do, Peter, the man that is about to open up to us the kingdom of Heaven, presents a plan that will either confirm or contradict the teachings of Christ. As we are about to see, there is no contradiction, but an amazing picture of fulfillment. Notice Peter's response. 38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38 In verse 38, Peter gives a specific answer of what they must do after they have believed. These three things fulfill exactly what Jesus taught. 1.)Repentance (Luke 24:47) 2.)Baptism (Mark 16:16) In Jesus Name for the remission of sins (Luke 24:47) 3.)Receiving the Holy Ghost (John 7:38)

Let us recall what Hebrews 2:3 states. 3How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; Hebrews 2:3 The table below provides an overview of what was spoken by the Lord and the corresponding confirmation by Peter and the apostles (them that heard him).

<i>Spoken by the Lord</i>	<i>Confirmed by Peter and the apostles</i>
<i>Repentance</i>	<i>Repentance</i>
<i>Luke 24:47</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<i>Baptism</i>	<i>Baptism</i>
<i>Mark 16:16</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>
<i>Remission of sins in his name</i>	<i>In the name of Jesus Christ for</i>
<i>Luke 24:47</i>	<i>the remission of sins Acts 2:38</i>
<i>Believers receive the Holy</i>	<i>Shall receive the Holy Ghost</i>
<i>Ghost John 7:38</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>

Summary of The Confirmation

In just a few verses, Peter, the man with the keys, fulfills everything Jesus taught in His ministry regarding salvation and what it takes in order to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven. When we take all scripture, rightly divide the Word of God, study what was taught by the Lord and what was confirmed by them that heard him, the logical conclusion is that Acts 2:38 is the only possible method of salvation. But let us assume, just for a moment, that we are not yet convinced of the three obvious steps listed above and that Acts' 2:38 was more of a suggestion rather than the actual plan of salvation. If we take a second look at what Christ not only taught but what He exemplified, we will see the beauty of truth and how God's salvation plan is repeated and confirmed throughout scripture.

Additional Evidence

Most Christian denominations agree on the fact that we must believe and that repentance is necessary, but then they attempt to explain away the necessity of being baptized in Jesus name and receiving the Holy Ghost. At this point we must not rely on human reasoning or any religious teachings that are formed, from man's opinions. When it comes to our eternal salvation, we' must follow exactly what the Word of God so plainly reveals. With that in mind, let's take a second look at what Jesus exemplified. Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, 10, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: Matthew 3:16

Here we find Jesus showing us two very important things. First, we find the creator of the world being baptized, and second, the Spirit descending upon him. At this point, we may not fully understand the significance of the Spirit descending and how that applies to us. This will become clear as we proceed. However, after reading this scripture, the debate over the necessity of baptism should be over. Some have erroneously relegated baptism to an act separate and apart from salvation in an attempt to negate its necessity. We have the man without any sin in the Jordan River being baptized, so how can we, who are born in sin, even question whether or not baptism is essential for our salvation? His example aligns with what He stated in Mark 16:16, " ... he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Peter also states in I Peter 3:21, " ... baptism doth also now save us."

Two important truths to take from what Jesus ,exemplified: 1.)He goes down into the water in baptism. (Note that His baptism was by immersion.) 2.)The Spirit descends. The next verse is one of the most powerful in the Word of God. Jesus is very clear about what it takes to enter the Kingdom of God.

(continued on page 5)

Beyond Belief *continued*

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. In John 3:5, when Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus and spoke with Him face to face, Jesus answers him very directly. He states that you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God unless born of the water and the Spirit. This is not some religious system trying to make it difficult. No, it is Jesus Himself saying two things must happen before a man can be part of that kingdom. Jesus clearly states that somewhere in our salvation experience we must have a water birth and a Spirit birth, or we will not enter the Kingdom of God. Many have argued that Jesus is not speaking of baptism or the Holy Ghost and have tried to explain away this scripture. However, we know we cannot rely on a theory or a personal interpretation. We must follow what is validated by the scriptures. Let us watch as the scriptures give four different accounts of the importance and necessity of baptism (water birth) and the in filling of the Holy Ghost (Spirit birth).

Acts,8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. In these verses we see lost people that believed Phillip's preaching. When they believed, they obeyed Phillip and did two things:

1. *They were baptized (born of water)*
2. *They received the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit).*

In Acts 9:1-6 we find the story of the conversion of Paul who wrote the majority of the New Testament. God stops him on the way to Damascus and tells him to go into the city where he will be told what he must do. Obviously, when he is blinded and hears, a voice from heaven, he quickly becomes a believer, but what is it that he must do from that point onward? 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 9:17 Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. In verses 17 and 18, again we find two things that occur.

1. *He is told, be filled with the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit).*
2. *He arose and was baptized (born of water).*

Acts 10:1-5 tells the story of Cornelius, who was a devout, God- fearing man who had a sincere relationship with God. Yet, we find God has Cornelius send for Peter to tell him what he needed to do in order to be saved (Acts 11 :14). This means that there was still more required of him than just being a good person and believing in God. Acts 10:44-48 tells what happens during Peter's visit to Cornelius.

Acts 10:44-48 44While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. Notice there are only two things that change for Cornelius and his household in Acts chapter 10:

1. *They receive the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit)*
2. *They are baptized (born of water).*

In our last scripture text we find Paul, the writer of the majority of the New testament, focused on two things. Acts 19:1-6 'And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

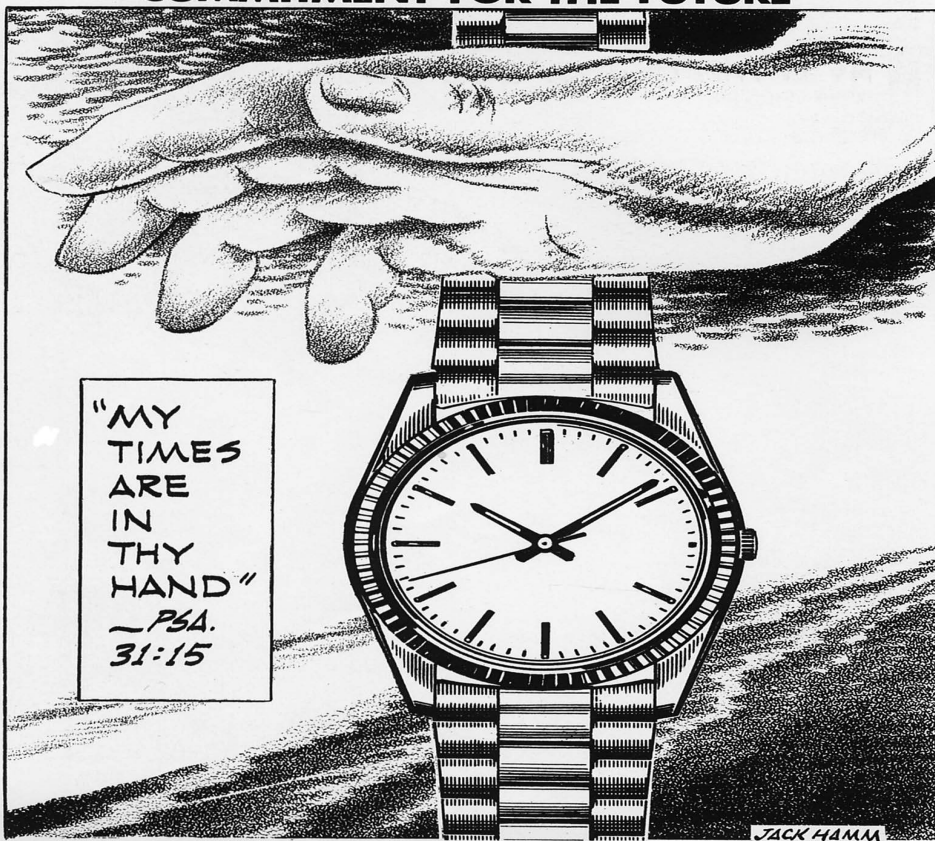
These scriptures record Paul "finding certain disciples" and he asks only two questions:

1. *Have ye received the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit)?*
2. *How were you baptized (born of water)?*

Why these two questions? Because Paul understood that Jesus had put two things into motion that were absolutely essential - we must be born of water and of Spirit. Summary of Water and Spirit A common theme that runs through these four chapters is the ultimate importance of being baptized and being filled with the Holy Ghost, thus fulfilling John 3:5 - a water and a Spirit birth. In verse 7 of John 3 we see where Jesus says, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye MUST be born again." " When Saul (later renamed Paul) had his encounter with Jesus in Acts 9, we find that Jesus uses this same word must again.. He tells Saul to "Arise and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou MUST do."

(continued on page 7)

COMMITMENT FOR THE FUTURE

My Times are in
thine Hand

My times are in thy hand;
My God, I wish them there;
My life, my friends, my soul, I
leave
Entirely to thy care.

My times are in thy hand;
Whatever they may be;
Pleasing or painful, dark or
bright,
As best may seem to thee.

My times are in thy hand;
Why should I doubt or fear?
My Father's hand will never cause
His child a needless tear.

My times are in thy hand;
Jesus the Crucified;
Those hands my cruel sins had
pierced
Are now my guard and guide.

In His Hands

Sometimes problems come,
changing all our plans . . .
making it ever clearer
all things are in His hands.

Hands that long to hold,
to comfort and to console
hands that want to heal
the ache within the soul.

Hands that desire to reach,
far into the heart and mind
hands that hold perfect peace
for anxious ones to find.

Hands that crave to embrace,
grieving hearts in the night
hands that hunger to lead
the lost into His saving light.

Hands that are capable,
hands confident and sure
hands that calm the storms
hands that holds life's cure.

Sometimes problems come,
and we must change our plans
so that we may come to rest
in His almighty hands!

Deborah Ann Belka

Trim Your Lamp

How much oil have you stored for
your journey?
Are you prepared for that glorious
day?
Are you sitting in wait by the
roadside,
Your lamp trimmed, well on your
way?

Are you aware that Jesus is coming?
Do you know there's no time to spare?
Are you gathering fuel for the future,
Enough to light your way there?

Don't assume you have time to get
ready,
Don't be the one to set dates.
God has been warning you gently,
He carries, but not always does He
wait.

You wander on the brink of disaster,
Always ignoring His call,
Trusting in earthly possessions,
Not even listening at all.

The call to enter God's heaven
Will come to the faithful and just.
But those who relied on their riches
Are left, for they failed to trust.

There's warnings, but there's no
extensions,
You make the choice your own way,
Listen and hear God's voice pleading,
Come at His bidding, TODAY!

Poet: Greta Zwaan, ©2010

You only have one life, and if it is not going in the direction you want
it to, now is the time to make changes.

Our character is not defined in the good times, but in the hard times.

Wink at small faults; remember thou hast great ones.

You're Always
There for Me

When the world comes crashing
in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse
me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.

By Joanna Fuchs

**“Tough times
never last, but
tough people
do.”**

No one is useless in this world
who lightens the burden of it to
anyone else

Beyond Belief (continued from 5)

Is it simply a coincidence that the two things that Saul is required to do are be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost? These two things just so happen to fulfill the must from John 3:5 - a water and spirit birth. Is it a coincidence when Paul finds certain disciples in Acts 19 that his only concern is their baptism and if they have received the Holy Ghost? Obviously, what was a must for him was also a must for them.

Is it a coincidence in Acts 10 that the only thing recorded in this chapter that took Cornelius from unsaved to saved is baptism and the Holy Ghost?

Is it a coincidence that Peter, the man with the keys to the kingdom, in his message on the day of Pentecost included baptism and Holy Ghost when unbelievers asked, " ... what shall we do?" The beauty of truth is how this simple message is repeated over and over. In the Word of God there are no coincidences. Man has devised many theories to explain away John 3:5 in an attempt to negate the necessity of baptism (water birth) and being filled with the Holy Ghost (spirit birth) but, as stated in the beginning of this book, we cannot rely on man nor can we base our eternal salvation on clever theories; we must follow what His Word has revealed. Simply put, John 3:5 is the verbal expression of Jesus' actions (Matthew 3:16).

Conclusion

Not only did Christ teach baptism and the Holy Ghost during His ministry, but also in the book of Acts we find overwhelming evidence of this teaching being fulfilled. Whether it was to believers or to unbelievers, the message was the same: they were baptized (born of water) and received the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit). Confessing and accepting Christ and saying a sinner's prayer are all positive steps toward God, and they bring us into a relationship with Him. Yet, to stop at this point would not fulfill the scriptural plan of salvation. We must have more than a relationship with God, we must be born again. We cannot get caught up in what religion teaches or what man thinks or theorizes. We must follow to the letter what has stood the test of time: the rightly divided Word of God. If we could have been in Jerusalem when Peter preached his first message after Christ's ascension, we would have heard him confirm the message of repentance, baptism, and the Holy Ghost that was first spoken by the Lord. If we could have been there that night when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, we would understand the essentiality of a water and Spirit birth. The beauty of truth is how His words to Nicodemus so perfectly align with Peter's message in Acts 2:38 - a message of baptism (water birth) and the Holy Ghost (spirit birth). One simple question every Christian believer must answer is, "Do I know for certain that I have been born of the water and of the Spirit?" We must understand that there is no room for an incorrect or faulty interpretation. Jesus was very clear. Without these two elements, we will never enter the kingdom of God. The story of Cornelius in Acts Chapter 10 proves more is required of us than just living a good life and believing in God. Whether you are an unbeliever, a Cornelius, or a disciple, ask yourself, what would God have me do? The answer is simple, it is what each of them did, and that is fulfill John 3:5 and Acts 2:38. They were born of water (baptized) and born of Spirit (received the Holy Ghost). So What Next? 1. Repent. The Bible says a" have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Whether saint or sinner, we a" need repentance. When we sincerely ask Him for forgiveness, the Bible says He is faithful and just to forgive us of a" our sins. 2. Be baptized in Jesus name. Find a church that will baptize you in the only formula recorded in scripture: in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In a" scripture, there is only one way anyone was ever baptized, and that was in the name of the Lord or the Lord Jesus. Nowhere in the Bible is anyone baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. So, in Acts 2:38 when Peter instructed the crowd to be baptized in the name of Jesus, did he disregard what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19? Absolutely not. We must remember that Matthew 28:16 says eleven men went with Jesus to Galilee (One of those eleven was Peter.). Thus, only eleven men heard Jesus's expression in verse 19. Therefore, they were the ones best qualified to interpret what He meant. That is why Peter said, on the Day of Pentecost, " ... in the name of Jesus Christ." With those words Peter fulfilled what Jesus said and that was to Baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and that name is Jesus. Jesus is the redemptive New Testament name of the eternal Godhead. The angel told Mary in Luke 1:31, "behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." Jesus himself said in John 5:43, "I am come in my Father's name " He said in John 14:26, "The Holy Ghost is sent in his name " Consequently, the valid expression of the Father/ Son/Holy Ghost in name is Jesus. One principle that runs throughout the New Testament is the power of the name of Jesus.

- *Healings were commanded in the name of Jesus (Acts 3:6).*
- *Signs and wonders were performed in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:30).*
- *The disciples preached in the name of Jesus (Acts 8:25).*
- *They were persecuted because of the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18).*
- *Spirits were subject to the name of Jesus (Luke 10:17)*
- *New believers and disciples were baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 8:12, Acts 19:5).*
- *We are directed in whatever we do, in word or deed, to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17).*
- *Salvation is in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12).*

In light of all these scriptural directives and examples, why would 3. Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit, First, we must understand this is a gift that is promised to everyone. We will notice in scripture that there is a sound that accompanies this born-again experience of receiving the Holy Ghost. why would we be baptized any other way, but in the name of Jesus? Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit, First, we must understand this is a gift that is promised to everyone.

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Did Jesus Pray to Himself

by J.L. Hall

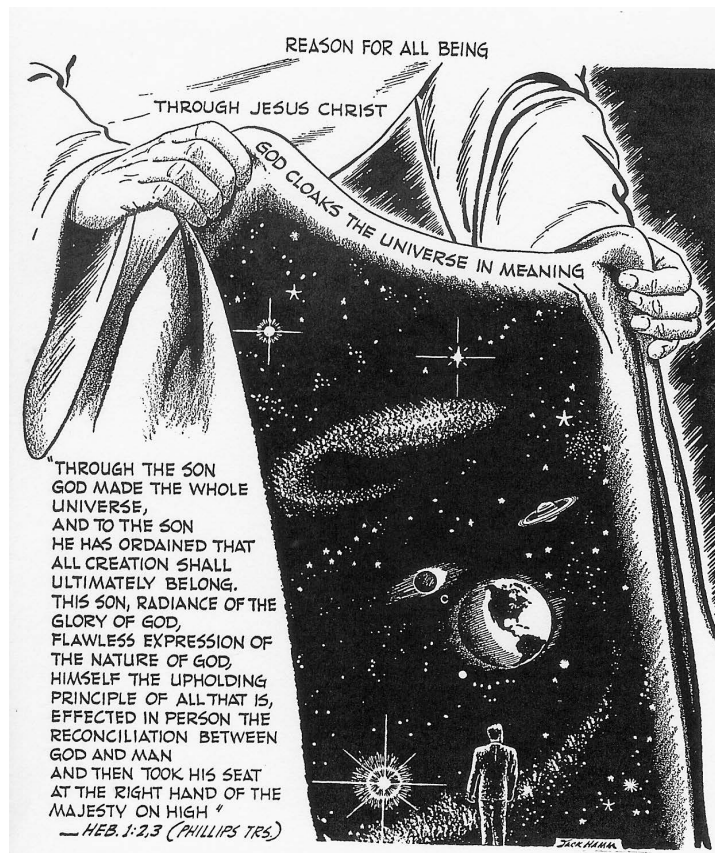
Jesus' prayers open our understanding to the majesty of the Incarnation, for through them we grasp the divine-human relationship between God and His Son.

Trinitarians often refer to the statements Jesus made about His Father, including those in His prayers, in an effort to prove that two persons were involved-whom they identify as God the Son and God the Father. Since they reason that only persons and not natures communicate with each other, they regard the prayers as clear evidence that Jesus is a separate person from the Father. Moreover, they cite Jesus' remarks about the Father as scriptural support for the trinitarian theory. But the prayers and remarks by Jesus destroy any concept of God as being a trinity of co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent persons.

The Bible clearly distinguishes God the Father from His Son. The Son was born in Bethlehem, but the eternal God does not know a beginning. The Son grew into maturity- physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. He became tired, hungry, weary, sleepy-just as other men. Although He did not commit sin, He was tempted in all points as other men are tempted. He suffered from the trials in Jerusalem and died on the cross-just as the two thieves also died. God does not grow, nor can He die. These facts' alone clearly distinguish the Son from the Father.

The Bible tells us that the man Christ Jesus is the mediator between God and men (II Timothy 2:5). God is one, but a mediator serves more than one- He stood between God and mankind, effecting reconciliation. Only as a man could Jesus be our sacrifice, mediator, advocate, and high priest, acting on our behalf for our justification.

Jesus offered Himself as a spotless lamb to God. Having lived as a human being, He offered the blood from His own body as the basis for our forgiveness of sins. God did not die on the cross, nor did a divine eternal person offer blood from a divine eternal body. As the Son of God Jesus offered His own human body and His own earthly blood to God.



The distinction between God and His Son can also be seen in the events after the crucifixion. God raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 10:9; Ephesians 1:20), gave Him all power in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18), made Him Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36), and exalted His name to be above every name in heaven, on earth, and beneath the earth (Philippians 2:9). If the Son had been a co-equal person in the Godhead, this exaltation would not have been possible, for He would have had these positions and attributes from eternity. It is evident, therefore, that the Son of God was not a second divine person in the Godhead. Biblical facts reveal that Jesus lived as an authentic human being, that He did not merely assume the appearance of flesh. Therefore we should not be surprised that He prayed to God, seeking strength, guidance, and assurance. More-over, we should not be surprised that Jesus had a will distinct from God, that He was truly human in spirit and soul. that He possessed a self-awareness of His humanity. We are not to suppose, however, that the human Jesus was not different from other people for only He was born by the Holy Ghost. God was His immediate Father: He is rightfully called the "only begotten of the Father." His miraculous birth meant that His humanity was not tainted with the inherited sinful nature of the Fall, and through Him God could reveal Himself to us in redemptive love.

Jesus' prayers to God the Father came from His human life, from the Incarnation. His prayers were not those of one divine person of God praying to another divine person of God, but those of an authentic human praying to the one 'true God. Prayer is based on an inferior person praying to a superior being. If the one praying is equal in power and authority to the one to whom he is praying, there is no genuine prayer. A conversation can be held between equals, but an omnipotent person does not need to pray for help from an equal. Even intercessory prayers are meaningless unless the one praying is inferior to the one to whom he prays. If he were of equal power, knowledge, and wisdom, he could take care of the needs of those for whom he prays without asking help from another. If Jesus prayed as "God the Son," then "God the Son" is inferior to God the Father. But such an inferiority destroys the trinitarian theory.

In submitting His will to the Father, Jesus confessed that His will was inferior: "Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). He also stated that He did not seek His own will, but the will of the Father (John 5:30). If the Son had been an eternal divine person sharing equal power, knowledge, and wisdom with the other two persons in the trinity, His will could not have been inferior to theirs.

Jesus also stated that the Father was greater than He was: "'My Father is greater than I'" (John 14:28). It is absurd to say that this statement was made by a co-equal eternal person in a trinity. Jesus was not speaking as God but as the Son of God. Moreover, Jesus said, "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise" (John 5:19). He credits the Father as the source of His works, the power to give life, and the authority to execute judgment (John 5:19-30)

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Did Jesus Pray to Himself (continued)

If the Son were an equal person in a trinity, He would have these abilities innately within Himself; He could not derive them from the Father.

But we should not suppose that His humanity detracted from His deity. Jesus was not the Incarnation of one person of a trinity, but He was the incarnation of the full-ness of God - everything that God is was in Him. Thus the Bible says that "God was manifest in flesh"

(I Timothy 3:16) and that "in him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). As God incarnate, He identified Himself as the Father: "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30; 31-33); "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:7-9). As God with us, Jesus revealed His deity, identifying Himself as the God of Abraham and the One who revealed Himself to Moses as the I AM (John 8:24, 58).

Jesus was both God and man. Although this union is sometimes referred to as God-man, this term could be misleading, for it may lead some people to think of Him as a demigod. On the other hand, it is equally incorrect to refer to Him as an anointed man. Although quantitatively God cannot be confined to a body, qualitatively He could reside in a body. Neither was Jesus a part human, but He was a man in the full sense. He was fully God and fully man. He possessed both the nature of God and the nature of man. He was aware that He was God and that He was a man. He could and did speak and act as a man, He did not know the day or hour when the Son would come in power and glory as a man, and He could and did speak and act as God (Mark 13:32)

as God He forgave sins (Mark 2:5). Both His humanity and deity, although fused into His one being, remained distinct within His one personality. Admittedly, the Incarnation is a mystery beyond the comprehension of the human mind. Did Jesus pray to Himself? No, not when we understand that Jesus was both God and man. In His deity, Jesus did not pray, for God does not need to pray to anyone. As a man, Jesus prayed to God, not to His humanity. He did not pray to Himself as a man, but He prayed to God, to the same God who dwelled in His humanity and who also inhabits the universe. No further explanation is given, and none is needed.

Does Jesus pray now since His exaltation? The answer is no. He prayed in the days of His flesh (Hebrews 5:7). The work of mediation was finished through His death on the cross at Calvary (Hebrews 9:14-15). There is no more sacrifice for sins, for once and for all time His blood was shed for the remission of sins (Hebrews 10:12). Unlike the Old Testament priests, He does not continually offer sacrifices for sins. There is no more offering, but there remains remission of sins for those who repent and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:18; Acts 2:38). His present role as intercessor consists not of daily prayers by the application of the benefits of the cross to our lives (Romans 8:34; I John 1:7-9; 2:1-2).

Jesus said, "At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have love me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again I leave the world and go to the Father" (John 16:26-28). Jesus does not pray now, but as God He hears and answers the prayers prayed in His name.

Jesus Said:

"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:7-11).

Let God do The Counting

The Bible emphatically states that God numbers the hairs on our head. Every head in the world! While to us that seems unfathomable, it still is a very specific number, billions of times over! In reality, the grand sum of scalp hairs changes every day... but this personalized number (of hairs) does not add to our "bottom line" other than the comfort knowing that God works with exact numbers!

On the other hand, God does not seem to care very much for exact numbers! There are very few exact numbers in the Bible!

Why, then, do we have such a fixation for "precise" numbers? Why should we care if God uses big numbers, small numbers or no numbers... as long as He has not forgotten us?!

Pentecostals tend to measure revivals, home missionaries, foreign missionaries and everything in between by exact numbers... we size up and often judge the saint/pastor/church by the given number! Small numbers are sometimes discarded as insignificant; big numbers are exalted and praised (though often greatly exaggerated... almost to the level of blatant lying!)

Let's let God do the measuring... and the numbering of our blessings. When that happens, we often discover that God accents the (seemingly) unimportant detail of the story.

In reality there are many levels/dimensions of revival that cannot be measured by a number! I have seen powerful revivals that can only be explained by a simple (and sometimes) small event/story. These are the stories that inspire the abundance of faith!

So, don't ask a missionary or evangelist to give you a number... ask him to tell you a soul story from the heart. I promise you, it will not be about numbers!

Acts 1:15 says there were "about an hundred and twenty" on the day of Pentecost! Surely God could have given us an exact number! But didn't!

These "inexact" numbers give God room to move around and about that situation/setting.

Compare the lad's exact number of two fishes and five loaves to the crowd of ABOUT five thousand men (not counting the inexact number of women and children). The disciples gave an exact number... yet the ABOUT factor (of "5,000"= Mt. 14:21) allows room for our faith to move around inside God's wonderful world of unique expandable miracles! In other words, the multiplication of bread miracle was stretchable! Nor was that miracle limited to a single frame of time. You see, those 12 baskets of leftovers were surely used to feed many others elsewhere on the next day! If the number had been limited to a specific number, there would have been no room for the miracle to expand!

While the miraculous catch of 153 fish is extraordinary (John 21:11), I rather let God do my counting! When He counts, my blessings are stretched beyond my imagination (Eph. 3:20)!

Bro Brad Lambeth

MY CHURCH

By Calvin Carle

A LARGE PERCENTAGE of the people of our country today are church members. In talking to people about the Lord, we often find, much to our surprise, that they are members of churches. Many of these people are also loyal and faithful to their church, and zealous of its activities.

Loyalty and zeal toward a church are admirable qualities in a person. Certainly those who possess these qualities are finer than the ones who are only interested in heaping together treasures for themselves. They are far ahead of the person whose interests are narrowed down to his own family and home, or just to himself.

If you are loyal to your church, what is the basis of your loyalty? Are you loyal because you found Jesus there? Did you go to an evangelistic meeting, find yourself convicted of sin, and fully repent? Did you there feel the joy of the Lord flood your soul when the Comforter (the Holy Ghost) came? Were you then baptized in His wonderful name, in obedience to His Word? Many church members base their loyalty upon much less, even though this is God's plan for full salvation.

Some people are loyal to their church because they are second or third generation members, accepting its teachings as truth, without question. Perhaps you came up through the Sunday School of your church, where you were indoctrinated with its teaching. Any difference between your church and the original church, as described in the Book of Acts, you explain away by saying, "That was for the early, Christians, but not for us today."

Are you loyal to your church just because your nationality has been of that "faith" for centuries? To you it would be unthinkable to be anything else. Perhaps your denomination is the largest and most influential in the world. You reason that so many people simply could not be wrong. But do not forget that in things religious the majority has nearly always been wrong.

There are many churches and beliefs in the world today. Many of man's teachings are far to the left or right, but only when they are compared with the Scripture is this evident. Just as the carpenter uses his level to keep the building straight, so should every person compare all the teaching he hears with the



rightly-divided Word of God, to know what is truth and what is error. Some have said, "I know what the Bible says, but my church teaches it differently." Thus they accept the articles of faith of a denomination in preference to the Bible. Jesus taught this way: "Ye have heard that it was said by which shall be revealed in us." Every church them of old time . . . but I say unto you. He had to should examine itself to see whether or not it is contradict man's interpretations of, and additions in the faith. If any 'Church will not hear the to, the Old Testament. Isaiah said, "For precept truth, and walk in the light as it is revealed, must be upon precept, . . . line upon line, . . . here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people" (Isaiah 28: 10, 11). Some churches have then any individual member who receives the only a portion of the truth; God desires to lead truth should join himself to the group that every church into all truth. stands for this truth. Paul spoke of a certain

Again Isaiah said, "Therefore thus saith the Lord thereof. Then he added these words: " ... from God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, such turn away." The heart of the true gospel, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure as promulgated by the original church, is found foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. in Acts 2: 38, 39: "Then Peter said unto them, Judgment also. will I lay Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. waters shall overflow the hiding place." According this, For the promise is unto you, and to your

j u d g m e n t and righteousness, which form the children, and to all that are afar off, even as heart of all spiritual truth, are laid out perfectly many as the Lord our God shall call."

straight and level. The plumb line and the level are two of the build-er's most important tools. Isaiah declared that the hail would sweep away the refuge of lies. In other words, the only thing that will 'stand is that which is built upon the sure foundation, according to. righteousness and truth. False teachings are worse than none at all, because they raise a false hope, and lead to intolerable agony and sorrow in the day of judgment. Our lives and our beliefs will be judged by God's standard of truth, and not by man's teachings and traditions.

Genuine church loyalty is certainly a thing to be admired. But let it not be blind loyalty; let it rather be according to knowledge. Paul said of the Israelites of his day, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." This can be truthfully said of many church members today.

If you cannot be loyal to Jesus and the truth by being loyal to your church, then it is time to change churches, no matter what it involves. One truly accepts Jesus only as he accepts His Word. Such a change sometimes brings opposition and persecution. This was true in the case of Paul. When he received the revelation of the truth, and transferred his loyalty to Christ's church, his former friends sought to kill him. But this great apostle declared, " ... I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Every church should examine itself to see whether or not it is in the faith. If any 'Church will not hear the truth, and walk in the light as it is revealed, then any individual member who receives the truth should join himself to the group that stands for this truth. Paul spoke of a certain class of religionists who would, in the last days, have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. Then he added these words: " ... from such turn away." The heart of the true gospel, as promulgated by the original church, is found in Acts 2: 38, 39: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

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THIS THINKING GENERATION

By Stanley W. Chambers

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE which God has given me for tonight is This Thinking Generation.

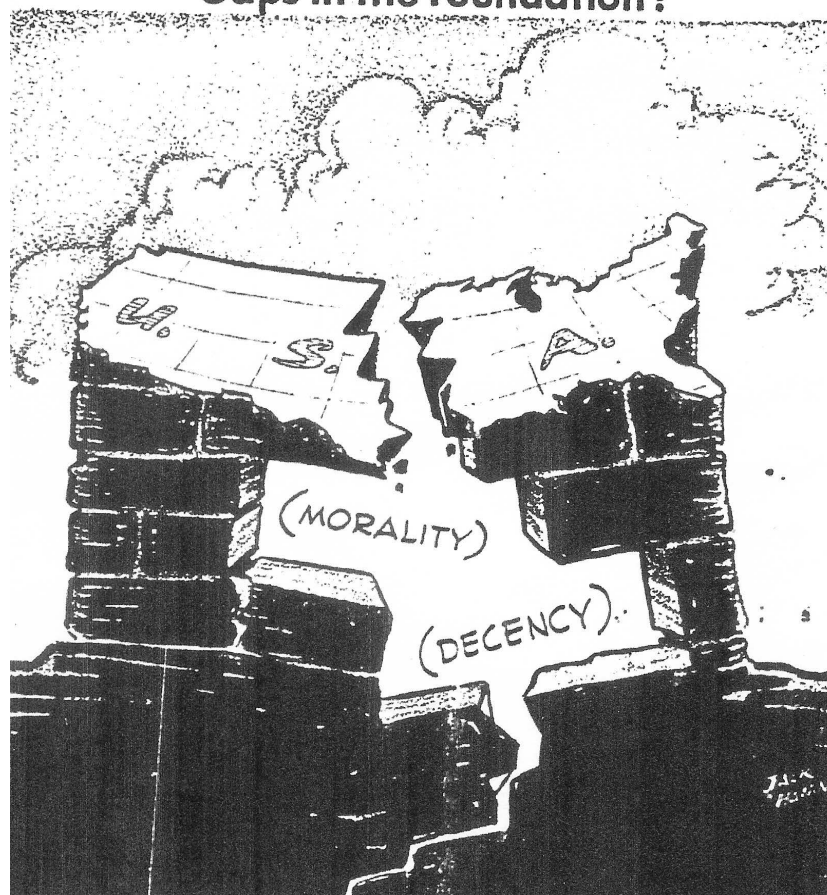
I would like to read Isaiah 59: 19, "So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a stand— and against him." (Note: Read also 2 Timothy 3:1-7, 13, 16, 17.)

When speaking of This Thinking Generation, I do not wish to imply that other generations have not been thinking generations. Each generation has had its thinking. But the burden of my heart is this generation in which you and I live.

We do not live in a world of conformity anymore. People do not do things just because their grand— parents or forefathers did them. This is the day of the unconventional— of the nonconformist. Things are different from what they have ever been.

Today there is an organized group called the Women's Liberation Movement. I don't know what they want to be liberated from. It seems that they want to be liberated from being women, since they are asking for all the rights and privileges of men. A woman said recently over the radio that she believed the time was near when divorced women would pay alimony to their husbands. Other women say they are willing to go to war and fight along with the men. This is the kind of thinking going on in our generation.

In recent months, the Senate rejected two nominees which the President had appointed to one position on the Supreme Court. I doubt that anything like this had ever happened before. This is a thinking generation. Dissenters are making themselves seen, felt, and heard in our day. They are not content with conditions as they exist. They are not satisfied with explanations that have been given for the war in Southeast Asia. They are determined to do their own thinking. Students on campuses of colleges and universities are not content to allow the



It is From Within, out Of The Hearts Of Men That There Comes
(All Kinds Of) Evil.... Mark 7:21

administrators to carry out the functions of their offices. They want things done their way. They say, "We are going to think for ourselves; we don't want you to think for us."

We are living in the generation of the long-haired male and the short-skirted female. They do not care that it has not been the custom for a man to wear hair down to his shoulders or in his face. They say, "We are going to think for ourselves; this is the way we want it. It doesn't make any difference if grandma didn't wear short skirts; we are going to wear them." (The tragedy today is that grandma is wearing them too.)

It doesn't matter to this generation that it is illegal to use, possess, or sell narcotics. They are doing it anyway. And they don't mind being arrested for it. They don't mind stealing for it. They say they must have it, and that they are going to do it their way. That's the thinking of this generation. Nudity has almost become an accepted thing in this generation. Homosexuality is becoming more and more an accepted way of life among us. Recently a certain church convention adopted a resolution endorsing the practice of homosexuality. This same convention also endorsed the smoking of marijuana. I said that a church had done this; thank God, the church has not done it. The policeman who stands on the corner is, in many cases, no longer respected. The teacher who stands before his class is often no longer

MY CHURCH continued

Someone may say, "But my church doesn't teach repentance, or baptism in Jesus' name, or receiving the Holy Ghost, so why should I bother with it?" You should "bother with it" because God requires it, whatever your church teaches. In Acts 10: 48 Peter commanded those of Cornelius' household to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Perhaps your church teaches that the Holy Ghost always comes into one's heart when he accepts Christ, or believes. But Paul asked certain disciples at Ephesus, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" (Acts 19: 2). Yes, loyalty to one's church is commendable. But loyalty to that religious institution which propagates error cannot bring the blessings of God into one's life. To the contrary, it brings disillusionment, sorrow, and finally eternal perdition. End

honored, but rather called dirty names, insulted, or even beaten violently. This is our thinking generation. It has almost become popular to be unpatriotic. It means nothing to many that our fathers respected our flag, and saluted it. They say, "We are going to tear it to shreds, and trample upon it." We live in an unpatriotic, immoral, criminal generation today. That is the thinking of this generation.

Why is the present generation thinking in this manner? Why have they gone to such extremes in their thinking? I believe with all my heart that this world is sick and tired of the thinking of political, religious and social leaders of our day.

Why are they tired of it? Because all the thinking of these leaders, and all their actions, have produced nothing but bored, unhappy, humdrum lives. People say, "You have failed us, Mr. Politician; you have failed us, Mr. Religious Leader; you have failed us, Mr. Socialite. Now we are going to do it our way; (continued page 12)

we are going to do our own thinking."

Peace efforts in the world have failed. And the so-called church of our day has failed to produce the joy and the satisfaction it talks about. It is no joy for people to attend such churches. Very little hope is held out in most pulpits today.

These are the reasons why we have a different thinking generation on our hands. This generation is looking for something it has not found in all the segments of society. It is looking for a satisfaction it has not been able to find. So the people of our generation say, "We'll try to find our own."

I see nothing wrong with men's thinking for themselves, so long as they think right. But when they start thinking wrong, it is dangerous.

The Apostle Paul spoke many hundreds of years ago, and told us these things would come, so it should be no surprise to us.

Let me read a portion of my text from the Amplified New Testament, "But understand this, that in the last days there will set in perilous times of great stress and trouble - hard to deal with and hard to bear. For people will be lovers of self and (utterly) self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate (greedy) desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffers), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, and profane. (They will be) treacherous (betrayers), rash (and) inflated with self-conceit. (They will be) lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. For (although) they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it - their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession. Avoid (all) such people - turn away from them." These words were spoken of the last days. But we have been living in the last days since the day of Pentecost, for did not Joel say that in the last days God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh? And did not Peter say, "This is that"? I believe that you and I are now living in the very last of the last days.

These last days are great days for God's church. We have the greatest opportunity in all the history of the church. While we live in a thinking generation, we represent a thinking church. We represent a non-conformist church. We are unconventional. Whereas, we live in a miserable, wretched, sorrowful, unhappy world, we are a happy church. While we live in the midst of a generation of people looking in every direction, and groping to find their way, we represent a forward-looking church. While we live in a generation that can find no peace, no satisfaction, no deliverance, and no hope, we represent a soul-satisfying church. Another thing that makes this a great day for the church is that we have at our disposal the ability to counteract the wrong thinking of this generation. put it to work.

Yes, we have the ability, and we must use it, we must put it to work.

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood"

This is a day when the enemy is moving in.

We live in a day of exhibitionism. An exhibitionist is one who performs for the praise of men. Too many want to do something spectacular to be noticed; and the more outlandish they can make themselves look, the more they enjoy it, because people see them. But the church is no place for exhibitionism. Jesus told the Pharisees back there that they prayed long prayers in public places, just to be seen of men. They were putting on an exhibition. He told them that when they fasted, they twisted their faces, and got that pious, hurt look, so everyone would know they were fasting. He said that they were doing it for an exhibition. He said that when they gave, they waved it before everybody, so that they would see it. For this, Jesus said that they were exhibitionists.

The church is not a place for exhibition. We have only one thing to exhibit, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ, the God of the universe, and His Spirit. The actor lives in a world of make-believe. He is only acting out something. But in the church we don't need any actors, because we have the real thing to project to the world. We don't have to make-believe.

The athlete wants to win, but to win, he must defeat someone else. I hope that we don't have anyone like that in the church. People in the church are not out to defeat one another, to get ahead of one another, to destroy one another. We are not out trying to build a church larger than someone else's. We have only one enemy that we are trying to defeat, and that is the devil. We are "playing the game" to win souls, and to defeat the devil.



The socialite puts on airs to impress people. She dolls herself up in all her finery, with fingers full of glittering rings. Why is she doing this? Just to try to impress people. That is just another

way that the enemy is moving in like a flood. But we represent a church that is not trying to impress anyone, or trying to make people notice it. We are trying to get people to notice the Christ who lives within us. This thinking generation needs to be influenced by the Lord Jesus Christ, whom we represent.

Isaiah tells us how we can accomplish this when the enemy comes in like a flood. Did you ever feel that this flood had moved in, and that it was about to sweep you off your feet, and ruin the church and everything you represent? Isaiah said that when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. That Spirit will build a dam to hold back the flood waters of the enemy, and preserve every God-fearing saint.

To help this thinking generation, we must be non-conformists. Paul the Apostle said, "Be not conformed to this world" We don't have to live as the world lives. We don't have to look and act like the world. To the contrary, Paul said, "Be ye transformed. . . ." How? "By the renewing of your minds" By the renewing of your thinking faculties. Think right!

You say, "I thought we were saved by what was in our hearts." But another scripture says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." How do you think? With your heart? Does your heart have brains? No, but this shows us how close a tie and connection there is between the heart and the mind. We think the things that are in our hearts. We are controlled, we are governed, we are regulated by what is in our hearts. Therefore, our hearts should be right so that we will think right. This is no day for mediocrity. Mediocrity will produce only mediocre results. Halfheartedness will produce only halfhearted people in the church.

This is no time for mediocre preachers. And when I say mediocre preachers, I am not implying that one must be polished, fluent, and perfect in grammar. One can be all these things, and still be mediocre. Today we need first-class preachers. (continued on page 13)

This Thinking Generation Continued

I mean preachers who will take time to talk to God and listen to God; preachers who will give God all they have. This is the time for preachers to get down on their knees, and ask God to take complete control of their minds, their spirits and their attitudes, and make them the kind of preachers that will impress this thinking generation in a spiritual sense. This is no time for a mediocre message. The world is not going to be saved by a lecture on a social subject. This will not satisfy this thinking generation. You are not going to move people out of the world and into the church with a compulsory holiness message. Sometimes I think we are trying to reach the outside before we reach the heart. We are trying to force people to act and look holy when they have no holiness in their hearts.

Mediocre prayers have no place in our day. This is no time for prayers that are ineffective – prayers that don't do anything. Too often we pray without faith, without earnestness. Paul spoke of prayers of supplication, and that means to beg, to implore, to beseech. And one does not beg half-heartedly. God wants us to pray prayers of supplication. Mediocre prayers will not move this thinking generation.

Nothing happens with mediocrity. All one gets from it is the same old boredom, the same old dis-appointments. And that is what has happened to this generation. They are disappointed with a mediocre world and a mediocre church.

What can we do about it? Jesus asked, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?" The only thing that will satisfy this world, the only thing that will nourish and feed it, is God's holy Word. Paul said, "Preach the word."



That is what will save this thinking generation. Tell men what God can do for them. Give them something real, something fresh. Only then will this thinking generation be inspired to worship God in Spirit and in truth.

This is my generation. One generation has gone before us, but they are a part of us. Men such as our beloved Arthur T. Morgan and Howard A. Goss blazed the trail that we are traveling. There is another generation that is following. And that generation is part of me, because I have four young people in it.

Each generation finds a new wilderness has grown up; each generation faces the moving in of a different flood tide – a different way of thinking. And they have to find their way through it. May God help us as leaders, pastors, evangelists, Sunday school teachers, and saints of God to set the right example for the generation following us. We must not betray the generation that has gone before us, or let the following generation down with a low standard and a poor example. If we reach out and do anything successful in the world of dope pushers and addicts, we are going to have to be first class saints of God.

If we are going to make an impact upon the campuses of our nation, we don't need to show how intelligent we are, but we need rather to ask God to make us His mouthpiece, and help us say the right thing to these youth of our generation. If we are going to preserve the American home, which is so vital, we must have godly homes ourselves.

As a church, we are well fortified, for He said, "... When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him." The prophet said, "... Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." This is the answer.

If we live in the Spirit, if we walk in the Spirit, if we preach in the Spirit, if we sing in the Spirit, if we pray in the Spirit – thank God, we can satisfy this, thinking generation. We shall never achieve it any other way.

May God help us to meet the challenge of this thinking generation!

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Thank you

Gail Huddleston

In the Morning

I met the Lord in the morning,
When the day was at its best,
And His presence came like sunshine,
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long His presence lingered,
All day long it stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were torn and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to drive
them
Brought to us sweet peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings
In a keen remorse of mind,
When I too had loosed the moorings,
With His presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way:
You must meet Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day.
—Author unknown

"My Grace Is Sufficient for Thee"

2 Corinthians 12:9

When, sin-stricken, burdened, and
weary,

From bondage I longed to be free,
There came to my heart the sweet
message:

My grace is sufficient for thee."

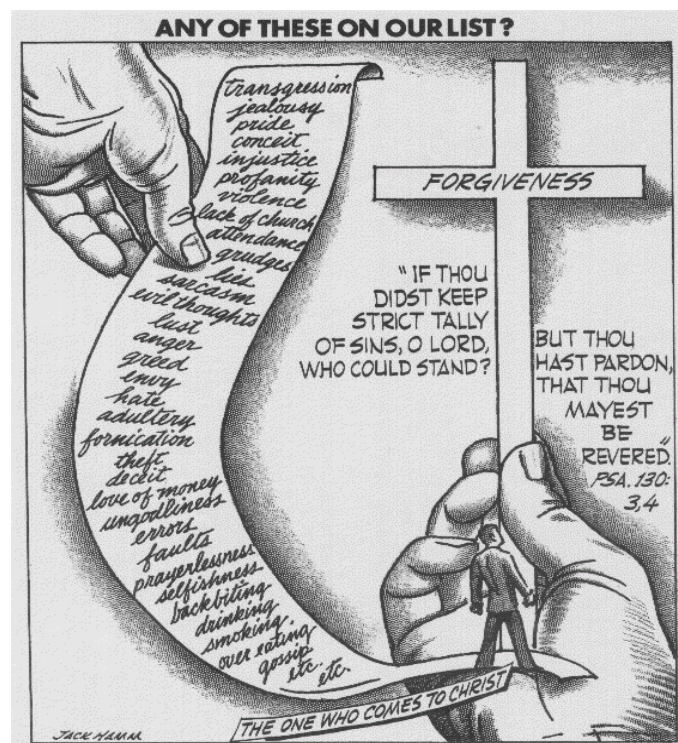
Though tempted and sadly discouraged,
My soul to this refuge will flee,
And rest in the blessed assurance:
My grace is sufficient for thee."

My bark may be tossed by the tempest
That sweeps o'er the turbulent sea—
A rainbow illumines the darkness:
My grace is sufficient for thee."

O Lord, I would press on with courage,
Though rugged the pathway may be,
Sustained and upheld by the promise:
My grace is sufficient for thee."

Soon, soon will the warfare be over,
My Lord face to face I shall see,
And prove, as I dwell in His presence:
His grace was sufficient for me."
—Anonymous

Think On These Things



Strength Day by Day

"One day when my burden seemed greater
Than my body and spirit could bear,
Weighed down by the load, I faltered
Beneath my sorrow and care.
And I cried to the heedless silence,
As I walked where I could not see,
'Where is the strength that is promised?
Where is the strength for me?

And, suddenly, out of the silence,
A Voice came clear and true,
'My child, you are striving to carry
A burden not meant for you;
And the thought of the years outstretching
Before you, has darkened the way;
While the only strength I have promised
Is the sure strength day by day.'

I took one step—and I found it
Quite easy, indeed, to take;
And the burden slid from my shoulders;
And my heart that was ready to break
Gave thanks that my eyes were opened;
And my shoulders were eased of their load,
As I saw, step by step, I was strengthened,
To walk on the roughest road!"
—Author Unknown

"Bought with a Price"

Ye are bought with a price.

1 Corinthians 6:20

Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold... But with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:18, 19

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own Blood. Hebrews 9:12

Thou.. hast redeemed us to God by Thy Blood. Revelation 5:9
The church—which He hath purchased with His own Blood.
Acts 20:28

Bought with a price, O what a price!
'Twas Jesus' precious Blood,
That bought our pardon, cleansed our sin
And brought us nigh to God.

'Twas not the blood of calves or goats,
That bought our pardon free,
But Jesus Christ's most precious Blood,
Shed forth at Calvary.

For gold or silver would not do,
Redemption's price to pay;
Naught but the precious Blood of Christ
Could wash our sins away.

No other Name, no other way,
For sin could e'er atone;
So Jesus shed His precious Blood
Which saves, and His alone.

'Twas matchless love that moved His heart
To take the sinner's place,
For us, to suffer on the cross,
'Twas wondrous, matchless grace!

Bought with a price, a costly price!
The holy Lamb of God,
So willingly laid down His life,
Redeemed us by His Blood.

"To Him who washed us in His Blood,"
To Him be glory given,
Who paid the ransom, cleansed our sin,
And purchased us for heaven.

Thou holy, spotless Lamb of God,
We worship and adore,
Our praises and thanksgiving bring
To Thee, forevermore.
—Author unknown.

The Bible says in Psalm 1 that a person who meditates on God's Word will be blessed. The wisdom of the Bible will help guide a person to avoid wrong friends and influences. Meditating—memorizing, studying and thinking about—brings the promise of being like a tree planted by a river. The person will have the life-giving nourishment that God provides through His Word. A further promise to that person is that God will guide their way in life.

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Acts 2:38

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