

CHURCH DIRECTORY

(Only churches and individuals receiving bundles are listed)

ALABAMA

EUFAULA — Orange Street Church of Christ, c/o Wyatt Jones, Minister, Box 157.
 MOBILE — Crichton Church of Christ, G. F. Cauthen, Minister, 304 Union Ave.
 NAUVOO — Macedonia Church of Christ, R.F.D. No. 1, c/o Louie Helton.
 ROBERTSDALE — Church of Christ; Brodie Plyler, Evangelist; General Delivery.
 SARALAND — Church of Christ, c/o R. M. Finch, 1170 Elmira St., Mobile, Ala.
 BREWTON — Church of Christ, care of J. H. Palmer, Rt. 1, Box 160.

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FLORIDA

PENSACOLA — Jordan Street Church of Christ, 1213 E. Jordan St., Pervie Nichols, Evangelist.
 PENSACOLA — West Hill Church of Christ, T. F. Vaughan, Minister; 1720 West LaRua Street.
 TARPON SPRINGS — Church of Christ.
 FORT WALTON BEACH — Church of Christ, Hollywood Blvd. and Washington St.

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GEORGIA

ATLANTA — West End Church of Christ, Gordon and Hopkins St., S.W., J. Edward Nowlin, Evangelist.
 CARROLLTON — Maple Street Church of Christ (west side U. S. Highway No. 78), William Lybrand, Minister.
 COLLEGE PARK — 318 Atlanta Street (colored), c/o John Goodrum, Hamilton Avenue and 23rd Street.
 EAST POINT — 716 South Church Street at Williams Avenue, c/o E. R. Dean, 106 Morris Avenue; H. A. Fincher, Evangelist.
 GAINESVILLE — 537 Academy Street, c/o Steve Hudgins, Minister, P. O. Box 762.
 GORDON — Hardy's Chapel, c/o F. K. Grinstead, P. O. Box 234, Charles Smith, Minister.
 GRIFFIN — North 14th Street, 3½ blocks from Taylor Street (Highway No. 41), Horace E. Huggins, Evangelist.
 MACON — Central Church, 1085 High Street.
 MANCHESTER — Church of Christ, Box 94, James W. Shear, Minister.
 OGLETHORPE — Church of Christ, c/o Doyce Ellis, P. O. Box 144.
 SAVANNAH — 41st Street Church, c/o James M. Tucker, 2408 Texas Avenue; C. A. Buffington, Sr., Minister.

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OHIO

AKRON — Kenmore Church of Christ, Ninth and Florida Avenues, C. A. Brannan, Minister.

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LOUISIANA

LAKE PROVIDENCE — Church of Christ.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

WILLISTON — Church of Christ, c/o B. M. Craig, P. O. Box 97.

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TEXAS

SHAMROCK — Shamrock Church of Christ, Wall and Lavill Streets.
 FREEPORT — Freeport Church of Christ, 510 West 4th St.; Bacil Doran, Minister.

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
 Brownsville Church of Christ
 Brainard and "X" Streets
 SUNDAY:
 10:00 - 11:00 A.M. — 7:30 P.M.
 Clovis Caudle, Evangelist

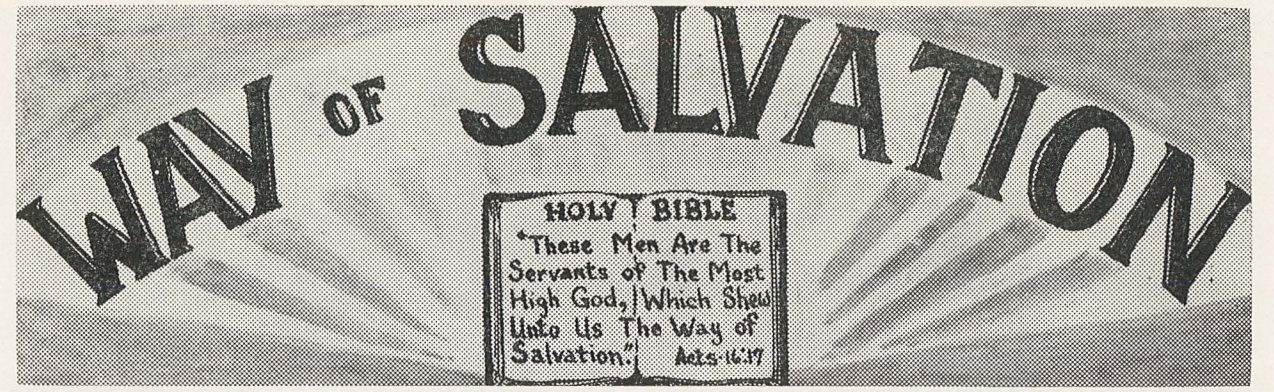
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
 Oakland Church of Christ
 Ninth Ave. and Creighton Road
 SUNDAY:
 10:00 - 11:00 A.M. — 7:00 P.M.
 H. Brantley, Minister

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 WEAR-TV (Channel 3)—Sundays, 3:15 to 3:45 P.M.
 WPPA-TV (Channel 15)—Mondays, 6:30 to 6:45 P.M.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:30 to 7:00 P.M.



Volume 3 PENSACOLA, FLORIDA — JULY 1955 No. 1

What Is the Christian Life?
 By CLOVIS CAUDLE

The Christian life, is the life for Christ. This kind of life and Christ are inseparable. One must be a Christian before he can live such a life. Morality alone is not enough. All good moral people are not Christians, but all Christians are good moral people.

How To Become a Christian

Obedience to the commands of God makes one a Christian. Some effort is required on our part, not only in becoming a Christian but continuing to be one. Without faith one cannot become a Christian. That faith comes from hearing the word of God. Rom. 10:17. To be a Christian one must quit sin and this is brought about by repentance. Repentance is a change of mind resulting in a change of life. Jesus commands men to repent. Lk. 13:3-5. Confessing the name of the Lord is essential in becoming a Christian. Rom. 10:9, 10. Being in Christ or putting on Christ is essential to the Christian character and vocation. The word of God instructs us as to how we can put Him on. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:26, 27. These conditions must be met.

Now That I Am a Christian

Many have never gone beyond baptism. Even though this command is an essential part in becoming a Christian it will not take a person to heaven. We must go on to perfection, and run the race set before us. Heb. 12:1. We must walk a new life. Rom. 6:4. In walking the new life we must let Jesus be first in our lives. We just let him have the preeminence. The main objective in any Christian's life is to serve the Lord. He says that we cannot serve two masters.

To be a Christian we must have the courage to face the evils of the world and say no, for a Christian is in the world but not of the world. A Christian must put on the whole armour of God that he may withstand the wiles of the devil. Eph. 6:11. This means to fortify against attacks of Satan. The way in which this is done is to be as faithful to the Lord as possible and to build up a good force of resistance to the subtle approaches of the evil one.

A Forgiving Spirit

A person who is not willing to forgive another no matter what he has done is not and cannot be a Christian in this attitude. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Worship to God cannot be rendered acceptably without a forgiving spirit.

A Christ-filled Heart

A Christian had much rather associate with the Lord and his children than to revel with the ungodly. He had much rather be at the Lord's house when the church gathers together to sing, pray and study God's word than be out engaging in worldly pleasures.

A Christ-like Conduct

A Christian does not care what others say and think about him. He will always conduct himself in a way that is becoming to his calling. He will conduct himself in a way that will not bring reproach and cause the name of the Lord to be blasphemed. He will act and talk like a Christian and be an example in word, in conversation, charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity." 1 Tim. 4:12.

A Hearer and Doer of the Word

"Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." A Christian must render more than mere lip service. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." Matt. 15:8.

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" A Christian life issues forth from a clean, honest upright heart and one that is sincere and godly.

A Lover of the Word

A Christian delights in a study of God's word. He understands that the messages are letters from the heavenly Father and that he must make a study of Him to be approved of Him. 2 Tim. 2:15. He knows also that to rightly divide the Word he must search out diligently the things written. It pays to be a CHRISTIAN.

Way of Salvation
 1213 East Jordan Street
 PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Way of Salvation

Published Monthly at 1213 East Jordan Street
Pensacola, Florida

PERVIE NICHOLS — Editor and Publisher

★ ★ ★

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ADDRESS:

WAY OF SALVATION

1213 EAST JORDAN ST., PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

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"Second-class mail privileges authorized at Pensacola, Florida."

Past and Future

With this issue the WAY OF SALVATION begins its third year of publication. It has experienced a slow but sure growth in circulation. According to reports there seems to be a steady increase in the number of conversions resulting from its use. Many have used it effectively in their personal contacts. Some who have been sending it into homes of unsaved friends report good results. Therefore, in spite of its financial difficulties and labor problems, it is believed that publishing this paper in a worthy endeavor.



The primary purpose of this paper has been to teach the "way of salvation" to the alien sinner.

However, some space has been given to lessons applicable to the child of God. But our main efforts have been to present the type of paper children of God could use in winning souls.

We have avoided wrangling among ourselves as writers, as well as needless controversies with other Christians. While we do not object to honorable discussion of differences among brethren, it is not the purpose of this paper to engage in such.

We have been aware of the fact that the truth must be taught in all of its purity, that it must not be toned down to fit the opinions of men. And to prepare the soil of the heart for the reception of the truth it often becomes necessary to clear away the rubbish of false doctrine and expose error. This we have tried to do in love for those taught, as well as love for the truth.

It is our intention to continue the same policy as in the past. All constructive criticism, comments and helpful suggestions are deeply appreciated. And for all words of encouragement from fellow-gospel preachers, and other Christians, we are indeed grateful.

A Few Unsolicited Comments

"It is our conviction that the distribution of WAY OF SALVATION in preparation for our meetings this year has been the most effective means we have used in reaching the neighborhood in a blanket effort. I believe it (WAY OF SALVATION) is doing good and will grow in every way."—H. A. Fincher, Jr., East Point, Ga.

"The WAY OF SALVATION is one of the finest, especially with regard to handing it to outsiders."—Jere Frost.

"We enjoy the paper very much and believe it is doing what you wish."—H. E. Ford, Lake Providence, La.

"I would like to say that your paper is getting good reception from all who read it."—Jimmy Tuten, Jr., Williston, S. C.

"The roll of copies of the WAY OF SALVATION went like 'hot cakes' here the Sunday they were put out on the table. Hope to increase our order in the near future."—J. Edward Nowlin, Minister, West End Church, Atlanta, Ga.

"The WAY OF SALVATION continues to be good. It is a valuable paper to place in the hands of those outside of Christ."—Olin Warmack, Evangelist, Dawson, Ga.

"We enjoy reading the WAY OF SALVATION. I am trying to help you reach your new goal of 1,000 new subscriptions. The paper is very good to pass to the unsaved."—C. B. Flatt, Akron, Ohio.

"The brethren here are very favorably impressed with your publication. Enclosed is a list of names to be placed on the mailing list."—Pat C. McMahan, Evangelist, Tifton, Ga.

"I am working with the young people in doing personal work with the WAY OF SALVATION. It is being accepted much better than we expected. Please increase our order to 150 copies per month. We do not know if this will fill all requests. About 95 per cent of the requests are from alien sinners. You will never know how well the papers are liked here."—Robert A. Jones, Shamrock, Texas.

"Am enclosing \$2 for our last bundle of the WAY OF SALVATION. Hope that the circulation of it will grow. Many other congregations ought to take bundle lots."—Steve Hudgins, Evangelist, Gainesville, Ga.

We believe that as we increase the circulation of the paper, more good can be done. But to do this we need the help of every reader. Elsewhere in this issue is found a special subscription offer. If you desire to save souls you cannot afford to miss the opportunity to send it to unsaved friends at such a low cost.

If you agree with our policy and would like for the paper to grow in circulation, and thus do more good, please get up a club of subscriptions and encourage others to do the same.

ATTENTION

SEND

THE WAY OF SALVATION
TO A FRIEND AND HELP TEACH HIM
THE TRUTH

SERMON OUTLINE

Pervie Nichols

Prayer That Avails

(Matt. 6:7; 7:11; Jas. 5:16)

—o—

There is a great need for prayer in this age. Skeptics tell us that there is no need for prayer — that it never gets results. Even some professed Christians do not believe that God will answer.

- GOD IS ABLE TO ANSWER.
 - He had the power to create the world and laws of nature (Gen. 1.)
 - God answered Elijah. (Jas. 5:16-18.)
 - Also Jabez. (1 Cron. 4:10.)
- GOD'S LOVE IS SUFFICIENT
 - He cares for his own (1 Pet. 5:7-8.)
 - His love demonstrated. (Rom. 8:32.)
- TWO KINDS OF PRAYERS
 - Those which do not avail anything or bring blessings:
 - Blackslider's or hypocrite's prayers (Matt. 6:5.)
 - Alien sinner in his rebellion (Pr. 15:8; 28:9; Jn. 9:1.)
 - Those that do avail or bring blessings:
 - Prayers of the righteous (1 Pet. 3:12; Jas. 5:16.)
 - Penitent children of God (Acts 8:14-24; 1 Jno. 1:9.)
- PRAYER THAT AVAILS.
 - Is conditional.
 - Must be a worshipper and do his will (Jno. 9:31; Matt. 7:21.)
 - Pray in Faith (Jas. 1:5-7; Heb. 11:6.)
 - Pray according to God's will (1 Jno. 5:14.)
 - Pray in the name of Christ. (Col. 3:17.) (Eph. 5:20.)
 - It must be a fervent prayer. (Jas. 5:16.)
 - An unselfish prayer (Jas. 4:3.)
 - One must respect God's natural laws and do his part. (Matt. 6:11.)
- CONCLUSION
 - Do your prayers avail anything? Do you get results when you pray? Are you on praying terms with the Lord? If not, you are either an alien sinner who needs to obey the gospel and be saved, or an unfaithful child of God who needs to comply with the Father's terms of pardon to you.

NEWS BITS

By Clovis Caudle

MEETINGS — Howard A. Blazer, Sr., of Florence, Alabama closed a meeting at the Leonard Street Church of Christ in Pensacola, Florida, Thursday night May 30. — The Jordan Street Church of Christ in Pensacola closed a meeting June 19, with Rex Turner of Montgomery doing the preaching. 9 were saved during the meeting and one rendered obedience to the gospel for the remission of past sins the following Lord's Day.

SPECIAL OFFER

You can send the *Way of Salvation* to an unsaved friend for 80c per year in clubs of 10. Are you willing to make a sacrifice of 80c per year to get the truth into the hands of a lost soul?

Only 6 2/3 Cents a Month

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CLUB RATE good through the month of August 1955 ANNIVERSARY — July is the 3rd anniversary of the *Way of Salvation* and we are striving for 1,000 new and renewal subscriptions. Will you help us?

NEW RADIO PROGRAM—Churches in the Pensacola area recently began a radio program on a new station. The program is heard each Sunday through Friday at 7:45 to 8:00 A.M., on WPFA (790 kc). This is a 1000-watt clear-channel station.

FOR "DIVINE HEALING"

"\$1,000 Reward! For Proof of Modern - Day Miraculous Divine Healings!"

For four days, a large advertisement ran in the three leading papers of Phoenix, Ariz. Signed by the ministers of eight churches of Christ, the ad stated that "miracles ceased with the death of the last Apostle," and that the ministers stood ready with dollars and dialectics to disprove any present-day "miraculous divine healing."

The cause of the ministers' irritation was a tent meeting conducted by the Rev. Oral Roberts, a Pentecostal Holiness evangelist who claims the power of faith healing, and runs old-fashioned revivals. He had moved into Phoenix for ten days.

Mr. Roberts told his audiences, in reference to the ministers' challenging ad: "We can claim the reward any time. We've won it again and again." Last week, however, Oral folded his tent and left Phoenix without claiming the \$1,000.

Special Offer

To provide all concerned with greater opportunities for doing good, the subscription price of this paper has been reduced to the following rates through the month of August:

SINGLE SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00

CLUBS OF TEN OR MORE . . . 80c EACH

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Please send us a club. Remember this offer is good through the month of August only. NOTICE: All subscriptions should be properly classified as "new" or "renewal." Please indicate which on each subscription. Address: WAY OF SALVATION, 1213 East Jordan Street, Pensacola, Florida.

CHRIST . . . THE LAMB

By E. V. Srygley, Jr.

—o—

In the New Testament there are many figures of speech in which the nature and characteristics of Christ are illustrated. Quite a few of these figures are metaphors. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which something is said to be something else.

*The Lamb of God*

In John 1:29 Christ is called the Lamb of God. The tenderness and gentleness of a lamb are characteristic of the nature of Christ. Isaiah used this figure of speech in Isa. 53:7. But in 1 Cor. 5:7 Christ is compared to a particular lamb: the Passover lamb. Hence, Paul expressly states that Christ is the antitype of the lamb of the Jewish passover sacrifice.

A Comparison

In this article the reader is invited to consider a comparison of Jesus and the passover lamb.

The record of the origin of the passover sacrifice may be found in Exo. 12.

One of the Flock

According to Exo. 12:3 the passover lamb was taken from among the flock. Hence, the passover lamb was not one that knew nothing of other lambs. To the contrary, the passover lamb, during its short life, was intimately associated with other lambs.

Similarly, according to Gal. 4:4, Christ was a man among many other men. But, of course, Gal. 4:4 stresses also the divinity of Christ, for the passage says that God sent forth His Son. According to Heb. 2:17, 18 and Heb. 4:15, the human nature of Christ enables Him to be a merciful and faithful High Priest. That is, the humanity of Christ makes it possible for Him to understand the situation of man.

A Male

According to Exo. 12:5 the passover lamb had to be a male. It was not a biological accident that Christ, according to Matt. 1:21 and many other passages, was to be a MALE.

Prepared for Use

Exo. 12:3, 6 teaches us that the passover lamb was set apart and prepared for its intended use. That is, the lamb was selected, but it was not sacrificed until the time was right.

Likewise, Gal. 4:4 teaches us that Christ did not come to earth until "the fulness of the time."

Killed in Prime of Life

We may read in Exo. 12:5 that the passover lamb was a year old when slain. As far as lambs are concerned that was in the very prime and usefulness of life.

Luke 3:23 tells us that Jesus was about 30 years

of age when He was baptized. Immediately following, He began His earthly ministry, Luke 4:1. This earthly work lasted approximately 3 years. This is deduced from the fact that Jesus, during His ministry, observed 4 passover feasts, Jno. 2:32; 5:1; 6:4; and 11:55. Therefore, Jesus was slain when He was about 33 years old. As far as earthly standards are concerned that was in the very prime of life.

No Blemish

The passover lamb could have no physical defect, Exo. 12:5. In like fashion, Christ had no sin or spiritual defect, Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22.

Had to be Sacrificed

According to Exo. 12:13 the very virtue of the passover lamb depended upon its being sacrificed. Jesus tells us in Matt. 26:28 that salvation from sin depends upon His Blood. Hence, the sacrifice of Christ was necessary.

No Bones Broken

God through Moses instructed the Israelites not to break a bone of the passover lamb, Exo. 12:46. Neither were any bones of Jesus broken when he was crucified, Jno. 19:33, 36.

Blood had to be applied

Sacrificing the passover lamb would not have, within itself, saved the Israelites from the death of their firstborn. To the contrary, the blood of the passover lamb had to be applied to the doorposts of the houses before that blood benefited the Israelites, Exo. 12:7, 13.

The death of Christ will not, within itself, save me from sin. I must make an individual application of the blood of Christ in order to be redeemed. I am saved or covered by the blood of Christ through obedience to the Faith. Paul teaches us in Rom. 6:3 that we are baptized into the death of Christ; that is, we are baptized into the MERIT or BENEFIT of the death of Christ, which is salvation through His blood, Matt. 26:28; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19. Observe that Paul says in Rom. 6:3 "SO MANY OF US AS . . ." Hence, those who HAD NOT BEEN BAPTIZED had not obtained the merit of the death of Christ.

MORE — RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE
(Continued from Page Five)

all compromising with error. Attack infidelity, unbelief, worldliness, and all forms of evil. "Reprove, rebuke and exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." (II Tim. 4:2-4.) Spread the truth by radio, literature and by private contacts. Live the gospel before the people in order that they, and we may be saved at last. Keep the church united, zealous and courteous to all. But do not compromise with the world. Stand for the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God. In heart and life be thoroughly Christian. Bring the people back to God, back to Christ the Son of God and only Saviour, and back to his church, his doctrine, his name and his way. Here is the power and remedy.

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

—o—

When used in its generic sense the word "gospel" simply means "anything propounded or accepted as infallibly true," good news or glad tidings about anything. In the New Testament it means the gospel pertaining to and concerning Christ. The apostle Paul wrote: "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:15-17.) In this study we consider the gospel of Christ.

Of What It Consists

The gospel consists of the following: (1) *Words of truth.* "After that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation" (Eph. 1:13). (Cor. 1:5). (2) *Good news or glad tidings* concerning Christ. (Lk. 2:10; Rom. 10:15.) It brings us good news that Christ died for all. (1 Cor. 15:1-4.) There is no news equal to this! (3) *Facts to be believed.* (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 10:9-10; Mk. 16:16.) The facts of the gospel include the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. All facts of the gospel must be believed in order for one to be a Christian. Therefore, no person can be a Christian and a modernist at the same time. To disbelieve any part of the gospel concerning Christ is to reject the word of God. (4) *Commands to be obeyed.* The sinner is commanded to believe in Christ (Acts 16:30; Jno. 8:24), repent of all sins (Acts 3:19 17:30) confess with the mouth that Jesus is Lord (Rom. 10:9; Phil. 2:10-11; Mt. 10:32) and be baptized in water "for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16ff; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 8:36-39.) When one obeys these gospel commands he is then saved and added by the Lord to His Church. (Acts 2:47). (5) *Commands directed the Christian.* He is instructed to live a godly life, worship as God directs and abound in the work of the Lord. (Tit. 2:11-13; Jno. 4:24; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 15:58; Phil. 2:12.) Twenty-one of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament were written to God's children to teach them how to live and worship so as to please Him and get to heaven. (6) *Promises of the gospel to be enjoyed.* The Christian has access to all spiritual blessings which are in Christ (Eph. 1:3) including salvation from past sins, the ordinary (non-miraculous) gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), God's fatherly protection and care and the privilege of prayer. Eternal life in heaven is a gospel promise to all faithful children of God. The gospel contains many wonderful promises to be enjoyed by the faithful. (7) *Warnings to be observed.* (Mk. 16:16; Lk. 13:3; Rev. 21:8; 1 Pet. 4:17-18.) In the gospel we are warned that those who obey not the gospel "shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." (2 Thes. 1:7-9.)

Power of the Gospel

The doctrine of Christ brought a powerful transformation in the lives of His immediate disciples. To

them he said: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." (Jno. 15:3.) The gospel story of the cross melted the hearts of three thousand Pentecostians who had killed the Prince of Peace. (Acts 2:1-47.) It turned Saul of Tarsus, the chief persecutor of Christians, into a chosen vessel — into Paul, the apostle. (Acts 9:1-6; 22:16.) It influenced pagans and sensualists of Corinth to turn from idolatry, fornication, extortion, drunkenness and covetousness to a life of service to God. In his first letter to the church there Paul listed a number of vile sinners who would not go to heaven. Then he said: "And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but yet are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Cor. 6:9-11.) Prior to the Corinthian letter Paul went to the city of Corinth and preached the gospel of Christ, "and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized." (Acts 18:7-8.) Hence, they were washed (baptized), sanctified and justified by the Holy Spirit through His word, the gospel, which is God's power to save. (Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:22-23.)

The gospel of peace and hope sustained the early Christians beneath their burdens of sorrow and trial and gave them hope and victory in the hour of death. In the very shadow of a martyr's death Paul was able to write these words to Timothy: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Tim. 4:6-8.)

Therefore let no one think that Paul engaged in idle fancies when he wrote that the gospel of Christ is God's power to save. It is God's dynamo" or dynamite" unto salvation. He is full of power, powerful enough to save men's souls. It is the mighty plan by which God exerts His power in the salvation of mankind. Furthermore, it is the only power God is using to convert sinners. Sinners are called by the gospel. (2 Thes. 2:14.) God's word produces faith. (Rom. 10:17.) It can purify the soul. (1 Pet. 1:22.) It produces the new birth (1 Pet. 1:23); sinners are begotten by it. (Jas. 1:18; 1 Cor. 4:15.) The word of truth, the gospel sanctifies (Jno. 17:17; Eph. 6:26). It is able to bring about the salvation of the soul. (Jas. 1:21; 1 Cor. 15:1-3.)

The Lord wants all to believe the facts, obey the commands, enjoy the promises and heed the warnings of the gospel of Christ.

ATTENTION

SEND

THE WAY OF SALVATION

TO A FRIEND AND HELP TEACH HIM

THE TRUTH

DO WE NEED A NEW GOSPEL?

—o—

The onward march of progress has brought about many changes. This is evidenced by the many startling events and discoveries in this twentieth century. Perhaps in no other period in world history have there been so many advances in scientific research and mechanical inventions. Truly we are living in an advanced age, and we are dreaming of a more modern age than this present period.

Because of our progress many denominations have concluded that the gospel as preached and practiced by the Christians of the first century is out-dated and insufficient for this age. Hence, the trend is to streamline their religion and teaching to correspond with the times. This idea is also set forth in many Colleges and Universities. "Sometime ago the dean of the University of Alabama said to a large gathering, 'The churches cannot preach the same gospel to its children now that they did forty years ago and expect the same kind of children.'" (Way of Life, Feb. 1945, p. 3.) Hence, the general idea is that we need a new gospel for this age.

But do we really need to streamline our religion in order to keep pace with the times? Do we need a new gospel? Every need of ancient man was met by the ancient gospel as taught and practiced by the early Christians, but what about this modern age? Does the apostolic gospel meet the needs of this modern world? The answers to these questions depend upon answers to other questions.

Has Man Changed?

If man has changed, to meet his needs it might be necessary to change the gospel. But man has not changed physically with the passing of the years. Physically speaking, Peter and Andrew were modern men. As in the past, man hungers, thirsts and grows tired. Water, food, air and sunshine are as indispensable today as they were three thousand years ago. Since he has not changed physically, his physical needs are the same.

Neither has man changed morally or spiritually. He still has the same desires, impulses and inclinations as in the first century. Since the ancient gospel met the moral and spiritual needs of ancient man, it follows that the same gospel today will meet the same needs of modern man.

Has the world about man changed?

If the world, with its temptations and attractions, has changed, there might be a need to change the gospel. The world has changed outwardly but man today is surrounded with the same enticing attractions temptations that have always confronted humanity. (1 Jno. 2:15-17.) The occasion and manner of temptation may have changed, but the nature of the temptation is the same. Man today is tempted in the same threefold way as was primitive man, through the

"lust of the flesh," "lust of the eye," and "the pride of life." (Gen. 3; Matt. 4.) Since the world inwardly has not changed, and since the ancient gospel informs us as to how to meet the temptations, why have a new gospel?

Has Man's Disease Changed?

Since the beginning man has been afflicted with disease. If man's malady has changed, then, there is a need for changing the remedy. But man's disease of sin has not changed its real nature through the centuries. It is just as deceptive, degrading and destructive as ever. No new sin has been developed during the past few centuries. (Rom. 1; Gal. 5.) All evil in the catalog of sins are mentioned either directly or indirectly in these chapters. The gospel remedy was sufficient to cure sin-sick man in the 1st century. Now, if the disease has not changed and the remedy is neverfailing, why change the prescription? If the gospel remedy for sin was effective when applied centuries ago (all admit this), surely it will be as effective when applied today. Those who complain now about the insufficiency and ineffectiveness of the gospel have never given it a fair trial. It would be unjust to offer a complaint against your physician while failing to faithfully follow his orders. Instead of trying to meet the moral and spiritual needs of man today with a streamlined religion and a modernized and socialized gospel, denominations should try the Christian religion as authorized in the New Testament and apply the pure gospel remedy to sin-sick souls for a change.

Has Man's Adversary Changed?

The devil is man's greatest and most dangerous enemy. Peter warned: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Pet. 5:8). This warning is as timely as though it were written yesterday. The devil has not changed his nature and tactics. He is still deceiving the masses of the earth. He still operates through those who carry false colors. (2 Cor. 11:1-14) False teachers are his delight. He knows that human creeds and doctrines of men will direct men to his side.

But the devil fears the power of the pure gospel. It put him to flight in the first century and can do the same now. If the gospel, the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17), is sufficient to win the battle against Satan, why should we change weapons?

No, we do not need a new gospel? Our greatest need is for more and more preaching of the apostolic gospel. We need more men with courage and convictions, who will cast aside shackles of denominational dogmas and human creeds, and proclaim to the world the pure, unadulterated gospel, the only cure for its spiritual malady. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:16.)

RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE

By Gus Nichols

One of the greatest hinderances to the progress of the gospel is religious indifference. The masses of the people do not seem to care whether the gospel be true or false. They seem to have little interest in what the Bible teaches. They do not seem to care whether they themselves are saved, or their families and friends. Though the Bible says "All have sinned," (Rom. 3:23), and that the world is wicked and lost, they do not seem to care. They appear to have no interest in the Bible question: "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37-38.) They seem to say, "I don't care what the Bible says one must do to be saved, for about all I know is that I am determined not to do anything about it . . . at least, no now."

In the Church

Even among those claiming to be Christians, it seems many are wholly indifferent. They are not interested in the lost world around them. Neither do they care whether the gospel is ever preached unto the lost or not. They seem not to care whether the church is made the light of the world, or is held in reproach in the community. (Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:15) They are neither hot nor cold, but are only "lukewarm," as was the church at Laodicea. (Rev. 3:14-19.) They are not interested in the meetings of the church, nor in the work of the Lord in the community. They care nothing for the Sunday morning Bible-school work, Bible colleges, nor in the local effort to train leadership. They buy all sorts of books and take many kinds of papers, but are not interested in reading good religious books, and religious papers. Just take a look at their books, and see what trash they feed upon. Examine their papers and all their reading matter. Try to catch them reading the Bible. They simply don't care. They are not interested. They are indifferent toward their children and their neighbor's children. They feel no responsibility toward the work and service of Almighty God. At least a fourth of those claiming to be true Christians are not dependable. They have no proper conception of the truth of the gospel. They are not aware of the simple truth that they are against the Lord, and are his enemies. (Matt. 12:30.)

Causes of Indifference — Infidelity

Infidelity and general unbelief are causes of indifference. It is but natural for unbelievers to manifest general indifference to that in which they do not believe. Modernism is getting its deadly influence into the very heart of the nation. The wild assertions of modernists and their high-sounding claims are bearing fruit . . . evil fruit. They have attacked the inspiration of the Bible, and the Sonship of Jesus Christ; thus striking at the very root of Christianity. Unbelief has poisoned all the avenues of approach to the human heart. Every inch of gospel progress must be contested and won by hard work. The forces of evil and unbelief stand ready to block every approach to a solution of the problem.

"He that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:16.)

Denominationalism Causes Unbelief and Indifference

Religious divisions and denominationalism cause indifference and unbelief. Jesus knew this would be true, and prayed that his disciples might be "one" so "That the world may believe" that the Father sent him. (Jn. 17:20-22.) Humanly-devised churches are no part of Christianity. They are a curse, and not a blessing. People see all the divisions and confusing contradictions in the teachings of the denominations, and supposing the Bible teaches all such, they decide that the Bible is not from God, else it would not contradict itself. The result is indifference. They try to wash their hands of the whole affair, by having nothing to do with any of it. Various denominations have taught the masses that one does not have to belong to their churches to be a Christian while he lives, nor to go to heaven when he dies. They have finally believed it, and decided to "do right" and have nothing to do with their "CHURCHANITY" and just take the short cuts to heaven. Regardless of what the Bible says on any point, they have heard some "smart" man explain it all away. The commands of God are plain, but somebody has made them indifferent by the doctrine that "one church is as good as another" and one does not have to obey the Lord to be saved any way. They have been made to believe that "faith only" and "honesty" are just as good as FAITH THAT OBEYS. They have been made to believe that they have a right to their choice in matters of religion somewhat like choosing between the various kinds of cars to be offered in the markets. They think one doctrine is as good as another, or at least will save as well as the other. Hence, they don't care what is "true."

Sinful Habits, Worldiness in the Church

Another cause of general indifference is the deep-rooted habits of sin, and general worldiness in the church . . . and everywhere. Men have sinned and sin has become so prominent and general . . . has been galvanized into such respectability . . . that it is hard to turn from all sin. Hearts have been hardened and conscience so seared, that it is difficult to get one interested in prity of heart and life. Many rather die without hope, than to wrestle with pet sins, and deep seated habits. They are indifferent to the gospel because the Bible is against their conduct. They often hate whatever is against their present lusts. If they profess anything, it is only surface religion. They would prefer a substitute to the real thing. Hence, there is indifference, and the masses of the people are lost, and don't care. (Lk. 8:11-15.)

The Remedy

Many ingredients enter into the remedy. But the trouble can not be removed without plain Bible preaching . . . without the pure gospel in all its condemning and saving power. (Rom. 1:16.) Stop
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