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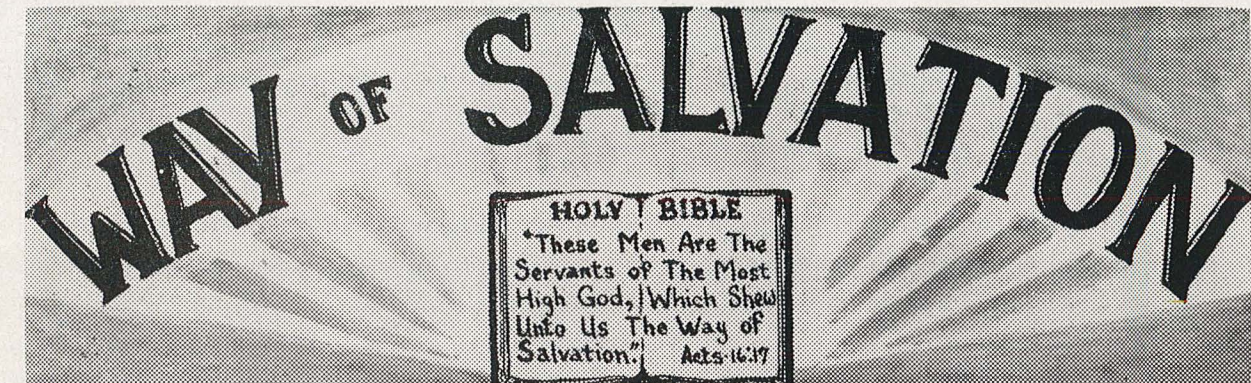
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Volume 3

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA — OCTOBER 1955

No. 4

Apostasy And The Need Of Restoration

By H. A. FINCHER

Beginning about 629 B.C., Jeremiah prophesied the last eighteen years of the reign of Josiah, King of Judah, and through the reigns of his successors until after Babylonian captivity had well begun, a period of forty or more years. (Jer. 1: 1-3.) During the lifetime of the prophet the Israelites were steeped in sin and lived in constant rebellion against the law of Jehovah. Already the ten tribes had been taken away, and now Judah was following in the steps of her adulterous sister. Both were under condemnation. "And I will utter my judgements against them touching



all their wickedness, in that they have forsaken me and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands." (Jer. 1: 16) "Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number." (Jer. 2: 32.) Though they had fallen far, God still extended loving concern as he exhorted: "If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith Jehovah, if thou wilt return unto me, and if thou wilt put thine abominations out of my sight; then shalt thou not be removed." (Jer. 4: 1.) "Thus saith Jehovah, stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls: but they said, We will not walk therein." (Jer. 6: 16.) The picture herein furnished is that of arrogance, of rebellion against divine authority and complete disdain of God's word. Only penalty of the sternest sort could result.

Drawing a Parallel

It would seem that the tragic apostasy of the ten tribes would have been sufficient warning to the separate kingdom of Judah, but she would not profit from the mistakes of her kinsmen. The result, captiv-

ity. The course of Judah is that followed by most today. Though God has dispensed warnings against departures from his word and has given illustration after illustration of the tragedy of apostasy, men persist in following their own ways. That Judah would not be warned, neither by concrete example nor by direct word, makes no impression. Deminationism and her mother, Catholicism, are the result of the same disdain of the word of God that led Judah away. Both are systems foreign and contrary to the Bible. Where is the passage that approves the party names, peculiar doctrines and division of the denominational world? Does not the Bible rather speak of "one body" and one faith?" (Eph. 4: 4-6.) Human authority is no less prevalent in Roman Catholicism, which is but a denomination itself. This religious system was antepated and condemned before its birth. In telling of the great apostasy to come, Paul cites some of its characteristics: "forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats." (1 Tim. 4: 3). What hierarchy is identified by these practices in which Paul said the leaders of apostasy, hypocritical "men that speak lies," would engage.

Restoration Refused

Led by the Spirit, Jeremiah cried out, "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein." The people needed a restoration of God's law to their hearts and lives. IT'S DOUBTFUL THAT THE NEED IS ANY LESS GREAT TODAY. Through Christ God has revealed His will for the people of our time. (Heb. 1:2). A restoration is needed wherever His will is disregarded. (2 Jn. 9; 1 Cor. 4:6). His restoration is effected whenever one observes God's word without addition or subtraction, for it begins with the individual. But, alas! In Jeremiah's day the people refused to return to God's way: "We will not walk therein." The reply of man has changed little for with most it is still, "We will not walk therein."

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"Be Thou Faithful"

While the apostle John was in exile on the isle of Patmos, our Lord had him to write to the seven churches of Asia. In the letter to the church at Smyrna Jesus told them that "The devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days; be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). Although Christ addressed that wonderful promise primarily to the church at Smyrna, it is applicable to all who remain faithful to Him. "The crown of life" is emblematic of the eternal life all the faithful are to receive at the judgment.



Promise Conditional

The church at Smyrna was told that reception of this "crown of life" was conditioned on their being "faithful unto death." If they remained "faithful unto death" they would then receive the reward, the "crown of life." This same truth was taught by Jesus on another occasion. To His disciples He said: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." (Matt. 10:22). From the Lord's language here we note that salvation in heaven is promised to those who "endureth to the end."

In 2 Pet. 1:5-11 we find a list of what some call the "Christian graces," which Peter says for us to add to our faith. Then after telling us to make our "calling and election sure" by having and cultivating these graces, he says: "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Hence, Peter wanted us to know that the abundant entrance into heaven will be given ONLY to those who make these Christian characteristics the predominant feature of their lives. These and many other passages

teach us beyond a doubt that the reward of eternal life will be given only to those who patiently endure to the end, who faithfully serve God unto death under all conditions. THE REWARD IS TO THE FAITHFUL!

"Eternal Security" Theory False

From the proceeding Scriptures we learn that only faithful children of God have the promise of eternal salvation in heaven. But there are many denominational people who reject these Scriptures. They think that once one becomes a child of God, is regenerated and born again, he CAN NEVER so sin as to fall from the grace of God and be eternally lost in hell. An advocate of this false doctrine once said to the writer: "I am a child of God, and I am going to heaven!" When asked what would happen if he should die in the act of adultery, murder or drunkennes, he replied that he would go to heaven regardless of these circumstances.

In his tract on the impossibility of apostasy, Mr. Sam Morris, a Baptist preacher, said: "The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people, have nothing to do with the salvation of his soul. . . . All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform, will not make his soul one whit safer: and all the sins he may commit, from idolatry to murder, will not make his soul in any danger. . . . The way a man lives has nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul." (Sermons — Vol. 2 — Gus Nichols). That's a very convenient doctrine! If you are a child of God, you can commit any sin in the catalog of sins and still go to heaven, and one who believes such doesn't have to be faithful or righteous!

To believe and teach such error is to deny the Bible. (Lk. 8:11-13; 1 Tim. 1:19; 4:1; 5:11-12; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; Heb. 3:12; 4:11). Paul speaks of some children of God who had fallen from grace (Gal. 5:4-R.V.), and admonishes us to take heed lest we fall (1 Cor. 10:12). God's children are the only ones in the kingdom. But at the end of the world His unfaithful children will be taken out of the kingdom and cast into hell. (Matt. 13:41-42).

If all children of God will go to heaven regardless of their conduct, why were twenty-one of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament written primarily to God's children to tell them how to live so as to be saved in heaven?

Faithfulness in the performance of every duty to God and every service to our fellowmen is required of each child of God. One is sadly mistaken who thinks he will receive the "crown of life" or eternal salvation in heaven short of faithfulness unto death, or endurance unto the end!

THE CONFSSIONAL

As the mass is the aggregate of the Romish doctrine, the confessional is the chief of the papal system. By it the decrees of the "infallible Church" are applied and carried out without unequaled measure of minuteness and rigor.

That the New Testament requires the confession of sins is not denied; but such a thing as secret confession in the ear of a priest to secure his absolution, was entirely unknown in the early churches. Even in Rome it was not till the year 390 that there was a place appointed for the reception of penitents. . . . Every one of the faithful of both sexes after he shall have reached the years of discretion, shall by himself alone, faithfully confess all his sins, at least once a year.

The confessional as it exists today is chiefly the work of the Council of Trent, and those who lived in the age immediately after. In order to strike terror in the hearts of all who might refuse, the Council of Trent published a number of canons on penance, pronouncing the most awful curses on those who refused obedience.

In the confessional the penitent kneels besides the priest, makes the sign of the cross, saying "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." Then with her lips near the cheek of the priest she asks the priest's blessings in these words: "Pray, father, give me your blessing. I have sinned." After which the penitent repeats a confessional prayer.

Many of the questions of the confessional are too horrible to quote. Were I to do so I would lay myself liable to prosecution by the government authorities. But every question put by the priest must be answered by the penitent on the peril of damnation; he sits instead of Christ, the penitent is confessing to God, the voice of the priest is Immanuel's; it is the Almighty that is addressing the trembling penitent. And for this reason the priest hears everything, however shocking, shameful, frightful; everything in thoughts, feelings, words, looks and deeds. That the modesty of women should be placed on the rack in the confessional by a bachelor priest, full of curiosity as well as sanctity, and torn and lacerated, under the awful sanctions of the Almighty, is indeed a dreadful thought.

"The confessional is the most odious espionage ever invented by cunning despots. It is the most flagitious outrage upon the rights of husbands and wives, parents and children, the sinning and the sinned against, that ever shocked the modesty or ground trembling hearts under its fatal heel. It is strongly believed to be the greatest incitement to vice that a holy God ever permitted; frightful examples of which are on record. It turns priests into odious receptacles for the accumulated stench and nastiness of all the foul corruptions of thousands, making the sons of the Man of Sin, ready bearers of the iniquities of whole communities."

Yes, it is a withering curse, a cruel tyranny, without the redeeming quality, "which the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to naught by the manifestation of his coming."
—J. W. Shepherd.

"THE BEER THAT MADE MILWAUKEE"

One of the prominent breweries advertises its product by claiming it is the "Beer that made Milwaukee famous."

Famous for what? For having 25,000 of the state's 84,000 alcoholics? For costing the Milwaukee County an estimated \$10,200,000 a year in lost wages and treatment and care of victims and support to their families? Or, is it famous for its 5,500 chronic alcoholics? Just what will BEER (or its tax) make famous?

Perhaps, Milwaukee, St. Louis, or Louisville, or any other city which has beer breweries ought to investigate the misery brought upon the inhabitants of such cities by having beer and whiskey made and sold to its inhabitants. Yes, investigate how many lives are lost each year as a result of drunken drivers, how many homes are broken up because of alcohol, how many children are deprived of food, clothing and adequate shelter because of a toper for a father, how many juvenile delinquents are caused by the neglect of parents enslaved to alcohol.

Yet, these city fathers license establishments to sell alcohol, and traffic in human souls. Even Roman Catholic churches (30 in Jefferson County alone) sell beer, thus encouraging and abetting the shameful situation described above. Yes, 3.2 beer can cause this: 189 out of 920 drunkards in Malmo, Sweden, said it (3.2 beer) was the cause of their downfall.

—Tidings, Valley Station, Ky.

A HYPOCRITE

A hypocrite is neither what he seems nor does he seem what he is. He is condemned by the world for seeming a Christian and by the Lord for not being one. . . . On earth he is outwardly the picture of a saint. . . . a wolf in sheep's clothing; but in eternity, stripped of his ill-appropriated apparel, he will appear at the judgment in his true colors and in his hideous deformity.

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: But all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

Heb. 4:13. —Springfielder.

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News Bits

MEETINGS: "J. Edward Nowlin of Atlanta, closed a meeting September 28 with the Central Church of Christ in Macon, Ga., with three being baptized. The work at Central is progressing nicely" —Edna Nelson.

"August 28th marked the beginning of my fourth year with the Ninth Street and Florida Avenue Church (Akron, Ohio). During the past year there have been 36 baptisms, 4 restorations, and 8 to place membership. We are establishing a congregation in Wadsworth, Ohio. At present I preach there at 9:30 A.M. and at Ninth Street at 10:45 A.M. each Lord's Day. We are enjoying a fine work here. I closed a meeting Sept. 21 with the Walnut Avenue Church in Canton, Ohio, with 10 baptisms and 3 restorations. My next meeting will be in Marietta, Ohio, Oct. 2-12, then in Fort Wayne Indiana, Oct. 24 to Nov. 2."

—C. A. Brannan.

"Brother Horace Taylor of Florida will be in a gospel meeting with the Kenmore Church of Christ (Akron Ohio) October 11-23. Services each night at 7:30."

—C. B. Flatt.

All names sent in should be marked either "NEW" or "RENEWAL." Anyone changing his address should notify us immediately. Be sure to state your *old* address as well as your *new* address. Since the paper is mailed around the 10th of each month, all names received later in the month will be placed on the mailing list the following month. This will serve to explain why some of you did not receive the paper as soon as you expected.

JUST SO SHE STARTS SOON

A young girl said to her mother, just after a white-haired visitor left their home: "If I could be such an old lady as that . . . so beautiful . . . serene, sweet and lovable . . . I should not mind growing old."

The discerning and keen-witted mother replied: "Well, if you want to be that kind of an old lady, you had better begin making her right now. She does not strike me as a piece of work that was done in a hurry. It has taken a long time to make her what she is. If you are going to paint that sort of portrait of yourself to leave the world, you had better be mixing your colors."

—The Springfielder.

A SAD PERVERSION

The manner in which many pervert the Gospel may be illustrated thus: Compare Acts 8:35-39 with this: "The preacher began at the same Scripture and preached unto him his own doctrine. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain stump. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is a stump; what doth hinder me from kneeling down and praying through?' The preacher said: 'If thou believest what I have preached unto you, thou mayest.' And he commanded the chariot to stand still, and they both went down by the stump, and prayed. And when they both had jumped up from the stump, the spirit (of the devil) caught away the preacher, and the eunuch, being ignorant of God's will, went away claiming the baptism of the Holy Ghost."

Kind friends, you have a New Testament. Please read it, and do not accept a perverted gospel. (Gal. 1:6-9) No unconverted men was ever told in the Scriptures to pray for pardon. Ask for book chapter and verse for all you are taught to do in religion. We will give you a "thus saith the Lord" for all we ask you to do in becoming a Christian, or in living the Christian life and worshipping God as a Christian. —Ridgedale Reminder.

FIGURE IT OUT — IF YOU CAN!

When a boy gets up at four in the morning to deliver papers, people say he is a go-getter. If the church were to ask this same boy to get up at four to do some work for the Lord they would say, "That's asking too much of a boy!"

If a woman spends eight hours a day away from home working in a factory or a store she is an energetic wife. If she were to do the same thing for the church, people would say her religion had gone to her head!

If one ties himself down to make payments of \$30 per month on a car for pleasure, he is considerate of his family. If he were to pledge that much to the Lord's work, many would say, "He's crazy!" —Selected.

To many people this is indeed a crazy world. They have never learned to emphasize things of most importance. Instead they go through life putting first things last and last things first. A faithful child of God will put first things first; he recognizes that being a Christian is first in his life.

Understanding

By HORACE E. HUGGINS

Many evils have resulted from misunderstanding. Homes have been divided, wars started, friendships broken, and lives wrecked generally because of the lack of understanding. Surely, we should make every effort possible to understand a thing before we proceed and persist in it. Understanding is essential to proper action. I confidently believe many ills would be expelled if there were a proper understanding of ourselves, others, God and the Bible. How many times do we hear the expressions: "If I had known," and "I am sorry, but it was just a misunderstanding,"



etc? Let us understand.

How to Understand

A proper understanding of God's word comes as a result of reading and studying the same. "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ." (Ep. 3:4; also Ps. 119:104; Acts 8:30-35; 2 Tim. 2:15). Understanding has its seat in one's heart. ". . . lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." (Matt. 13:15). From the foregoing verse it is obvious that one understands or knows with the heart. "And ye shall know (or understand, H.E.H.) the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). By reading and studying God's word one understands (Eph. 3:4); after understanding or knowing the truth one can then be made free from sin. (John 8:32; Rom. 6:17-18). Thus, let us not be deceived into thinking that understanding, and hence freedom from sin, comes about as a direct impact of the Holy Spirit.

Through faith we understand. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God . . ." (Heb. 11:3). The infidel says, "No! Unless my corporeal senses have experienced it, I cannot understand it, so it must not be true." But the infidel gets lost in his own contentions. There are many things we understand by faith. For instance, I understand that there is such a place as Washington, D. C., but my corporeal senses have never experienced such a place. I understand by faith—"evidence of things not seen," Heb. 11:1). By faith, I understand there is God up above; a heaven to be gained and a hell to be shunned. Indeed, there are many things we understand by faith!

What to Do With Understanding

Briefly, I direct your attention to what is to be done with the understanding: Have it opened (Luke 24:45; Acts 16:14); Love with understanding (Mark

12:33); Pray with understanding (1 Cor. 14:15); Sing with understanding (1 Cor. 14:15); Have understanding enlightened (Eph. 4:15-23); and the understanding can be darkened.

What to Understand

In this day of religious confusion and division there is a crying need to understand "the Scriptures" (Luke 24:25; 2 Tim. 3:15). The woeful lack of understanding has resulted in denominational cults and trends. Therefore we say in the words of Paul: "Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." (Ep. 5:17). And, "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good." (1 Thess. 5:21). It is a foolish thing not to understand the will of the Lord, and after understanding, fail to do it. (Matt. 13:23).

How to Get Understanding

Understanding comes about as a result of studying and "rightly dividing" or "handling aright the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15). "Through thy precepts I get understanding." (Ps. 119:104). "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." (2 Tim. 2:7). In other words, think as well as read. Understanding does not just happen, but results from a sincere and diligent effort in reading and study. Study prayerfully, and with a strong desire to know and do the truth "If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from myself." (John 7:17 A.S.V.). In order to understand God's truth as it should be understood, the whole counsel of God must be considered. (Acts 20:20-27). To take part of the word to the exclusion of the rest is to pervert God's word and way and will bring damnation to one's soul.

This article has been written to excite more studying of the Bible, for I believe with all my might that no person who has reached the age of accountability before God will be ushered in through the portals of pearl unless that person has evidence from God's word that he has done God's will. Therefore, I close with this statement of Solomon, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." (Prov. 4:7).

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Facts About Faith

By E. V. SRYGLEY, JR.

Detailed Discussion

In my present judgment, the most detailed, Biblical discussion of faith is recorded in Heb. 11. This fine discussion in reality continues past the chapter division and into Chapter 12. The student of this context will find the following divisions: an explanation of faith, Heb. 11:1; the power of faith, Heb. 11:3; the necessity of faith, Heb. 11:6; examples of faith, in many passages; and an application of faith, Heb. 12:1-2.



In This Article

In this article the writer wishes to direct attention to the following: an explanation of faith; the power of faith; and, the necessity of faith.

An Explanation of Faith

Heb. 11:1 contains an explanation, rather than a definition, of faith.

The passage shows that without faith there is no hope. Hence, the atheist has no hope of heaven: no hope of seeing God, etc.

Further, the passage reveals that without faith there is no evidence of salvation; certain aspects of God; and other spiritual verities that are invisible.

Hence, Heb. 11:1 teaches us that we are guided by faith; not by a miraculous impact upon our thinking, or by a so-called "inner-light."

The Power of Faith

Heb. 11:3 states that faith gives understanding; particularly, understanding regarding the origin of the worlds.

Hence, the passage teaches that an understanding concerning the origin of the worlds cannot come as a result of experience or experiment.

Human experience or experiments do, however, convince us of a number of realities. For instance, high school and college students prove, by laboratory experiments, certain propositions.

But we could never discover, by experimenting, a reasonable origin of the worlds. That reasonable discovery can come only through faith.

Did Not Use Evolution

Further, Heb. 11:3 forces us to reject the silly theory that God used the principle of evolution in giving us the universe and various forms of living things.

If God had used the principle of evolution, the creation would have resulted from matter already in existence.

But Heb. 11:3 affirms that the creation is the result of God's word; not the result of something already in existence.

The Necessity of Faith

Heb. 11:6 reveals the necessity of faith. The passage not only teaches us that we CANNOT be saved without faith, but also teaches us that we WILL NOT WANT to be saved, without faith.

That is, regardless of our human attainments in the moral realm and other realms, we cannot be saved if we refuse to believe in God.

But though that be true, one who doesn't have faith doesn't even WANT to be saved.

Hence, Heb. 11:6 not only teaches us that faith is a REQUIREMENT, but also it teaches us that faith is a motivating force moving us to DESIRE salvation.

A Perversion

Some preachers think Heb. 11:6 teaches that all the non-Christian does is sinful.

These preachers say if a non-Christian pays his debts, loves his wife, etc., it is all sinful. They say these things are done without faith; hence, are sinful, since we cannot please God without faith.

Such a view is a glaring mishandling of Heb. 11:6. The passage itself indicates that "pleasing God" is used in the sense of "coming to God," or being saved.

Hence, the passage teaches that without faith we cannot "please God" or be saved; no matter how good we might be, and no matter what our human attainments or relationships might be.

THE POWER OF PERON VS. CUNNING OF CATHOLICISM

By Chas. M. Campbell

The insurgent Peron is only practicing what Rome has preached for the period of her domineering and bloody existence. And were he imposing his edicts and unsheathing his sword as an inquisitorial prosecutor and persecutor rather than a civil ruler, he would soon be the recipient of the honors of The Holy See, and "His Holiness" himself would bestow upon him the distinction of a true son of the faith.

Those who are inexcusably ignorant or innocently unaware of the horrifying history of Catholicism may continue to condemn Communism in its current conflict with the Papey, but those who justly and intelligently hate the one will be forced by the same seasoning to despise the other. Ye cannot serve Rome and reject Russia. For the one and only difference in the basic philosophies of the respective isms is the adopting of a religious robe by the one and the rejecting of it by the other.

ARE THESE BEING FULFILLED IN YOU?

By CLOVIS CAUDLE

I. RELIGIOUS BUT WRONG—(Matt. 7:22)

1. Religious? yes.
2. Sincere? yes.
3. Good works? yes.
4. Deceived? yes.
5. Many will say to me in that day—Will this be you?

II. THESE WILL BE FULFILLED IN SOMEONE — (Matt. 13:15)

1. Heart waxed gross
 - A.—Can your heart still be touched with the gospel?
 - B.—Is it receptive?
 - C.—Is it hardened?
2. Eyes closed —
 - A.—Do you see the dangers confronting the church?
 - B.—Do you see the dangers confronting your Christian character?
 - C.—Do you see how worldliness is engulfing the church and seeking to destroy it from within?
 - D.—Do you purposely have your eyes closed?
3. Ears dull of hearing —
 - A.—Do you listen to the preached word?
 - B.—Do you hear the plea to live right?
 - C.—Do you hear the idea of obeying?
 - D.—Have you closed your ears to the pleadings of the Lord?

III. LIP SERVICE — ((Matt. 15:7,8)

1. Do you sing spiritual songs and not mean what is sung?
2. Do you say that you love the Lord and then not do what He says?
3. Do you say you love the church and then set about to divide it asunder?
4. Do you say you love your brother and then seek to destroy his character?
5. Do you say you love the Lord's cause and do all the damage that you can to his servant, the preacher?
6. Is just lip service your service?

IV. WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE (2 Tim. 4:3)

1. Will this be fulfilled in you?
2. Do you ever get offended at the truth?
3. Are you willing to go all out for the truth of God no matter what it is?
4. Are you willing to say "Amen" to all truth even when it hits you?
5. Do you like soft preaching?
6. Do you want to get rid of the preacher when he steps on your toes?
7. Are you the one to whom, and of whom, the Spirit is speaking in this scripture?

"IN THE WRONG PATCH"

Once upon a time a boy hired himself out to a farmer to hoe out his cotton patch. He got up before daylight, went to what he thought was the right patch, and hoed all day long. When he went to the farmer for his pay he found he was hoeing in the wrong cotton patch. He told the farmer that he thought he was in the right patch, that he had worked as hard as if he had been in the right patch, and that he thought he ought to be paid. The farmer explained to him that in spite of how hard he had worked, and what he thought about it, he was still in the wrong patch, and that he would not pay him for his work. This simple illustration should help us to understand the following spiritual truths.

Sometimes we find some who think that they are doing what the Lord wants them to do, and who believe with all their heart that they are in the right church, but they are working in the wrong church. Paul was that kind of a workman before he became a Christian, declaring that he verily thought that he was right, and that he had lived in all good conscience before God and man. But one day on the road that led from Jerusalem to Damascus he found that he was working in the wrong field. We find many in the religious world that are doing the same thing. Christ is not going to reward such workmen, regardless of how hard that we have worked. We must work in His vineyard, according to His directions.

Too, we find those in the religious world today who would argue you can do good in all churches. This could not be successfully denied, but if we are to be rewarded by God, we must work in His church. I verily believe that there are good people in all churches, and that they perform a good work many times. I do not believe that God intended for all churches to exist, or that He intends to reward people in all churches. The Bible plainly teaches that "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof is the way of death." In the words of the apostle, "We must obey God rather than man." If we are to obey Him, and be rewarded at the end, we must serve Him in His church.

Finally, there are some that think that sincerity is the only measure of religion. I don't think that sincerity is the only measure of religion. I don't think that a man would voluntarily hoe cotton all day in the wrong patch. I am sure that the boy mentioned above thought he was in the right patch, but his sincerity did not change the truth. Neither will being sincere make error right. Let us be sincere, but let us be guided by the word of the living God! — *Jimmy Wood, Brownsville, Texas.*