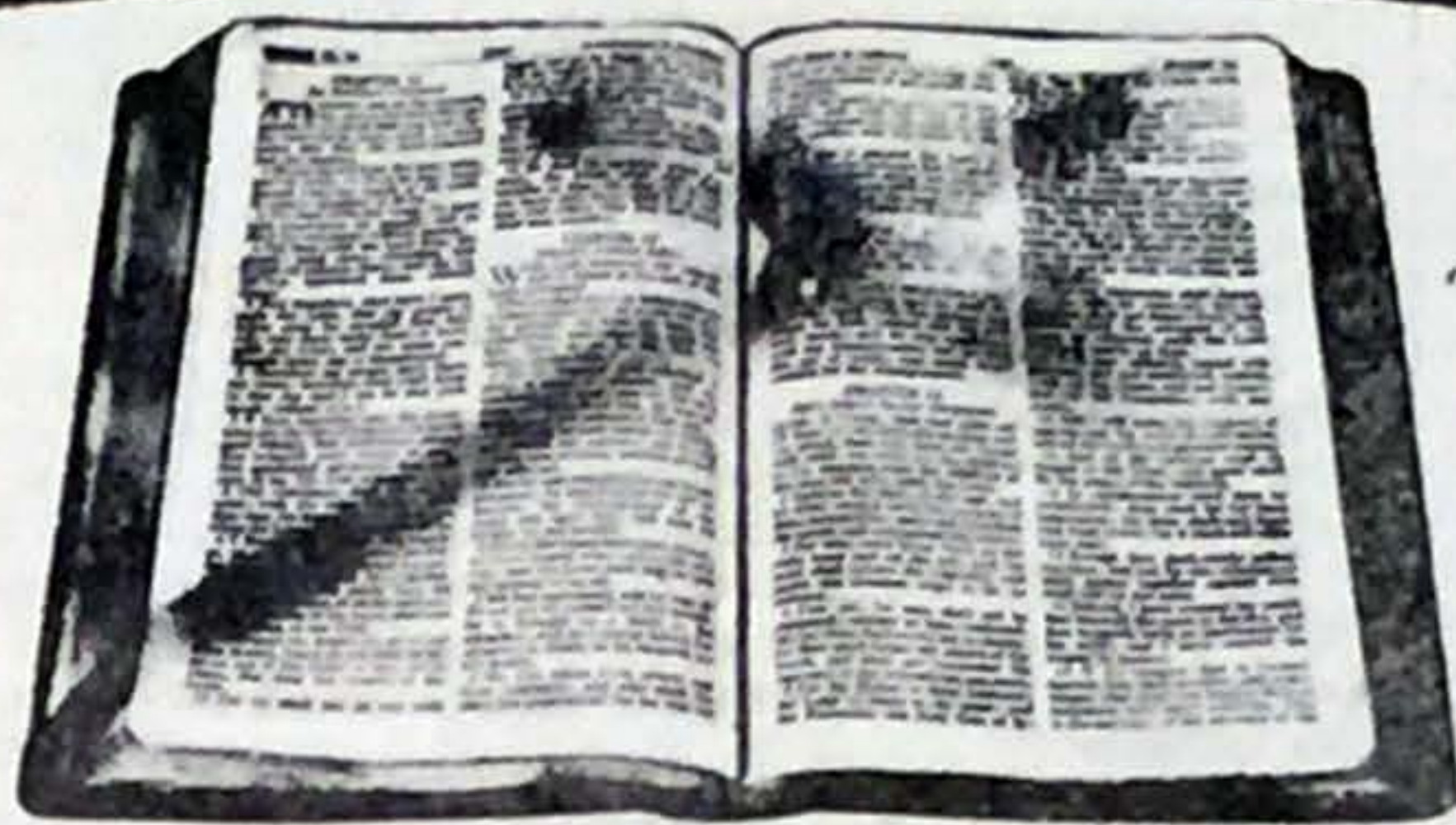


WORDS of TRUTH

"Ye shall know the truth
and truth shall make you free"
Jn. 8:32

"Thy word is truth" Jn. 17:17



"But speak forth the words of truth"
Acts 26:25

"Grace and truth came by Jesus
Christ" Jn. 1:17

Whiskey and Blood Ran Together

Paul Wylie
Good Springs, Ala.

From my boyhood days I remember sitting around the big fireplace at my grandmother's home listening to my older uncles and cousins sing and play One song always brought tears.

About all that I remember from it is the title, "WRECK ON THE HIGHWAY", and a portion of the lyrics, "whiskey and blood ran together".

An article similar to the following came across my desk recently and I pass it on to our readers:

Late this afternoon on a rain-soaked highway, I saw a baby girl—her tender skin bruised and bloody, her golden curls matted with dirt and blood, and one tiny jaw crushed to a pulp and hanging loose. A wee little hand hanging limp—just a clump of flesh now with bones protruding against a pair of pink rompers, soiled now with great splashes of muddy blood.

White-robed hospital attendants picked up the little mangled form and gently placed it on a stretcher. It quivered ever so slightly and a low moan came from those baby lips, once perfectly shaped but now so bruised and disfigured.

Again, they lifted another form from the ground—a sort of huddled and shapeless bundle. It was the baby girl's mother; broken, mangled, and rumpled—no sign of life there. The card on her bosom read, "Funeral Home".

Many feet away lay the father, still alive and screaming with pain and fear—face ad cut by glass, one eye completely out of socket; legs a shapeless mass, blood gushing from his mouth. He stopped screaming long enough to cry out in agony: "My wife! My children!" and to attempt to crawl to them only to fall back and into merciful unconsciousness.

In the crowd, a short distance away, held back by kindly hands, a small boy watched, sobbed, and frequently cried out: "Daddy! Mommy! Sissy!"

Two state patrolmen held a wobbly drunken wretch reeking with fumes. "Wha' happened?" he blubbered with tongue thick, "I only had a couple' drinks."

Sirens screamed and the crowd made way



PAUL WYLIE

for the ambulance which disappeared quickly on its way to the hospital and funeral home. Policemen placed the four-year-old, hysterical boy in a car and drove off with him yet crying and plaintively calling for his parents. A wrecking crew with a crane began removal of two badly smashed automobiles. On the pavement lay bits of shattered glass, a broken whiskey bottle, here and there in a pool of blood. And a little boy rode in a strange car with strange people into the dusk and fog and couldn't understand why. CAN YOU?

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Prov. 20:1).

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Prov. 23:31-32).

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb" (Lk. 1:15).

"Wee unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them" (Isa. 5:11).

"Wee unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink" (Isa. 5:22).

Civilized Idolatry

Franklin Camp

Man will have a god of some kind. Those who reject the true God make them a substitute. Therefore it is not a question as to whether man will have a god but whether he will have the true God or an idol.

This is shown in the history of man. The Gentile world that rejected the true God made gods of their own. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things" (Rom. 1:21-23).

The Gentiles could not live without a god, and when they turned from the true God, they made idols. The same story is true of Israel. When

they became weary of the true God they turned to the idols of heathen nations around them. They did not like the service of God but soon found that life must have a god of some type, and so, they made them gods to serve.

We have not moved one inch from the Jewish and Gentile world of the past. We can no more get along without a god than they could. The question with us, as with them, is not will we have God, but will we have the true God or an idol? We only think that we have outgrown heathen idolatry. We do not have the form of idolatry as they did, we have just civilized our gods. The only difference in heathen idolatry and ours is that we have refined ours. We do not fashion our idols out of wood with our hands, we fashion them with our minds and set them up in our imagination.

WE HAVE MADE AN IDOL OF SECULAR EDUCATION. Education is a good thing but it must include spiritual and moral development as well as the mind and body. The need of secular education is needed today. The specialized age in which we live calls for higher education. This very thing has led many to making an idol of secular education. The idea seems to be that degrees will solve our problems. In many instances the higher degree that one obtains the more God is rejected.

In most of the graduate schools infidelity is taught wholesale. Secular education is substituted for God. There is a grave danger that the church may become invested with this idol. I was talking with a preacher recently that had talked with the elders of a congregation about working with them. The first question they asked was, "What kind of degrees do you have?"

There is nothing wrong with a preacher having a degree or several degrees, but when that comes first with elders they are bowing before a civilized idol—DEGREE. A preacher's first obligation is to know the Bible. If he knows the Bible, is clean in life and faithful in preaching the truth he is a qualified as preacher if he never saw a degree. I have a grave suspicion that an elder that would not consider a preacher that is a good Bible student and a capable preacher because he does not have a degree, does not want the Bible preacher anyway. Let us not deceive ourselves in bowing before this idol just because it is civilized.

OUR BIBLE SCHOOLS NEED TO WATCH FOR THIS IDOL ALSO. It is necessary for our Bible schools to try to keep abreast of the times and offer courses that will qualify our young people to take their places in a specialized world. But there is a grave danger that this need may lead to a neglect of the proper emphasis being given the Bible. The Bible may be taught in a school and the secular part becomes
(Continued On Page 4)

WORDS of TRUTH

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What About Their Conscience?

(Gus Nichols)

A few days ago I read about one reason given for the starting of a new congregation in a community where there was no special need for it, which suggests something which needs to be considered.

The new church was started so that members of a nearby church who were opposed to the church giving to orphan homes might have an opportunity to worship with the new church without stultifying their "conscience" in giving to a church supporting orphan homes.

Do they think the church should give up the practice of everything which any member is conscientiously opposed to in order that all members may be able to worship without stultifying their conscience? If the church is to be dominated by disgruntled members rather than ruled by the elders, then we will have a minority rule in the church rather than the oversight by elders. As unscriptural as it would be, the rule of the MAJORITY would be more wise than the rule of a disgruntled MINORITY.

WHERE DOES IT STOP?

If the church is going to be governed by the disgruntled members whose consciences have been set by the teaching of negative brethren and their divisive doctrines rather than by the word of God, where will the compromising with them stop? For example, a brother moves into a community and becomes a member of a congregation which is contributing to an orphan home. He objects on the ground that he can't worship with them if they continue this practice. They give it up to please the disgruntled brother.

But they decide to contribute to orphan children in the community, some of whom are not old enough to be members of the church. Another disgruntled brother moves in, places his membership with them, and begins to object to their contributing out of the treasury to those not "saints". To be consistent, the church compromises in his favor and gives up this good work, as a church, so this brother may not stultify his conscience by worshipping with them.

Still another moves in, and he is conscientiously opposed to the church dividing into Bible classes on Lord's day morning, using written comments, with women teaching some of the children's classes. To be consistent the church give up its Bible school work so as not to offend this man's conscience, for he is just as much opposed to the Bible classes as the other brother was to the things to which he objected. The church gives up its Bible school!

Since it has accepted the policy of giving up all matters of expediency to which any conscientious brother may object, where will it stop?

Another disgruntled brother moves in and objects to the use of individual cups in observing the Lord's supper. The church gives up its individual communion-ware in compromise.

Where is this going to stop?

Still another disgruntled brother moves in who is opposed to the seated preacher, claiming that he is nothing but a "pastor", a doctrine which divided the churches in the north many years ago. Since this brother can't stay with the church which has a located preacher because of his conscience, the church gives up the local preacher.

Another disgruntled brother comes in who is conscientiously opposed to having the Lord's supper on Sunday morning and demands that it be given up and that a return be made to the New Testament practice of having the supper only on Lord's day nights, as far as the record is concerned. The church gives this up also. It wishes to be "safe"!

Still another comes along who is opposed to the church having elders, as some churches in the North are. He can't conscientiously worship with a church having elders. He contends that elders passed away with the closing of the apostolic age and with the passing of miracles. The church gives up its elders!

Next comes the anti baptistry brother. The church does away with its baptistry to make it possible for him to conscientiously worship with this church. Then the "No Song Book" brother comes, echoing the sentiment of some London brethren, and the church gives up its song books. The "No Tuning Fork" brother is next, and out goes the tuning fork. Another comes who is conscientiously opposed to worshipping with a church which owns a meeting house. Is the church going to sell its house and move to the court house, or school house?

Where does this thing stop, brethren? If conscience is the guide for building a united brotherhood, instead of the word of God, where do we stop? If it is right to come into a given community and start a new church so as to pull off members from other congregations who say it violates their conscience to worship with a church which gives to orphan homes, then why not right to start another for the others which we have listed? Where does it all stop?

How many congregations and factions may we have scripturally in a community? And if the church is obligated to give up whatever some disgruntled brother may conscientiously object to, where will it stop?

Let the churches be governed by the scriptures and by the elders and be done with the rule of the disgruntled. Let the churches plan their program of work to be as expedient as possible and in such a way as to do the most possible good and work their plans. Otherwise, the church will be constantly changing to please the disgruntled rather than the Lord.

To give up everything to which disgruntled brethren have objected to would plunge the church backward fifty years and make it to be no more than a compromising sect governed by the "anti" laws of uninspired men. On the other hand, we must not leave the word of God and go off into liberalism.

Negative-ism treats generic commands as if they were specific, while liberalism treats specific commands as if they were generic.

SOLUTION IS SIMPLE

The solution to the whole problem is very simple. Let all of us agree to obey the Lord and do the very thing which he commands us to do, and walk by faith in all matters of revelation. If the Lord has told us how to do the thing commanded, do that very thing in that very way, and all be united.

But if the Lord authorized us to do something and did not tell us how to do it, then let us all obey the generic command in the most expedient manner the elders can select and still be united. In matters of faith — obey

God. In matters of opinion, do not make anti-laws for God.

The church cannot afford to compromise and yield to man-made laws gotten up to restrain the church and hamper its work. LET ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH SET THEIR CONSCIENCES BY THE WORD OF GOD, and not by either "Anti-ism" or "Liberalism" Let there be obedience where God has bound and let us have liberty in obedience where God has loosed. (Lev. 16:19).

This is a Parable

(Hardeman Nichols)

The elders had set the services at a time deemed most suitable for the congregation. He could have come at the hour set, instead he set his own time to come to worship and arrived two hours and forty five minutes after the regular service.

"After all", he argued, "you can't show me in the Bible where the disciples ever met at the exact hour this church is meeting." He was right while he was wrong. Right is the fact that the Lord did not specify what hour a church must meet, but used a generic term "First day" (Acts 20:7), without setting an exact hour of meeting on the first day of the week.

Neither did the Lord set the exact hour that he came either, for the Bible has left this to man's best judgment. He was not walking in the spirit of unity upon this matter by being contrary. He would have been doing what the Lord commanded had he abided by the time the elders set for the service on the Lord's day. "Upon the first day of the week" he would have "Come together" with the other disciples, and not alone, "to break bread" (Acts 20:7).

While the congregation was singing the first stanza, he sang the third, contending that the Bible says nothing about having to sing the first before singing the third. All the while, he had ignored all the scriptures which command, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40). His was a spirit which leads to confusion and division.

Now, where he had grown up, the church did not pass a plate for the contribution; they marched up to the front and put their offering on the table under the linen cloth. One day the elders decided to begin using collection plates. But this man refused to use them. Instead he ignored the plate which passed him and then he marched up to the table and put his dollar under the linen cloth like he had always done.

He accused the elders of going "digressive" and becoming like the nations and denominations around them for using collection plates. He challenged them: "Where does the Bible say one word about a collection plate?" He was right while he was wrong. The Bible nowhere mentions putting it into a plate, neither does it mention putting it on the table!

God said, "Lay by him in store" — that is, "Put it into the treasury" (1 Cor. 16:2). Whether the contribution is put on the table, or in the collection plate, or even put into an envelope, the command of God is obeyed to the letter. "Lay by in store" is a GENERIC command and does not SPECIFY the details. Some method must be used. When one was chosen which did exactly what God has commanded, what spirit must he possess to rebel against its use?

"Now the God of patience and consultation grant you to be likeminded one toward another, according to Christ Jesus; that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 15:5,6).

(THE WEEKLY BULLETIN, North "A" and Tennessee, Midland, Texas).

When the members "GO" visitors will come (Isa. 2:2-3).



Pearls of Truth

By Glenn A. Posey

THE UNBELIEVING COMPANION

"HOW YOU CAN WIN HIM TO CHRIST"

is the central theme of a little tract published by Monroe E. Hawley, 5626 S. Lorene Ave., Milwaukee 21, Wisconsin. If you desire to order any of these tracts, ask for "THE UNBELIEVING COMPANION" by Monroe E. Hawley.

"How can I win my companion to Christ?" This question has been asked by countless Christians married to unbelievers. Regardless of how happy it may be, a religiously divided home can never enjoy the happiness that it could if that condition did not exist. Furthermore, the chances are better than even that the division in the home is a source of chronic discord between husband and wife.

The Christian married to a non-Christian is naturally concerned about the harmony in the home. But he is even more disturbed about the spiritual condition of that loved one out of Christ. A child of God who places real trust in the divine promises realizes that the eternal destiny of his mate depends upon that one's obedience to the gospel.

A divided home sometimes results when one of the marriage partners in a non-Christian home is converted. More often, however, it is the consequence of a child of God marrying out of Christ. In thousands of cases the faith of the Christian has not proved equal to the will of his companion. The result is that the disciple of Christ has been lost to Him, to the church — and to heaven. The very least that can be said is that the Christian who married out of the Lord jeopardizes his chance of eternal life. Certainly he lessens his value to the kingdom of God. The unhappy experiences of those who have married unbelievers should serve as a grave warning to all young Christians contemplating marriage.

We ought not to suppose, however, that it is impossible for one to win his companion to the Lord. Some of the most consecrated Christians are those who have been converted through the efforts of their mates. Many more could be won if their Christian companions only understood and practiced a few basic principles necessary for their conversion. The following suggestions are offered to Christians married to unbelievers in the hope that they may aid in the salvation of their companions:

1. You cannot drive one to accept Christ. The power of the gospel is a drawing force, not a driving one. Jesus taught, "No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him" (John 6:44). Some Christians are so filled with concern for the spiritual welfare of their mates that they use poor judgment and exert too much pressure. The non-Christian may revolt and bring out the stubborn nature that all of us possess to some extent. Furthermore, you surely would not want your companion to go through the form of obeying the gospel just to please you. Not only would his action not help him, but it might well hinder his genuine conversion at a later date.

2. Don't be dogmatic. Over-positiveness which fails to consider the thinking of the other person often does more harm than good. How many people have remarked, "I can't believe the way you do because you think only members of your church are going to heaven." The chances are that the one teaching him overstated his case. The best way to answer this

objection is to say, "Let's let the Lord decide who will be saved. The important thing for us is to be sure that we do what He commands us."

3. Study the Word of God. Some unbelievers are never won to Christ because their husbands or wives are not equipped to teach them. A preacher or elder can do much to help, but there is no adequate substitute for what you can do yourself in teaching your companion, provided that you are acquainted with the Bible. Be "ready always to give answer . . . concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).

4. You will never win your companion by staying away from the place of worship. Regardless of how much opposition you may receive at home, your mate will not respect your religious convictions unless he sees you regularly and faithfully worshipping with other Christians. If you forsake such assembling with your brethren, you will not only fail to win his soul, but you will also lose your own.

5. The best way to win an unbeliever is to set a chaste example. "In like manner, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that even if any obey not the word, they may without the word be gained by the behavior of their wives; beholding your chaste behavior coupled with fear." (1 Peter 3:1, 2). Many wives have won their husbands, and husbands their wives, by the example of pure Christian living they have shown.

6. Be patient. Many companions have been converted only after months of work and prayer. If you do not win your mate immediately, do not become discouraged and quit trying. That soul is too important for you to give up. He may in time accept Christ. "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

7. Pray. You will need help in winning your loved one to Christ, help from your brethren, and especially, help from God. Never forget to entreat the Father in your prayers for that one who means more to you than any other earthly soul. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7).

Blazes From Bulletins Applied to Our Hearts

By Earl Barnett
210 Alabama Ave.
Cordova, Alabama



WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A LETTER LIKE THIS?

Dear

The elders are very concerned about you and they need your help in reaching a decision about you. Your negligence toward things spiritual alarms and distresses us. We have prayed about this grave matter and are deliberating on what should be done. Despite preaching, admonitions in the church bulletins and personal visits, you are still absent from most of the services. You have promised to "do better" but as yet you have not kept your promise.

Now, what would you advise us to do? Shall we continue to count you as a member, or drop your name from the roll? Do you wish to come and prayerfully discuss your problem? Would you advise us to withdraw fellowship from you, since your negligence is a hindrance to the Lord's Work?

In Christian love,
(Signed by the elders)

A letter similar to this was sent to the delinquent members of a Texas congregation. Those elders realized it was their duty as shep-

Has the Devil Brainwashed Us?

(No. 2)

Arnold Sexton
Guin, Ala.

I am fearful that popularity has changed the attitude of many. Divorce today is no longer looked upon as disgraceful. In fact, many of our leading citizens get divorces and are not being frowned upon for so doing.

Hollywood has had its influence! Men and women admired by the youth of this nation are putting on and taking off husbands and wives as we put on and take off our shoes. It is no wonder that it is difficult to impress God's plan upon them!

STATE LAWS

The departure from God's way is seen in our state laws. As far back as 1945, the state of Alabama had ten grounds for divorce. Some of them were: Adultery, desertion, conviction of felony, cruelty, drunkenness, incurable insanity, non-support, drug habit. We only recognize one of these as being taught of God.

Do not be brain-washed by public opinion! Do not think any authority or power has the right to set aside God's law! Remember Jesus said, "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matt. 19:9).

HAS THE DEVIL BRAINWASHED US WITH SALACIOUS LITERATURE?

Our literature is dirtier than ever. A casual observance of the average magazine rack will bear this out. Pocket booklets and magazines that would have been disgraceful a few years ago are on bold display before our eyes and the eyes of our children. When one has the courage to speak out against this evil, he is considered to be behind the times because this literature is only "realism".

This "realism," as it is called, is helping destroy the moral fiber of our nation; and also, it is having its effect upon the church. It is not uncommon for members of the church to bring this literature into their homes for their children to read. When read, the impression is made which is difficult to remove. No wonder we have such difficulty in teaching that it is a sin to be improperly clothed, to dance and to pet etc. The Bible is being supplemented with so-called "realism" Yes, the devil is brain-washing us with his literature.

How can we defeat him? How can we keep our minds pure? Again the Bible has the answer. Paul pleads, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you (Phil. 4:8-9).

Brethren, let us take heed and not allow the devil to brain-wash us with his deceitful advertisements of sin. Just remember, we can keep the devil out by keeping the word of God in (Jn. 2:14).

Lot's wife looked back when fleeing from burning Sodom, and turned to a pillar of salt (Gen. 19). Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Lk. 17:32). Well, what did she do? She simply looked back. This shows that God means what he says. He wants all to obey him, regardless of the nature of his commands.

herds of the flock and their responsibility to keep the church pure and faithful. We aren't treating the negligent members right when we allow them to think that their carelessness is a minor matter.

FROM THE MONITOR
DECATUR, ALA.

Reaching the Blood of Christ

W. C. Quillen
Haleyville, Ala.

In Rom. 5:1, Paul says that we are justified by faith, and that through faith we have access to the grace of God. In verse 9, he says that we are justified by the blood of Christ. In Rom. 3:24-25, he says that we are justified freely by the grace of God "through faith in His blood".

He then moves on to declare that the blood of Christ is the only ground, and faith in His blood is the only means whereby God can justify a guilty person, and yet be just in doing so. Through faith then, every responsible soul must come to Christ — reach the blood of Christ in order to be justified and forgiven.

HOW TO REACH THE BLOOD

After Jesus arose from the dead, He appeared unto the eleven disciples who were to become His apostles, and said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; and he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:15-16).

This being true — if when one hears the gospel of Christ, believes, and is baptized, he is saved — then somewhere in this process he must have reached the blood of Christ; otherwise one is saved without the blood of Christ, which cannot be.

PENTECOSTIANS REACHED THE BLOOD

On Pentecost following the giving of this commission, the Holy Spirit came to "guide the apostles into all truth", and they spake as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Jno. 16:13; Acts 2:4). They preached the gospel of the crucified and risen Christ, as the Lord had charged them, and thus brought faith and conviction to many who heard. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remissions of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:37-38).

Remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit are granted to one who hears the gospel, believes, repents, and is baptized. Therefore, the person who does this reaches the blood; else he has remission of sins apart from the blood of Christ. But this cannot be (Heb. 9:22). Jesus said, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Mat. 26:28). For the same reason that Jesus shed His blood, men must hear the gospel, believe, repent, and be baptized — "for the remission of sins." In this process men somewhere reach the blood.

SAUL OF TARSUS REACHED THE BLOOD

Saul of Tarsus, as a penitent believer, having confessed faith in Jesus as Christ and Lord, asked Him, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." (Acts 9:3-6). After three days in the city, spent in fasting and prayer, Ananias came to Saul and said, "Now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16). Out on the Damascus road, Saul had believed, repented, and confessed Christ (acts which are necessary to reaching the blood), but in these acts, the blood was not reached, because his sins were still with him. But in baptism, his sins were washed away. Then and there he must have reached the blood.

The poet raised the question, "What can wash away my sins?" Then correctly answered, "Nothing but the blood of Jesus." John said, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," (Rev. 1:5). But Saul, as a penitent believer, was commanded to "be baptized and wash away thy sins." Is there contra-

dition? No, for it was when Saul "through faith in his blood", was baptized, that he reached the blood. The same must be said of all people who are saved and receive the forgiveness of sins. There is no respect of persons with God.

CHRIST'S BLOOD SHED IN HIS DEATH

"Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water," (Jno. 19:33-34). BLOOD AND WATER came out together from the Lord's side. If they have ever been separated, there is no record of it. Years later, John said, "This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ: not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one."

And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the Witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son." (1 Jno. 5:6-9). To claim to have reached the blood, one must have the witness of the Spirit and of the water. If the water doesn't testify, neither will the Spirit nor the blood. "They agree in one".

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST'S DEATH

Since Christ shed his blood in His death, one must come to the death of Christ in order to reach the blood. This he does when, as a penitent believer acknowledging faith in Christ, he is baptized. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by BAPTISM INTO DEATH: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Rom. 6:3-4).

Soap and water can cleanse filth from soiled hands; but not until the hands reach the water and soap. The blood of Christ can and does cleanse the soul from sin; but not until the soul reaches the blood. Christ shed His blood in His death: We must be "BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH" to reach His blood. "Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?"

Civilized Idolatry

(Continued From Page 1)

the prime consideration.

Any Bible school that is worthy of its name does not just offer Bible courses, the Bible is the main course that is taught. When the Bible becomes secondary and not primary a Bible school has forfeited its right to the name. I understand that Bethany College no longer teaches Bible at all. But its first step toward giving up the Bible was to make an idol of secular education. The Bible became secondary, and the next step was to make it "ZERO-DAY", if I may coin a word. Let our Bible schools beware of bowing before the idol of secular education.

WE MAKE AN IDOL OF GOD. This may seem to be a strange statement but it is true. In 2 Kings 17 we have the account of Israel in Assyrian captivity. The king of Assyria sent men from Babylon, and Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they dwelt in the cities thereof" (2 Kgs. 17:24). These people did not fear the Lord and he sent lions among them. They sent word to the king of Assyria of their difficulty. The king decided that their trouble was ignorance of the manner of the God of the land. A priest was selected to go down and teach the manner of the God of the land. The results was, "They feared the Lord and served their

own Gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence" (2 Kgs. 17:33).

Here is an example of people making an idol of God. He was not the one true God but a god among many. "They feared the Lord, and served their own gods". How descriptive this is of the kind of religion many people practice today. They know too much to completely reject God, but they refuse to have Him as their only God. That which a person placed first in his life is his God. Are there not multitudes of people that "fear the Lord" but do not place Him first in their lives? They may be religious or even members of the Lord's church but they are guilty of idolatry. Instead of actually serving God they have made an idol of God. When men live for money, success, pleasure or fame first, and then try to serve God, they have made an idol of God. God is only one among many gods to such people and when we try to include God along with other gods we made an idol of God.

WE MAY MAKE AN IDOL OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. Israel was joined in battle with the Philistines and four thousand Israelites fell in the field of battle. The elders of Israel said, "Wherefore hath the Lord smitten us today before the Philistines?" The elders have asked the right question. Something has gone wrong or Israel would not have been defeated in battle. But now look at their solution to their problem. "Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies" (1 Sam. 4:3).

Armed with the ark in their midst they rush back into battle with the Philistines and what is the result? There was a great slaughter and thirty thousand Israelites fell in battle that day. The ark was there, made as God dictated; the law was there; the mercy seat was there yet Israel loses the battle and the ark is taken by the Philistines. What happened? Israel had made an idol out of the ark. They never once considered the fact that their sins had separated them from God and their defeat was because of their sins. Since they had made an idol of the ark they thought if they could just get their idol back in their midst it would assure success.

I fear that there are many in the church that have made this same mistake in reference to the Lord's Supper. I know some members of the church that would not think of missing the Lord's Supper. Yet as soon as they have eaten the Lord's Supper they go their way without ever giving the Lord or his church another thought until the next Sunday. These people think all is well because "the Lord's Supper" has been observed. Like the Israelites they think there is some "magic" about the Lord's Supper that will keep them safe throughout the coming week.

The member of the church that sees no good in Bible study; never attends on Sunday night; that is too busy or tired to attend mid-week Bible study; that never has time to do any work in the church; but runs in at the last minute to eat the Lord's Supper and then races out on his way has tried to turn the Lord's Supper into an idol. Such people are just as guilty of idolatry as the heathen in Africa.

It is just refined idolatry.

A specific command of God leaves man no choice, other than the choice to either obey God, or to disobey Him. But a generic command of God may leave man several choices as to ways and means of obeying the command. Man must obey the specific command to "Believe" the gospel to be saved, and there is only one way to believe it and that is to believe what the record says about the gospel (Mk. 16:15-16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4). But in "Going" into all the world to preach the gospel there are several ways to do the "going" required in the generic command to "Go" (Mat. 28:19). Let us obey all the commands of the Lord, both specific and generic, and make no laws for God under the latter, as well as under the first.