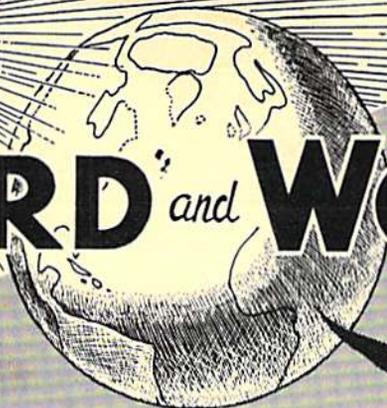


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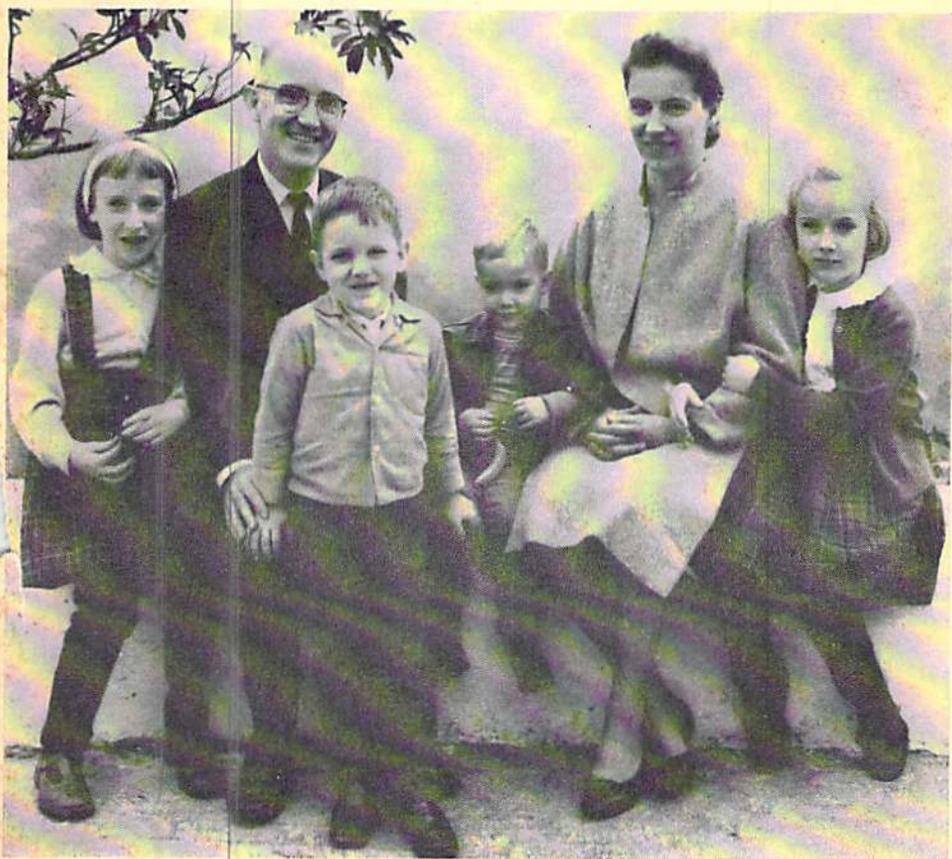


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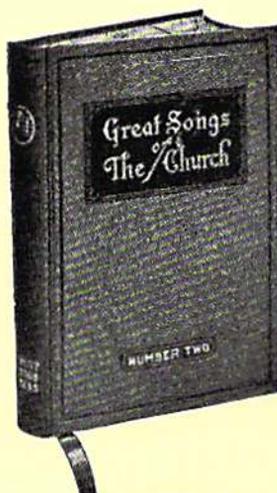
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## Talking Things Over

G. R. L.

Not many years ago I had the habit of judging the "soundness" of an article or a sermon by whether or not it mentioned baptism. I couldn't really enjoy a sermon if it didn't mention baptism, and I wouldn't give out a tract that didn't include mention of baptism. I can remember listening to preachers with some apprehension at first, not sure whether or not I should be enjoying the message— but then settling back and relaxing after they had mentioned baptism.

There are people who feel much the same way about works. They know that the grace of God is a Biblical topic, yet they are uneasy when they hear it discussed. They can't relax until they hear "works" included. Then they're on familiar ground. Just this past week I have seen two articles expressing this feeling. Part of this may be due to the mistaken notion that to stand on the ground of salvation by *grace alone* is to exclude works from the Christian's life. In any case, it is quite legitimate to inquire about the relationship of grace to works. So let's take a brief look at works, as related to grace.

### GRACE PRODUCES WORKS

The works we are considering now are *not* the "works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves" (Titus 3:5), but the "good works, which God afore prepared" (Eph. 2:10). From the point of view of a human observer, these two sets of works might be the same. Both categories of works might include such things as praying, giving to the needy, witnessing, etc. The difference in the works lies not in what is done, but who does it. The first works mentioned above are done by ourselves—and for our own benefit, that we might find approval with God and eventual salvation.

The second set of works are performed by God in us. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20). "It is God who worketh in you to will and to work, for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). This is entirely consonant with Paul's exhortation to us to "do our part": "Present . . . your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Rom. 6:13). God is the workman; we are the tools in His hands. When considered in this context, the various exhortations to good works carry no connotation at all of self-merit. Whatever works we may perform (or do not perform) contribute nothing at all to our salvation.

### THE MEANING OF WORKS

If works do not serve to make us approved in the eyes of God, then why are we urged to "be careful to maintain good works" (Titus

3:8)? Why so much mention of good works in the New Testament if they do not enhance our standing before God? Here is where the book of James is valuable. The theme of this book is the testing ("trial" or "proving"—1:3) of our faith. The entire letter develops the theme by applying various tests under differing sets of circumstances. To make this book really effective, just put yourself in each situation. In chapter 1: How do you pray—believing or doubting? How do you face temptation to sin—yielding or enduring? How do you react to the word of God—conforming to it, or turning from it? Likewise right on through all five chapters. If your works don't measure up, then it is certain that your faith is *not* the faith that saves—but like that of the demons. The works mentioned here have nothing to do with making one righteous before God, for "Christ Jesus . . . was made unto us . . . righteousness" (1 Cor. 1:30). God have pity on the person who has a righteousness of his own!

A question might be raised about James' mention of Abraham. It should be sufficient to note that the incident spoken of by James comes many years after Abraham had already been reckoned righteous, by grace, apart from works. (Rom. 4:3; Gen. 15:6). The offering of Isaac simply showed his faith to be genuine.

#### DEFICIENT WORKS

What should I do if I find that my works *don't* measure up to God's standard? Should I try harder to do the things I know I should? No, that is not the place to begin. We have already seen that we are instruments in God's hands, and our responsibility is to "present ourselves"—make ourselves available to Him. The real defect, then, is not in our works, but in *our attitude toward Him!* We have resisted the Holy Spirit's leading. We have not had our affections set wholly on the Lover of our souls. The desires of our hearts have not been for Him alone. And we repent—not a repentance that is related to works, but repentance of an evil heart-attitude toward our Lord. The works? They simply were a "symptom," an indication of the real ill within us.

Let us not think that our works are unimportant, just because they do not recommend us to God. We know well that a useless tool is often discarded. Paul speaks of this very possibility in his own case: "Lest . . . after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:27, NASB). In the same letter (3:10-15) he strongly warns that at the judgment seat of Christ, some works will be burned, with loss to the Christian who performed them (but not jeopardizing his salvation). What makes the difference between the works that perish and those that abide? The ones that perish are *our* works, performed in human strength out of human wisdom—though perhaps for noble purposes. The ones that endure are *God's* works, wrought in us through the Spirit.

In many homes I have seen a plaque: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." This isn't necessarily true, for the wood, hay and stubble may be done for Christ. The verse needs to be rewritten:

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past;  
Only what's done by Christ will last."

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me." He in me will produce the works of gold, silver, and precious stones, unto the eternal glory of God. These are the works of grace. Is this the kind your life is bringing forth?

## The Appointment With Death

IS THERE NO EXCEPTION?

E. L. J.



There is, perhaps, no passage of the inspired Scriptures more misunderstood, more mishandled, or more taken out of context, than Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment." The words of Benjamin Franklin, "Nothing is sure but death and taxes," is deeply ingrained in the minds of people, and so thoroughly confirmed in their experiences through the centuries, that even an oracle of God is not enough to shake them from the conclusion that all must die. Death is to most men, and even to many good Christians, the only door into the Eternal Kingdom. They admit no exception at any time whatsoever.

Let us not be misunderstood: I am not saying, as the "Jehovah Witnesses" said some years ago, that "Millions now living will never die," nor that any now living will never die. I do not know, I cannot know. The ardent, honest study of prophecy will bless me and prepare me, but it will not answer this question. Neither angel, nor the Son of Man Himself knew, in the Saviour's earthly days (Matt. 24:36), though He may know now. But I can know that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand. I can hold the Bible in one hand and man's current recording of what's going on in the world in the other (poor, prejudiced, out of perspective and fallible as it is) and draw some conclusions for myself; I cannot press them upon others or make an issue of such uninspired conclusions, lest I fragmentize the Body of Christ. But what I see plainly before my eyes in the Written Word, this I can and must proclaim. The true intent and meaning of Hebrews 9:27 is among these things.

Some years ago, with a close friend, I attended a song-leader "Clinic" at one of the well-known colleges of the West. There were present some forty or fifty directors of congregational singing from all parts of the area. My friend and I had slipped in, unknown to the instructor. Presently some song-leader raised the question, "What song book do you recommend?" The instructor answered

readily enough: "I like *Great Songs of the Church*"; but then he added, "There are some songs in it that I cannot sing. I cannot sing the last verse of 'Going Down the Valley.'" Now this is the verse that was added in order to brighten Jessie Brown Pounds' beautiful and popular, but doleful, funeral song:

We are going down the valley one by one;  
Yet before the shadowed vale may come the dawn,  
When with rapture we shall gather in the sky;  
"We shall all be changed," but some shall never die!

Then followed the usual lecture on the certainty of death for all, without exception, believer and unbeliever: "You *know*," cried the instructor, "that we all have to die." The man who wrote that added stanza was sitting in the class, unknown by face to all others present. He did not challenge the instructor's strictures on the language used. He did speak up timidly to say: "Perhaps the author of the added verse was thinking of Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 15:51." That was enough; from every corner of the room the young men pressed that verse upon the instructor:

"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."

I rejoiced in the courage of the young men who stood up for that which is written, and yet one could almost feel sorry for the beleaguered instructor. (He is no longer with the college. May God make him a blessing wherever he is. I have learned to feel much patience toward young men who "know it all" and yet have so much to learn, for I was once in that pitiful age myself.) That verse of Scripture is the answer to Ben Franklin's much-quoted statement: "Nothing sure but death and taxes," for in its context of bodily death, resurrection, and change (1 Cor. 15:20-58) the word "sleep" cannot possibly mean anything but bodily death. To fall asleep is to die—as Paul used the word in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, and as Jesus often used it of those believers who were temporarily dead, but about to be raised. This blessed statement of Holy Scripture is the grand exception to Hebrews 9:27, "It is appointed unto men once to die." There is no revelation from God (that I know of) of any way to escape the dreaded monster and enemy, death, except for those who live on in mortal life until the rapture of the living saints; and even this must be preceded by the resurrection of the saved and sainted dead (1 Thes. 4:15-17). The day is surely coming when

"His own soft hand shall wipe the tear  
From every weeping eye;  
And pains and groans, and griefs and fears,  
And death itself shall die."

Before we come to the real point and purpose of Hebrews 9:27, it may not be out of line to ask: If the verse teaches that all must die once without exception, then what about those of New Testament times who were raised (apparently) to mortal life, and to die again? I say "apparently," for we are not definitely told, though

there is every indication that this is so: Jairus' daughter, the widow's son, Lazarus, Dorcas—and even those who rose when Christ arose and entered into the city after His resurrection. No, Hebrews 9:27 does not forbid that some may have died twice, nor that some shall never die even once. What then is the main point and purpose of that passage? What is the real intent of it? Where is the intended emphasis in it? It is precisely on the singularity, the "once-for-all-ness" of Christ's sufferings for our sins. As men who die (in normal experience) die but once, so Christ comes again, but not to die again. This He did once for all. His cross-work is finished once and for ever.\*

"Thus the Christ" (so reads the original Greek) "having been once offered for to bear the sins of many, a second time apart from sin shall appear to those that him await for salvation."

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\*The Stephens Text of the Greek, 1550 (and most others), have here the simple form, hapax, which means "once"; but in Heb. 7:27, 9:12, and 10:10 the word is strengthened with the prefix ep, which gives it the force of "once for all" — that is, once and done with for ever.

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## P.C.S. Needs Teachers

Brother Earl Mullins, Sr., principal of Portland Christian School, Louisville, is seeking the services of teachers for this 42-year old institution. He states, "We need 3 teachers for the 1966-1967 school year. We require the services of:

- (1) a teacher for grades one and two;
- (2) a teacher of social sciences (history/geography) at junior and senior high school level;
- (3) a music teacher able to train and direct our PCS chorus.

Those who formerly filled these positions for us have either resigned to further their education or have moved away into other fields of service.

"We appreciate the services of sister J. R. Clark as librarian during the past semester, and her willingness to continue with us. However, the State Board of Education is demanding a fully qualified librarian with a major in current library science. Therefore we are reluctantly compelled to be searching for a librarian also."

Brother Mullins points out that teachers at PCS or PCHS must not only be qualified academically as to professional standing (with the proper degrees, majors, minors, etc.), but must—in addition—be consecrated and mature Christians, able to live a convincing testimony before the student body, thus pointing them to Christ by word and deed alike!

Any persons so qualified to serve the Lord and willing to become part of His "team" at PCS may obtain further information by addressing an inquiry to:

Earl C. Mullins, Sr.,  
Portland Christian School,  
2500 Portland Avenue,  
Louisville, Kentucky 40212

or Carl Vogt Wilson,  
231 S. Galt Avenue,  
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

Recently a young European man came into our office and said, "I want to talk to you." When I asked him what he had on his mind, he said, "I'm confused! What I want to know is, is there life after death?" When this young man spoke these words, he represented millions of others of this generation, for this is a confused generation. I turned to this scripture, and asked the young man to read it: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

Is it possible that *this* generation may be the one of which Jesus spoke when He said, "This generation shall not pass till all these things be accomplished"?

---

## Books of Interest

Dennis L. Allen

*THE BAMBOO CROSS* —by Homer E. Dowdy  
(Harper and Row, 239 pp., \$3.95)

This thrilling testimony of the power of the Gospel to transform lives is like *Christ's Witchdoctor*, in that it is written entirely from the viewpoint of the transformed savage. The reader is taken not only into the tribal villages but also into the heart struggles, sorrows, and triumphs of the people as they respond in faith to the Word of Life. This book reveals the progress of the gospel among the mountain tribes of South VietNam and graphically displays the suffering and trials that have been inflicted upon them by the infiltration of the Viet Cong.

The book is woven around the lives of two brothers, Sau and Kar, who by their love and sacrificial living have become the recognized leaders of several thousand of the mountain people. Recognizing his ability, the government has more than once offered Sau tempting positions which would give him security and prestige but he has always refused. Both men have repeatedly shown their willingness to lay down their lives for the sheep. Strong churches were established in the mountains, but relentless infiltration of the communists have forced them to flee. They have been driven from their homes more than once and have "taken joyfully the spoiling of their goods" that they might preserve their freedom to worship and serve Christ.

It is a real challenge to see the power of the gospel in the lives of these mountain people who were so long neglected and looked down upon by the governments of the country. They have shown a strength of character and steadfastness in trial and persecution which puts many of us to shame. The missionaries who started this work (Christian and Missionary Alliance), although definitely in the background in this story, have evidently built well, as the work has stood the test of the fires of persecution. You will find this book difficult to put down.



# Truth Advance Section

Stanford Chambers

## Questions Asked Of Us

Is there a Restoration Movement Church of Christ in the same way as there is the Pentecostal Church of God or the Quaker Church of Saints?

There may be. How hardly shall even true-hearted people of God keep clear of the denominational conception of the church of our Lord? for denominations are the order of the day; they are our environment and their spirit pervades our very atmosphere. Such a situation is the result of perversions of the truth and lack of understanding. How difficult to steer clear of the party spirit! Nevertheless, "If any man speak, speaking as it were oracles of God." The existing situation is such as to demand restoration of the divine order. The "faith once for all delivered to the saints" must be restored; the truth as it is in Christ Jesus must be restored. Creed-bound saints cannot "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free," neither can creed-bound congregations. Denominationalism is opposed to the autonomous church of the N. T. It puts all under another master.

Every child of God should be a restorer, seeking to restore the image of the New Testament congregation, in which the born-again live and move and have their spiritual being. Sound doctrine must be restored, the fellowship of love between individual saints, purity of life and purity of worship, zeal for good works and for the salvation of the lost. The Spirit of God, with His word, must be restored to His rightful place in the heart and in the assembly of the saints.

Be reminded that the letters of our Lord to the seven churches of Asia were for the restoration of the true image of five of them and for the maintaining of that image in the other two. The angel, the Spirit and the seer were actively concerned about the restoration of all things lacking, as every child and servant of the Lord should be on His behalf. Let indifference here be out!

Without doubt the Lord has made use of the so-called "Restoration Movement" wherever His Spirit has been allowed His rightful place. Hardly, however, will it be denied that too often a party spirit has crept in and has supplanted the Holy Spirit, and this would appear to be the misgiving of our querist. Is there enough realization of such a fact with enough concern as to make the same a subject of fervent, persevering prayer? It is an all-round, full-measure

restoration that is to be worked for and prayed for. And that will not be a religious party, a sect or denomination, an "ist" or "ite" church of any kind.

Well it is for hearts and hands to be joined in efforts to effect the desired restoration, but no "movement" has the exclusive right thus to be engaged. Neither let any suppose that a merger of existing religious bodies is even a step toward the restoration the Spirit of God strives to effect. A merger of all the divisions of Christendom into one ecumenical organization can indeed produce the world church, but it will be the false bride of John's vision, not the "one body" of which Christ is head. It will be harlot Babylon, and God's people finding themselves therein must have ears to hear the call, "Come out of her, my people." How many take these matters seriously?

Let none fail to see the Spirit's concern about the "simplicity of Christ" and the "purity that is toward Christ" (2 Cor. 11:3). Find happiness (it is to be found there) in a Spirit-filled congregation of baptized believers who continue "stedfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:38-42). Therein you can diligently follow every good work. Not too narrow, not limited. Growth is upward, and there is no limit in that direction. Be a restorer. Cooperate with other restorers. Have no fellowship with ecumenicalism, neither denominationalism; fellowship with an individual Christian is a different matter. And "prayer changes things."

A sister in our church married a man out of Christ. Realizing that she disobeyed her Lord, she now feels that by way of repentance she should no longer live with this man . . .

No, no! Have her read 1 Cor. 7, particularly 7:10-16. The man this sister married is her lawful husband, and, the Scripture for it, she has not that one and only ground for divorce. Have her look at verse 16 and with confidence pray for the husband's salvation, living before him in such a way that he will know there is something for for him better than he has known.

It is objected that God is not perfectly righteous and holy as claimed since He condones sin in such men as Abraham, David, Solomon and others, even in their having more than one wife. How do we answer these objections?

Paul on Mars Hill (Acts 17:30) says, "Times of ignorance God overlooked, but he now commandeth that all men should everywhere repent." "The longsuffering of God waited in the days" before light and immortality were brought to light through the gospel. Men now must repent, and those who have turned to the Lord must "abstain from every appearance of evil," even.

When with us some years ago, you emphasized the importance of correct records, financial reports by the church treasurer, the same regularly audited, and the importance of the collection being counted by at least two persons. Do you still stress these things?

I most certainly do. Who handles money not his own owes it to those whose money he handles. And he should recognize the im-

portance of all this for his own protection as well. "Provide things honorably in the sight of all men," means more than honesty. All things honest should also appear honest.

How can a man apparently qualified to be an overseer prove that he is so qualified unless he is given exercise in that line? How could one show himself "apt to teach" if he never teaches?

I cannot answer the question. Surely a grave responsibility rests upon those who are serving as overseers to arrange for the exercise of the talents of members of the church, that they may not be made useless from nonexercise. Overseers are foremen, and it is not required of the foreman that he do the work of the men under his supervision. What greater need is there today than the need of able overseers who oversee? And where are such to become qualified but in the congregation itself? Present overseers should make the necessary provisions for the training of the men to become their successors. Elders whom the Holy Spirit makes "overseers" (bishops) are not only men of character and spirituality, but are "apt to teach," and "apt" there does not mean liable.

---

MORE FULFILLED PROPHECIES . . .

## God And The Nations

Victor N. Broaddus

Large portions of the Bible are devoted to prophecy. These serve the purpose of information regarding the future, of warnings about the consequences of sin, and as a means of verifying the authority of the Word of God. The longer the period between prediction and fulfillment, the more positive we can be that the prophecy is of Divine origin. The more detailed the prophecy, the more we praise God when the details come to pass as stated.

Because of fulfilled prophecy being so plain and sure, we can therefore depend on the reliability of prophecies yet unfulfilled. God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Aside from prophecies about the Jews and the Messiah, the Bible has much to say about some of the nations round about Israel. While some remain to be fulfilled, much has already happened (some within our own life-time!). In this article we want to look at only a few.

### PROPHECIES ABOUT TYRE AND SIDON

The two ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon were along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea just North of the land of Israel. They were 20 miles (32 kilometers) from each other and located in what is now the country of Lebanon.

Both were centers of trade and ports for the sea-faring Phoenicians. Both were pagan in religion.

In the book of Ezekiel, chapter 26 we read prophecy regarding the future of the city of Tyre. This was written nearly 600 years before Jesus Christ was born.

We read that (1) Tyre was to be destroyed. (2) The destruction was to be the work of more than one nation (verse 3). (3) That

even the dust will be scraped from her, leaving the area as a bare rock. (4) The place shall be for fishermen to spread their nets, but not for habitation. (5) Finally, Tyre will be built no more (verse 14).

The destruction of Tyre began with Nebuchadnezzar a few years after the prophecy was written. He broke down the walls and killed many people, but he did not fulfill the other details of this prophecy. Thus it appears that Nebuchadnezzar was only the first of the several nations to destroy Tyre. In the meantime, the people of Tyre decided to move to an island about half a mile (1 kilometer) off shore to gain more protection.

The old city of Tyre remained in ruins for about 250 years, but within sight of the new and prosperous island city. Now who would go so far as to expend useless labor to throw these ruins into the sea in order to complete the prophecy?

At last, Alexander the Great led his armies to attack the island city. Without ships, he was unable to do much about the city of Tyre which was protected by a strong fleet. After consultation with his officers, he decided to construct a causeway across the deep water and make a direct attack on the city. To accomplish this, the ruins, stones, and even the dust of the old city were carried to the shore and thrown into the sea. The area of the old city was scraped clean to provide needed material for the causeway. Thus, about 250 years after the first attack, another nation fulfilled another part of the prophecy.

Finally, it is stated that Tyre would not be rebuilt any more. Today, 25 centuries later, the city of Tyre has not been rebuilt. The fishermen along the shore can show the tourist where it used to be, but the prophecy is fulfilled just as the Lord revealed to Ezekiel.

Now let us turn to its sister city, Sidon. The same prophet Ezekiel in chapter 28:20-23 describes a great destruction and pestilence for her, but says nothing about its being scraped clean, or destroyed so as to never be rebuilt.

In 351 B.C. the Sidonians rebelled against Persia and thus came under attack. Though they were successful in repelling the Persians, the king betrayed the city to save his own life. Rather than submit to the brutality of the Persians, the inhabitants shut themselves up in their houses and set fire to their own homes, perishing in the flames.

Sidon was soon rebuilt however, and over the centuries has been destroyed and rebuilt many times. Today it stands as a town of over fifteen thousand inhabitants.

How did it happen that predictions about these two cities happened exactly as stated? Suppose that the names of the cities had been interchanged, what a difference it would have made! The accidental chance that Ezekiel could have known these facts even though he lived hundreds of years before they happened is zero. Surely he learned these from God.

#### EGYPT AND BABYLON IN PROPHECY

During the days of the old Testament (from 2 to 3 thousand years ago), there were two great world powers. Egypt was the more

powerful in the earlier part of this period, while Babylon was at its height in the latter part.

Egypt was proud, strong, and wealthy. Her wealth depended on the waters of the Nile River and the irrigation system. Indeed, about one third of the national budget was devoted to river projects. Her civilization was a marvel to all and a source of wonderment even today. Her wealth was such that when Augustus Caesar conquered Egypt in the first century B.C., he was able to pay off all his debts which were contracted during the long wars.

Egypt had an unbroken history of 3,500 years with a king of her own.

In Ezekiel 29:12-15 we read a prophecy which says that Egypt would be in captivity for 40 years, then return, shall become a base kingdom, and shall no more rule over the nations. In Ezek. 30:12-13 the Bible says that strangers will destroy the land, "and there shall be no more a prince from the land of Egypt." It is also stated that God will make the rivers dry (also predicted in Isaiah 19:5-16).

The prophecy began to be fulfilled in the days of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who humbled the Egyptians. This was followed by the rule of the Persians from 525 B.C. for about a hundred years. Then came Alexander the Great of Greece, the Caesars of Rome, the Arabs, the Turks, the French and the English who ruled successively until recent times.

Over the period of these more than 20 centuries, Egypt diminished as a nation of wealth and power, until today the country is poor and its people live in hardship. It is really a "base kingdom" compared to its former glories.

Though Egypt had kings for hundreds of years after her humiliation, yet not one was a native Egyptian! The last king of Egypt (King Farouk I who died only in the year of 1965) was deposed by Nasser and deported. Nasser himself is not a king, or even a prince.

Up to the 7th Century, the prophecy about the rivers drying up had not been fulfilled. However, since that time, the waters of the Nile have diminished, the canals have become foul and dried up, and the vegetation along the banks have almost entirely disappeared. Any picture you see of Egypt's Nile is marked by the absence of foliage. This deterioration has taken place gradually over the past 12 centuries. In a desperate attempt to salvage what is left of the Nile water, the giant Aswan Dam is being constructed with foreign aid.

What God has said about Egypt is truly taking place and will continue to be fulfilled.

Now turning to Babylon, the nation which boasts of having one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, we read in Isaiah 13:19-22 that she would be overthrown even as Sodom and Gomorrah. That is, the destruction should be so total as not to be inhabited again. The prophecy was written at a time when Babylon was a great power, and such statements were unbelievable. "It shall never be inhabited" was a bold statement for man to make, unless his information was from God.

In the days of Alexander the Great, the city was still great, but after that time it began to decay. By the time of Christ it was inhabited mostly by Jews who were later reduced by the Romans and finally the city was abandoned entirely. Today the city is absolutely vacant. Wild animals live among the ruins as stated in the prophecy, and even the Bedouin Arabs refuse to pitch their tents there. Although the prophecy was written 2,500 years ago, it seems almost like someone today giving an eye-witness account of its condition. Jeremiah also saw the same things (Jer. 51:43).

Notice the difference between the prophecies of Egypt and Babylon. One was to be diminished and the other destroyed. There was no mix-up or confusion in the predictions. All details took place as stated and God's word is true!

### PROPHECIES ABOUT EDOM

Let us now look to the South of Israel to the land of Edom. These people were the descendants of Esau and were wealthy and numerous. Their chief city was what is now known as Petra. The principal source of wealth was from the caravans which passed through the land. Great caravans of merchandise from East and West would meet here and trading took place. Ezekiel and Obediah both wrote of the future of Edom. In Ezek. 35:7 it is seen that the trade caravans would stop going through Edom. In verses 3-4 we see the desolation to come upon the land (Mt. Seir is the name of the mountainous area of Edom in which Petra is located). In Ezek. 25:13 we read, "I will make it desolate from Teman." And in Obadiah 18 read "there shall not be any remaining to the house of Esau."

All four of these prophecies on Edom have been fulfilled literally. Today, no caravans travel through the land. There is no East-West traffic of any kind and only the occasional tourist visits the ruins of Petra.

The land of the Edomites is today desolate indeed, with only a few nomadic Arabs wandering about for the little grass that can be found. The cities are empty and in ruins. Yet, strange as it may seem, there is one city on the eastern border of Edom that is still inhabited and is somewhat prosperous. That is the town presently known as Maan, or formerly known as Teman. The desolation was to be "from Teman."

Finally, today there are no Edomites to be found on this earth. The people were numerous before, and even existed up to the time of the Crusades over a thousand years after the prophecy was made. Now there is not even one small tribe that can be pointed to as descendants of Esau!

Thus all prophecies about Edom have been fulfilled exactly as stated. Who but God could so accurately predict?

There are many other prophecies of other nations which space does not permit mention. These few can suffice to point us to God and His word as authoritative. We here have examples of how prophecy is to be interpreted and understood so that with God's Word we can look ahead with surety.

—in *Christian Platform*.

## **"My Reward Is With Me"**

Revelation 22:12

While I give thee life eternal freely through My precious blood,  
And no works of thine can ever purchase for thee peace with God,  
Yet I surely will repay thee for thy service unto Me;  
Nothing has escaped My notice; I thy smallest actions see.

Hast thou suffered and been quiet, patiently endured trial?  
Then a crown of life I'll give thee, My approval and My smile.  
Hast thou kept the body under, self-denied as in My sight?  
Then the crown I'll give thee shall be incorruptible and bright.

Hast thou led some weary wanderers sin to leave and follow Me?  
Then a crown of great rejoicing shall be thine eternally,  
Or perhaps thou hast been feeding hungering souls the Word of God?  
If so, then a crown of glory shall for thee be thy reward.

I am coming, quickly coming — art thou longing for that day?  
Art thou loving My appearing? For My coming dost thou pray?  
Crown of righteousness I'll give thee; I reserve it for the now:  
In that glorious, rapturous moment I will place it on thy brow.

Lord, I am so weak, so sinful, yet I long to follow Thee;  
Grant me strength to follow fully, grant me grace to fruitful be.  
May I win these crowns for service! Then before Thee I will fall;  
At Thy blessed feet, Lord Jesus, I will gladly cast them all.

—A. E. R. in *Kingdom Tidings*.

# Precious Reprints

## Salvation By Works

R. H. Boll — 1936

"Salvation by works" is ingrained in the flesh. The universal religious instinct of the natural man is to perform some work, to do some feat, to go through some exercise (the more painful or disagreeable the better) in order to commend himself to God and to procure His favor. The thought back of it all is, "See what I have done and am doing for thee? Now am I not worthy of thy recognition and salvation?" Sir Monier Williams, one of the foremost scholars of the sacred lore of the East, says that all those religions have one common keynote and one theme that runs through them all, namely *salvation by works*. Judaism in Christ's time had degenerated into that. The true faith, when it becomes corrupt and degenerate, turns into that. The "Modernism" of our day is nothing else. Every false and fleshly religion centers around that idea of self-preservation by works of merit.

In his natural ignorance of God and of himself, man can think of no other way. He does not know Him—neither as to His holiness, nor His love. He cannot give God credit for pure disinterested grace and goodness. He cannot conceive of a gift from God, except it be on a basis of some value received. For a free gift of grace he cannot trust Him—it is too good to believe. If God notices him or does anything for him, it must surely be because of some special desert or merit. So that in the end, for whatever he has and is, he has himself to thank. Such a sentiment as

"Nothing in my hands I bring,  
Simply to thy cross I cling"

finds no place in his thinking. He *must* bring *something* in his hands to placate the offended Deity and to win the Divine favor. That all that is obnoxious to the Lord, and that it really constitutes a reflection on His character (for some things done along that line are nothing more or less than attempts to bribe the Judge of all)—he does not in his blindness perceive.

### THE NATURAL TENDENCY

The same error easily creeps into the Christian's life—which is one reason why he should stay in constant, wide-awake contact with the word of God. We slip from God's point of view, to *man's* way of thinking by a natural gravitation. God's outlook can be got only from the Bible; but the world's outlook is that which is common to all humanity. Chrysostomos had Paul's letter to the Romans read to him once every week. "If I don't do that I forget it," he said. It is astonishing how quickly we forget what is foreign to our natural notions. We are shaken out of the rut of our wrong thinking by the word of the gospel; then insensibly we lose again what we have learned; presently it is gone, and we are back on the old ground.

The law stays with us; the gospel, like the sweet fragrance of a perfume, vanishes away. Works, merit, desert, judgment, these are elemental concepts, easily grasped, and familiarized by the constant reminders of experience. But all-engrossing love of God in Christ Jesus, the free gift of His grace, the new life in the Spirit, the filial relationship to God—these are exotic plants as it were, which do not grow naturally in our soil, but must be carefully planted and nurtured, and watered from above.

#### WORKING FOR FORGIVENESS

This is seen in many ways. For example, a Christian sins. Now to be humbled, to be penitent, like Peter to "weep bitterly," to be afflicted and mourn and let our laughter be turned into mourning, and our joy to heaviness (Jas. 4:9, 10) is fitting and right. A man who would go on lightly when conscious of sin before God is beyond help. But take heed. Before you realize it, you may be "doing penance" and imagining that in some way with your sackcloth and ashes you are procuring God's mercy, or even paying up in some measure for what you have done. But God's forgiveness is free and freely given out of the abundance of His loving heart. ("I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions—return unto me, for I have redeemed thee.") It can be obtained in no other way. It cannot be purchased at any price.

Your difficulty is to get into a right attitude, so that God *can* bestow the mercy upon you (for who can estimate the pride and self-will in a sinner's heart?). The father of the Prodigal Son could not reveal his love and forgiveness to him till the son came humble and penitent to receive it. But in no sense did the son attain to, or merit, his father's love and mercy by coming home. It was there for him all the time, but he could not receive it till he came as he came. We must never forget that it is the Lord who stands knocking at our door, not we at His. The opening of the door pertains to us; but no amount of door-opening would cancel our sins, except He stood there with forgiveness in His hands.

#### "WORKS" IN PRAYER-LIFE

Again some dear souls work hard and labor and strive in prayer—not always with the right conception. Is it really so much blessing for so much prayer? Then go to it! The more prayer and the longer, the greater the blessing. Then, too, the Gentiles who think they are heard for their much speaking, are not so far wrong. But one thing our Lord wanted to teach us is that prayer is not a meritorious performance. Praying all night is a great feat, which, some seem to think, God is bound to regard. If you add fasting to prayer, especially if it makes you feel right faint and miserable—that surely ought to bring God to terms! For no doubt He delights in your hardship and suffering and your painful efforts. Surely you will get results for all you have gone through!\*

\*Of course no reflection on true all-night prayer of burdened souls or in order to commune with God is intended. Would there were more of that. Our Lord continued in prayer—once all night, at another time till the fourth watch of the morning.

But how are you better in your thinking than the Hindu fakir who lies on a bed of spikes, and endeavors to attain to sanctity by reducing his body to a skeleton? Or the monk who wears a hair shirt and sleeps on a bare plank, and castigates himself unto blood, thinking thereby to get nearer to God? Oh fools and blind! It is *God* that beseeches *you* to be reconciled to Him. It is He who brought the great Sacrifice, and you do not have to propitiate Him. If that were your task, you could never accomplish it. But yours is to believe, to receive, to enter in upon the boundless grace so freely provided for you. "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." It is yours to come *with boldness* to the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace to help you in your time of need.

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## Our Savior, Jesus Christ

E. A. Rhodes

When we think of our Savior, we think of Him not as a man only, dwelling in a body of flesh, but also as God with us, Immanuel. In Isaiah it is written, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . . and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (9:6). Here He is pictured as Almighty God in the midst of men. Everlasting Father; from everlasting to everlasting thou art God! Micah writes concerning Him as One "whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (5:2).

His purpose in coming into the world the first time as a man was to be our Savior, saving us from our sins. "Since then the children are sharers in flesh and blood, he also himself in like manner partook of the same; that through death he might bring to nought him that had the power of death, that is the devil . . ." (Heb. 2:14, 15).

Paul says, "Wherefore we henceforth know no man after the flesh; even though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now we know Him so no more. Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new" (2 Cor. 5:16, 17).

We would all be wiser and have more power if we would behold as in a mirror the glory of the Lord and be transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as we have received from the Lord the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). Let us recognize, more and more, Christ's true position as our Savior, that He may be able even now to save us from the power of our besetting sins.

# Missionary Messenger

*"Greater things for God"*

## OUR FRONT COVER

We are pleased to have this recent picture of the Dennis L. Allen family, taken in Hong Kong in January of this year. They are: Carol, Dennis, Steven, Glenn Robert, Betty, and Linda.

E. A. Rhodes

Yokohama, Japan, April 21

We continue to have good interest in the Bible class, now on Wednesday nights, and they all seem to enjoy and take in the lessons in John even though they are sometimes hard to understand.

Another baptism yesterday. A young girl, in her twenties, who has been coming for several months and who has been showing quite an interest in spiritual things made the good confession and was really happy. We expect others to come in the near future. I feel like the Lord is blessing the work here in some ways; but we have problems, too.

We always enjoy visiting our son in Zushi. Bro. Kaneko generally takes us there, about an hour by car, and our son brings us home. Recently we had our 47th. wedding anniversary and our sons gave us a T.V. set. They are both very mindful of us. Their children are growing so fast.

Weather is warming up a great deal now. We have had quite a bit of rain recently, too. Everything looks good, fresh and green.

Joyce Shewmaker

Kalomo, Zambia, May 11

Dr. Benson left here a week ago today after spending five days. Two of these were spent at Kobanga—50 miles from here. We had his time all scheduled so he could see as much as possible in those short days. It certainly kept him humping, and kept us busy trying to help him meet the schedule. He said he was surprised to see so much, and that he thinks our work has been very undersold in the U.S.A. He complimented our well-kept grounds and buildings in good repair, and in establishing a Secondary School feels that we are entering a new era in our work in Zambia. Our new term (second term) opened the day before Bro. Benson left, so the students heard him at their first chapel and at a service that night. We marvelled at Bro. Benson's knowledge of the missionaries' problems. He knew just what questions to ask in order to get the most good from his trip. He gathered a massive amount of information.

Our son, Samuel, is to marry on the 15th of July. He is marrying Nancy Cope, whose father teaches at Harding. I went to school with her mother. She is a fine spiritually-minded girl

with the heart of a missionary. She hopes to get a job teaching near Searcy, while Sam finishes his last year at Harding. After that they plan to head for the African mission field.

**Shichiro Nakahara**  
Shizuoka City, Japan, May 12

We do wish to thank you for your continuous support both in prayer and money. The Lord is always good and kind to us in everything and we are indeed grateful for His unchanging love and care. Michael, the youngest one in the family, has grown a lot and now is almost 9 months old. He now can stand up with his hands on his bed, trying to move his foot forward. Since my wife has been working at a kindergarten, I have been acting as a baby-sitter every day. She needs more of teaching experience before she really can do some kindergarten work here in Japan, and we have been praying to the Lord that some day in the future a door to the Gospel through the means of such an institution as kindergarten may be granted so that it may add more opportunities for evangelism. My wife testifies to the fact that the kindergarten work is no doubt profitable and a great means in order for witnessing for Christ. The parents whose children are coming to the kindergarten are becoming more and more interested in the Bible and begin to come to attend various services held in the church there. In a land such as Japan a kindergarten is one of the greatest means through which we can approach to the unsaved people.

A new mission work started across town a year ago, shows much success and now is attended by almost twenty children. Some times some parents come to attend Sunday school our young people teach. Since we have a car, I take two of our teachers to the place every Sunday morning, which helps all of us much in saving time and added convenience on rainy days. We thank the Lord for the car, which means a lot to this work. We are going to start a Bible class for children's parents when the time comes. The ones who opened up their house for this mission want a class too, so in the future there will be a church established if everything goes well and the Lord blesses it. So, please pray to this end. We need more preachers to take care of new missions to be established. We now have two boys who are desiring to be so.

**Motoyuki Nomura**  
Tokyo, Japan, April 12

It was my joy and privilege to complete my one year contract as the coordinator of YMCA English school systems. A new semester has just begun this week and although I've resigned the coordinatorship, I plan to teach English again this new school year to support the family and to make precious contacts with the students, for ten accepted the Lord last year through my ministry while about 65 began attending churches at my advice. Pray that they will both grow in His saving grace and find Him to be the Answer.

Our home has been richly blessed recently by the Lord for He has been sending us young folks each Sunday. Within a well-planned

informal family atmosphere we feed them with the Word and with food my wife prepares. If one comes to us, most likely he will come back again with a new friend, and thus our small house is like a busy honeycomb for them. Between the semesters vacation, over 120 students visited us in the past two weeks! We just don't know how we managed them all. We are indeed happy and praise the Lord.

Miyachiyo San, one of our firstfruits of both Hayama and Tokyo ministries, has recently decided to go into ministry after graduating from his college. He made a trip to Okinawa last week to participate in practical missionary training project sponsored by a missionary friend of mine. His growth in Him is fantastic; while it took almost three years to accept the Lord in attending our small Bible classes both in Hayama and Tokyo. Won't you pray for him? He needs to study the Word, and hopes to do some additional work in U.S.A.

**W. L. Brown**

**Salisbury, Rhodesia, May, 1966**

We have had over 500 people come to our office since we opened on February 1st. Dr. Geo. S. Benson was here last week (between planes). He is planning to raise \$200,000 for a school in Zambia!!

We appreciate what you Brethren are doing for us and may the Lord bless you all.

Things are very quiet and peaceful in Rhodesia. We have had a good rainy season and there is no shortage of food. Surely Rhodesia has been blessed. The problems that Rhodesia has had are internal problems, and there is not the slightest basis under international law (as I see it) for any outside government or any organization to intervene and tell the people of Rhodesia what they must or must not do. If the outside world would keep "hands off" there would be no problem. You would never know that almost the whole political world was against you if you did not hear the "World News" and read the papers.

**Elaine Brittell**

**Livingstone, Zambia, April 21**

The hospital up north asked me if I'd give another leprous woman her pills each week, so now there are four taking pills from the Sinda area. One should be finished his 3-year treatment in about 6 months. Next week he goes north for his 6 months check-up, which takes about 2 days. Just think how wonderful it will be when all leprous Christians will be free from this terrible deforming, painful disease and will have new bodies like Jesus'!

**Vernon Lawyer**

**Salisbury, Rhodesia, April 26**

We are much encouraged with every privilege and prospect for the Word, although the real fruit seems so long in coming. He who "opens doors" can also "open hearts." The various Bible classes and regular hours each day at the downtown office enables us to meet many people. Pray that God will help us to find His

"much people in this city." We are now preparing an attractive show-window to advertise and speak gospel admonishment to the passing crowds. Scripture light will also be focused on timely and current themes.

By God's mercies, Rhodesia thrives and gains strength daily. Although gas remains under strict ration, there is no shortage of other necessary things. All men between the ages of 17 to 60 are required to register for manpower mobilization purposes. This includes foreign residents,—but as such registration is involuntary, it should not affect our passport or citizenship status. Our first concern is that we be worthy of and true to our citizenship in heaven.

#### Harold Preston Travel Diary

*Manila.* We boarded the S.S. President Cleveland on the evening of April 27th. It was a hectic experience trying to get our baggage on board through such a crowd of people on the pier. In fact Vena had difficulty getting on board with the children. I had to go ahead to take care of immigration, etc. Several of those who came to the pier with us had passes to go on the ship, but because of the great crowd of people they would not allow them to board the ship. Neither could we get off to say goodbye to those who came to see us off. We could only wave to them from the upper deck. Our hearts were heavy as we pulled away from the pier. The ties that bind us to those brethren are eternal because we are bound by the love of God.

*Hong Kong.* As the ship came near the pier, about 9 a.m., April 29th., we could see the Allens and Lewters at the new terminal building. It was good to see them again. Betty took Vena and the children to their home while Dennis, Billy Ray, Ren, Jon and I went out to buy some things we had been waiting for until we reached Hong Kong. It was truly a wonderful place to shop, but it seemed to take so long to get things done. So much time was spent waiting around that we didn't get much time for visiting. It rained most of the day which slowed things down a bit. It came a down-pour about the time we got ready to leave for the ship. We visited in the terminal building until a half-hour before time for the ship to leave. The Allens and Lewters waited until the ship pulled away, about midnight.

Even though our visit was short and rushed, we were able to get a better insight into the work there and the needs. (1) There is a great need for faithful Chinese laborers, teachers and preachers, whose heart and soul is set upon the glory and praise of God. (2) The Lewters are engaged in language study. Pray that they may get a good grasp of it. (3) All the missionaries there feel the need of the Lord's leading in all things. Pray for them as per Col. 1:9.

*Japan.* The Bixlers, Rhodeses and Forcades were on the pier in Yokohama to meet us. We arrived there May 3rd about mid-morning. By the time we got off the ship and exchanged greetings it was nearly lunch time, so they took us to a Japanese restaurant. After a good Japanese meal we went to the Rhodeses' home and visited until late afternoon. It was helpful to discuss the work and needs of

Japan. One great need there is the same as in Hong Kong and in other parts of the world . . . the need of national workers. We need to be much in prayer about this need. Brother Bixler mentioned the need for greater spiritual emphasis at Keimei. Brother Rhodes said a number of people seem "almost persuaded" but unwilling as yet to surrender to the Lord. The Forcades need a co-worker who can help them with the language as well as preaching and visiting. Brother Kikuchi, who has a home for aged, is now starting a project called "Lighthouse," a home for the blind. Pray for all these missionaries. Sister Forcade hasn't been well lately.

*Honolulu.* We are once again in U.S.A., though some 2,000 miles from the mainland. Lord willing, we will arrive in Kentucky May 17th. As the Lord leads, I look forward to working and teaching among those desirous of learning more about mission work. I feel the need of more emphasis upon prayer and want to help more congregations to get involved in the prayer ministry. I will also be glad to visit homes and help families get started having regular worship time. This is one of our greatest needs today.

(Address: Route 1, Salvisa, Ky. 40372.)

**Winston N. Allen**

Anchorage, Alaska, May 28

We have located a suitable building in Anchorage for the evangelistic meeting with Brother Crowder on July 10-17. The rental will be \$25 per day.

**Thomas W. Hartle**

Cape Town, May 9

With regards to the "Bonteheuvel building project," the report is about the same as given last time, work going along slowly but surely, and with so much more funds needed to complete it, now being only at roof height. The Woodstock congregation, where I am laboring, decided at a business meeting on April 6, to pay the costs of a new roof for the building, feeling assured that the Lord will bless us abundantly in return. And we know, by a letter received from the Bonteheuvel congregation, that they deeply and sincerely appreciated this fine Christian gesture shown in this manner.

**Jack Chrissop**

Cape Town, April 22

Simonstown congregation has been without the services of faithful Brother Saul for a few weeks. He has suffered for quite some time now with a stomach complaint and had to go into the hospital for an operation which was—thanks to Him—a success. Bro. Saul never missed an opportunity to speak about his Lord while in the hospital.

Out at Lansdown, Brother Christians and I are hopeful of starting a work among the Europeans living close by where we live. We need your prayers for this task.

The Missionary Office continues to transmit funds to various missionaries without charge. Checks should be payable to "Missionary Funds" and mailed to Missionary Office, P. O. Box 5181, Louisville, Ky. 40205.



## Evil Thoughts

J. R. Clark

A man is no better than his thoughts, for "as he thinketh within himself, so is he" (Ps. 23:7). And "Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure bringeth forth that which is evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Luke 6:45). What a man thinks, he is. Thoughts are tremendously important!

The natural man has wild, unruly and corrupt thoughts. And, alas, we Christians are not free from this evil. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). In Noah's day "Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

The Lord Jesus in Mark 7 gave the scribes and Pharisees a stinging rebuke. He said, "for from within, out of the heart of men, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railings, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:23). In John 2:21-23 we read that many believed on His name . . . But Jesus did not trust himself unto them, for that he knew all men . . . He himself knew what was in man." "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). The One who hath his eyes like a flame of fire knows all about us! How may one rid himself of evil thoughts?

How is it with you? Do evil thoughts come unbidden? Perhaps you are not guilty of the overt act of adultery but the Lord says: "he that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). You have not actually killed a man, but John says: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer" (1 John 3:15). You may not be a thief, but did you ever have covetous thoughts flash through the mind while being waited on at the bank, such as, "This is a holdup. Stick 'em up"? Of course, you were just fooling. And how about thoughts of bitterness, envy, malice, pride and other vices listed in the New Testament?

How may we conquer these thoughts? The alien sinner must accept Christ as Savior, and start from there. The saints are ready for the conflict. Paul points the way to victory in 2 Cor. 10:5,

"bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." The apostle Paul had much opposition, both from the Jews and from the philosophers of his day, who resorted to human reasoning and imaginations. He says, "The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds, casting down imaginations; and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ . . ." (vs. 4, 5). Paul's kind of warfare was spiritual and required spiritual weapons. His was a good warfare to put down sin. We wish to apply it to our battle against evil thoughts. The enemy is strongly entrenched in their strongholds. It is up to us to storm these strongholds, and to take captive the evil thoughts that plague us. Victory can be gained through Christ. "Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might" (Eph. 6:10).

The Holy Spirit, who dwells in the believer, will give us self-control if we but ask Him (Gal. 5:23). Another suggestion is that we fill our hearts with good things. A great preacher once said he thought about Christ every fifteen minutes of his waking hours. Even so, we must do some positive thinking about our Savior, and about good things. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8). An unfurnished mind is an invitation to the devil to move in.

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## A Confused Generation

W. L. Brown

Heard on the news broadcast this morning: "China explodes third nuclear bomb; Second earthquake in Russia in less than one month; Britain requests to join the Common Market; "Moon peace" proposal will go to the UN; War in Viet Nam stepped up; Famine in India."

To the wise, these words have a prophetic ring, but to the "unwise" they are meaningless. Daniel said, "And none of the wicked shall understand; but they that are wise shall understand" (12:10).

One day when Jesus was alone with His disciples on the Mount of Olives, they asked Him three important questions: "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the age?" (Matt. 24:3). The Lord said there would be certain signs which His people could expect which would be manifested to those who have "eyes to see," that would take place before His coming. He said, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh" (Lk. 21:28). Jesus said there would be a future generation that would manifest certain characteristics to indicate that the end was near. Surely today this generation is facing a great crisis. Things are happening fast, and men are becoming more confused from day to day.



## *A Christian Views The News*

Ernest E. Lyon

**SOME INCONSISTENCIES:** Former Premier Nikita Khrushchev once stated: "We do not negotiate on the basis of the 'give and take' principle. We have nothing whatsoever 'to give' — we will not make any concessions . . ." In the light of this principle on which the Communists work (and that has been stated over and over in many ways by many of their leaders) isn't it inconsistent for other countries to want to go to a conference with them? . . . We have loaned billions of dollars (making much of this outright gifts) to many nations that are now supplying North Viet Nam and Cuba with supplies. Yet we go right on with our "foreign aid" to these helpers of our enemies. We even (that is, our government and many of our business men) are planning to increase our trade with communist countries ourselves, but we have completely cut off the new Rhodesian government, even stopping delivery of sugar that had already been consigned to some of our business men and was on the high seas on the way. Yet Rhodesia is a friendly country and even offered to send troops to aid us in South Viet Nam . . . Businesses can continue and increase employment and wages only if they can make a fair profit on their investments. It takes about twenty thousand dollars to supply the things needed to create one new job. Yet there are many in both government and labor that feel that all the profits on new capital should go to workers who have supplied none of the means but have simply used these things without risk to themselves financially . . . The cry went up after the riots in Watts, California, that welfare must be increased or other such disturbances would arise. Yet the report by the commission investigating the Watts riot plainly stated that the generosity of the California welfare program was one of the factors leading to the riots . . . We constantly hear cries that American industry is owned by rich people and that the rich are treading on the poor workers. Yet since 1952 the number of people owning common stocks in American industry has increased from 6.5 to 20.1 million. That is an awful big number of "rich people," and the fact is that there are only about 162,000 people in this country that have annual incomes of \$50,000 or more—the standard now for being "rich."

**SOBERING FACTS:** Today the American dollar is worth 42 cents compared with 1939, the usual date for such comparisons. However, the dollar in 1939 was worth just 50 cents compared with 1932 (due to a 40% devaluation in 1934 when we left the gold

standard and reduced the gold content of a dollar from 25.8 to 15.24 grains; and also due to a slight inflation otherwise). That means then that the dollar today is worth only 21 cents as compared with 1932. Inflation is devaluing the dollar at a rapid rate now, and many sober and competent economists predict a catastrophe for this country in a short time—the average saying about 10 years—if this trend is not reversed.

**SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT RHODESIA:** Two-thirds of the Rhodesian police are Africans, yet many claim that it is a "police state" putting the Africans under slavery to the whites. The Parliament already seats 13 African members and that number will gradually increase over the years under the present constitution. Very few of the Africans are "nationalists" and 14,000 of them have voluntarily joined the Police Reserve to protect their homes and families from the communist-led group that proclaims themselves to be "nationalists."

**FALSE REPORTING:** A New York paper several months ago reported Senator Robert Kennedy's speeches on his South American trip and said, "the senator has not uttered a word in public or in private of criticism of U.S. policies," Yet deep in the story the reporter states that Senator Kennedy repeatedly stated his opposition to President Johnson's decision to intervene in the Dominican Republic! Regardless of your opinion of either of those two men, doesn't it appear that that can hardly be called "objective reporting"? On the other hand, I hope you are not surprised. This is still Satan's world and it is being increasingly run on his principles. And he is a liar and the father thereof.

**PAUL HARVEY** is one of the most interesting of the news commentators and he is not afraid to proclaim his faith in Christ. He constantly reports spiritual matters, giving special attention to the Billy Graham crusades. He often comes up with a new way of looking at things. Recently in one of his publications he pointed out that our government allows only a \$600 deduction for children, assuming that that is the total cost of feeding, clothing, housing, and educating a child. Yet the government spends \$7,000 a year to train one person in the Job Corps and gives \$800 to an unwed mother for the upkeep of an illegitimate child! Maybe this belongs in my inconsistencies paragraph above.

**CAN YOU IMAGINE?** Try imagining how much just one billion dollars is. Try it this way: visualize one man working for ten dollars a day; it would take 100 million days or almost 274,000 years to earn that billion. Or try this way: visualize that man working for that 10 dollars a day being joined by others so that 400 of them are working; if they remained on the job for 684 years, without a day off, plus 169 days in the 685th year, their total wages together would equal that billion we started to try to imagine. You have a very good imagination if you can imagine it even this way. But our government spends much more than a hundred times that each year! This is no criticism, just a statement of fact.

Your comments and your questions are always welcome. Send them to Ernest E. Lyon, 1734 Deer Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40205. Your prayers for our nation are also solicited earnestly, prayers to the one true and living God who overrules in the affairs of men and of nations. I hope that in this column you can be kept informed so as to pray with understanding.

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## *"Beyond Their Power"*

Willis H. Allen

The average church of today has much to learn in the matter of proper giving. Giving in the apostolic church was on a high plane. Paul's method seemed to be to stir up one church by recounting what God had done in another church, as we see in the 8th chapter of 2nd Corinthians. He speaks of it as "the grace of God which hath been given in the churches of Macedonia." Then, in the 9th chapter he reverses the recounting as he says, "I glory on your behalf to them of Macedonia, that Achaia (the Corinthians) hath been prepared for a year past; and your zeal hath stirred up very many of them" (9:2). The generous giving of the Macedonians was the product of God's grace (See Acts 4:31-33).

True generosity is always the product of grace; and when we appropriate to ourselves any large measure of the "abundance" of grace that God has provided for us all in His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, we shall certainly show it on our part by abounding generosity in our giving. The real reason for the small measure of giving on the part of the average Christian today is that the average Christian has appropriated so small a measure of God's grace thru Jesus Christ. The Macedonian Christians were being tested by affliction, but in that testing the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty "abounded unto the riches of their liberality." What a lesson for us!

In Macedonia they not only gave to the measure of their power, but even "beyond their power;" that is, beyond what men may consider their circumstantial ability to give. And this "of their own accord." They did not need any special urging by anyone, for they had first given "their own selves to the Lord." And that was the secret of it all—the all-important thing. And so it is now. Have we made such a complete surrender of ourselves? Let us realize more and more that our Lord Jesus gave up all for us; then we shall be more and more anxious to give our all to Him and His glorious work. The need is not so much the giving of our money as the giving of ourselves!

# Tools Of His Prodding

Douglas A. Dickey

Intelligent and spiritually-aware Christian leaders everywhere (even in Roman Catholicism) are beginning to *beat against* the thick dead walls of *institutionalism* to let in a little light from the Spirit of God. Here again the people of the Restoration tradition have been remarkably, if not completely, free from pyramiding ecclesiastical power-structures. There is an upward surge all over the Christian world which threatens to break the crust of institutionalism. Can we of the North American convention understand and respond to this movement? Is it not a confirmation of our historic emphasis upon the *fellowship* of the church? Is it not a complete misreading of the current needs of men as well as the basic nature of the church that causes some of our brethren to seek to restructure the church *toward* rather than *away from* institutional expressions of the gospel?

Again even in Roman Catholicism, and in Protestantism to the point of a near-revolution, there is a cry for more *lay participation* and lay leadership in the church. We have virtually failed by default to make good on our verbal assent to the importance of lay leadership in the church. We deplore the use of the term "reverend" for our preachers, but we give them the same ecclesiastical prestige and power that is given in the most frankly hierarchical systems. Is God prodding us here, too? Is the burst of lay participation in the North American Christian Convention in recent years a nudge of the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction of God's purpose for His church?

The cry *for unity* among God's people, which was a tiny murmur on the American frontier 150 years ago, has become a full-throated shout across the Christian world. Is God trying to tell us to make good on our plea? The ecumenical movement, viewed in one way, is the expression of a deep yearning for a healing of the wounds in the body of Christ. How do we look at our "separated brethren," or at the denominational world? Do we look with gloating or with grief?

Jesus wept twice during His earthly lifetime, according to the Gospels. Once, at the tomb of Lazarus, He wept as a man weeps. Again on Mount Olivet, yearning over His separated brethren, He wept as God weeps. God is still weeping, and we may weep with Him over a divided church if we are sensitive to His will.

The North American Christian Convention has picked up an almost frightening momentum in recent years. Is God trying to tell us something? Are we heading toward a true "emerging brotherhood," witnessing as Christ would witness, to a searching Christian world, or are we doomed to a congealed sectarianism which shuts God out and dooms the North American Christian Conventian, and perhaps the church, to a decreasing momentum? Let us, as convention members, as preachers, and as Christians in places of influence and leadership in the North American Christian Convention, seek God's will and purpose for our lives, our ministry, our churches, and, through us,  
—in *Christian Standard*

## The North American Christian Convention

June 28 to July 1, 1966 — Convention Center, Louisville

The convention is a free and open gathering of interested persons. It is not a delegate convention nor a convention of churches, but is an inspirational gathering of brethren in Christ. The convention provides a platform for the preaching of the pure gospel of Jesus Christ; giving special emphasis to the restoration of the church according to the plan revealed in the New Testament.

The North America Christian Convention is not the center around which the brotherhood is to be one. However, the convention each year does vigorously and insistently present through platform and program, the divinely given pattern that has provided the real measure of unity we have enjoyed.

Our unity is in Christ; hence these conventions have preached Christ. It is in the Scriptures; hence these conventions have declared the Scriptures. It is in the New Testament church; hence these conventions have sought by emphasis on doctrine and practical method, to build that church.

### *What is the Program of the NACC?*

Every effort is made to provide a program for every member of the family and one of interest, information, and inspiration for every member of the church.

8:30-9:30 a.m. Berean Study Groups for Preachers; Men and Women of the Pew; and Workers in Christian Education.

10:00-12:00 a.m. Interest Groups in the following areas: Preachers, Women, Church Leaders (Men & Women), College Youth, Teen-Agers, Teachers of Jr. and Sr. High Youth, Teachers of Primary & Juniors, and Teachers of Children Ages One through Five.

9:30-4:30 p.m. Supervised program of teaching and recreation for Children Ages 6-12. (Minimum daily charge to cover food, etc.)

12:30 p.m. — Thursday only — Global Witness Luncheon

2:15-3:30 p.m. Afternoon Convention Assembly

6:00-7:15 p.m. Workshops on a Variety of Subjects

8:00-9:15 p.m. Evening Convention Program

9:15-10:00 p.m. Musical Afterglow

8:00-9:30 p.m. Evening Program for Children Ages 5-12

Nursery and Kiddie Land (Ages 2-5) — 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Registration \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family.

The good work of our brethren in the conservative, independent Christian Churches deserves recognition. The convention noticed above is not organized and sponsored by churches, but by individual Christians. It is not a decision-making convention, but a teaching and exhortation convention that we are glad to welcome to Louisville. You are welcome to register and support the meetings. —Ernest E. Lyon

# NEWS AND NOTES

"They rehearsed all that God had done with them . . ."

## Worker Needed

Bro. Eugene Schreiner will be leaving the Bryantsville, Ind., congregation by late summer to take a teaching position at Portland Christian School. We need someone to fill this vacancy. We are interested in someone who will visit our people and who will work well with our young people. We have sold the old parsonage and are thinking of building a new one close to the church. —R. Edward Sherwood, Route 1, Mitchell, Indiana

**Pinellas Park, Fla.:** The work here is just as slow and heartbreaking as elsewhere . . . We need Sunday school rooms, but are unable as yet to add them . . . Several times we have seen someone striving with the Spirit, but not giving in, then moving away. We pray for them, that someone else may water and cultivate . . . Lord willing, Bro. Chambers will be with us for a series of lessons on prophetic truths . . . Come quickly, Lord Jesus! —Wayne Geatches

**Atlanta, Ga.:** **Word and Work** has been of much help for years. I knew Bro. Boll and loved him as everyone who really knew him did. —Emma Hargesheimer

## Eastview Meeting

May 1, Brother Howard Marsh of Sellersburg, Ind., closed an eight-day meeting with Eastview Church of Christ, Okolona, Ky. There was a substantial attendance throughout the meeting and eight came forward for rededication. Brother Marsh has a unique way of combining in his messages the simple gospel and Bible truth so as to edify the church and appeal to the unsaved at the same time. —Claude Neal

## Four Christian Aucas Slain

On February 18 a radio message brought the sad report that four missionary Auca Indians in Ecuador, who had set out to contact relatives among the savage "down-river" Aucas, were found dead, speared by family enemies. Since their conversion the Christians had desired to take the gospel to their still-savage relatives. Pray for laborers!

**Long Beach, Calif.:** The May W & W came today. I always look forward to it, and wish it could get in the mails earlier each month.

Irene and I will not come now, and may not make it at all this year, much as our hearts long to see you dear brethren. God be with you all until we see you again, or "until we meet at Jesus' feet." —E.L.J.

## Meetings in June

5 to 12: David Ringer at Sellersburg  
5 to 12: C. V. Wilson at Beuchel  
19 to 26: David Tapp at Fisherville  
20 to 26: C. V. Wilson at Henryville

**Lexington, Ky.:** The Youth Rally at Salem Church of Christ near Cynthiana, Ky., was well attended. There were 81 present. Several went from Cramer and Hanover. The trio sang two beautiful numbers and Allen Medley did himself proud in giving the report of Youth Activities from our congregation. Bro. Terry Morrison, minister of the Mt. Carmel Church and recent graduate of SCC gave a most interesting and effective sermon encouraging the youth to greater consecration and service to Christ. —H. N. Rutherford

**Abilene, Texas:** Our next date for the devotional services on KRBC-TV will be the first Sunday of November. The 30 minute Sunday telecast and the daily 5 minute periods would cost us a total of \$290 if the time were being paid for. —Carl Kitzmiller

**Sellersburg, Ind.:** The Sellersburg Church was blessed to have Brother Robert Garrett and family Sunday evening, May 15. Brother Garrett shared some of the Rhodesian work, by way of slides. He also spoke to our high-school group.

Our Youth Revival, with Bro. David Ringer as evangelist, will be June 5-12 at 7:30 each evening (Saturday included). —D. Offutt

## Day of Fasting

The following paragraph is from the "Chicago Christian," weekly bulletin of the Stony Island Church of Christ (formerly Cornell Avenue). The work

referred to is a visitation campaign. How long has it been since you have heard of a congregation using this approach?

"We need always to keep in mind the ultimate goals of program and work. We are working toward spiritual ends. We are interested in the spread of the "Good News" of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We want to share what we have in Him in a vital way with those about us. Often, however, our methods become more important than our goals. To help us keep the right perspective of our work the Elders have called for a day of fasting for Sunday, May 15th. It is, of course, voluntary and those with health problems along with children are not asked to participate. Some will need to have liquids and abstain only from food. The fast will be considered completed following the Sunday evening service. Use the occasion to pray for the Census and all our efforts to perform our task. Let your hunger be 'A Call to Prayer.' "

—Donald Taylor

**St. Petersburg, Fla.:** In meetings nightly, including Saturday nights, with Pinellas Park, Florida, brethren, as with Brandon just before this. Was with Orlando first Lord's day in May. Hope to see yet other Florida bands. I thrive when kept busy, and Mrs. Chambers has not missed a sermon. We should know whom to thank, the while we are enjoying the hospitality shown us by consecrated sisters in the Lord. —Stanford Chambers

#### S.C.C. Report

The Southeastern Christian College A Cappella Choir made its final appearance of the annual spring tour to the group at the auditorium of Portland Church of Christ last Monday evening, May 9. It was a well-rendered, inspirational program, conducted by Gale Price, Director of the music department of S.C.C. It was heard by many of the Louisville area, the auditorium being comfortably filled. And this, incidentally, was the closing act of the 17th year of this good and growing Junior College. 37 sophomores were graduated in Commencement exercises on April 29.

Beginning this summer, the college is adding a Summer Session to its calendar.

In a report from Jesse Z. Wood, Promotional Director of S.C.C., we learn that gifts from the churches to meet

the \$6,500 mortgage payment, including interest, due May 1st, amounted to \$7,342.62, leaving a balance of \$842.62 to be applied to the next payment, due November 1st. However, this report also shows a deficit of \$157.98 for operational expenses for the month of April.

Continue to remember S.C.C. in your prayers and offerings. —Willis H. Allen

#### Free Booklet on Prayer

John Kernan, who is in charge of a literature mission at East London, So. Africa, has just published a booklet, "Total Mobilization—A Plan for Prayer" by Robertson McQuilkin (reprinted from Sept. 1965 W & W). He has added an article of his own, "Pray for Spiritual Victories." He asks the question, "May we conclude that most of our prayer requests are for material and physical blessings rather than for spiritual blessings?"

Order from Mrs. Kathryn Pressley, Route 2, Canton, Georgia.

#### Missionary Directory — \$2.00

Jimmie Lovell, editor of **Action**, has just published a directory of missionaries (past and present) of churches of Christ. In general, Jimmie has ignored the various "isms and schisms" among us—which may cost him something. We appreciate his intention to treat Christians as Christians, without adding some kind of sectarian identification.

Send your order to: Action, P.O. Box 146, Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., or Christian Publishing Co., 2652 Brenner Drive, Dallas, Texas 75220.

**Borden, Ind.:** The Borden Church of Christ met in their new building for the first time June 5, 1966. There were 254 present. The resident minister, Brother E. C. Ringer, brought a soul-stirring message.

The building, a colonial type of brick and frame construction is located on the west side of Borden, on Indiana highway 60, just a few feet from the Corporation limits. The land it is on was purchased from sister Lula McKinley.

The Lord has answered prayer and blessed beyond our fondest expectations. We give Him all the Praise, Honor, and Glory. We pray that every member will be a shining light in the community to the glory of our Lord Jesus till He comes.

Dedication Services will be held June 26th at 2:30 p.m. —Marshall I. Naugle

## "Showers of Blessing" On P.C.S. Expansion

M. Brent Hickman

God makes a declaration in Ps. 81:10b — "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." He again declares in Mal. 3:10b, "Prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

These two passages were indelibly imprinted on the hearts and minds of the Portland Christian High School Alumni Building Committee Sunday afternoon, May 1. This was the song rally at Sellersburg, which culminated several weeks of planning for this particular day, designated P.C.H.S. Building Fund Sunday.

The churches in this area were asked to unite in special prayer at 11:30 in the morning worship service (1) to thank God for the school and what the Lord has accomplished through it these forty-two years, and (2) to ask God's richest blessings upon it, the teachers and the work they are doing, along with His blessings on this particular day. After this prayer it was requested that a special offering be taken for the Building Program. The preachers were asked to direct their lessons that morning toward Christian education. From all the evidence, many took part, for which we are truly grateful.

Then at 3:00 p.m. the Sellersburg church resounded with about 500 voices united in praise to God. Besides this great chorus there were special numbers by a chorus from the school, the mixed quartet that sings with the building program, and a male quartet. It seemed everyone was in full voice and opened up to give glory and praise to God.

How did God respond to all this prayer and praise? Just as the two passages mentioned at first said He would, and just as people who pray in faith expect Him to. The windows of heaven were literally opened and showers of rain fell on the outside. But while this was going on, the hearts of God's people who are interested in Christian education were opened and great floods of His treasure poured down upon us. The figure that was announced of the money given was \$2700. But all that had been given had not gotten in to be counted, so the figure rose to about \$3600. Since that time more has come until the figure as of this writing, May 10, is \$3,942.31.

Looking back through the month of April we see that about \$11,000 was given for Christian education at S.C.C. So within a month's time God touched the heartstrings and pursestrings of the people for about \$15,000 to this part of His work.

In these days when men are saying God is dead and the Bible was written by superstitious men ignorant of twentieth century knowledge it is wonderful to stand back and see God's power displayed and see that He does pour out blessing that there is not room enough to receive.

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# TRACTS      TRACTS!      TRACTS!

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