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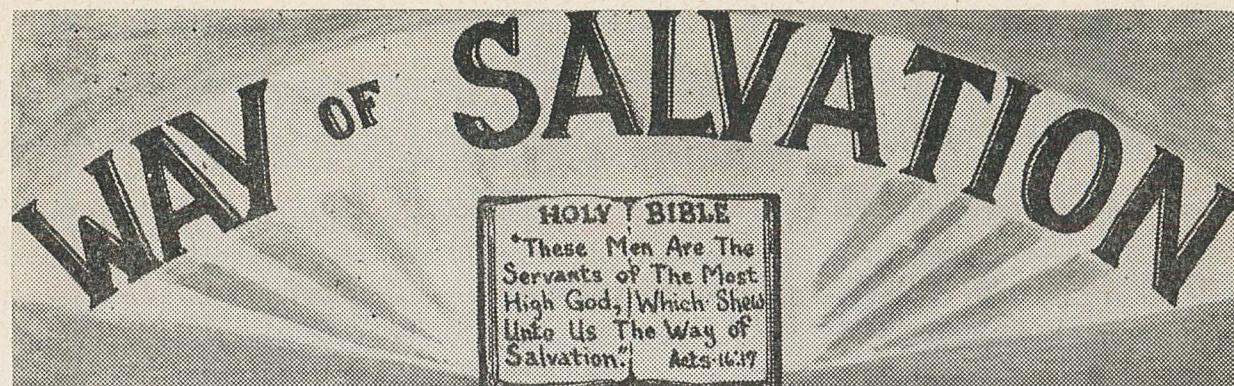
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Vol. 4

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA — MAY, 1957

No. 11

# Is The Church Necessary?

E. V. Srygley, Jr.

**What Church?**

As I here speak of the necessity of the church, no reference is made to "the church on the corner." That is, the term "church" as I use it in this article does not denote any denominational group.

As inquiry is made into the necessity of the church, reference is made to that institution Jesus had in mind when He said, "... and upon this rock I will build my church ..." Matt. 16:18.

**Not Necessary**

Of course, a common expression among the masses is, "The church isn't necessary. One doesn't have to be a member of the church to be saved."

If these remarks refer to some local denomination, I reply, "True, one DOES NOT have to be a member of the church to be saved."

In fact, I would gladly affirm that one who is responsible to the Gospel cannot be saved IN A DENOMINATION.

**The New Testament Church**

But what about the New Testament church? What about that body that some choose to call "the invisible church of Christ"? Is THAT CHURCH necessary to salvation?

I have heard Baptist preachers affirm that the New Testament church itself is not necessary to salvation. And these very preachers affirm that the church for which they preach is, indeed, the very Bride of Christ. Nevertheless, they affirm that this Bride of Christ is not necessary to redemption.

**What Does The Bible Say?**

In the New Testament the church is described in such a way that its necessity cannot be denied.

In this article the reader is invited to consider that which would logically follow if the church were not necessary.

**Christ Died In Vain**

If the church is not necessary, Jesus died in vain. Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25. The preceding passages show that the church, the saved body, required the death of Christ. If the church is not essential, Jesus gave Himself for an utterly unnecessary thing.

Further, the only way to receive any benefit



from a purchase price is to derive benefit from the thing purchased. Hence, the blood of Christ benefits me, personally, when I become a member of the church.

**Outside The Family**

If the church is not essential, one can be saved outside the family of God. This follows because the church and the family of God are one and same. 1 Tim. 3:15.

**Spiritual Blessings**

If the church is not necessary, one can be saved without all spiritual blessings. This conclusion is demanded by Eph. 1:3. According to this passage, all spiritual blessings are in Christ. But the spiritual expression "in Christ" is equivalent to the expression "in His Body." This last fact is seen from Rom. 12:5.

Hence, if all spiritual blessings are "in Christ" they are "in His Body." But according to Eph. 1:22-23 the body is the church. Hence, all spiritual blessings are in His church.

I am aware that many good things come upon the unjust as well as upon the just. I refer to the sunshine, rain, and other physical blessings.

But no SPIRITUAL BLESSING can be obtained outside the church.

**Without Reconciliation**

If the church is not essential, one can be saved without being reconciled to God. Paul teaches that we are reconciled to God in the body. Eph. 2:16.

The sin of every accountable person separates that person from God and makes a state of enmity to exist between God and that individual.

According to Eph. 2:16, that enmity can be removed only by membership in the body, or church.

**Outside The Saved Body**

If one can be saved outside the church, he can be saved without being a member of the very thing that IS SAVED. Eph. 5:23.

Obviously, that states an absurdity. However, the conclusion, absurd as it is, would logically follow the affirmation that the church is not necessary. For Eph. 5:23 states that Christ is the Saviour of the body. If Jesus is the Saviour of the body; and if the body is not necessary, then one can be saved outside the only thing in this dispensation that IS SAVED!

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## THEY WANT TO KNOW WHY?

After reading a copy of the April issue of this paper, which was devoted to the discussion of miracles, a friend wanted to know why we object to Oral Roberts. Another person called this writer and requested that he publicly endorse Mr. Roberts. Of course he refused to do so. I was then asked to state in writing my objections and reasons for opposing Roberts. The following are some of the reasons given:

**Oral Roberts Versus The Bible****Roberts**

1. He claims the Lord is with him and miraculously heals the sick in answer to his prayers.

**Bible**

1. Roberts does not teach the doctrine of Christ, hence, he is a false teacher. God is not with a false teacher. (2Jno.9).

**Roberts**

2. Claims to have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

**Bible**

2. There are only two cases of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit recorded in the Bible. (Acts 2 and 10). Those who received this promise possessed miraculous gifts. (Jno. 16:13; Acts 2:1-4). Roberts does not possess one supernatural gift.

**Roberts**

3. Mr. Roberts tells alien sinners to repent and pray for salvation.

**Bible**

3. Men who were baptized with the Holy Spirit told sinners to "repent and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:37-38). If Roberts were led by the Spirit as he claims he would teach the truth.

**Roberts**

they have little regard for the truths of the Bible, tion.

**Bible**

4. The Bible places salvation or its equivalent after baptism. Mk.16:16; Acts 2:28; 22:16; 1Pet. 3:21). There is no New Testament record of anyone being saved before baptism.

**Roberts**

5. All churches belong to Christ, and after salvation one may join the church of his choice.

**Bible**

5. "There is one body" (Eph.4:3), and "... but one body" (1Cor.12:20). That one body is the church revealed in the New Testament, the one Jesus built. (Eph.1:22-23; Col.1:18; Mat.16:18). No one can join this church. Those saved are added to the church by the Lord, Himself. (Acts 2:41-47). Hence, no person can be saved at one time then later join the Lord's church.

**Roberts**

6. Mr. Roberts is a member of a religious body whose doctrine, worship and practice are not authorized by the Lord.

**Bible**

6. The Lord warns us against aiding those who foster a false religion. (2Jno.6-11).

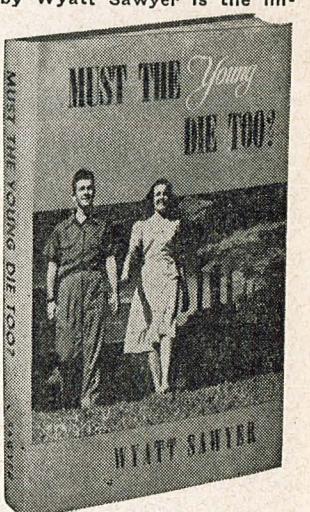
Many more reasons could be given for refusing to endorse and encourage Mr. Roberts in his campaign. However, I hope these will be sufficient to answer the question.

Another person wanted this writer to give his impressions of the Roberts campaign. Elsewhere in this issue may be found the answer to that request.

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**The Bible versus Tradition****About Mary**

By Bill Crews

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" 1 Pet. 4:11. "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work" 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

It is human tradition and not the Bible which teaches:

1. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception or that "He (God) conferred a surpassing holiness and complete freedom from sin" upon Mary.

2. The perpetual virginity of Mary.

3. The bodily assumption of Mary into heaven after her death.

4. The right to veneration and adoration and the possession of mediatorial and intercessory powers on the part of Mary. I THE GLORIES OF MARY by Liguori (who was beatified, canonized and made one of the "Doctors of the Church"), which book bears the official "nihil obstat" and "imprimatur" of the Church authorities, Mary is given such titles as: "Spouse of God," "First born of God," "the hope of all," "Co-redemer," "dispenser of all goods," "door" and "gate of heaven," "mediatrix," "our advocate," "refuge of sinners," "our salvation," "our intercessor," "queen of heaven," "omnipotent," and "mother of God."

In the infallible, inspired word of God:

1. Mary is styled "Mary, the mother of Jesus"; Elizabeth called her "the mother of our Lord" and the angel to Joseph refers to her as "Mary thy wife" and "the young child's mother." The angel said to Mary, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee." Elizabeth said, "Blessed art thou among women." Read Matt. 1 and Luke 1.

2. Mary was highly favored in bearing the human nature of Jesus, but she was not the mother of his divinity. Where are such titles as those found in the THE GLORIES OF MARY even applied in the Scriptures to Mary?

3. Mary realized that Jesus was her Savior. Luke 1:46-47.

4. Jesus recognized Mary as only a human being (John 2:3-4), made the relationship between himself and his disciples a higher one than his blood relation to Mary (Matt. 12:46-50) and discouraged the idea of special veneration to his mother (Luke 11:27).

5. Mary and Joseph lived as husband and wife and bore sons and daughters (Matt. 1:24-25; 12:46; 13:55; Mark 3:31; Luke 8:19; John 2:12; 7:3,5; Acts 1:14).

6. No reference is made to Mary after the church was established in Acts 2. John, to whose care she was committed by Jesus (John 19:27) does not tell of her death. The New Testament is silent as to any Christian addressing her in prayer. New Testament Christians prayed one for another and requested each other's prayers, but where did they ever pray to deceased brethren?

7. Jesus is the one mediator between God and man

**Revelation and Premillennialism**

By James E. Cooper

The Premillennialists lately have been reasserting their false interpretations of the Revelation and charging that those of us, who disagree with their fanciful notions of some future millennial reign of Christ on earth, with not believing the 20th chapter of Revelation. They read this portion of Scripture and, with a vivid imagination and utter disregard of plain passages of Holy Writ, claim that Jesus was not able to establish the millennial kingdom while here the first time because the Jews rejected him, but will establish it when he comes again. With their wonderful ability to read into a passage what it never did say, they have formulated this kind of picture: The Lord shall come for his saints, and take them back to heaven for a seven year period of "rapture" while there shall be "tribulation" on earth. Then he shall bring them back with him, and he will set up his throne in the city of Jerusalem and rule over his kingdom for 1000 years. After this would be the end of time and the judgment of all.

However, many features of this theory are not to be found in this chapter. Notice that Rev. 20:1-6 does not mention the following: (1) the second coming of Christ, (2) a bodily resurrection, (3) a reign of Christ on earth, (4) a literal throne (of David), (5) Jerusalem, Palestine, or the Jews, (6) us, (7) Christ on earth. In fact, there is no place in all the New Testament which says that Christ will ever set his foot on earth again. In all the passages teaching the second coming of Christ this is not even mentioned, but 1 Thess. 4:13-17 says that we (Christians alive when He comes) shall together with them (Christians who die before he comes) be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rev. 20:1-6 does mention the binding of Satan, which Jesus implied was accomplished when he was here the first time. Cf. Matt. 12:26-29. It also mentions the "souls of them that had been beheaded" living and reigning with Christ for a thousand years. Rev. 6:10 pictures these souls "underneath the altar" in defeat asking, "how long O Master, the holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" Thus the book pictures the triumph of Christ and the church over the forces of Satan as it pictures the souls "underneath the altar" raised and exalted with Christ in triumph.

Modern millennial theories contradict the Bible and one must deny the deity of Christ to believe them for Mk. 1:14-15 says the "time is fulfilled," yet they claim Christ was not able to establish what they think he came to establish. In Mark 9:1 he promised some standing there they would not die until kingdom came with power. If it was not, he was unable to perform his mission on earth, and there are some mighty old people alive today. Yes, we do believe Rev. 20.

(1 Tim. 2:5), our advocate (1 John 2:1) and our intercessor (Heb. 7:25).

8. Yes, Mary was highly honored, was a faithful, loving mother and wife and, we believe, was a faithful Christian at her death. In the resurrection morn she shall be rewarded eternally with all the saints, but how far removed these things are from human traditions about her.

**Sermon Outline****THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL**

By Glenn Martin

*Introductions*

I. I Timothy 1:8-11. The text is verse 11. (King James Version).

II. "Glorious" is not used lightly in the scriptures. Ephesians 5:27; Titus 2:13 (A. V.) We would hardly use the word "glorious" with reference to our ears, homes, etc. It is a word that men do not apply lightly.

*Discussions***FOUR REASONS FOR THE GOSPEL BEING GLORIOUS ARE—**

I. Its *power*. Romans 1:16,17. It is all powerful, full of power.

a—It has power to convict.

b—It has power to convert. Acts 2.

c—It has power to conceive.

d—It has power to give birth. I Peter 1:22-25. Luke 8:11.

II. There is only *one*. Ephesians 4:5. (Briefly study verses 46).

a—There is then no need for the creeds of men.

b—It is for all. Jude 3.

III. It is *simple*. Isaiah 35:4-10; II Corinthians 1:12; 11:3. The gospel can even be summed up in a few words.

Purpose of God. Gen. 3:15.

Promise to Abraham. Gen. 22:16-20.

Prophecies of the prophets. II Peter 1:19-21.

Preparation of John the Baptist and Jesus.

Perfection on Pentecost. Acts 2.

Just as the above is the summation of the revealing of God's plan, the gospel, in I Corinthians 15:1-4 we find the summation of the message of the gospel.

IV. It *meets all needs*. All religious strife is from the heart of man's wisdom and unbelief.

a—Man is composed of: 1—intellect; 2—emotions; 3—will; 4—conscience.

b—The gospel meets the needs in: 1—facts and evidences; 2—love and mercy; 3—repentance; 4—commands to obey.

**Christ Our Only Hope**

By J. W. Evans

God has placed in the heart of man the longing for a better life, and He gives us the invitation: "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." Isaiah 45:22.

All heaven is interested in the salvation of man. The Father gave His Son that we might be restored to the family of Heaven, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who will have all man to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Tim. 2:3,4.

Jesus Christ gave Himself for lost humanity. The Holy Spirit has been sent to us as our Comforter and guide. The Bible, God's book, points the way to salvation. Knowing what heaven has done and is doing to save us, we must conclude that if anyone is lost he will not be able to blame heaven; he must blame himself.

Although everyone desires a better life, few are willing to pay the price. They want to get to heaven while still having their own way, or they hope to get

**The Sin of Ignorance**

G. L. Mann

Ignorance is one of the main causes of the greatest crime ever committed—the crucifixion of the Son of God. "And now, brethren, I know that through ignorance ye did it as did also your ruler" (Acts 3:17). Jesus prayed for those who crucified him saying, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). Thus we see what people sometimes are led to do because of their ignorance. These people were not ignorant because they could not have known better. They had the testimony of the prophets, of John the Baptist, who came to prepare the way for Christ, and even the claim and works of Christ himself, but still they were in error "Not knowing the scriptures." (Mat. 22:29).

Today we are living in the blazing sunlight of God's truth. Ignorance does not excuse any one from obedience to Christ. There was a time when God overlooked ignorance, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, or to get knowledge. Zeal is a much needed and commendable virtue, but zeal without knowledge is a dangerous thing. It causes people to establish a righteousness of their own instead of submitting to God's righteousness. It seems that many of the people in Christ's day were ignorant because they wanted to be (2 Pet. 3:5), hence they crucified Him by wicked hands. God wants all to come to a knowledge and understanding of His will, that they might be saved. The world has pushed aside God's word and have attempted to set up a righteousness of their own. This is the primary cause of the condition in which it stands today.

Even in the church it is appalling how little some know about the Bible. When church members do not seek knowledge how can we expect others to do so? Sometimes the entire congregation is ignorant of its duty as a church of the Lord. Many in the church are going to be lost on account of their ignorance, for certainly it alienates one from the life of God (Eph. 4:18).

In times past God destroyed his people because they lacked knowledge (Hos. 4:6). There are people in the church who can tell more about any "Movie star" than they can say about Christ and his Apostles. I have seen children of Christian (?) parents who could name and tell about dozens of people they have seen in the movies but could not even name the twelve apostles. This is an appalling condition. Brethren such things ought not so to be.

there by walking an easy path. They are not willing to deny themselves those pernicious habits that destroy character.

Salvation is a personal matter. "What must I do to be saved?" is the paramount question. Not what my neighbor or my friend must do, but what must I do to be saved? Salvation is found in Christ alone. He says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved." We are to confess our sins to the Sinless one. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:2.

In order to have salvation in Him we must be willing to turn from our sins and walk in the way of right. We must surrender the entire life—holding nothing back.

**CHASTITY versus LEWDNESS**

By Clovis Caudle

"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." Rom. 14:21. ". . . But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience ye sin against Christ." I Cor. 8:9,12.

The teaching here is, that if we do ANYTHING that will make a brother weak or cause him to stumble, it is wrong.

No Christian would want to make a brother to be weak or to stumble and be lost. This would endanger his own salvation. No Christian would want to be instrumental in causing another to commit the sins of murder, lying, stealing, adultery, idolatry or fornication. Yet, some are influencing others into immorality and adultery of the heart by indecent dress.

The inspired instruction is specific concerning this principle. "The aged women likewise . . . That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Tit. 2:3,4,5.

**What Is It To Be Chaste?**

The word chaste according to the dictionary means: 1. pure with respect to unlawful sexual intercourse; 2. free from obscenity.

We can understand perfectly well the import of meaning number one, but what about the second, "free from obscenity?"

**What Is It To Be Free From Obscenity**

The meaning of obscene is: 1. offensive to modesty or decency; indecent; lewd; offensive.

No Christian would desire to be guilty of causing another to commit fornication or adultery. We know the overt act does not have to be committed to be guilty of these sins. See Matt. 5:28.

The person who is characterized by obscenity is one who practices indecency and acts of immodesty whereby the sin can be committed. The obscene are the antithesis of the modest and the decent. Christians ought to be careful that they are guilty of neither. Consider the word LEWD in this definition.

**What Is It To Be Lewd?**

Lewdness is: 1. inclined to, characterized by, or inciting to lust or lechery. 2. obscene or indecent.

No Christian would want the word LEWD attached to his character. Notice the phrase "inciting to lust."

Any word or action that would incite lust in another would be classified as lewdness. The person who would intentionally speak, act or dress in such a way as to incite lust in another would be considered as a lewd person. No Christian desires this. In this connection consider the word LUST.

**What Is The Meaning Of The Word Lust?**

Lust has to do with: 1. sexual desire or appetite. 2. sensuous desire or appetite considered as sinful.

Any manner of dress or behaviour that tends to incite lust in others assumes this description. This certainly should be considered by those who think it lawful in the sight of God and man to exhibit themselves with such little clothing on. This practice is getting to be a destructive plague to God's children.

Remember, if you dress in such a way as to incite lust or to arouse evil desires in the hearts, not only of the worldlings, but of the brethren in Christ, you then have become unchaste, obscene and lewd in the sight of God. The Lord knows that you do not desire these sins to characterize your life.

**Are Men Made Of Wood?**

"So many are wearing them now that no one thinks anything about it" is the attempt to justify the wearing of shorts among female church members. ARE YOU SURE THAT NO ONE THINKS ANYTHING ABOUT IT? Men and women are not made of wood as are Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snurd. It may be that some men do not "think anything about it" because of their condition described by Paul in I Tim. 4:2; ". . . having their conscience seared with a hot iron." Women, did you ever think that men can be filled with lust and their conscience never bother them and all the time commit adultery with you in their hearts? Who is to say "they" think nothing of it?

No Christian husband would want his wife to seem lewd or obscene. No Christian mother would want her daughter to be immodest, unchaste, lewd or obscene, so why encourage them by approving and even recommending the scanty clothes they wear.

That the younger women be taught DISCRESSION and CHASTITY is a command of God. Tit. 2:4,5.

**Christian Living**

In order to become a Christian a person must believe in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31); repent of all past sins (Lk. 13:3); confess faith in Christ (Acts 8:37); and be baptized in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 10:47). These acts do not save one eternally. He or she must be faithful unto God until death. (Mat. 24:13; Rev. 2:10). Here are some things included in living the Christian life.

1. **Worshipping God.** In Hebrews 10:25 we read, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is . . ." There are five items in God's worship—singing (Col. 3:16) praying (Acts 2:42; I Thes. 5:17); teaching (Acts 2:42; 20:7); giving (I Cor. 16:1,2); and the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11). The Lord's Supper and giving must be done each Lord's day (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1,2). In addition to the Lord's day services the church meets at other times through the week to sing, pray and study God's Word. Every time the church meets it is for a good cause and Christians are interested in good works (Titus 2:14). To worship is a necessary part of the Christian life because it supplies the spiritual food so necessary for his soul and provokes to love and good works.

II. **Living Uprightly.** In Titus 2:12 we read, "Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." This necessitates the putting off of sinful practices. These are listed in Col. 3:5,8,9—"Fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness—anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication—lie not one to another." One living the Christian life is trying to please God instead of man (Gal. 1:10). He seeks to help the needy and oppressed (Gal. 6:2,10). He is peace loving (Heb. 12:14). He seeks to save others realizing that he has a part in carrying the gospel to the world (Mat. 28:19).

Clifford Dixon.

## Oral Roberts Was Here

Mr. Oral Roberts and his "Healing Waters, Inc.", recently concluded a 10-day campaign here. This effort was sponsored by dozens of local churches embracing his doctrine. A report stated that crowds totaling more than 130,000 attended, and that audiences at several services were greater than at any previous public event in the history of Pensacola. The report said that more than 4,500 came forward "to dedicate their lives to Christ." People with spiritual and bodily ills were prayed for, any many testimonies of miraculous cures were given.

### Roberts—A Big Operator

The budget for the campaign was \$25,000, plus a "love offering" for Roberts, himself, which was estimated at \$10,000.

Mr. Roberts is no pauper. In the February (1957) issue of *McCall's* is an excellent article on "The Truth About Faith Healers" which gives the following figures: "Oral Roberts' Healing Waters, Inc., has a book value of \$1,250,000 and last year took in \$3,000,000." "Roberts receives an annual allotment known as a 'discretionary fund,' of \$25,000 and out of each healing campaign he retains one evening's donations, which may run as high as \$30,000 a year. From book royalties he has grossed more than \$80,000. He owns a 280-acre ranch where he raises purebred Angus cattle." "Healing Waters, Inc., is listed as a nonprofit, religious corporation, and it pays no income tax.

### Campaign Results

1. Roberts succeeded in fleecing his admirers of thousands of dollars.

2. He deceived many into thinking that the Lord is working miracles through him and is using him to lead souls to Christ.

3. Many were caused to wonder if all preachers are not liars and religious racketeers.

4. He caused many to lose faith and confidence in God and His word. Some entered the "prayer line" believing they would be cured, but went away frustrated, confused, disappointed, disgusted and faithless.

5. Roberts led seekers for salvation away from Christ and into religious error.

### Oral Roberts Failed

This writer, along with at least 16,000 others, attended one night's session, and Roberts' failures were obvious to all clear-minded people.

1. Mr. Roberts failed to produce a single case of miraculous healing. A boy from Opelika, Ala. left the "prayer line" so crippled he could hardly walk. A Mr. Priest left Roberts' presence still on his crutches. After the man reached the audience Roberts tried again to effect a cure but to no avail. A woman with palsy came through the line, but departed still shaking. Oral hastened to explain that some of the shaking was the power of God. He said the Lord does not heal all cases at once, but it sometimes takes days, weeks and even months for the Lord to finish the job.

2. Roberts failed to claim a \$2,000 reward offered by five churches of Christ for reliable evidence of one miracle wrought through him, or any one else today. Yet he claims Jesus is working miracles through him. If this is true, why did he not claim the reward, since he spent much of his time at each service begging for donations to pay his bills?

3. Oral failed to practice what he preaches. While in this city he was admitted to Sacred Heart Hospital

for treatment of injuries received when he fell off a horse. This reminds one of the story of the man who was on the street corner selling Hair Restorer, and was doing quite well till his hat blew off and the crowd got a look at his bald head. "Physician heal thyself."

4. He failed to tell one lost person what the Bible says he must do to be saved.

5. Mr. Roberts failed again to defend his doctrine and practice. Although he was challenged by letter as well as over television to defend in public discussion his teaching, he has thus far declined the invitation.

### Some Helped By Mr. Roberts

It is true that Mr. Roberts and others of his kind help some people. The aforementioned article in *McCall's* contains the following observations: "Modern medicine recognizes the neurotic basis of countless ailments. Anxiety, guilt, feelings of inadequacy, social pressures can produce very real physical symptoms—ulcers, for example, migraine, asthma, colitis—not to mention imaginary ills. Mass faith healing, with its almost hypnotic power of suggestion and opportunity for emotional release, has undoubtedly helped many of these symptoms temporarily, if not permanently." The article goes on to say, "As for the instantaneous organic changes reported to occur under the big tents—goiters visibly diminishing, clubfeet restored to normal dementions, cancer-eroded lungs regenerated—no scientific appraisal is possible in this country. Without exception American faith healers have so far refused to submit a single case to medical examination."

Many people are helped by Roberts through his hypnotic power of suggestion and opportunity for emotional release, but we deny that what he does is miraculous. Any good psychiatrist or hypnotist can do the same. Yet he deceives many into thinking that what he does is a miracle of God, knowing that such claims are untrue.

Mr. W. J. Cox, chairman of the sponsoring minister's committee, said: "We feel that Oral Roberts' revival is one of the best things that ever happened to the city of Pensacola." However, this writer believes that Roberts' performance was a disgrace to our community and a disappointment to sober-minded people. Instead of being made better, our city suffers loss—loss of thousands of dollars. Not one ill person was miraculously healed during his campaign. Ambulances transporting people to the tent brought back as many as they carried. And not one soul was saved by Roberts or his co-workers. Hence, as far as miraculous healing and soul saving is concerned, he made the city no better. What town or city is made better by a visit of those who delude, deceive, discourage and impoverish its citizens?

### SOMETHING SPECIAL!!

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## "I Don't Go On Hearsay!"

In case of right-of-way claimed by a user, tried before Judge Jessel, an old farmer of the neighborhood testified:

"I've known the path for sixty years, and my father told me as he heard my grandfather say . . ."

Judge Jessel: "Stop: we can't have hearsay." Farmer: "Then how do you know who your father was but by hearsay?"

Judge: "We can only be guided by what you have seen with your own eyes."

Farmer: "I got a bale on the back of my neck, and I ain't never seed it, but I'll swear it's there, Judge."

So hearsay must be used constantly in the courtroom, even, to let in some of the most needed, vital and reliable information. Even so, in religion, wise and reasonable men testified to the supreme court of the Jews. "We cannot but speak those things we both heard and saw."

Paul said, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to things that we heard, lest haply we drift away from them." Hebrews 2:1. But he qualified those through whom we heard as reliable witnesses.

You sometimes find the fellow who will blandly say: "I don't take any hearsay. That's why I don't go in for any of this religion business. You have to believe a lot of things you never see, from some people I don't have confidence in, and believe things you cannot prove except on hearsay evidence."

Neither the Bible nor any reliable religionist calls upon you to believe just anything you hear, but they instruct you to consider the source of the testimony. To the young Timothy the apostle said: "But abide thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them." II Timothy 3:14. "Knowing of whom thou hast learned them!" That is the important thing in receiving "hearsay."

John warns against gullibility: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God, for many false prophets are gone out in the world." I John 4:1.

But you can not reject all coins just because there are some counterfeits. You do not reject all eggs because there have been some rotten ones. And by no more can you reject all religious teaching and direction because some of it, possibly the most of it, is evidently inconsistent, ungrounded, and untrue. There are always more wrong answers to a problem than there are right ones. There is only one right. And every answer that differs from the right is wrong, it makes no difference how many there be.

When a man tells you something you have reason to question or do but, take it to the law and testimony of the Bible. If he tells you that all these conflicting doctrines you hear are true, you know even before you go to the Bible that he is wrong, because a thing that differs from the right cannot be right, and two conflicting doctrines cannot both be right.

## Issue On Miracles Reprinted

After the enthusiastic reception given the April issue dealing with miracles and fakes it was deemed wise to reprint the material in tract form. The booklet will contain about 32 pages, size 4x6 1/2 inches, and will sell for \$6.00 per 100. Send us an order right away.

Of the many extra copies of the April issue printed, there are only a few copies left.

But until you find the Bible an unreliable witness or informant on any matter of which it testifies, whether it be scientific, legal or spiritual, you cannot afford to reject its testimony.

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