

Macedonian Call

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ANALYTICAL BIBLE STUDY or How to Get the Correct Meaning

"Study to Show Thyself Approved Unto God, a Workman that Needeth Not to Be Ashamed, Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Tim. 2:15.)

Don't be frightened at this unusual word, "analysis." It is from the Greek and simply refers to dividing a thing into its parts, and then considering the parts separately or in relation to the whole. Remember how in school we used to analyze a sentence?

We do not know much about anything unless we have analyzed it and studied its parts separately. In science men are continually tearing things to pieces, and learning of their construction. Matter has been resolved into atoms, and atoms into electrons, etc.

The same is true of human acts, or behavior. We must study people in relation to their environment, education, dispositions, etc., if we would know why they do certain things. We should try to act in such a way, so that if everyone did as we do, this world would be a pretty good place to live. But when a mother's love becomes so great that she will stand up for her child even though it is rude to the neighbors, etc., that is not love at all. We should be like the woman who said that she wanted to make her child so that other people would love it besides herself. She was considering the whole. Patriotism seems to be a good thing, but patriotism in Germany is against all the world; they do not fit themselves into the whole. Christ analyzes the human race and tries to put us in our proper relation to the whole race when he says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

When we read and study the Bible, we should look at the Bible as a whole. We may derive some good by reading a chapter here and there, but we can never understand the Bible by such method. In my Bible drill work through more than thirty years I have said hundreds of times: When we build a house we put up the frame-work first, and then add floors, windows, plaster, etc., little by little. And when we study the Bible we should first have the frame-work of the Book, and then through years we can by reading and studying, add the parts to the whole, in our mind.

The different Ages of Religion, with the different Periods such as Ante-Deluvian, Post-Deluvian, etc., and the story in connection with the introduction of each, is just the frame-work of the Bible. The Period of the Promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is a great stairway running from the basement to the third story of the Bible! One reason we have opposed the mere

textuary sermonizing of today is that one can listen to it from now till doomsday and never learn how to study God's precious Word. Your Guide Through Bible History is simply an analysis of the Bible in a general way.

When it comes to studying books, especially the epistles, one needs to know that words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, chapters and even books, must be understood in the connection in which they are written. In other words, one must consider the parts in their relation to the whole. That is the analytical method of study. God does not contradict himself, and teachings must be harmonized. Here is where people make a mistake when they denounce war because God said, "Thou shalt not kill." Taking the command by itself, one might infer God was talking of war, but when he reads in Exodus 17 that God helped the Israelites to KILL the Amalekites, we know that he did not surely contradict himself in the 20th chapter of the same book, in the Decalogue. And when he says in the 21st chapter, 17th verse, that "He that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be PUT TO DEATH," we know that he did not condemn capital punishment in the command, Thou shalt not kill. So when you "analyze" all the parts and add them to the whole, you can see that he was evidently talking of killing through personal vengeance or personal gain.

So also when John says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin," (1 John 3:9), many people infer that they can live without sin; because they do not analyze the whole book and see the verses in their relation to one another. For such an idea is condemned in 1:8: "If we say that we have (present tense) no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." When John says we do not commit sin, he obviously is talking of committing sin as a practice, or course of life. The next verse bears this out: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil." We do not know the difference by any one act, but by their general course of life. A man might take the name of God in vain in one minute, and in the next minute be on his knees asking God to forgive him for losing control of himself.

Any interpretation of Scripture which contradicts another plain scripture, or does

not fit into the whole tenor of the Word of God, is obviously a wrong one. Too many people take a scripture out of its connection and put their own interpretation on it, and seem not to care whether it contradicts other scriptures or not. That surely is irreverence for the Word of God, and helps make infidels. I have been so impressed against this extreme method of handling the Scriptures that I have had on my desk for several years Notes on a tract, or series of articles, on "Making God Contradict Himself." It is intended to deal with most of the extreme ideas among members of the Church of Christ, and show how their interpretation does not fit into God's plan, and even contradicts it.

Are you willing to help publish it?

When it comes to the analytical study of books in the New Testament, you know that one should consider The Writer, the Ones Written To, and the Subject Written On. In other words, see the book in its relation to its surroundings.

In teaching the Bible in the many places I have visited through decades I have over and over again given this general method in an effort to understand a book: 1. Sit down and read the whole book through AT ONE SITTING. In this way you get the general idea, the general trend of the thought. 2. Then take up each chapter and verse, and look up the meaning of the words, investigate the phrases, and try to fit them into that general impression you got at the first reading. 3. When you get through with the analyzing of the words and phrases, then sit down again when you have plenty of time before you and read the whole book through AT ONE SITTING, and put the analyzed parts into their proper place in the whole—if indeed there is a line of argument running through the entire book. This, I believe, after reading many hundreds of pages on interpretation, and having read many books that way, is the proper way to understand any book in the Bible, or ANY OTHER BOOK OR DOCUMENT.

That is the method pursued in the Simplified New Testament. In fact, we thought at first of calling it an Analyzed New Testament, but finally considered the word was too uncommon to be appreciated. At the beginning of each book we have an "OUTLINE" which is nothing but an Analysis of the book, as we saw it. The running headings are simply detailed analyses of the general Outline, and harmonize with it. —We spent on an average of an hour a day for several years preparing those Headings, Analyses, with the best helps we could get, before we ventured to give the book to the public. Thousands are using the book, and some people have written that they have worn out several copies. We are glad to help them ANALYZE the New Testament, and believe the analyses will benefit them in their study of God's

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precious Word. Any imperfections you see, (and they are there), can be corrected by you.

It seems to me that brethren would do well when they start an epistle, to sit down at home and read the book through at one sitting, as we have said, then they will be ready to fit the chapters in as they go along in their study work. And as in our schools they recite with their books closed, so we would do well to study the main thoughts in the chapters and try to see the relations of the parts of that chapter to the whole, **WITH OUR BOOKS CLOSED**. Paul told Timothy to "STUDY," not merely read; and if we study with recitation in mind, we shall develop our memories better. Let's try it.

I know you rejoice to see the reports of many short Bible studies over the brotherhood, for they are studying that Book which contains the remedy for all the ills of the human race. Many preachers are engaged in this study. But there are elders and other leaders in local churches who are good teachers, though they may not preach. We hope they see the great work they can do, in homes, halls, and sometimes school-houses, anywhere we can gather a group together who wish to investigate the Divine Word. And just as certain as the truth that God's Word will not return unto him void, there will be a great harvest of souls in future days. Let us cover the earth with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Instructed Unto The Kingdom of Heaven

"Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure, things new and old." (Matt. 13:52.) Thus the Savior concluded a session of teaching his disciples by parables concerning the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom (the church) was not yet established on earth at that time, but we believe that every disciple of Christ, begotten with his Word and continuing in the instruction therein, may be such a householder and may delight in an inexhaustible source of treasure incorruptible, consisting of things "new and old."

It is a happy thought to me that Christians, by the wise arrangement of our eternal God, are of a truth begotten with in-

struction: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth." (James 1:18.) And again I am happy that we GROW by instruction: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." (1 Pet. 2:2.) And finally, by reason of use of our senses or from the habit of acquiring and using this instruction as we grow in grace and knowledge we may attain unto completeness or full age, spiritually, and our diet may consist of "strong meat". (Heb. 5:14.)

Can we safely depend altogether upon religious leaders of the day to give us this instruction? We can NOT! Too many of them be blind leaders of the blind, as Jesus said of the Pharisees in Matt. 15:14. We must go after this instruction for ourselves; we must become habitual readers of the Book from God.

A certain Prof. Huxley said in the 19th century: "I have always advocated the reading of the Bible. Its teachings are so infinitely superior to those of the sects who are just as busy now as the Pharisees were eighteen hundred years ago, in smothering them under the precepts of men; it is so certain to my mind that the Bible contains within itself the refutation of nine-tenths of the mixture of sophistical metaphysics and old world superstition which has been piled around it by the so-called Christians of later times; it is so clear that the **ONLY IMMEDIATE AND READY ANTIDOTE TO THE POISON WHICH HAS BEEN MINGLED WITH CHRISTIANITY, TO THE INTOXICATION AND DELUSION OF MANKIND, LIES IN COPIOUS DRAUGHTS FROM THE UNDEFILED SPRING** (emphasis mine—R.S.) that I exercise the right and duty of free judgment on the part of every man, mainly for the purpose of inducing other laymen to follow my example."

On another occasion this same professor had written, in part: "I have been seriously perplexed to know by what practical measures the religious feeling, which is the essential basis of conduct, was to be kept up in the present utterly chaotic state of opinion on these matters, without the use of the Bible. . . . Consider the great historical fact that for three centuries this book has been woven into the life of all that is best and noblest in English history; that it has become the national epic of Britain, and is familiar to noble and simple, from John O'Groat's House to Land's End as Dante and Tasso were once to Italians; that it is written in the noblest and purest English, and abounds in exquisite beauties of mere literary form; and, finally, that it forbids the veriest hind who never left his village to be ignorant of the existence of other countries and other civilizations, and of a great past, stretching back to the farthest limits of the oldest nations of the world. **BY THE STUDY OF WHAT OTHER BOOK COULD CHILDREN BE SO MUCH HUMANIZED, AND MADE TO FEEL THAT EACH FIGURE IN THAT VAST HISTORICAL PROCESSION FILLS, LIKE THEMSELVES, BUT A MOMENTARY SPACE IN THE INTERVAL BETWEEN TWO ETERNITIES, AND EARNS THE BLESSINGS OR THE CURSES OF ALL TIME, ACCORDING TO ITS EFFORT TO DO GOOD AND HATE EVIL** (emphasis mine—R. S.), even as they also are earning

their payment for their work?"—Amen and amen! How many said that with me?

Eugene Field wrote: "I would not now exchange for any amount of money the acquaintance with the Bible that was drummed into me when a boy." Hall Caine said: "I think I know my Bible as few literary men know it. There is no book in the world like it and the finest novels ever written fall far short in interest to any one of the stories it tells. Whatever strong situations I have in my books are not of my creation but are taken from the Bible." Goethe said: "It is a belief in the Bible which has served me as the guide of my moral and literary life. No criticism will be able to perplex the confidence which we have entertained of a writing whose contents have stirred up and given life to our vital energy by its own. The farther the ages advance in civilization, the more will the Bible be used." (Which way is our civilization going now?) Frederic Harrison said: "If you care to know the best that our literature can give in simple, noble prose, **MARK, LEARN AND INWARDLY DIGEST THE HOLY SCRIPTURES IN THE ENGLISH TONGUE**" (emphasis mine—R.S.).

Yes, ". . . every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a householder which bringeth forth out of his treasures, things new and old."—Ragene Sims.

Poison in the Pot

In the days of Elisha, prophet to Israel, and during one of the frequent famines of the land, he made a visit to the sons of the prophets in Gilgal. In order to obtain food one of the young men went into the field to gather herbs. He gathered gourds from a vine, and they were shred into the pottage. But scarcely had they begun to eat when one cried, "There is death in the pot," and they could not eat thereof.

I believe that some valuable spiritual lessons are to be found in this story. Notice that the gatherer took for granted that the "herbs" were harmless, and gathered in haste, but "knew them not," and soon found that there was "death (poison) in the pot (food)." They could not eat thereof without suffering the consequence. Read 2 Kgs. 4:38-41.

I remember the reply of Christ to Satan at the time of the temptation, quoting from Deut. 8:3. "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." God has bountifully supplied food for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of man. These however may often be found side by side with the poisonous weeds of sin. As beautifully painted and as attractive as the gourds which the young man found. And gathering in haste it is often found, too late, that they are not as appearance suggested.

Not long after the children of Israel left their bondage in Egypt, the mixt multitude among them lusted after the things they had left behind, becoming dissatisfied with

that which the Lord had provided. "We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and onions and the garlick; but our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes." (Num. 11:5-6.) Some in the church today, as the mixt multitude of Israel, yearn for the things left behind, openly desiring and seeking the things of the world. There is the theatre, poolroom, dance, gambling devices, cards, strong drink, and even immoral conduct, frequenting the road house and other questionable resorts where drink, crime and vice abound. Charity would forbid us to conclude that all are desirous of leaving the Lord's food for the "poisonous pot," but rather carelessness, and thoughtlessness, and in search for something, many gather of that which "they know not." Some may taste and turn away. Others intrigued, taste again, and are enamored, even to the extent of losing their sense of discrimination. It was the English poet Pope who wrote, "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien, to be hated, needs but to be seen; but seen too oft, familiar with her face, we first endure, then pity, then embrace." This statement is certainly true. Intimacy with evil has its effect upon all, weakening many of the strong and destroying the weak.

The plea is often made that people, especially the young, must have some of the pleasures that bring relaxation; some recreation. Notice that "recreation" is made up of the word "create" and the prefix "re" which is defined as "again or back." Webster also defines "recreation" as, "A recreating; refreshment of strength and spirits after toil; diversion or mode of diversion; play." Man's make-up requires three distinct re-creations, physical, mental and spiritual. Hence any diversion or play that is true recreation, and thus allowable food, must tear down in none of these three, but must build up in at least one. The Sunday ball game or round of golf might be fine to restore the physical, but the bad influence and resultant neglect of duty would tear down our spiritual side. Any of the games of skill in which "playing-cards" are used may be to the development and revival of our mental faculties but is certainly to the destruction of our moral and spiritual. And a practice of either of these things might well put us in an environment and cause the formation of habits that would tear down the physical. Let us be careful, that in our selection of "food" we do not select that which "we know not," and find when eaten that "there is death in the pot." — L. C. Roberts.

The Teachings Of Night

From the beacon of light we can notice night scenes to show forth some rays of light to cheer the dark hours of life, and to guide us to the land where is no night. In Psalms 19:—, night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Night teaches us the solemn lesson of the individuality of our being; far more than the day, the night shows us what it is to be alone with ourselves and with God.

You spend a wakeful hour in darkness and in silence upon your bed at night, alone with God. Thus the night may impress you far more deeply than the day, with the

sense of God's presence. The voices and instructions of the world cut off the sweet communion with God.

We are indeed made to be social beings, and with our great joys and conflicts, success and failure, we long for association but all this for the day; but the night has a deeper experience with God.

Jesus retired to desert places and spent the night to be alone with God.

When all else has forsaken us and we trust in God and seek him he is ever present with us. The sorest trial proves him to be near when needed most.

Human friends can do much to prepare each other for the journey through the valley and shadow of death we may go hand in hand to the very brink of the river between the seen and the unseen as the last awful hour draws near. But that is as far as human help can go. But we need not be alone for there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

Lot's night, Jacob's night and many other night scenes in the Bible teach us lessons.

The caged eagle beats its wings against the cage, desires freedom. The lion walks back and forth. Will man, made in the image of God, capable of becoming co-equal companion with angels, consent to be caged by customs and cares, pleasures and pursuits, that bind to this world?

The Father is sending messages of love and instructions to draw his wandering children home, the doors of the many mansioned house are open.

The toils, conflict, trials, temptations, exhaustion, teach us the meaning of REST. Heavenly Rest where there is no night. (Rev. 22:5.)—R. O. Webb, Secor, Illinois.

Things That Do Not Change

One is sin. It is the same today as it was in the Garden of Eden. The devil goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8. What are Christians to do when they are tempted? Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Be not overcome with evil but overcome evil with good, Eph. 4:25. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members of one another."

It is not enough to know the good way, we must walk therein. The Christian life is good only when it is practiced.

Rom. 6:22: It still remains true that the wages of sin is death, and the true remedy for sin has never been changed.

1 John 1:17: "But the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin."

How does the tired, sin-sick soul find rest? Jesus said, Come unto me and ye shall find rest to your Souls. Be ye angry and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath.

Prov. 18:19: "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle."

Rom. 14:19: "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for Peace, and the things where with one may edify another."

Prov. 16:7: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies be at peace with him." Sin snares humanity on

every side, we should resist with all our human power, for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 2:14: "Do all things without murmuring and disputing, that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

Prov. 18:7: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." For whatsoever is not of faith is sin, Rom. 14:23.

A Kingdom must have a king. God is king of heaven through eternity. Time never ends with Christ. He is our great Physician; He alone can heal our sin-sick souls.

James 1:12: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptations: for when he is tried, he shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him."

John 13:17: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." "Blessed are they who do my commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the City."—Talk made by an aged sister, Mrs. Mary Selby, aged 75, to her midweek Bible study of the women, and printed at request of the members. "Let the aged women teach the younger women." Paul. Suggestions for women's Bible studies: "HOW best to teach our children." Successful older women can tell HOW they did it.—Editor.

"Troubles and Triumphs of the Church"

This is the title of a proposed new book, and I am seeking your advice as to whether to publish it (after the war, of course).

1. It will give a history of the true people of God, as best we can trace them, from the beginning of the Church to the present day, including a story of the Church of Christ today.

2. It will not be dry facts, but will be linked with living men and women who have fought for the truth through the ages.

3. It will give some details to the sufferings and death of martyrs, women as well as men, and thus will appeal to the heart.

4. It will give the origin of many of the prominent denominations, and their chief doctrines, with a kindly exposition of where and how they made their mistakes; and thus will be a good book to loan to an intelligent denominationalist.

5. It will be written so simply that any one who can understand a newspaper will appreciate it.

6. The first chapters will portray "The First Church," and subsequent movements will be measured by it.

7. The purpose in writing it is not only to give valuable information, but to inspire faith, hope and charity; that we through faith and comfort of their example, might have hope; and that through their mistakes we might be admonished.

8. Though each chapter will be related to the whole, each will be a complete story by itself, so that one can take up the book and read anywhere, with profit.

9. There will be an Index, or Table of Contents, so that one can easily find some

particular historical fact he may be interested in.

10. It will give many exact quotations from historians on disputed points so that you can give the references to others to verify.

11. It will show that though we are saved individually, the most important thing for the continuance of the Church is correct Church Government, qualified Elders (bishops) and deacons, in every local church. And if the reader will receive as much spiritual benefit from reading this book, as the writer has in gathering the material, these stories of the Troubles and Triumphs of God's people through the ages will be a great blessing to you.

We have at least 100 books of Church History alone in our library, and through the years we have read most of them. A year ago this passing winter, we re-read thousands of those pages, made notes and turned down the leaves, have arranged through days the plan of the book, and are now ready to commence writing. It is the cream of our reading and comparing through fifty years. As you enjoy the Reports Among the Brethren in the church papers, so, I think, you will enjoy this Report of the "Brethren" Through Two Thousand Years.

The book will probably make 500 pages or more. Don't send any money, unless you wish to help finance it; but BE SURE to let us know whether you think such a book will be helpful, and how many copies your group will take.

Preaching, Teaching, Committing

Preaching to Sinners.—Mark 16:15, 16.
Teaching the Saints.—Matt. 28:20.
Committing to Faithful, Men Who Shall Be Able to Teach Others.—2 Tim. 2:2.

MANY of our readers know Bro. Clarence Cassel in Pomona, Calif. His son is in the service, and his wife sends him the M. C., and would like his friends to know his address, which is Pvt. Herbert L. Cassel, 39559211, Co. "A", 1901st Eng. Avn. Bn., APO 18094, S. P. M., San Francisco, Calif.

WE WISH our subscribers would renew promptly, for it would save us considerable trouble. Don't wait till we have to spend several cents on each one in cards and time, to inform you; if you think your time is ABOUT out, renew, and the additional year will continue from your time of expiration.

THERE IS an old sister lately moved to Galt, Mo., who is isolated from the church, and would like to get in touch with some of the saints near Galt in the hope that once in a while she may be able to worship with them. Address Nancy D. Skaggs, Galt, Mo.

A YOUNG SISTER WRITES: "Thanks for the new tract. The poem is fine and helps make a very good tract. You may send me 40 more for the enclosed bill. I think we really never know what a poem really contains till we have memorized it. I read this one over, and supposed it was good if it meant so much to Abe Lincoln. Now I think I KNOW, for I started memorizing it during dish-washing this morning and then recited the same during dish-washing tonight. It would do me a lot of good to distribute several of these tracts if I could be assured they would memorize the

poem. But maybe what you've included concerning the Church will provoke thought in some, if the poem fails." (I agree with this sister 100 per cent, for by constantly trying to get the words in one's mind by thinking of the ideas, one is going to attach many thoughts to the words, and before he knows it he has a little sermon. I think I can preach a sermon on every stanza. And why not? If Paul could take a heathen altar as a basis for a discourse, why can't we take a few verses of poetry in harmony with God's Word?—Editor.

GREEN CITY, Mo.—Congregation at Holliday still endeavoring to keep house for the Lord, have been hindered much in several ways. About the time we get built up to where we think we are getting along pretty good, two or three of our most faithful families will move away and this has happened again within the last year. The weather has been bad this winter so much of the time on Lord's Day. Five times we have been scheduled to have visiting brethren on talent exchange program and only one time has the appointment been filled, mostly because of bad weather.—C. I. Waggoner.

TO OUR SOLDIERS—

"Convoy"

The night your darkened ship crept out the bay
To join the waiting sea . . . somehow I knew,
And shared your wistful thoughts as shore-lights dimmed,
Then faded out. My heart kept rendezvous
With yours that hour, and with a host of lads
Who watched a known and precious land recede
In shadow, with no echo of farewell,
Nor one familiar voice to bid Godspeed.
You were convoyed by grim and stalwart ships;
Nor less than these, my dear, to guard from harm
Were fervent prayers that from a thousand lips
Pursued your course like birds of shining white.
I like to feel that God's protecting arm
Has been your shield since you embarked that night!

—By Nell Griffith Wilson.

GLENDALE, Ariz.—A recent article published in a nationally recognized magazine points out that a nation obedient to the Laws of God would lead the world; that we as individuals must learn to let God guide and control our hearts; and that when men listen, God speaks. Seems to me that this article was very well written. If every individual would earnestly apply it to his own life this world would certainly be a wonderful place in which to live. Since our last report, the congregation here has been strengthened by an increase in the membership. Several from other congregations have placed their membership with us. We welcome Bro. and Sister Whanger, newlyweds from St. Louis, Missouri, into our midst. I am sure they will be a help to us and hope that we can be of aid to them. A dinner is being planned for next Lord's Day after the morning services, which will furnish opportunity for all to become better acquainted with these new members. We were indeed happy to have Ruth and Pearl Bennett with us last Lord's Day. We hope it will not be for long until Ruth and Bill will both be back with us permanently.—Laura B. Norris, 830 North Third Avenue, Phoenix, Ariz.

ALMARTHA, Mo.—Received the M. C. a few days ago. I always read it through as soon as possible when it comes and look forward for the time for it to come. There are a lot of good sermons in it and I rejoice to hear of how much good is being done in other congregations. We received the folder on Nuggets of Gold. I think every member of the Church of Christ should have one. Our girl, age seven, has memorized two chapters and several other verses besides, and the one, age 3½ years, is learning some, when she hears us reading or saying them. I saw in the M. C. where you would send the folder Nuggets of Gold to every member in the congregation. If you have them, I could use around 45.—Mrs. Hubert James.

THE CHURCH IN DES MOINES has seen to it that more than fifty families in their congregation are reading the Macedonian Call. One of the elders writes: "We think the more we get to read the paper to derive the good lessons contained therein, THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR THE CHURCH TO GET ALONG." So there, you writers, don't you see how much good you are doing in an unseen way with your short articles and frequent reports of good being done? Your struggles and triumphs in the battle for the right, will help others if told them in the right way. Why not try the same in YOUR group, you elders of God's sheep?

TRACTS HELP PUSH THE DOOR OPEN—So that you can go in and talk religion to careless souls. A sister writes concerning the tract on "A Poem Which Helped Make Lincoln Great": "A lady who used to attend services at Blank (being a member), just called me a while ago to thank me for the poem which she appreciated so much. It was so good she thought I might want the original back if I didn't have extra copies. . . . I repeated my invitation to come to church." Somebody is making somebody think, and that's exactly what the world needs—TO THINK. Are you helping make it think?

EXETER, Calif.—We received with appreciation your tracts, and the wife and I both enjoyed reading and re-reading them. Also your December issue of the M. C. It would be a good thing if every professed Christian home, at the least, had a copy of that particular issue in their home and would read and re-read it. No telling how much good it might accomplish. That is right in line with the "Forgotten Scripture" which was also excellent. I am enclosing a check for some of your tracts if you still have them.—Walter G. Weekly.

IF IT BE TRUE that there are only two divine institutions—the Church and the Home (the Church really including the Christian Home), should we not DEVELOP PARENTS for their work much like we do elders for theirs? Of course, one is public and the other is private. We may have Bible studies for children, including Vacation Bible Studies, but that is only for a few days. Christian parents should engage in their instruction EVERY DAY. "When thou risest, and liest down, and sittest in thy house and walkest by the way." Our school teachers who have studied child psychology could present some helpful lessons to fathers and mothers on how to approach children, or lead them out, or get them to study their Bible lessons, etc. Of course, other fathers and mothers learn much by experience, the hard way, and should teach the younger fathers and mothers. Let us not

neglect the simple and best way to train OUR OWN children.

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.—The work in Klamath Falls continues to show bright hopes for truly strengthening the church during the three months that we are spending here. Our big effort is to educate the members, and interested outsiders. We have a real class in "The Life of Paul" that has the interest of all who are participating; with outlines of lessons given to the members for home study, and blackboard charts, and week by week review with questions. On Thursday nights we meet for a study of the First Corinthian letter, which study is also accompanied with analytical charts of the text. We have increased the advertising; and have prepared a program for the worship service, and find it helping the meeting. Tuesday nights we have development classes. And we ask your prayers for the work here.—Kenneth Morgan.

TO THE FAITHFUL BROTHERS EVERYWHERE: The Church of Christ in Compton, California, is an established congregation with elders and deacons. It has been in existence for 17 years and has gone through many conflicts with various elements of error and has remained true to the old land marks. The worthiness of this congregation is well known by the undersigned through personal work and through other reliable sources. But from numerous causes they have not had a church building of their own and have been greatly handicapped thereby. But while not able to secure a building of their own they have in the meantime given assistance financially to others. Now they have a lot paid for, in a good location and in reasonable distance from public transportation. Have a thousand dollars in building fund with four or five hundred more in prospect from home donations. Also, one contribution each month has been set aside for this building. It is estimated that the kind of building required for them will cost about \$5,000 in cash besides the labor that will be contributed by the members. They are ready to build as soon as they can secure priority permit and they believe said permit can be obtained the sooner if funds for building are assured. Hence they are now asking the brotherhood for help. A separate account of all money and donors will be kept and the money will not be used unless and until the building project is permitted. In case the work is forced to be dropped the full amount of money will be returned to original donors. Send all money to Don Flick, 512 W. Poplar, Compton, California. Church treasurer.—E. M. Zerr and W. Carl Ketcherside.

I CAN SEE HOW our article on "Let the World Go By," can be misunderstood somewhat. We tried to show the respects in which we are to let it go by, but of course we have to transact business with all kinds of people, etc., as Paul says. Again, he says, to "be ready unto every good work," so long as we can do that simply as a Christian. Our best friends should be those who are Christians rather than those who are not, and when this is not true, then the world will soon have an influence over us for evil.

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa.—Bro. Roy O. Webb, of Secor, Ill., arrived here the 26th of January and spent three weeks in doing personal work, and preaching each Wednesday and Lord's day night. He reported that, in his visiting, the people around the church received him very well, and had some interesting conversations about the Church;

and as a result we are in touch with some people that we may be able to do some good with. Bro. Webb conducted a Bible reading before each preaching service, which was edifying. Bro. Webb, we can say, is a good personal worker and is apt to strike an interview with any one whom he meets. There is a great work to be done by everyone. Let us be up and doing it as best we can.—C. J. Beidel.

HE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA.—This shoe cobbler, I mean. When some one asked him what his business was, he replied: "My business is serving my Lord; but incidentally, and to keep down expenses, I peg soles on shoes." Jesus says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these (earthly necessities) will be added unto you." When we come to that degree of devotion, then we can look for great things for God.

UNIVERSITY CITY, Mo.—Our Bible Reading closed with good interest. In former years I took a week off following such protracted study, but this time, went right out into the field. In business meetings at Unionville and Chillicothe, we laid out plans for three year's work. This will include a month of development work, a one month Bible Reading, a one month Teacher Training-Vacation Bible Study program every year! You'll note nothing is said about a two weeks' revival. Those things are needed by dead churches, live ones need not be revived. In order to have a live church, an educated, trained, converted, sanctified membership is needed. They can never achieve those things by being preached to, or lectured at! Thus the scriptural program above! All of these works mentioned will be supervised by brethren who are faithful and able in their fields.

I then held business meetings with the whole church at Nixa. They are on the threshold of their brightest day. I will be with them the first week in August, for a Bible Reading from 9 a. m. until noon each day, then a special class for young people for about two hours in the afternoon and other services at night. We hope to arrange for them to have an annual Bible Study.

Work goes good in Saint Louis area. Our biggest week brought us 129 letters in five days, all from non-members, on our radio broadcast! Bernell Weems has been making personal calls on some of them with excellent results. We have been having additions in the St. Louis area every week this year—about 30 since January 1, in the five metropolitan churches. Pray for the work and may the Lord bless us all. W. Carl Ketcherside.

KIRKSVILLE, Mo.—Had a good meeting at Unionville, Mo., last Sunday. The church there is growing and all have a mind to work. We are looking forward for this church to be an example for others to follow. The prospects for the church in this section are the best I ever saw, and I hope it continues. I hope and pray that the Lord will bless you and give you many more days in the good work you are doing. For greater work.—J. A. Clay.

I RECEIVED the package of Bookmarks "What Then." I think they are fine. I sent most of them away. It makes us THINK. I am enclosing \$1 for more of them, and another \$1 for Nuggets of Gold of Choice Scriptures. We have enjoyed reading the M. C. this winter.—Margaret Mana, Mo. (Let's slip a little piece of happiness in every letter we write to non-Christians.—Editor.)

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Rte. 3, Box 162.—I am now conducting a Bible study for the church in Springfield. At present time we have completed all of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and the most of Numbers. We are finding it very interesting. There are certainly many lessons we may obtain from the Old Testament. We have a development class for the men each Sunday afternoon, which usually lasts two hours or more. I greatly enjoyed the four weeks I spent, during January, with the church in Anderson, Ind. The time was principally devoted to song development, with gratifying results.—Roy Harris.

TOPEKA, Kans., 2122 East 6th.—January 7 to the 21st was spent in a meeting at Fairbury, Nebraska. The meeting was a success in some regards although there were no additions. We had good attendance with some outsiders at every service, despite some very bad weather. At the present I am in Topeka, Kansas, to work with them in personal work, development work and in general assist them in their work.—F. Wilford Landes.

WARRENSBURG, Mo.—The Church of Christ meeting at 108 West Pine St. (upstairs) had a business meeting Lord's Day afternoon, February 4, with Bros. Buell Boyce, elder at 59th and Kenwood congregation, and Evangelist William Hensley. Bro. Hensley was suggested for the oversight, and agreed to assist the brethren whenever needed. Special stress is to be placed on advertising the church throughout the community. Warrensburg is a good point and we should rejoice that a new mission point has been started. For encouragement or information write: Virgil Atwell, Knobnoster, Mo.

MISCELLANEOUS—Bro. Levi Gingrich, formerly of Topeka, Kans., and recently of Oakland, Calif., died at his home Feb. 11, after two weeks' illness. . . . Henry Boren, whom we reported as seriously wounded in France, is recovering "nicely" and may soon be sent back to the U. S. A. "Tell the brethren to have something worthwhile for us to come back to." . . . Bro. Ellis J. Crum, Jr., has written and published two religious songs which he will send free to any one interested. . . . Sister Florence Stracke writes of her son in the service thus: "He enjoys the M. C. very much, and we hope and pray you will be able to keep up the good work for the Lord. The work in Granite City, Ill., is coming along very nicely. We are planning on a meeting in early spring." . . . We thank our many readers for their words of appreciation of the work being done in the columns of the Macedonian Call. . . . Lloyd Riggins, an evangelist in California, 804 E. Willow, Long Beach 6, Calif., wishes to get in touch with faithful disciples in or near San Diego, Calif. Please write him SOON.

A SOLDIER SEES FUNDAMENTALS: Aleutian Islands.—I certainly agree that the parents of today need to assemble the family together, some time in a period of each day, and open that good book, the Bible, and teach the children the contents thereof. Many homes fail to keep that sacred custom of bowing their heads at the table and giving God the glory for giving them food for sustaining their bodies.—Pfc. Ralph L. Hasty, in The Service Tie.

PAPER SHORTAGE—The government has called upon our printer to cut down their paper demand 25 per cent, and of course he passes that on to us. It seems that about the only way we can handle the

situation is to print the M. C. every five weeks, instead of every month. You will receive as many papers but they will come a little farther apart. But we shall have to pay the post office \$10 to change this frequency to FIVE weeks, and then when we bring it back it will cost ANOTHER \$10. OUCH! But—send us as many subscriptions as you can—\$1.00 each in clubs of five or more; and \$1.00 for new names; but \$1.25 for single old subs.

A CHRISTIAN CHURCH PASTOR who reads our articles in Indianapolis Sunday Star, writes: Dear Bro. Sommer: I just read the article in the Star, "The First Church and Scriptural Elders." Being pastor of a small rural Christian church, I can appreciate exactly what you mean. That is why I am pastor of a small rural church and working in a defense plant to support my family, because I uphold that of which you speak. I would rather be pastor to a flock in a rural church with a small membership, and have two scriptural elders, than have the largest church in Indianapolis and bow down to cigarette-smoking, beer-drinking elders. Keep up the Fight of Faith and God bless you. Yours in Christ, looking forward to the Rapture and His second coming. * * *

(Say, brother, why not "come out from among them," and help us establish the true Church of Christ, separated from ALL innovations?—Editor.)

GERMANY, Feb. 6, 1945.—Bro. Sommer, I received your tract "1000 Nuggets of Gold." Thanks a lot for sending it. There is little or no news to give from over here. I have been very fortunate thus far and really haven't had it too hard or dangerous. I still find time to read my Bible and off times engage in good discussions concerning its contents. Of late I have talked several fellows into reading their Bibles. I aroused their interest, mostly by giving them quizzes which they seemed to enjoy. I was really surprised at how little of the simple Bible facts they knew. I couldn't keep from wondering how our Lord feels as he sees men trying to serve Him, hardly knowing why and even less as to how. These men are nice fellows and seem content in the belief that because they are, that makes them Christians and pleasing in God's right. However, if they will only continue to read God's Word and think on it, they will soon learn Christianity means more than just being a good fellow. I have found in talking to those I come in contact with, there seems to be quite a belief to the effect only preachers can understand the Bible. Only those who have gone to college and studied the Scriptures there can understand them. To a large extent I feel preachers themselves are the cause of this, for they encourage it to such a point, it can almost be called a teaching of theirs. It isn't hard to understand why, either. Well, I do my best to discourage such a belief. However, I try and point out a working knowledge of the Bible doesn't come by just wishing for it. It takes study, meditations, time and prayer, but that sincere and consistent efforts would bring surprising results. Bro. Sommer, I still find the "Call" edifying, encouraging and interesting. Along with the "Call" I also get the "Missouri Mission Messenger," "News of the Western States," "Service Tie," and sermons from the Church's broadcast in Kansas City. Also I get church bulletins from my home congregation (some of which are very good). My wife sends me all of Carl's radio sermon books, along with about every tract we put out. All of this reading mate-

rial strengthens and helps me in my efforts to live as God would have me live. I think all at home should be encouraged to send good church literature to ones in the services. There is none so strong, but what it would help them. Bro. Sommer, enclosed you'll find a money order to cover my renewal for the "Call." What is left, use as you wish. I ofttimes remember you and your work in my prayers and I wish you'd remember me in yours. Your Friend and Brother in Christ.—Clarence Grover.

HOW ONE FAMILY DOES IT.—We think that the tract on "The Poem that Helped Make Lincoln Great," is very good, and are enclosing \$2 for more. I asked our oldest girl, aged 5, if she didn't think Bro. Sommer might have sent that tract at this time because it was near Lincoln's birthday, after I had called her attention to his birthday on Feb. 12. She replied, "Wouldn't this be a good time to read it to us?" After the evening Bible study, she reminded me, so I sat down and read the complete tract to them, before putting them to bed. My father, who was visiting us, heard it also, and enclosed one to . . . We are still working on Choice Scriptures in Nuggets of Gold. We are memorizing the 23rd Psalm. The interest of the children and us parents is increasing and we are enjoying it more and more. We are most thankful to you for providing this means of encouragement in starting, and the help in making it easier to teach our children the scriptures. We wish ever parent could take advantage of it."

DAY BY DAY

Let me be a little kinder
Let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me;

Let me praise a little more;
Let me be, when I am weary.
Just a little bit more cheery,
Let me serve a little better
Those that I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver
When temptation bids me waver,
Let me strive a little harder
To be all that I should be;
Let me be a little meeker
With the brother that is weaker,
Let me think more of my neighbor
And a little less of me.

Let me be a little sweeter,
Make my life a bit completer,
By doing what I should do
Every minute of the day;
Let me toil without complaining,
Not a humble task disdaining;
Let me face the summons calmly
When death beckons me away.
—Author Unknown.

AN ELDER IN A LARGE CHURCH WRITES: "Good meetings here yesterday. A man whom we had to withdraw from about a year ago, made confession and was received back; and another came in under his influence. Another man was withdrawn from about the same time as this man, and he made confession a few weeks ago. This caused rejoicing." Remember that Paul said: "To deliver such an one unto satan . . . that the spirit may (repent and) be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." If YOUR congregation needs a lot of discipline, I suggest you have a good Bible teacher hold you a few weeks Bible study, in the epistles that deal with Church Government, and then the Body may be ready to do its work.

CHILLICOTHE, Mo.—Recently, Bro. W. Carl Ketcherside with the church here worked out a plan for three years of special work beginning in 1946. The plan calls for development work, teacher training, vacation Bible study, personal work, and Bible reading. There will be three separate months of the year devoted to this work with faithful men present to assist. We look forward to a brighter future here and a new location. I have assisted the Pleasant Point and Eureka congregations during the winter months. The high school students here are meeting in homes every other week and the ladies still meet every third week during the day. I have conducted several funerals since 'the first of the year including one of Bro. John Anderson only Friday, Feb. 23. Don't forget to send me both new and changed addresses of boys and girls who are members of the Church and in service. Will send them Service Tie free.—Arthur Freeman, Chillicothe, Mo., Box 525.

NOW'S THE TIME TO GET BOOKS, while you have the money (or have you?). Young's analytical Concordance of Hebrew and Greek words, \$8 (we pay postage two ways on this big book.) Simplified New Testament, \$2.50. Guide Through Bible History, 35 cents. Drama of World Empires, 50 cents (a brief story of ancient empires for the commonest of the common people). Church of Christ, \$1.00. This book not only gives you all the main scriptures FOR the true Church, but most of the main arguments and misapplications of scriptures of those who are against it. It will fortify you to meet the false doctrines of men and to defend the doctrine of God. Smith's Bible Dictionary, \$2.50. In addition to the dictionary part this has a larger concordance than any of your Bibles, and much other valuable information. It is a beautifully bound book.

THE SIMPLIFIED NEW TESTAMENT —I have given away 12 copies of the Simplified New Testament, to my children. I think everybody should have one. They are so handy to pick up daily and read and meditate on, as we work.—Bertha E. Henderson, Kans. A combination of the New Testament in readable bold face, with dictionary, Bible dictionary, simplified translations of difficult passages, running headings to hold one on the line of thought—all these on the page when needed; and a book so small a man can carry in his coat pocket. \$2.50 each; five for \$10.

SULLIVAN, Ill.—I closed a three weeks' meeting at 3rd and St. Clair Streets, Vincennes, Ind., Feb. 25, with three services. Eleven congregations were represented. The afternoon service was devoted to songs and speeches, with six speakers and six song directors. The church (under supervision of Winford Lee) had the meeting well advertised, with posters in business windows, and distribution of over 2,000 hand bills. We ran a spot announcement each day over WOAV. Two (husband and wife), were added by immersion. Others seemed almost persuaded. Bro. Lee conducted a fifteen-minute Bible Drill each evening for the children, and did a good job. He is a fine young evangelist, and very capable with children. He will continue there a few weeks in development work. E. M. Zerr will conduct a Bible Reading there through January-February. Those brethren have a mind to work. I go next to Martinsville, Ind., for a few weeks work, then to Lebanon. I see a bright future for the FAITHFUL churches. TRUTH will win out! Yours for a PURE church.—C. T. Turner.

THE MISSION AT LEBANON, IND.—

About a year ago Bro. Wakefield gathered together a few sisters, to meet and worship in that city, in "an upper room." Brethren Higgenbotham and Whalen from Anderson, have been helping them almost every Lord's Day. Counting the children there are more than twenty who now meet, and it is reported that they have an interesting time reading together, reciting scriptures, praying and singing, etc. There is good interest. Bro. C. R. Turner is to begin a ten weeks' campaign there beginning about May. A number of churches and individuals have helped this group in the past. Brother Wakefield informs me that they will need about \$250 to finance this evangelistic work of house-to-house work and public proclamation of the Word. Many churches have hundreds of dollars in their treasury which ought to be working for the Lord. Don't be afraid they will receive too much. Why not send a liberal contribution to these faithful brethren and sisters, in Indiana. "where Satan's seat is"? Send to Albert Wakefield, Lebanon, Ind., R. 6.

JERSEYVILLE, ILL., 218 S. State St.—

It has now been two months since we moved to Jerseyville and I began working with the church here. In spite of much sickness and inclement weather there is an increase in average attendance of 10 for Lord's Day morning, and 5 for Lord's Day evening over the two previous months. Though there had been no mid-week service for a long time, that has also been well received and well attended. There are at present twelve male members in the armed forces and about the same number working in industrial plants that have the three shifts, preventing regular attendance. Our efforts have been toward instruction and development. A varied program for Wednesday evening—Bible drill, report on home work of Bible problems or questions, then a study in the book of Judges, and often assignment for short talks on topics already covered. The sisters are being called on for prayer. I preach each Lord's day evening. Our lessons are of the evangelistic nature and we have some outside attendance nearly every evening. I do not preach on Lord's day morning but have two present lessons besides another who makes preparation to preside at the table. Am teaching the adult Bible class, using the blackboard and the analytical method to present the book of Romans. With the assistance of the congregation we have scattered several hundred tracts. We have done a lot of visiting, especially among delinquent members. We are planning for a Vacation Bible study for the children. I will leave for Oklahoma and Kansas April 14th, but plan to be back in time for the children's study in June. I just received a cancellation of three weeks' work that had been planned for this trip which I have not filled as yet. Should any wish this time for study or protracted meetings I can be reached at the home address.—L. C. Roberts.

I THINK your Nuggets of Gold are a great help in reading and memorizing choice scriptures. Send one dollar's worth.—Lola Slover, Ill. . . . I am marking the 1,000 scripture references in my Bible.—Mary Yowell, Ill.

Send me a few Nuggets of Gold. They are surely grand.—Mrs. Belle Brown. . . . We thank you for these spiritual nuggets—they are more precious than gold. We are memorizing from them.—Mrs. Raymond Selby.

HOW A WAR PRISONER FEELS

All four of my brothers are in uniform for Uncle Sam. One is a German prisoner, has been in the Army four years. Most of the past year he has been a prisoner. I read a letter that this dear boy wrote to the folks. He said they had a good library there and that he did quite a lot of reading. The Bible was the first mentioned.

He gave this reference, Heb. 13:5. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YE HAVE:** for he hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

He said this verse was certainly hard to live up to, but that he was trying to.

If a prisoner is trying to **BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS HE HAS, WHY CAN'T WE?** LET us all try harder to do this, also keep our Bible on the first shelf so it will be read more.

Let's pray for these boys.—Mrs. Faye Crist, Box 244, Stratton, Colo.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—At this writing, I am with the brethren of Sacramento, in a short study of the New Testament. We will cover as much as possible of the Gospel according to John and also the Book of Acts. Some good faithful members here, though the congregation is young. It shows what can be done when brethren come out from under the modern "pastor system." I spent two weeks recently with the Stockton brethren in an interesting and I trust, profitable Bible study. The church there is increasing in faith. Last week I was called to Oakland where I preached the funeral sermon for Brother Levi Gingrich who was a faithful member of that congregation. His presence and friendly greeting will be missed. On the eighteenth of this month I officiated in the marriage ceremony which took place in the home of Brother Dale Stephenson, elder of the Exeter congregation, where his daughter, Rachel, became the wife of Mr. Eugene Stephens of that vicinity. We wish them a happy journey on their voyage, thus begun. I am very busy helping the weak places to develop and become stronger.—Lloyd Riggins, 804 E. Willow St., Long Beach, Calif.

THE SPIRIT OF THE MACEDONIAN CALL.—

From the beginning we have tried to conduct the paper on a Christian basis, though we have been very pointed at times. We think our readers appreciate this, too. We have tried to do the same in all personal investigations. The world lies in error as well as pure wickedness, and we must try to gain those who are misled. I don't think I have a personal enemy in the world—all my enemies are religious, and I have a lot of them. But I do not ever remember refusing to speak to any man who spoke to me or showed an inclination to do so. But when I find that people are thoroughly unreliable and misrepresent almost everything you say, I have nothing to do with them. I believe in working as well as praying. Paul prayed to be delivered "from unreasonable and wicked men," so do I, and I intend to work to stay away from them, and think every one else should, too. Some people are not happy unless they are wrangling with some one. We have had a long, hard battle to save a remnant from apostasy, and we rejoice that thousands are now on a clean foundation, and are **DEVELOPING** themselves for a great work of the Lord.

Letter From an Old Disciple

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Bro. Sommer: I have just finished reading the life of Elder Walter Scot which

ends with his death, and his work in the restoration of the church with the Campbells and others that came under the great power and influence of the gospel of Christ as he presented it in such forceful and understanding way. I read of his last days and hours, knowing full well his own had come, and of the peacefulness of his mind and the faith and hope he had of the future. It bore heavy on my mind as I too fully realize I have one foot in the grave, the other on the brink, and pray to the good Lord that I may still keep my reason and remain faithful to the end. Pray for me, as I pray for others and yourself that the great work you are engaged in may prosper and bring many souls into Christ.

What this fair land is coming to soon no one can tell, but the God of Heaven and Earth; for Paul said he is the same yesterday, today and forever. We never know at all times by word or action what effect it may have on others.

I received a letter from a soldier brother who met and worshipped with us at the Springs almost nine years. He is well versed in the Scriptures and can make a good talk. He is from Kentucky, born and raised a Baptist when a boy and is going to come out a preacher in short time. He has an outstanding character and firmness not found in many. I was called on to give a lesson one Lord's Day and not knowing just how he stood on the college question fully, I brought that up and gave the history of it from the start at Bethany and what it did years ago to the church, and the great first split. As I could remember back 75 years when a little boy of the seed that was sown by some of my close relatives and how that germinated 15 years after and in place of giving glory in the church man took it to himself. After church he said, "Bro. Foster, I endorse every word you said." And in the letter just received he thanks me for the facts I gave, as he had never thought much on that question, stating he had fallen in company with a college preacher and a professor in the college, and they talked till one o'clock that night trying to get him to go to his college but in the end was able to put them both to flight.

Thanks to you for that lesson, and how glad to be the means of helping such a strong character for good. Since we never know what good may be done, let us not let one opportunity slip.—M. B. Foster.

A Sister Speaks Up

Bethany, Mo.

Dear Bro. Sommer: I just want to thank you for the many good helps I get from your paper. I seem to always find an answer to some problem. Too many of us fail to "practice what we preach." We should be Christians every day as well as on the Lord's day. This applies to every individual, and as our religion is something we do and we are judged by our works, we should be careful to use the same measuring stick in our every day living that we use on the first day of the week. We have examples on every hand as regards the un-Christian principles of living that tear at the very roots of Christianity. It is practiced in our schools, in the churches and in our government, yes, and in our homes.

It was brought to our minds just recently by one of our members as to what the general understanding of the meaning of the church is to the young people who attend school. When asked to give a description of what they would consider an ideal church, they failed to even mention

the fact that the Church is the body of Christ, and that its members are a people "called out," but gave a glowing description of a building made with men's hands, equipped with every convenience designed primarily for the entertainment, comfort and convenience of the people, who were to be taught only just enough to hold their interest and make them want to come back again. Not one word as to the needs of the souls lost in sin for which our Savior suffered and bled and died! No teaching or correction by the instructor who was also the superintendent and had been a former preacher. Perilous times have indeed come!

In the sectarian churches in the younger classes, especially, the time which should be devoted to the study of God's word, is many times spent in planning some social event until there is no time left for the study of those vital truths contained in God's Holy Word that would save the soul in the last great Day. These young people enter upon another week with no spiritual food to build them up so that they may meet the temptations of the devil and not be overcome.

In your paper of October, 1944, we read of (in the article headed "Will God Bless Besotted America") the provisions made by our government of those things which can only contribute to the downfall of the young men engaged in a war that is supposed to defend and uphold Christianity and our form of government. It also tells of plans which are in the minds of our legislators that are designed to control every phase of our lives—religion included. As has been said, "there is not much hope of proving our claim that we are a Christian nation until the people vote as they pray." There is every evidence that Satan is working in a national way as well as among individuals.

Our homes are only stopping places for our children as they rush from one scene of pleasure to another, searching for entertainment. Until the father learns that it is his Christian duty to bring his children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, what else can he expect of his children?

Let us give more serious thought to our daily living and practice what we preach.

That is one thing I like about your paper—it warns and admonishes, as well as teaches us how to be on guard in regard to the evil present around us. It is encouraging to read of the work being done so unselfishly by others who love the Lord.—Mrs. Raymond Selby.

THE BIBLE COLLEGE PEOPLE are surely headed for the falls. Their colleges have turned out professional preachers like a dental or medical college turns out professionals. And the only way they can hold a job is not to offend the leaders. So the only thing to do is to preach on things they can agree on. So most of them spend their time on Baptism and against instrumental music in worship, etc.! A writer in one of their papers plainly told them that was the reason they did not preach on Christian Living. Recently a lady in a Bible college church in Indianapolis who reads my articles in the Indianapolis Sunday Star against sin, called me on the phone, and said she wished their preacher would preach to Christians some. I asked her if he did not preach on Christian duty Lord's Day morning, and she said, "No, he preaches to bring people into the church." So the next Sunday morning I listened to him on the radio, and he announced that he would preach at 11 o'clock on **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC** in the worship." His elders, I

have been told, all belong to the Masonic lodge, and a few years ago a wife of one of the elders had her picture in the paper as sponsoring a dance at her house. If worldliness is mentioned it is in only a general sense. From indications the large Bible college churches are seething masses of worldliness. And oh, how they whale the sects for "Sectarianism"! I think Jesus had in mind just such leaders when he cried: "Woe unto ye, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law." If there is one place in hell hotter than another, I believe it will be for the professed preachers of the gospel who for money or popularity will fail to preach the full gospel and warn the people of their sins.

UNITED STATES NAVY (Delayed)—

Dear Brother Sommer: I thought I would write and tell you how I enjoy reading the M. C. My wife and I have taken it for a long time before I came into the service. I think that I have read every one and I really enjoy them more than ever since I have been in the service and away from home and the church. I don't go to the services here in camp, as I don't agree with their way of having services; so I just stay away and read my Bible and the M. C. and some of the religious papers that I get. I just got the paper from Art Freeman and I enjoy reading it, too; then I also get the radio talk from Kansas City and they are real good, too.—Henry R. Johnson.

(He sends \$10 to preach the gospel to people on the home front. Think of that. And what are we Home Fronters doing to preach the gospel to the lost?—Editor.)

A **SISTER** writes: "I am sending you a letter that my son in England wrote back to his older brother who has gone back into the world: 'Dear Brother and All: I will write you a few lines tonight. I am on night duty and have been sitting here reading and writing. I am sending you a radio broadcast, and I want you to read every bit of it; and do better. You can see where a man had two sons, and he asked one: 'Why is that both of you boys have the same dad and mother, and you are so mean and John is so good?' He answered: 'John does what you tell him, and I do just like you do!' So if you want Walter to do like you, you better get doing the right thing, for the children start doing like their daddy before they get very big. Little Jim will already do something, then say, 'That way daddy does.' So why do you wait, dear brother; oh, why do you tarry so long. It would be like heaven to me if I had a home and warm fire to sit by and read to those dear children instead of sitting in a cold tent, with men all around you, drunk and carousing. Oh, why don't you let this letter just get half way down in your heart. It is scraping the bottom of mine now. Answer soon. Love, Paul.'"

SOMEWHERE IN HOLLAND (Delayed)—Dear Bro. Sommer: I have always enjoyed the M. C. but have learned to appreciate it more since it is impossible for me to attend services. Each article contains the strength of a sermon. Let me assure you, that your work is not in vain. The majority of the people in these countries of Europe

are Catholics, England being an exception to this rule. I had always thought of the morals of America as being very low, until seeing Europe. The morals here are much lower than those of the states. We are all looking forward to our normal life after the war, which we hope shall end in the next few months.—Burl E. Price.

Letting Their Light Shine

Some people think that the only way to preach Christ is to preach BAPTISM. When one listens to the Bible college brethren over the radio, or reads their religious papers, he sees that baptism is almost the whole theme of their discourse. On the day of Pentecost Peter preached against SIN, and said nothing about baptism till the heart-pierced listeners cried out. Would we not do well to follow that example, partly at least? Also, we can preach by our lives. As an example of this, I quote part of a letter from an old sister who is a member with a church which is probably as near the apostolic pattern as any:

We both look forward for the M. C. and read it with pleasure. I think the memorizing of verses is fine. I once memorized all the verses you put out in the M. C. I can't do it now. We didn't realize the importance of it when we were raising our children, but I have long tried to get the young people to study their Bible and memorize all they can while they are young, for it is much easier and will stay with them better than it will when they get old.

Church is getting along very well, considering war condition. We withdrew from seven last summer but two of them have made confessions and come back. Brother and Sister Blank rent rooms and last summer they had a soldier and his wife in the house with them. They had not been there long till he told his wife: "These people are Christians and we must be careful while we are here." They came to church with them. Sister Blank had measles and I took care of her and their woman talked to me quite a bit while I was there. Their woman's husband went overseas. She said to me: "My husband just asked me to make him one promise and that was as long as she stayed in California, she would stay with Blanks." One day she said to me: "You know, we were regular rounders before we came here. We went to a lot of different churches, but this is the only one that ever made any impression on us. The rest had people in them that did the same things we did." She knew we had withdrawn from some for not living right while they were here. She asked me a lot of questions and I tried to answer them according to the Scriptures and she told me she and her husband had agreed before he left that when he came back they were going to try to find a Church of Christ and settle down. I have thought many times of how many Churches of Christ where these people might settle are not using discipline and trying to keep the church pure and how many people are not like Blanks—teaching by their lives.