

Macedonian Call

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Modernism Destroys the "Christian Church"

The following article from "The Christian Visitor" shows what Modernism is doing for our Digressive Brethren

There is a well-defined school of thought abroad among the churches to the effect that Christ's objective was social rather than individual salvation. Since the votaries of this system reject the inspiration of the Bible and scoff at "proof-texts," one can get nowhere trying to reason with them. They have evolved a body of religious thought not derived from the plain meaning of the Word, but which has grown out of the findings of destructive critics.

It is important, in these crucial days of unbelief, that everyone claiming to be a Christian understand the nature and the relatively diametrical quality of the two gospels which are being offered. Let us summarize each.

The Bible Christian believes that God made man in His own image, and that he became sinful through disobedience. Since the purpose of man's creation was companionship with God, and since sin destroyed that companionship, it became necessary for God to devise a plan of redeeming man from sin. This He accomplished in the person of Jesus Christ, who was God manifested in the flesh, and born of the Virgin Mary. By means of a sinless life and an atoning death upon the cross, Jesus became victor over sin and death, and shares that victory with us when we are united to Him by faith and the obedience of faith.

The social gospel adherent believes that man came into being by a process of evolution from the beast, and that through blind preachings he finally evolved a monotheistic concept. He believes that the Bible is merely the record of man's long search for God, and is by no means authoritative or infallible. He believes that Jesus was an outstanding character about whom miracle traditions have gathered; that Jesus pointed the way to a higher level of living and died a martyr to his convictions; and that by following the Jesus way of life, looking upon all men as our brothers and seeking to serve them, we bring the kingdom of God on earth and achieve immortality.

There are many shades and degrees of thought, but it can be boiled down to one or the other of these two premises. And all of it eventually arrives to one goal or the other. The confusion of the present day is due to the refusal of many to face the issue and follow through.

All Sunday School literature is built around one or the other of these premises. Most schools in the Christian brotherhood are served either by the Standard Publish-

ing Company or by the Christian Board of Publication. The Standard supplies are based upon a clear-cut acceptance of the idea of the inspiration of the Scriptures, and the salvation and regeneration of the individual through the atonement of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. The Christian Board of Publication is fully committed to the "social gospel" and its entire program of thinly veiled infidelity. If you doubt it, secure a copy of the Bethany Bible Student, April-June, 1945, and read it through carefully. You will find in that one quarterly a complete repudiation of the inspiration of the Scriptures, of the deity and resurrection of Christ, and of the Bible plan of salvation.

Facts like these are shocking, but they are facts, and should be faced honestly. You would hardly give a Sunday School class Tom Paine's blasphemous "Age of Reason" as a text. Then why give them material which, while less ribald than "Age of Reason," is based upon identically the same philosophy?

The major tragedy in modern religious history is the emasculation of the great Restoration Movement through infiltration of this infidel philosophy. These unbelievers did not go out to preach their doctrines clearly and build churches committed to those doctrines. In almost every case they set about to capture and divert churches already built by the toil of saints. They own the Christian Board of Publication and the United Christian Missionary Society, body and soul. By clever political maneuvering they have captured all the state organizations and most of the larger churches. The smaller churches are confused, not understanding the issues, and bewildered by the double-talk of the pious henchmen of the system who are intent upon securing missionary support with which to build a world-wide machine for the tearing down of the gospel.

I am not exaggerating. I have seen this thing growing through the years, reaching out its tentacles like an octopus to maim and destroy. When efforts have been made in conventions to bring it to the light, there has been a cry of "Trust the brethren," and some religious-political leader would say, "Let us pray!" Under a cloak of pseudo-piety, the churches have been robbed of their faith and their integrity, and their children betrayed.

Here in Arkansas the process has gone on as in other states. The state organization is in the complete control of "social gospel" leaders, who resort to the lowest

of political methods to silence opposition and eliminate from the state preachers who dare make the facts known. Intimidation and vilification have been resorted to. I have documentary proof of this. It is a poor cause which has to maintain itself by such political gangster methods.

A typical example of the deterioration of faith may be found in historic First Church here in Fayetteville, where I labored tirelessly for thirteen years, at the cost of heartbreak and disillusionment. When I say typical I mean just that, for its history can be duplicated all over the land. It was established by men like John T. Johnson and Robert Graham, and its members were the salt of the earth. In the course of time veiled infidelity began to sweep the land. A dearly loved pastor became enamoured of the "higher learning" and was deceived by it. More and more the publishing house and missionary organization to which the church looked for instruction and leadership became committed to this new gospel, which is no gospel but a clever device of Satan. Some pastors have believed themselves sound in the faith while infidel literature was getting in its deadly work in the church. I saw these things happen. I saw unbelief run rampant among the university young people and decimate their ranks. It was heart-breaking, but what can one do when a church refuses to take a stand? Later pastors were increasingly frank in their commitment to the modern viewpoint. I am betraying no secrets in stating this fact, for it is based upon their public assertions. Most of the people are unaware of the issues involved and accept what is offered them without question. And the thing offered—and accepted—is that "other gospel" which Paul wrote about and warned against.

This process is going on in churches all over the land. At first only the larger churches were attacked. Now the churches in small towns and county places, from which have always come the ministerial and leadership recruits, are being heavily propagandized. Young people's conferences sponsored by the UCMS (United Christian Missionary Society) and the state societies imbue their students with the social gospel, and send them home to complete the work of destruction of the faith in the local churches.

Is this a dark picture? It is no darker than the facts warrant. The gospel of Christ, as we find it in the Bible, is based squarely upon the indisputable event of Christ's resurrection. It has facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, promises to be enjoyed. It leads to individual salvation and regeneration, and regenerated individuals constitute the sole hope of a regenerated society. Any dream of world brotherhood and peace on any other

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basis is so patently futile that it should not deceive even a child.

We are being offered a mess of pottage in return for our faith. This is a daring scheme for world domination. It is highly organized and strongly entrenched. It is seeking the support of secular power. Priceless religious liberties are threatened. Recently an official in a certain state boasted that, through his efforts, a law had been passed in that state by which property in inactive Christian congregations would revert to the UCMS-controlled state organization. Repeated efforts have been made and are still being made in Arkansas to induce churches to put such a reversion clause in their deeds. In scattered instances throughout the country where this has been done, a temporary period of inactivity has enabled the UCMS to take over, and later efforts of remnants of the congregation to regain the property have been unavailable. The UCMS has relentlessly sold it away from them and used the proceeds to advance its own sort of program. This has happened repeatedly, and is a matter of record.

The social gospel advocates teach definitely that the Biblical writers were actuated by "impulses" which were no more the product of divinity than those felt by the "great, sensitive souls" of the present. See the aforementioned quarterly. They teach that we may all be prophets, Christs, and Saviors. They teach such blasphemous tommyrot that intelligent, God-fearing men should not hesitate a split second to repudiate the whole soul-destroying system and go back to the Bible.

Thank God, we have a "more sure word of prophecy" upon which we can rely. It will open up to us heavenly treasures, fill our lives with the companionship of the Holy Spirit, and take us through the gates into the eternal City.

REMARKS BY THE M. C. EDITOR

Brethren, how does such an article affect you? I tell you, it sets me on fire—to think of the in-roads of this infidelity against all that we hold sacred. And the same is true of all the prominent denominations. Well, it is their clergy and theological schools and conventions with ecclesiasticism, which lie at the bottom of it all. After a long, hard fight we are free from the clergy, Bible colleges which hatch the clergy, and free from human conventions and synods, etc., which give ambitious men a chance to gather an influence

by the wholesale. Let us keep the brethren free from such, and do everything in our power to build the apostolic eldership IN EVERY CONGREGATION. That is one reason I intend, so long as I am able, to go from place to place and hold short Bible studies with as many congregations as possible; for the Word of God, read, studied, believed and obeyed is God's remedy for all the ills of the human race. Let us keep open the "fountain for sin and uncleanness."

Out of the ruins of Protestantism the true church of Christ may be able to rise higher and higher. Brethren, have you caught the vision, and are you willing to do your part?

America's No. 1 Post-war Problem II

In reading the history of some of the pioneer preachers, those stalwart characters, those God fearing men who made Christianity in America what it is, and by scanning some of their recorded discourses it was interesting to note the manner in which they stood against that which was wrong. They warned the people of error in a fearless manner. Not because they had malice or antagonism in their hearts, but because they had love in their bosoms for their fellowman. What's the matter now? How often do you hear a sermon condemning sin? How often will a preacher take off his "White Kid" gloves and preach it straight from the shoulder? He may not be quite so popular, but he will meet Divine approval. Living a Christian life takes courage, there is no room in the Church for a coward. It takes the best in every person to stand for that which is right in face of opposition that now exists. You know there is a disease in the United States that's more prevalent than cancer, smallpox or measles and that's an epidemic known as the "softening of the backbone!"

I'm thankful there are still people who stand firm for the simplicity of the gospel of Christ, who live simple, pure upright lives and worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Yet on the other hand, many are catering to the things that will cause a spiritual and moral breakdown! Until there is definite return to the Bible we can expect no improvement. The prophet Jeremiah says "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps!" Jer. 10:23. However, God in His goodness and mercy toward man has provided him a perfect pattern to follow. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps" I Pet. 2:21. Not only are privileged to have a perfect example to follow but are commanded to follow it. "Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ" I Cor. 11:1. You will notice in the last two passages the words "follow and followers" ". . . ye should follow in His steps" and "Be ye followers of me." Man must follow the Divine standard or else he can't be pleasing in the sight of God. It isn't what you might prefer or what maybe I would like to do, but it's what God would have us do. We need more of the

spirit of Saul of Tarsus who said "Lord, to be the clay in the hands of the Potter, what wilt thou have me to do?" Pride, egotism, or bigotry didn't enter in, it was God's will that he wanted to know and upon finding it out he complied with it willingly!

It was Lincoln who wasn't so concerned as to whether the Lord was on his side, but he was vitally interested as to whether he was on the Lord's side. Another crowning example of a man who was willing

(Continued on page 8)

Letters to Young Preachers and Others—II

The human Mind is divided into three parts, and each of these must be appealed to, to accomplish the most good. These are: Intellect, Sensibilities (Feelings), and Will.

The Intellect is the Understanding, the Reasoning Powers, and is the guide to man. Without it there is calamity. It sifts the information brought to us, and judges which is best to follow, though oftentimes it is overpowered by the Feelings. The Intellect does not move one, only instructs him. It is cold. A man who merely teaches the Bible in a cold way may enlighten those who hear, but will not move them with such.

The Sensibilities (Feelings) must be appealed to in one way or another, to move one to act. Love of heaven, love of God, fear of hell, desire to lead our children in the right way, love of long life, hatred of hypocrisy, etc., etc., are some of the motives which move one in the right direction, though of course the love of God because he first loved us, is the prime motive. Earnestness is the soul of oratory—is an old saying which is true. If we have all mere teaching, we move no one to act; and if we have all exhortation, we move them to act, but it may be in the wrong way, for the mind has not been properly informed. Both are necessary.

The denominations, a few generations ago, spent their time in "revivals," merely trying to work on the feelings of the hearers. Their stock in trade was death-bed stories. They excited people into the church, and then would have to "revive" them the next year. Then came along the high-powered evangelist, such as Billy Sunday, who brought the climax of this kind of excitement. Thousands in one meeting would "hit the saw-dust trail," and probably not one-tenth would remain in the Church. Hundreds of other preachers imitated this mountebank's methods, till the very name "evangelist" became in the mind of thinking people, somewhat synonymous with "faker" and "money-grabber." The churches became filled with backsliders, and the effort by worldliness to try to hold these unconverted people in their churches, resulted in a great departure in spirituality.

One high-powered preacher in the Church of Christ once gathered in about 75 people in a meeting in West Virginia, and when he went back the next year he found them mostly scattered, and he chided the elders for not looking after the "lambs," but the elders replied, "The Lord did not ordain us to herd goats." Thank God, that method is largely gone, yet it did its evil work.

It was lop-sided—it did not educate the mind, so that the hearer could "count the cost." The day of the mere eloquent preacher is ended. He was a dangerous fellow.

Moses was slow of speech, but he never led the people astray. Aaron, the eloquent man, led them astray the first chance he got. This, I think, has been an index of the teacher and mere exhorter through the ages. Joseph was surnamed Barnabas which means, "the son of consolation" (Acts 4:36), and it seems that he was a good exhorter; but he deserted Paul in the First Missionary Journey and went back to Jerusalem, and later on was carried away with the hypocrisy of some Judaizing teachers. Stalwart old Paul, however, not only taught the people, but exhorted them as well, for time and again he went back over the Churches he established and exhorted them to continue in the faith.

The faithful churches of Christ are now engaged in much TEACHING of the Word, and we rejoice at the great number of young men who are doing it. But we need to appeal to the feelings also, and we would do well to intersperse our teaching with exhortation. Especially would we do well to save a good scripture in the lesson till the end of the service, and give it as an exhortation to saint and sinner. In this way we give them ALL the spiritual vitamins necessary to make a healthy Christian.

Taking the Offensive Against the "Faith Only-ist"—II

WHAT IS THE GRACE OF GOD?

The grace of God is the favor he has bestowed upon mankind. In other words, God's grace is what he has given the human family for salvation. God gave his Son (John 3:16); The Son gave His Blood (1 John 1:7); The Blood of Christ gave man the church (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25); The grace of God gave man the plan of salvation (Titus 2:11). Man is impotent to acquire any of these benefits by his own hand or power. All are gifts given of God by his marvelous grace. Mr. Fuller, and all others must then agree, that Grace is GOD'S PART. I believe agreement can be reached here, however, our next point is contrary to "their" Gospel.

WHAT IS FAITH?

If grace is God's part, then faith is MAN'S PART. By this I mean, Faith is the part man does in OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD. It follows then that the alien sinner, to become a Christian, MUST OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD. By obeying the commandments, which I challenge Mr. Fuller or anyone else to doubt as being of faith, the sinner naturally and scripturally is saved from passed sins and begins the walk in a new life as a Christian.

What of Faith, As Commandments of God Must Man Obey to be Saved?

As everything that is commanded of God in the Gospel is of faith, for the scripture says, "whatsoever is not of faith is of sin," we would conclude that whatsoever is of faith is right. Then for me to open my Bible and read, how even as many as three thousand were saved by obedience to the commandments of God in the Gospel

of faith, would only tend to prove what Paul meant in Ephesians 2:8 when he said, "through faith." Friends, it is through obedience to the commandments of God that men and women are saved. This is Bible, and there is not a reasonable, honest, sincere person who can term it as otherwise.

At Pentecost the three thousand were told by the inspired Apostle Peter, "... repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." Acts 2:38. I ask Mr. Fuller, When these three thousand obeyed the commandments of God given by Peter, were they saved? Was repentance a part of the preaching of faith? Was baptism a part of the preaching of faith? If not, why not? If Dr. Fuller remains consistent with his doctrine he must say, repentance is, but baptism is not, because baptism would be of works causing man to boast. Such reasoning! Especially by one who claims he is saved and has the Spirit of God. Imagine someone, who claims to be a Christian saying that to obey a commandment of God would mean that you are boasting of your own works. Such is unreasonable! Both REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM are not the works of man, but are the COMMANDMENTS OF GOD. (Acts 17:30; Acts 10:48). Neither nullify the grace of God or cause any man to boast.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ teaches man to do four things that he might become a Christian: Believe (Heb. 11:6) Repent (Acts 17:30) Confess his faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10) Be Baptized (Acts 10:48). All these are BY FAITH—MAN'S PART. The three thousand were saved by grace through faith. Remember friend, this will still remain true whether the "just say you believe in Christ" people accept it or not. We plead that men and women will turn aside from this false teaching and follow the words of wisdom given by James, "... not by faith only." James 2:24.

"NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST."

The plan of salvation was not the arrangement or design of man, as the scripture reads, "not of yourself: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast." If the arrangement of salvation had been left to man, he would have whereof to boast. However as the arrangement of salvation is of God, man has nowhere to boast. He is saved by GOD'S GRACE THROUGH MAN'S FAITH IN GOD.

Why isn't it possible for Mr. Fuller to preach salvation by grace through obedience to EVERY COMMANDMENT OF GOD? I believe it is possible if men and women will turn aside from the unscripturalness of his doctrine. Dr. Fuller knows of the Church of Christ. He has been contacted by mail from Brother D. A. Sommer and others, but he as yet to my knowledge never replied. Can it be because he knows that the "handwriting is upon the wall" for his doctrine?

To the reader I wish to say, there is no feelings of dislike toward Mr. Fuller and his followers personally, but a decided dislike to their teachings, such as "faith only." It is unscriptural, and must be opposed by every true Christian.

At the close of this article I would like to submit the following chart with scriptures to match for the reader's consideration:

Grace (plus) Faith (equals) Salvation

(God's Part)

Son—John 3:16

Blood—1 John 1:7

Church—Acts 20:28

Salvation—Titus 2:11

(Man's Part—Obedience)

Believe—Heb. 11:6

Repent—Acts 17:30

Confess—Rom. 10:9, 10

Baptized—Acts 10:48

Live Faithful—Rev. 2:10

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"This Should Wake Us Up"

Under this title, C. D. Plum, (writing in Gospel Advocate, Nov. 8), sent out several letters to different ones in several states, in these words:

"For my own personal benefit, as well as for the benefit of others, I am writing a few preachers, and others, scattered over the United States, and asking them to name the two things which they consider the greatest threat to the progress of the church today." Commenting on his replies, which he publishes, he says.

"I want you to observe that out of fifteen answers to my inquiry, only four fail to list 'inefficient leadership' as a threat to the progress of the church. I think if I were an elder I would take stock of myself and my work; and if inefficient, I would change my ways."

In other words, this cross section of thought shows that the general opinion must be that thinking people among them regard the eldership as inefficient. Well, why should it not be? All the talk is the preacher, the preacher, THE PREACHER. I search their religious papers in vain for any indication that they are making any serious effort to develop men for the eldership.

Plum condemns the inefficient elder, but what has he ever done to develop men for that office? Paul tells him and all other preachers to commit what they know to "faithful men who shall be able to teach others also," yet where is there a preacher among the Bible college people who seem to care anything about a scriptural eldership.

The simple fact is that they don't want a scriptural eldership, for if they had one, they would be rooted out of their feathered nests in which they are doing the work of the elders. The Bible college people have a kingdom of a clergy as much as any of the Protestant denominations, and their college has been the incubator of it. That is one reason we oppose it.

On the other hand we advocate strongly that EVERY preacher help to develop faithful men into teachers wherever he goes so that we shall have more "efficient leadership."

Gilbert O. Nations Speaks

Bro. Nations is perhaps the best posted man in America on Roman Catholicism, and has through his life written for many papers on that subject. Recently we received the following letter from him regarding our late tract on Why Protestantism is Failing:

Silver Springs, Maryland
November 12, 1945

My dear Brother Sommer:

Some unknown mutual friend in Illinois has sent me your excellent tract on Why Protestantism Is Failing, for which I thank you and him. The whole tract is full of alarming truth and the concluding paragraphs which deal with the clergy seem to be extremely valuable. I thought of trying to write a book on the dire world outlook because of failure of the church in nearly two thousand years to obey the Lord's final command to make disciples of all the nations. My conviction continues to grow that the clergy is the root from which all, or nearly all, church wrongs and failures have grown. When a privileged class was permitted to take over all religious rights and to live in riotous luxury off the bounty of its beguiled victim, the church ceased to function and became static. The instrument and source of that deadly usurpation is the Church of Rome. There is no clergy in the New Testament, but there is little else in the papal system. No wonder Revelation 18th chapter calls the Papacy the MOTHER of harlots. Virtually all that the apostate sects are was inherited

from their harlot mother. They are harlot daughters without which the See of Rome could not be the MOTHER of harlots. More strength to your good right arm. Cordially, Gilbert O. Nations.

The Federal Council Ought to be Red in the Face

A couple of months ago, the Federal Council held a convention in St. Louis, celebrating the Reformation by Luther. Dr. Oxnam, is the president, and speaks for the 25,000,000 people in the Council. He is a modernist of the strongest type, and the one who spoke of the God of the Old Testament as a "dirty bully" because he punished the people for their sins.

Oxnam, in his speech there, spoke of the pope as "a devoted . . . brotherly Christian." Shades of Martin Luther! If Luther had had the belief of Oxnam, there never would have been a Reformation.

Oxnam wishes the Protestant denominations, and Roman Catholic Church, and Eastern Orthodox Churches all to unite because they hold so many things in common.

Oxnam, and his modernist crowd ought to blush with shame to talk about the Reformation, for they do not contend for the vital principles for which the Reformers contended. Brethern should be posted on this Modernism, for more and more it will come to the front, for it is the greatest evil we have to contend against, being linked as it is with the kingdom of the clergy. Circulate the tract on "Why Protestantism is Failing," and help show the people where the trouble lies.

All the prominent historians give this history practically the same, but as Gibbon was an "infidel" and as no reader can consider him biased for or against any particular group, we give his story of this saddening history, with the emphasis ours:

"The societies which were instituted in the cities of the Roman Empire were united only by the ties of faith and charity. Independence and equality formed the basis of their internal constitution. . . . The public functions of religion were solely intrusted to the established ministers of the church, the Bishops and the Presbyters; two appellations which, in their first origin, appear to have distinguished the same order of persons. The name of Presbyter was expressive of their age, or rather of their gravity and wisdom. The title of Bishop denoted their inspection over the faith and manners of the Christians who were committed to their pastoral care. In proportion to the respective numbers of the faithful, a larger or smaller number of these Episcopal Presbyters guided each infant congregation with equal authority and with united counsels.

"But the most perfect equality of freedom requires the directing hand of a superior magistrate; and the order of public deliberations soon introduces the office of a president, invested at least with the authority of collecting the sentiments, and of executing the resolutions, of the assembly. . . . It was under these circumstances that the lofty title of Bishop began to raise itself above the humble appellation of Presbyter. . . .

"Every society formed within itself a separate and independent republic, and although the most distant of these little states maintained a mutual as well as friendly intercourse of letters and deputations, the Christian world was not yet connected by any supreme authority or legislative assembly. As the numbers of the faithful were gradually multiplied, they discovered the advantages that might result from a closer union of their interests and designs. Toward the end of the second century, the churches of Greece and Asia adopted the useful institution of provincial synods. . . . The institution of synods was so well suited to private ambition, and to public interest, that in the space of a few years it was received throughout the whole empire. . . .

"The same causes which at first had destroyed the equality of the presbyters introduced among the bishops a pre-eminence of rank, and from thence a superiority of jurisdiction. . . . The office of perpetual presidents in the councils of each province was conferred on the bishops of the principal cities; and these aspiring prelates, who soon acquired the lofty titles of Metropolitan and Primates, secretly prepared themselves to usurp over their episcopal brethren the same authority which the bishops had so lately assumed above the college of the presbyters. Nor was it

TROUBLES AND TRIUMPHS OF THE CHURCH THROUGH 2000 YEARS

Distinction between Bishop and Presbyter, between Clergy and Laity; and the Origin of Councils, and the Development of the Roman Catholic Church.

The history portrayed in this article is as important as any that was ever recorded regarding the Church, and so we hope the reader will carefully consider it, as it comes from the pens of those who had original sources for their story.

In the first place, all Christians in the New Testament were priests unto God. Peter writes to the brethren in general and calls them a "royal priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:8), and John writes to the seven churches in Asia and says that Christ "hath made us kings and priests into God." (Rev. 1:6.)

The words "bishop" and "elder" (presbyter) are used interchangeably in the New Testament. Paul called to him the elders of the church at Ephesus, and calls them "overseers" (bishops, in the Greek). (See Acts 20:17, 28.) Paul left Titus in Crete to "ordain elders in every city. . . . For a bishop must be blameless," etc. (Titus 1:5, 7.) The elders (bishops) and deacons were the only officers in the Apostolic Church, besides the inspired apostles, who are still ruling the Church through their inspired

words. The preachers were evangelists announcing glad tidings of salvation, making new converts, strengthening disciples, and developing teachers in the churches they established (2 Tim. 2:2), but they were not officers.

Such was the simple government of the Church of Christ of the First Century, as it came from the hand of the Lord. But the ambition of man would not permit it long to remain so simple. The first departure was to exalt the most influential one in the eldership to be permanent chairman of the board of elders, and to call him "the Bishop." Then as their churches grew in number, the largest in a district assumed authority over the smaller, and the Bishop of it assumed authority over the others, and became a Metropolitan (that is, one governing from the metropolis, or chief city). Finally four metropolitan churches governed all the churches—Rome, Alexandria, Antioch and Constantinople. This was called the Patriarchal system of church government. And in about the Sixth Century, the Roman Church assumed authority over them all. This centralization of power, however, was attended with opposition along the line, and those who rebelled were denominated heretics.

long before an emulation of pre-eminence and power prevailed among the Metropolitans themselves, each of them affecting to display, in the most pompous terms, the temporal honors and advantages of the city over which he presided. . . . The patriotic Cyprian, who ruled with the most absolute sway the church of Carthage, and the provincial synods, opposed with resolution and success the ambition of the Roman Pontiff. From every cause, either of a civil or of an ecclesiastical nature, it was easy to see that Rome must enjoy the respect, and would soon claim the obedience, of the provinces. . . . The progress of the ecclesiastical authority gave birth to the memorable distinction of the clergy and the laity."—(Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Chap. 15.)

What a saddening story of the great apostasy portrayed by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2nd chapter! We believe with our whole heart that if we could get rid of all this ecclesiasticism and get back to the simple church government of the First Century, most of the other evils of the Church would be overcome. A plurality of scriptural Elders (Bishops), in every church, feeding the church and overseeing the brethren as they "edify one another" (1 Thess. 5:11)—this is what is needed in the Church today, yet it is so seldom found.

Can you wonder, dear reader, that with such saddening history of the Church before us, earnest Christians shun every semblance of councils, synods, associations, general assemblies and conferences? Gibbon says they were so "well suited to private ambition," etc., in a few years they were generally accepted throughout the Roman Empire. Even general "mass meetings" of brethren for spiritual edification, enjoyable and useful as they may seem, have become in the past and may become in the future, instruments for ambitious men and means of departure from the simplicity in Christ. The nearest we can hold ourselves to the local congregation, with perhaps its "all-day meetings" with adjoining brethren coming in, the safest it will be for the Church.

Known by What They Do

It is not enough to say the Bible is inspired and stop at that. We best know men by what they do and have done and not simply by what is claimed for them. Who was Abraham Lincoln? The man who united the North and the South and put down slavery. He was and is known by what he did. Who was Dewey? The man who won the fight at Manila before breakfast. Who were the Wright brothers? The men who conquered the air by making the flying machines work. Who was Luther? The man who defied the pope and gave us a translation of the Bible. We know these men, and hundreds of others, by what they have done. The Bible must be subject to this practical test. Sacredness is attached to other books, so we can't make that claim for the Bible and stop at that.

How does it compare with other books? It will not suffice to say the Bible is inspired; does its inspiration reach out to

mankind and inspire them to be more Christlike and worthy the name Christian? It will not satisfy mankind generally to inform them that this Book contains the plan of salvation; does it really save men from sin, self and misery? It has taken the fallen woman from the harlot's bed and reformed her. It has taken the drunkard out of the ditch and cleaned him up and made a man of him. It has gone into the gambler's den, removed the blackness of sin and whitewashed it with purity and righteousness. It has gone into the dance hall and removed the dancing slipper and shod the feet with the preparation of the Gospel. It has gone into the house of ill-fame and made it a house of fame, song and prayer. It has taken vain and profane language out of the mouth of the hateful and vile and placed a song and praise in that same mouth. It has made a preacher out of the thief, an elder out of the liar, a gentleman out of the unclean fornicator, a free-giver out of the tight-fisted covetous; a kind, sweet spirited man out of the grouchy; and has brightened and smiled the face of frowns and roughness. It makes "new men" out of all who accept and obey it and will keep them bright and clean.

The "religion" of paganism was powerful and much sought for. But this Book has crumbled their altars, destroyed their power, in part anyway, in its then present form and left their gods unnoticed and without a worshiper. The Bible has made their worship and forms vanished delusions, only as we have them in disguise in Babylon today. Who cannot find a worshiper of Baal, of Diana, of Zeus, yet the Bible goes right on and marks progress with the setting of each sun, and the stars speak of its Divine author who keeps the Book as a flaming sword in the pathway of its enemies.

Buddhism, Confucianism and Mohammedanism have had to bow their defeated forms before its sacred head and commanding voice (John 10). It at one time seemed these "righteous" "religions" would cover the whole earth, but the Bible has pointed out limitations and they have been found. Even the Pope of Rome had to surrender his task of burning Bibles and thus to annihilate the blood-sealed document of God's inspired Book. It has defeated all these powers and isms. It is known by what it has done and is doing.

The man who has hid himself in this precious volume has never lost a battle and never will. He will finally sink his enemies, the opposing army, in one eternal hell.

He has robed Himself with, not only the paper, binding and ink, but with sacredness and power found in the Book which enables him to get into many homes, dens of vice and religious ranks where he could not go were it not for this robe that keeps his person invisible. It is the unseen power in the Book that leads men from vice to victory in the Christ. It hides the thorns on the rose buds so that we notice nothing but the little bud and then the beautiful bloom. It hides the stinger of the bee and allows us to enjoy only the sweetness of the honey. It scatters the clouds and permits us to enjoy the refreshing sunshine. It hides the tears of sadness and creates a

smile. It heals the broken heart, cheers the soul and makes a happy man out of the unhappy one who was "down and out." Yes, friends, the Bible is known by what it has done and is doing.

It clashed with pagan Rome, and Rome went down in defeat. Papal Rome arose to do her dirty work and destroy Protestantism if possible, but the Bible, in the hands of a German monk, cut her foul fallacies to the heart and with the "sword of the Spirit" her theological blood was spilt. Infidelity rushed rampant to the fray, did what it could to do what Rome failed to do, but the attack was futile. Infidelity lost its skeptical head when the "sword" was used by the men of God. Not one can stand before this invisible (2 Cor. 4:18; 2 Peter 1:3; Rom. 1:16) power hid away in the Bible. Infidelity becomes divided so that Renon would not fellowship Voltair. Strouse no longer endorsed Paulus and they soon have many creeds, while the Bible remains the same. The Bible has forced them to change their creeds and bow their heads in defeat.

Just as men are known by what they do so may the Bible be known by the same test among those who will not accept internal evidence in favor of its inspiration.

The Bible has never made an immoral person out of a moral one. Has never established an immoral device, house, shop or hall, but has broken up, destroyed and cleansed many of them. It has given barriers for thorns, sweet fragrance for stench odor, flower gardens for thistle beds, sunshine for clouds, sacred music for reveling and dancing, prayers for profanity, smiles for tears, rejoicing souls for bleeding hearts, beds of righteousness for beds of adultery, happy homes for sad and broken homes, church houses for gambling houses, Bible readings for trashy novel readings, pure fathers, clean mothers, sweet children, prayers, happiness and all things to make a better world here and give us rest and Heaven hereafter.

This makes it worthwhile to suffer and sacrifice some while in the flesh, for this old house of clay will give way some of these days and we will need to be prepared for the "journey" we all must take.

Though the flowers may fade, the leaves fall, the plants wither and all vegetation sink away in one long wintry sleep, yet the spring time will come when all will again appear in their beautiful robes and colors to gladden the hearts of the on-lookers. So with mankind; we weaken, fade, wither and die. We will "sleep" all those "wintry months" until the springtime comes when we will all appear again in the resurrection morn, when many hearts will be gladdened and many more saddened because they refused to allow the Bible to lead them, cleanse them, keep them and prepare them for the sleep—no, for the awakening—and now they are in eternal suffering, sorrow, shame and torment, while those kept by the Gospel are delighted and appear in brighter colors and whiter robes than they could possibly have while in the house of clay. Praise the Lord for His goodness.—W. G. Roberts, Hammond, Ill.

Preaching, Teaching, Developing, Purifying

"Go into all the World and Preach the Gospel to Every Creature."

—(Mark 16:15, 16.)

"Teaching Them to Observe all Things Whatsoever I Have Commanded You."

—(Matt. 28:20.)

"The Same Commit Thou to Faithful Men who Shall be Able to Teach Others."

—(2 Tim. 2:2.)

"Put Away from Among Yourselves that Wicked Person."

—(1 Cor. 5:13.)

UNIONVILLE, Mo.—We sent out the tracts on Why Protestantism Is Failing all over the town and mail routes just before Bro. Hensley's meeting began, and Bro. Hensley preached a fine sermon on Faith and after his talk distributed the tract, Can We Be Saved by Faith Alone? Good crowds every meeting. Bro. Hensley said we had averaged about 100 each night.—Ora L. Robinson. . . . We have had good interest and good attendance, and every sermon a good one.—F. L. Rosebery.

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.—"On October 28th I went to Bend, to preach for those brethren that are beginning to keep the worship of the Lord in their homes, and plan to establish the cause permanently in that city. We had a nice group for worship, and it is encouraging to look forward to having that congregation nearby to strengthen the work here in Klamath Falls. While I was away brother Hershel Berry baptized three people here in Klamath Falls. We begin a Bible Reading, of two weeks duration, for the congregation here, next Monday night. It promises to have the cooperation of everyone, and I believe that it will be highly profitable for the congregation. People are getting a thirst for knowledge here, and that makes it possible to do much good."—Kenneth Morgan.

KRYSELMER—While at Kansas City, I was called, but could not go, to the funeral of old Bro. Kryselmeier at Nevada, Mo. He was about 90 years old, and so far as I can learn was a godly man. Thus, one by one, we make our exit to the other Land about which we have been talking and singing so long. Are we all ready?—D. A. S.

BALLENGER—On my recent visit to Kansas City, the first member I met there was Luther Ballenger. He had been sick in the morning, but I spent much of the afternoon with him, talking on things pertaining to the Kingdom. I am glad I did, for the next day after I left the city, he died, Nov. 6, and was buried, I am told, at Carrollton, Mo., Bro. Ralph Acree speaking. The church at Spruce owes much to Bro. Ballenger, who served it as elder for many years, and saved it from disaster, I consider, more than once. I loved him for his rugged sincerity and firmness even though I might not always agree with him.—D. A. Sommer.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA—Brother Harold Shaasteen just closed a four weeks effort here with the church at 716-8th, Ave. SW. Last Friday night, a part of the time was spent in song practice, and Bible study. While there were no visible results there were certainly much good done. Brother Harold sent forth some fine gospel sermons, and put forth a real effort in his work here and was creating a real interest among the outside people when the meeting closed. And we know that the outside interest was made manifest from the fact

that some of them are still coming, and meeting with us. Brother and Sister Shaasteen are well liked by all who heard him and it is our desire to have him back with us at the earliest convenience.—F. H. Pryor.

BROOKFIELD, MO.—The Lord's work continues to grow in Brookfield, and why not? If we remain steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Brother D. A. Sommer was with the church here from Oct. 6 through Oct. 14. In Bible reading, and how thankful we are to have an opportunity like this to have one who has sacrificed so much for fifty years for the purity of the church. While here we persuaded Bro. Sommer to take oversight of the congregation and by reason of this we are expecting to accomplish much for the Lord in the future. We are looking forward to his return in 1946 for more work. Bro. Sommer plans on being in the field more after first of the year. So brethren, why not call him, especially for Bible reading? I'm sure he can and will help you much, yours for a pure church.—G. R. Blankinship.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—On Lord's Day, October 28th, two made confession of wrongs and asked forgiveness for their mistakes. Last Lord's Day, November 4th, a fine young man made the good confession and was buried with his Lord in baptism. At the same service two placed membership with the congregation. I am concluding my work here with a series of lessons on "The History of the Church," on Lord's Day evenings. The attendance last Lord's Day was the largest the church here has had for several years. Brethren express themselves as well pleased with the interest developed and the results of my labor here. After the first Lord's day in December I go to Lamine, Missouri for a meeting with the faithful few at that place, the Lord willing.—Robert H. Brumback, 3931 Harrison St., Kansas City, Mo.

BIBLE READING CAMPAIGN—Under the banner of "Marching Orders for a New Day," the American Bible Society is launching a campaign of Bible reading between Thanksgiving and Christmas, world wide in scope. And that reminds us that we started a Bible-reading campaign a year or so ago, under the title of Nuggets of Gold. Many people became interested in the many hundreds of references we gave, of choice scriptures. There is still demand for the tract, but the supply has been exhausted. We have had it in mind to omit some of the reading matter and print only the references, on thin paper that you can paste on the fly-leaves in your Bible, for ready reference. What do you think? Write us your thoughts SOON. It is ONLY by donations that we are able to send out such helps FREE as we did the thousands of this tract. We have another tract in mind of about 24 pages which we think will be of much help in the work, about which we may write later, if you are interested in this advance work of the Lord.

FINISHED 8 weeks work with the Green Mound congregation, 15 miles southwest of Beloit, Kans. Two were baptized during our work. The highlight of the work this year was extensive Bible Study and Development Work. General instruction in Public speaking was given. The leaders and the membership as a whole are "sold" on that kind of work, as they can see the fruit of it. The cooperation was fine and I enjoyed my work immensely. I promised to return for the same type of work in the fall of 1947. Bro. Wilford Landes is to work with them in the spring. Let's work while it is Day.—Winford Lee.

SULLIVAN, ILL.—I enjoyed the two and one-half weeks of Bro. Zerr's Bible Reading immensely, that I attended while at Martinsville doing some personal work. We are still working on the record there trying to clean it up and get the membership down to the faithful ones. God does not approve of drones in His kingdom, and if a member will not work, he should be put out as Paul commands in 2 Thess. 3:6, 14. We withdrew from seven and two came back and made confession of wrongs. Brethren let us pray for a pure church and then work to that end, but BE SURE we go at it the Lord's way. Yours for purity in the Church.—C. R. Turner, 824 Blackwood.

CANADA.—Recently I had the opportunity of obtaining your pamphlet "Christian Liberty." I was very impressed with the article and its contents after reading it through. It is truly one worthy of distribution to sectarian and denominational churches, and also one to be distributed to our own members of the Body of Christ." (This tract makes clear one of the most important principles we have, and helps keep us out of innovationism on the one hand and out of hobbyism on the other. Two copies for 25 cents, 10 for one dollar. You can't sow the seed in the grave.)

RIVERSIDE, CALIF. (Business letter) —Bro. Wilber Storm is with us for a time. Since coming we are meeting Tuesday nights in Bible study women's class—excellent lessons. Wilber is sincere and is doing his part nobly and well. We thank the dear Father for him and all true disciples everywhere.—Olive Chaffee.

LECOMPTON, KAN.—We are getting along fine at Stull. Will have Rev. Landes for a meeting next week. We will expect you in a week of Bible reading when you can come, if the weather permits.—Fred Wulfskuhle.

THERE ARE so many good articles in the M. C. and I find, Preaching, Teaching, Developing and Purifying Dept. very interesting. Am always anxious to see if any I know are sending messages. I find the simplified New Testament very helpful in studying and dividing the thoughts in the chapters.—Velma Nighthart.

SHELBYVILLE, ILL.—Lord's Day closed a three weeks' meeting in Shelbyville. Brother Wm. Hensley fearlessly proclaimed the gospel. Three persons were added during this effort. May God give them strength and may we as members of the body of Christ help them to continue faithful.—Gladys Potts.

CLOSED at Dentonia, Kans. Nov. 24—The church there shows some growth and they take courage. Three were recently added to their number. Two by membership and one from the Christian church. Nov. 25 spent the day with the church at

Beloit, Kans. Spoke at the morning and evening service. Brethren were there from surrounding congregations, namely, Green Mound, Concordia and Dentonia. We take courage and press on.—Winford Lee.

MINGO JCT., OHIO—I wish to notify you of my change of address. I was discharged from the Navy, Nov. 14. I want to thank you for keeping the "M. C." coming all those months I was over there. Perhaps it may interest you to know that we carried the "M.C." into Tokyo Bay on Aug. 28, 1945. It may have been the first time for the paper to reach that heathen land.—D. M. Dodd.

(Well, Brother David, we are glad we could send you the messages of comfort through the columns of the M. C. You will find the devil back in the U.S.A. as well as Japan, and let's all take the Sword of the Spirit and fight him.—D.A.S.)

HARTLEY—Some of our readers may know Sister Zoa Hartley. She lived in Indianapolis more than fifty years ago when we moved to this city. In her last years she has lived in El Paso, Texas. She recently died at the age of 85 years. She read the Macedonian Call from its beginning and was in sympathy with it, and sent a contribution now and then. She was a good woman.—D. A. S.

DENTONIA, KANSAS—Several of our members have expressed the belief that the November meeting accomplished much good both to the church and in the community. Besides the regular preaching, Brother Winford Lee held a half hour study each night for young folks; that is young folks were on the front seat. His questioning of the entire audience, the last night of the meeting showed that all had been benefited by the study. Winford had several of these young folks in his vacation Bible study last summer; and we have reason to hope that Wilford Landus will have them in his study in April. November 25 was a very happy day for us because in the morning Walter Marihugh, his wife, Mable, and their son, Edgar Carl, placed membership at Dentonia. In the evening we heard Winford preach at Beloit. His subject was the one word "Forward." We were happy to meet there with brethren from Beloit, Concordia, and Green Mound—Henry and Mildred Van de Rieb.

KLAMATH FALLS, ORE.—The Bible Reading here was well attended by the membership, and though the sort of teaching was new to them, the interest, approval, and profit that was shown has surely made them believers in this manner of study. We read the gospel of Mark, and the first twelve chapters of Acts. It is our analytical study, which we have conducted weekly, a study of Ephesians, that I like best though, of all manner of work done. I have a small duplicator with which I make complete outlines and charts, which are distributed among those who study. And we have made full use of the blackboard.—Kenneth Morgan.

NEW CASTLE, IND.—The meeting with the church at Moundsville, W. Va., closed Nov. 4 with one addition. A young man recently discharged after having fought in Patton's army in Europe made the decision to enlist in the great army of the Lord and was accordingly baptized into the body of Christ. The church at Moundsville, is small and the struggle to survive amidst modern innovationism has placed a heavy burden on the faithful few. Brother D. E.

Gillespie stands firm for the truth and is an asset to the congregation there. One of the hindering causes there is that the church is so isolated from other loyal congregations the membership at large is not acquainted with faithful preachers and has in years past used some who endorsed the digressives. . . . I preached at Asphalt, Ky., the nights of Nov. 6-9 before going to Palmyra, Ind., where I preached at both morning and evening services Nov. 11. I was then home two weeks before going to Yale, Ill. to preach there Nov. 25 and was privileged to meet and visit with Bro. and Sister W. G. Roberts at Hammond, Ill. the next day. . . . Our meeting at New Castle, Ind., began Dec. 2 and will continue through Dec. 16. I plan to attend the one-week singing class in Kansas City and go from there to St. Louis to attend the six week Bible Reading.—Richard Kerr.

MISCELLANEOUS — Sorry that there has been such delay in getting some books to our patrons. Our absence from home helped do that in part, and it seems that freight and express are crowded to the limit. So be patient, we ask, for we hope to get everything to you before Christmas. . . . Through the Christmas vacation period Bro. Roy Harris will conduct free singing classes at 26th and Spruce Sts., Kansas City, Mo., beginning Dec. 24, for a week. Classes conducted both day and night. You are invited to attend, but write immediately to Church of Christ, 26th and Spruce Sts., Kansas City 1, Mo., and make arrangements for room and board. . . . Remember: next year we begin our 20th year in YOUR service for the Master. But what about YOUR service to the Macedonian Call for helping you? Have you ever gotten it any new subscribers? We will send you samples free, to hand to others to see "Turn about is fair play," is it not. If any one has not received books he ordered, please notify us at once.

PROPOSED BIBLE TEACHING at Spruce St., in Kansas City, Mo., and Des Moines, Ia.—We gave them a few nights recently at Spruce of our Bible teaching, and they wish me to spend a week with them four times next year. We shall begin Monday night, Jan. 21 and continue through the next Sunday, Jan. 27. Each night we shall have about an hour and a half of study of God's word. We shall put the analysis of each book on the blackboard as we go along. Bring your Bibles and notebooks. We shall emphasize especially devotion, Christian living and personal evangelism. Then in April, July and October, we shall have another week at Spruce. Spruce church has more than two hundred present every Sunday. . . . On the same trip we shall hold a week of such study first at Des Moines, Ia., beginning Sunday, Jan. 13, running through Sunday, Jan. 20. We shall be glad to meet those brethren again, as it has been a number of years since we saw them. There are a number of preachers now engaged in this Bible study. How many churches will have a regular study of a week about every three months, and keep it up. I repeat what I have said before: This system does not wear people out, and if persistently engaged in, would give EVERY ONE IN THE CHURCH A CHANCE TO GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE ABOUT EVERY THREE YEARS under those who have made that a special study. This would parcel the "Protracted Bible Readings" out so that EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD in the Church would have a chance at them, without extra expense except car-

fare, of the preacher, and without wearing themselves out. But remember—it's persistence that counts. The thing the devil hates is the Word of God, and the only way to defeat him is to train ourselves so thoroughly with it that we can hit him again and again and again and again and again and again—until our death! or his flight—D. A. Sommer.

THE WRITING of this report finds me in Topeka, in the midst of another meeting for this congregation. I spent, what I believe to be, three profitable months in Colorado, working with three congregations there. The attitude of the brethren in Colorado is "lets get to work," and to prove this they are uniting in a closer bond of cooperation than ever before used in that state. I believe that the work will grow, in the next few years, in strides that the brethren there could hardly have thought of two or three years ago. . . . Nov. 11, was a high point in the history of the church in Topeka, prior to that date our largest attendance for Lord's day morning was 63, but on that day we had a total of 148 with a contribution of \$102.00. We were well pleased with this as it was just about a year ago that the church moved into its present location and began a definite plan of work. On Nov. 11, there were representatives of 7 congregations here, about 60 of that number from 26th and Spruce in K. C. Three speakers were on the morning program—C. C. Teightmeyer, elder and evangelist from 26th and Spruce congregation K. C., Evang. Roy Harris and myself. In the afternoon the radio personnel of the "Churches of Christ Broadcast" gave a facsimile program for us. This showed to all present the manner, personnel, and work involved in such a production. I believe it has stimulated interest in the program. The following Lord's Day Nov. 18, we set a high for evening attendance when we had 61 present. The neighboring congregation, Stull, dismissed their services that night and were with us in full strength. Thus far in our meeting our attendance has been fair, never what we have liked. We have had one baptism. My work with Topeka extends throughout 1946, as I will be here 6 months of the year, spending the rest of my time in Northern Kansas and Southern Nebraska.—F. Wilford Landes, 2122 E. 6th St. Topeka, Kansas.

"Outside Influence"

Outside of what? Just what is "outside influence"? Is it something outside of the word of God which causes belief in a supreme Being? Is it what one can see all around us, "the earth and all that therein is"? If so, the Book, called the Bible, gives the record of all creation. But God has given commands to those who believe there is a God, and who desire to live beyond this earth-life. "If a man die shall he live again?" Does he, who believes, from ever-present evidence of a super Power, believe there is, will be, a resurrection of the dead? "Faith, belief in God, without effort, of the believer, to attain a part in the resurrection of the just," will profit him nothing in the morning of the resurrection when we "stand before the judgment seat of Christ" because the just are living by faith and faith is manifested by obedience. James, one of the Lord's inspired apostles, knew that when he said, Show me your faith without works and I will show thee my faith by my works. James 2:14, 20.—Mrs. Laura W. Goodin.

OUR PLANS FOR 1946

The Macedonian Call hopes to have more reading matter for this coming year. The shortage of paper eliminates the irregular 12 page paper, but we hope to give its equal by giving a 16 page paper about every other three month, which is the best we can do.

We hope to continue the many reports of work and the interesting and edifying clippings often taken from private business letters. A sister said recently that so many preachers talk "so far away." May be they say many good things, but they do not make application to present conditions. You know that the publisher in his preaching and writing not only lays down Biblical principles but makes application to conditions as they are now in the world and Church. And we shall continue to do the same. An example of this is the Modernism which we are lashing forth at, because we believe it THE GREAT enemy we have to fight. It has its birth in the theological schools which we have been opposing so long. The publisher predicts that the next 25 years will be the most critical, religiously, in the history of the United States. When this Modernism gets in its full work, the American people will be in a very low state, for no human philosophy (modernism is nothing else), ever has or ever will lift up the masses of people. When it reaches the bottom, THEN there will begin a period of religious controversy such as America never saw before. We believe that the time is coming ripe for the true Church of Christ to come forward, like David, to pick up the banner of Jesus Christ in places the denominations have thrown it down. We hope to keep you posted in the Macedonian Call concerning developments of these momentous events. You must not miss them.

We hope to have much exhortation, too, in its columns, which we hope will appeal to the heart of all who read.

ALL the brethren need to be alert to the maneuvers of the devil, for we wish no "sneak attacks" like at Pearl Harbor. Therefore, we think that our many readers who commend the paper so highly, will not be selfish by failing to scatter these helpful teachings and exhortations, but will GET CLUBS IN YOUR CONGREGATION. We believe it will help make the congregation stronger. We will send you free samples to hand to those who are not acquainted with our plea. And what better gift could you now make to friends you love, than a subscription to the paper for this coming year. Kindly, courteously and intelligently, we hope to help the readers to the higher and better life. How much will you help us to do this?

MANY OF YOU have been reading recently of the woman in Illinois who sued the school board, or at least tried to stop it, from permitting children to leave their school studies and go to churches to receive religious instruction. She is an atheist. It created quite a stir. Well, suppose you were confronted by an atheist who demanded that you prove to him that there is a God,—could you give a reason for your hope? Better think about it, for you may come across one some day. Or, perhaps, they believe in God, but do not believe in the Bible as the Word of God—can you show such a one that the Bible is Divine? Better learn the tricks of Satan or he may down you. The book Church of Christ has a number of pages which were written for the purpose of helping you answer such people.

J. Edgar Hoover Speaks

In a current issue of The Union Signal, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, states: "I am sure you will agree that delinquent and thoughtless parents are another problem facing us today. Some are victims of circumstances, but others, by their disregard of parental responsibilities and their frenzied chase after the extra pleasures of dollars available in these extraordinary times, forget the most sacred duty of all—that of rearing their children as self-respecting, law-abiding citizens who truly are worthy of the name American.

"The facts are stark and revealing, and possibly hold the key to this sad situation. Time and time again, children have admitted that they did not consider their fathers as representatives of honorable manhood, or that they were ashamed of them; and some even have said that they were ashamed of their mothers.

"What is needed above all else is more enlightened parents, to create better homes and to take care of their children. Keep boys and girls from becoming criminals when they are young, and you can keep most of them from becoming criminals later.

"Last year the number of persons under voting age who were arrested and fingerprinted reached alarming proportions. Today, the situation is worse. The tragedy revealed by our latest survey is found in the fact that the arrests of boys and girls 17 years of age increased 17.7 per cent.

"In reviewing further the trends for the past six months, we find an 89 per cent increase in the arrests of girls for offenses against common decency. These girls are the future mothers of America. It is tragic that so many lives are ruined which could be useful, simply because the right influences were not present at the right time."—Selected.

AMERICA'S NO. 1 POST-WAR PROBLEM II

(Continued from Page 2)

Every American has a responsibility in the days ahead to see that this great country rises to a higher moral and religious standard. So see that it doesn't degrade into moral rotteness and into spiritual decay, such as some of the countries of Europe did, and consequently do not exist as a nation today!

The religion of Jesus Christ is a religion that "purifies the soul, lifts a person up on a higher plane, promotes a good conscience in this life and a hope in life to come."

A Religion that does not accomplish that isn't the religion that Christ taught, neither is it patterned after the Word of Truth. Thus it naturally falls into the category of "vain worship" which the Savior spoke about in Matt. 15:9—"In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

The Churches of Christ exist on earth for one purpose . . . to lead men back to God. They are simple in their devotion to God, and humble and contrite in their desire to keep alive the ideals to the Savior. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones is our concluding prayer.—(Radio Speech by Winford Lee.)

Don't Worship Men

It is natural for us to think well of those who make great sacrifices for the Lord, and accomplish much. But practically every one has his faults. We think much of Alexander Campbell, but he had his weaknesses the same as others, and some of those weaknesses resulted in much evil to the cause of Christ. In *Disciplina*, a quarterly published by the Christian Church people of Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Mo., we have a reprint in the October issue of a contemporary impression of Mr. Campbell made by one W. C. Howells in "Recollections of Life in Ohio 1818-1840." The paragraph says:

Mr. Howells says "Whatever the opinion of the people with whom Mr. Campbell came in contact away from home may have had of him, at home and among his neighbors he was regarded as greatly disposed to lord it over his poor and dependent friends." Howells found that he "had little natural sympathy with those who had not or could not acquire a worldly competence." However, his manner was amiable and socially he was always accessible to the man who understood the conversational art of listening, especially if that man liked to hear Mr. Campbell talked of."

The publisher of the M. C. visited Mr. Campbell's home in Bethany, W. Va., many years ago, which is a sort of shrine. His daughter, Mrs. Barclay, dressed in the garments of long ago, showed us around. In one room she called attention to the paper on the wall which depicted scenes from Homer's Iliad. The wall paper was imported by Mr. Campbell from France (I think), and the only other place in the United States which had the same paper was Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello. There must have been a good deal of pride, to spend much good money for those scenes of ancient Grecian mythology.

Mr. Campbell wanted the people in general to know that his movement believed much in education, and so he founded Bethany College, and by that act, which I consider was prompted somewhat by pride, he sowed the seeds of discord and apostasy in the brotherhood. The preachers went out from his college, and pushed the elders into the background, and established the digressive movement which is now known as the Christian Church. Had he emphasized the Eldership more, and educated preachers less, and had he tried to impress on the mind of EVERY preacher that it was his business to commit what he knew to "faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." (see 2 Tim. 2:2), this religious movement might have still been largely in harmony with the Word of God, as it was when it started. Read on front page in this paper an article titled, "Modernism in the Christian Church?" from a Christian Church writer concerning the saddening condition of the large part of the movement, through the Modernism which is now advocated in Bethany and other colleges which sprang from it.

Follow men ONLY when they follow Christ. That is the moral we get from this story.