

Spiritual Call

A Continuance of "Macedonian Call"

*To be carnally minded is death, but to be
SPIRITUALLY minded is life and peace.*
—Romans 8:6

*Walk worthy of the vocation (calling)
wherewith ye are CALLED.*
—Ephesians 4:1

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Yes, Jesus is Coming Again and Will End This Wicked World

(Second in a Series)

JESUS WILL COME "IN CLOUDS"

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall *all* the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming *in the clouds of heaven* with power and great glory."—Matt. 24:30.

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up, *and a cloud received him out of their sight*. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven*."—Acts 1:9-11.

"Then we which are alive and remain *shall be caught up together with them in the clouds* to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord."—1 Thess. 4:17.

"Behold, *he cometh with clouds*; and every eye shall see him and they also which pierced him; and all the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him."—Rev. 1:7.

Oh, the clouds, clouds, clouds, the beautiful, summer clouds! All through my life I have been entranced with them. Many a time through life have I climbed to the top of a hill to watch the sun set, and behold the beauty of the colored clouds, which always made me think of that beautiful place beyond the sunset's radiant glow. I can point you to the very spot when as a child about six years old, in the village of Reynoldsburg, ten miles east of Columbus, Ohio, on U.S. Highway 40, I lay on the ground on a summer's day, perhaps in June, and looked and looked at the great, fleecy clouds, and wondered and wondered what they were made of; were they masses of snow piled up there? Sometimes they seemed to drift, and other times to tumble. Strange that such an occasion should be indelibly fixed on a child's mind. Jesus will come in clouds—I wonder if it will be these cumulous-clouds which have so fascinated me through life!

Then there are the stratus-clouds, in long streaks of vapor. They sometimes seem like great bars across the heavens; or with an imagination one can think of them as a wide, wide ladder, with horizontal rungs, and the ladder reaching to the zenith, somewhat like Jacob's ladder in the long ago, with angels ascending and descending upon it.

And the cirrus-clouds, formed like curls. In the evening we have viewed with reverence the curl-like clouds with many colors, from a very high hill above Taormina in Sicily, the most gorgeous sunset, I think, I ever witnessed.

Jesus will come in clouds. I wonder which kind? Silly, you say, to ask such a question, or think of such a thing! But the human mind loves the specific and not the generic, and that is the reason heaven is pictured by God as a city, with mansions and a stream and trees and streets of gold. The only way God can picture anything spiritual to our minds is by comparison with something with which the human mind is acquainted. And so those who have struggled for truth and righteousness as He intended we should, and have suffered for his name, love to recall that it will be better farther on. Whenever we go out doors on a summer's day and view the beautiful clouds, the sight will bring fresh to our minds that Jesus will come in clouds, and that it may not be long.

O joy! O delight! should we go without dying.
No sickness, no sadness, no dread and no crying.
Caught up through the clouds with our Lord into glory,
When Jesus receives his own.

JESUS WILL COME "IN FLAMING FIRE"

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, *in flaming fire* taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power, *when he shall come to be glorified* in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe."—2 Thess. 1:7-10.

"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat."—2 Peter 3:10.

Perhaps Jesus will come to the wicked in the nimbus or storm cloud. And here, too, is a cloud which has always brought wonder and humility to the writer. The great, black clouds rolling up from the west, with the lightning flashing, always cause me to stop and look and admire. Especially do they show up at night with the continual and savage flashes of light. And then, there is the great noise of the thunder. The "block buster" bombs and atom bombs and thunder, will be nothing compared with the great noise which will arise when Jesus comes and the heavens pass away. I watch such an approaching storm as long as I can, for it humbles me; it brings me down to the dust; for I see what a little weak worm of the earth I am when God comes in his power.

But, oh, how saddening all this will be for them who refuse to read God's blessed Word and to learn to know him, and for those who do know, but fail to obey. Some wait for a more convenient time; some defer till they can make more money, perhaps ungodly money; some are not yet satiated with the evil pleasures of this life; some are still working for

their own glory instead of God's. *And while they are deferring, Jesus comes in flaming fire.*

There's a great day coming
When the saints and the sinners
Shall be parted right and left—
Are you ready for that day to come?

There's a bright day coming.
But its brightness shall only come
To them that love the Lord—
Are you ready for that day to come?

There's a sad day coming.
When the sinner shall hear his doom—
"Depart, I know ye not."
Are you ready for that day to come?

"Almost persuaded," harvest is past! "Almost persuaded,"
doom comes at last! "Almost" can not avail, "almost" is but
to fail; sad, sad, the bitter wail—"Almost," but *lost!*

JESUS WILL COME "IN GREAT POWER"

"And they shall see the Son of man coming in the
clouds *with great power and glory.*"—Mark 13:26.

"For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from
whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus
Christ; who shall change our vile body, that it may be
fashioned like unto his glorious body, *according to the
working* whereby he is able to subdue all things unto
himself."—Phil. 3:20, 21.

"There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking
after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise
of his coming for since the fathers fell asleep, all things
continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
For this they willingly are ignorant of, that *by the word
of God* the heavens were of old [at creation] and the
earth standing out of the water and in the water; where-
by the world that then was, being overflowed with water,
perished; but the heavens and the earth, which are now,
by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire
against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly
men." 2 Peter 3:3-7.

God manifests his power through his word. In the begin-
ning, he spake and the worlds came into existence. He said,
Let there be light, and there was light; he said, Let the dry
land appear, and it appeared. He also spake and said there
would be a flood, and it was so, and it made such an im-
pression on the world that all settled nations have a tradition
that at one time the earth was covered with water; and the
farther we go back into antiquity, the closer do the stories
of a flood agree. That same all-powerful word, has spoken
and said that the earth would be destroyed with fire, and
it is sure.

How helpless man is! God withholds his rain, and man
languishes. He sends much rain, perhaps to clean out the filth
of the cities and other places, and man cries for help. If his
sunshine is not in abundance, man weakens and pines. God
may have ordained floods and earthquakes and droughts and
pain, largely to help man think seriously, and it does the
humble minded; but most of the human race go on in their
sin and heed not any warnings. Professing themselves to be
wise, they have become fools. By the power with which God
created the world and caused the flood, he will cause the
heavens to pass away and will change our vile bodies that they
may be fashioned like Christ's glorious body. All authority
and power are given to Christ in heaven and in earth, and

how weak we shall be in all our boasted strength, when
Jesus comes!

We don't know how Jesus will destroy this earth, but
even with almost natural causes it may be done. Think of
the mighty powers inside of it. I have taken eggs to a
mountain near Los Angeles and put them in hot water right
out of the earth and boiled them for eating. I have looked
into the side of Mt. Vesuvius, even when it was supposed
to be quiet, and seen the glowing lava flowing out and down
the side of the mountain. Think of the mighty earthquakes
and the power which causes them. All God needs to do is to
pull aside part of the bottom of the sea and let the water
down into the fire there, and then there will be a great blast
which will drive the particles out, and gravitation will bring
them together into a burning mass, and the Scriptures will
be fulfilled. God in his power and wisdom will do all things
aright, and man even in his wisdom ought to be able to see
what God can do. The earth and the works that are therein
shall be burned up. God has spoken and it will surely be
that way.

Why trust in man whose breath is in his nostrils, and
whose power is limited, and is only of this earth, and then
for only a little time? Let us sing and live the grand old
song—

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

His oath, his covenant, his blood,
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

JESUS WILL COME "WITH A SHOUT"

"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven *with a
shout.*"—1 Thess. 4:16.

"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be
made alive. But every man in his own order; Christ
the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's *at his
coming.* Then cometh the end, when he shall have
delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; *when
he shall have put down all rule and all authority and all
power;* for he must reign till he hath put all enemies
under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed
is death.—1 Cor. 15:22-28.

Notice that Jesus himself is to come "with a shout." We
have always thought of Christ as quiet, reserved. So he was
when on earth. He did not go among the people as the quack
doctor used to, on street corners, with a banjo or punch-and-
judy show, or anything to draw a crowd. Jesus' teaching and
miracles drew the people, and sometimes his feeding them
with loaves and fishes, so that he had to withdraw himself
from the crowds. This modesty was foretold of him by the
prophet, "He shall not strive nor cry; neither shall any man
hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not
break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, *TILL he send
forth judgment unto victory.*" (Matt. 12:19, 20.) This

harmlessness would continue while on earth, but when he would bring forth JUSTICE to his enemies, it would be different. Now Jesus comes in triumph over them—he comes “with a shout” of eternal victory, the Judge of the living and of the dead.

In battles or in triumphs the actors often came with a shout, in ancient times. Christ’s advent will be with a shout of war against the wicked who know not God and who have not obeyed the gospel of Christ. It will be a shout of triumph, of victory, of Christ and his followers over the powers of darkness. Every knee, now shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. But it will be too late for the benefit of the wicked. Too late! Too late!! “Of all the sad words of tongue and pen the saddest are these—*it might have been.*”

The enemies of Christ and his disciples will not have power over them now as they had in the past. There will be no Roman power to try to force Christians to burn incense to the image of the emperor; but they themselves will have to bow the knee to Christ whom they blasphemed. There will be no Jewish rulers and elders crying, “Away with him, crucify him,” but they will now be crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them. There will be no shout from the heathen populace “The Christians to the lions;” no bringing of fagots to burn the Christians at the stake; the triumph now will come from the persecuted ones. Christians will not be hiding in the catacombs of Rome, but their persecutors will be hiding themselves “in the dens and the rocks of the mountains, and saying to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand.” (Rev. 6:12-17.) And ambitious bishops and preachers through two thousand years who have usurped the authority of God, will answer to the Judge for trying to destroy God’s command not to “lord over God’s heritage,” and for apostasy and injustice and tyranny and confusion they have brought by their Diotrephesian spirit. The true and humble of all ages will be freed from their persecutors, and will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, the song of eternal deliverance.

But, oh, we must do something, more than we are doing, to save men and women from the calamities that are coming on them for their disobedience. What can we do, what can we say? In this age of unbelief, we can at least live the life of Christ and show that we have been with him. In fact, the chief reason that there is so much unbelief is because so many professed Christians are stumbling blocks to the world which does not read the Bible but reads only the lives of the Christians. We are “the World’s Bible,” says Annie Johnson Flint—

Christ has no hands but *our* hands to do His work today;
He has no feet but *our* feet to lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but *our* tongue to tell men how He died;
He has no help but *our* help to bring them to His side.

We are the only Bible the careless world will read;
We are the sinner’s Gospel, *we* are the scoffer’s creed.
We are the Lord’s last message, given in deed and word;
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?

What if *our* hands are busy with other work than his;
What if *our* feet are walking where sin’s allurements is?
What if *our* tongues are speaking of things his lips would spurn,
How can we hope to help Him and *hasten His return?*

—D. A. Sommer.

Building on the World or on “The Rock”

When President Truman released the information some weeks ago that Russia had developed the Atom Bomb, the world was shocked and filled with alarm and fear over what might happen if Russia should decide to make use of it, in an attack on the world.

Such alarm is quite a natural reaction to all of those whose minds and ambitions are centered on the material things of this world. But to those who have their life hid with Christ in God and have become fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, the atom bomb holds no terrors, for they know that whatever happens, God has promised to care for them, and if death comes upon them through the atom bomb, it will be but the transition from this mortal life to the immortal life with Christ and God.

Those of the world have no such hope, their hopes and ambitions are in the things of this world and their desire is for a long life in which to enjoy the pleasures of this life, and to them the use of the atom bomb means the destruction of all of these, and the loss of all of the things that make this life worth while.

The people of the world overlook or are ignorant of what Peter said that the Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 2 Pet. 3:9, 10. When this happens, the atom bomb will seem like a snowball in comparison.

Peter continues in the 13th verse of this same chapter. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness; in this rests the hope of the Christian.

But those who have not obeyed the gospel and thus accepted the terms on which God has promised to give us eternal life, have no such hope; but as Paul writes to the Thessalonians, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thes. 1:8.

What an awful picture to look forward to, no wonder they fear the atom bomb.

Someone may say, that I am living a good moral life and believe in God. I do not believe that God would inflict any such punishment on such as I. Let us turn to the Book and see what that says about such a condition. In the 10th chapter of Acts we find an account of the centurion, Cornelius; how he was a devout man, and feared God, and gave much alms, and prayed to God always; this certainly describes a very fine character. Yet it was necessary for him to send for Peter to learn what God required of him. Peter preached Jesus to him and concluded by commanding them, Cornelius and his household, to be baptized.

Then there is the case of Saul in the 9th chapter. Paul in telling of it afterward, said that Ananias said to him, And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Acts 22:16. Paul afterward stated, “and herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward man.” Acts 24:16.

The accounts of these two men prove to us that to have a clear conscience and to live a devout and godly life do not assure us of obtaining God’s promise of salvation, but that it is necessary for us to accept the terms that God has made and obey them; namely to believe in Christ as our Saviour and

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D. A. SOMMER
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be baptized into his name, and then arise to walk a new life in him.

You may say that there is so much difference of opinion regarding baptism, some say that sprinkling is baptism, others say that immersion is the only baptism, how am I to know who is right?

By a careful study of the New Testament we find that both the candidate and the administrator went down into the water. Acts 8:38. That it required much water as in John 3:23. It requires a burial as in Col. 2:12. There are many other references which show that immersion is the only act that fulfills all of the requirements for baptism. Furthermore, all authorities agree that immersion is the only act that was practiced for baptism in the early church.

Why then should anyone depend on something which man has substituted for that which was commanded by God?

Let us all consider this question most seriously, and then act in obedience to God's commands; then we can rest in full assurance, that if death comes suddenly by the atom bomb, or by any other means, that we are ready to appear before the Judge on the great white throne, relying upon his promise of salvation to all those who will believe and obey him.—Fred D. Weed.

A Pure Life

I wish to write a few articles on the above subject. What I say may not be the most pleasing things that could be said, but I hope to make them wholesome. Of course if we do not put them into practice in our daily life and try to live pleasing to our Lord they will do us no good.

Paul said, "For do I now persuade men or God, or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Gal. 1:10. Whether we write or speak, our endeavor should not be to tickle the ears of the hearer, or merely make what we say pleasing to men. Such speaking is not serving Christ. It is only serving self, trying to make a good impression and win the plaudits of men. Too often we see men go into the pulpit and preach a gospel sermon and try to make themselves think they are serving the Lord, when in reality self service is the real motive.

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24. We see from this that it is impossible to serve God and self or anything else at the same time. Thus when we do the things that please us we are not serving God. In my unholy desire to be a great leader I may succeed to the extent that I can say, Behold I am Lord of all that I survey. And I may silence all opposition and this may please men, yet God is not pleased. It is no service to him. Always remember, Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

I have seen brethren who are very careful about keeping the doctrine pure, but are indifferent regarding their life. Paul says, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1. It is as important that we be pure in life as it is to be pure in doctrine. And Paul here admonishes us to cleanse ourselves from ALL filthiness, both of the flesh and of the spirit. Both the outer man and the inner man. What does Paul mean by filthiness of the flesh? He means doing the things which are for the satisfying of the flesh. The things that appeal to lusts of the flesh. Filthiness of the spirit would apply to any corruption in work or worship in the church. So when we comply with Paul's admonition here we will be right in doctrine, worship and work as well as in our every day life. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Rev. 22:14. Yours for a clean life.—J. A. Collins.

The Word, the Word, the Wonderful Word

"Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of life."

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

The secret things belong to the Lord your God; but those things which are revealed belong to us and our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path.
Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

The entrance of thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

My soul cleaveth unto the dust; quicken (make me alive), thou me according to thy word.

This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath quickened me (made be alive).

The word of God is quick (alive) and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God made choice of me that the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel by my mouth and believe.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And so we preached and so you believed.

And without faith it is impossible to please God.

Go and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is (or be) baptized shall be saved.

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

If our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost.

I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which ye received and wherein ye stand and by which ye are saved if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain.

Yea, blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. And unto you that hear shall more be given.

Brethren let us always hear God's word, that we may enjoy the more that's given.—J. D. Powers, 4418 E. Washington, Stockton, Calif.

What Is a Sectarian?

An "exchange" editor of a religious paper, in a drive for more subscribers, makes this curious boast, with the italics ours: "You'll not receive a reader's digest of clippings from *sectarian* papers. We are not featuring Moody's Monthly, Pentecostal Evangel, and Holiness Herald clippings! But you'll receive educational, *inspirational* articles by brethren in the Lord who are consecrating their lives to Christ in *His own appointed way*, and who are in a position to tell you what to do to be saved as *the Scriptures reveal it.*"

That brings us to the question: What is a "sectarian?" One of the meanings given by Webster is "A narrow or bigoted denominationalist." He is one who belongs to a sect and will defend it even when shown that some of its doctrines are not according to the Book; or, one who refuses to be a disciple and learn. There are many of that kind in the denominational world; on the other hand, there are those among them who are willing to be disciples and learn the truth, and come out of Babylon. So also, there are many in "the Church of Christ" who are real disciples, willing to learn and grow; and others who are the *ranked kind of sectarians*, and are not leading the devotional lives that many denominationalists are, and refuse to accept or consider truth when brought to them, and are much like many of the Pharisees and elders in Israel in our Savior's day.

This discrimination between "sectarians" and true Israelites was made by God through Paul, and the same principle of righteousness and justice applies to the gospel. Let us read the comparison in Romans 2:14, 15, 28, 29:

"When Gentiles who have not the law, do by nature, the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are the law unto themselves; which show the work of the law [gospel] written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another . . . For he is not a Jew [Christian] which is one *outwardly*; neither is that circumcision [baptism] which is outward in the flesh [merely]; but he is a Jew [Christian] which is one *inwardly*; and the circumcision [baptism] which is a result of being begotten of the Spirit is that of the *heart*, in the *spirit* and *not* [merely] in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

Brother, let us read that whole connection very closely, and it will take the "sectarian" spirit out of us if we have any—take out this "narrow or bigoted" conceit. God has a people in Babylon, and I am sorry to say that many of them are more spiritual than many who make loud professions for themselves and against "denominationalism." No church, no individual, no religious paper is perfect, but we should be striving to be so. The editor of the Spiritual Call is not a sectarian.

Several years ago Fern Bailey, in Chillicothe, Mo., called my attention to the "good" articles in Moody Monthly, which a neighbor was handing to him. I subscribed for the paper, and found that notwithstanding their misunderstandings, and errors, it was the most spiritual journal I had ever read and I do not except any connected with the "Church of Christ." Some religious people put nearly all the stress on the "mint, anise and cummin and omit the *weightier* matters of the law, *justice, mercy and faith.*" (See Matt. 23:23.) Let one read the past issues of the paper of the editor above who condemned "sectarians" and see how little of "Justice, mercy and faith" there is in it, and how much, how much of "mint, anise and cummin."

Page after page has been spent in discussion of mooted questions about church government, discipline, authority of elders, evangelists, etc., etc., instead of teaching *self* government and *self* discipline, which would solve most of the ques-

tions discussed, if needed. Also, he uses much space printing pictures of each writer each time he writes and makes a "picture gallery" of ambition and vanity (as some call it), which space would make better Christians if used to print some spiritual article from "Moody Monthly" or some other religious paper more interested in Christ and God than in the beauty or ugliness of preachers' faces! Maybe that vanity is a straw which shows why there is confusion among professed religious people—pride.

When men will lord over God's heritage, and then try to knock out of the Bible Peter's plain language, which is endorsed by all the scholars of the world, and translators (that we have been able to find), that elders should *not* act "*as lords over God's heritage*" (1 Peter 5:3)—are they not "sectarians" of the rankest kind? Are they honest?

Besides,—the editor we quote, condemns printing from certain spiritual journals because they are "sectarian," yet he himself sells books written by those he calls "sectarians;" and when he goes to worship, he sings hymns, probably ALL written by "sectarians" such as Jesus Lover of My Soul, Rock of Ages, Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross. What irrational reasoning! What inconsistency! What a "sectarian" spirit! For, as Webster says, a "sectarian" is "a narrow and bigoted denominationalist." It is saddening to see such men make such great professions, and be so bigoted and inconsistent. And it is disheartening to see many who blindly and slavishly follow such Pharisees. Let us pray that these followers of men will turn and follow God; for, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Dear reader, let us not be sectarians in religion or politics or anything else; but let us be reasonable people, let us be disciples, learners, of Christ. Let us read the Word with unprejudiced minds and pray unto God every day that our minds will always be open to truth; and as soon as we learn truth, *and are sure of it*, try to practice it in our lives. Jesus himself says, "Ye shall know the truth, and *the truth* shall make you free." We ask our new subscribers to consider carefully what is written in this paper, looking up scripture references, and then to pray God to help you do what *He* wishes you to do.

"Love Not the World"

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." 1 John 2:15.

This seems to be another one of those passages that all can understand without consulting the Greek, or going through a theological seminary. In this world of pride and possession many of us are prone to forget this verse of scripture. We like to look at the things that are seen instead of the things that are not seen. One sad thing is the fact that churches as well as individuals fall short when it comes to this teaching. A lot of churches are more concerned about finer buildings than lost souls, and many individuals have put more trust in the dollar than they have God. This fittingly has been termed *churchanity*. Some have become so concerned about the things in the world that all their time, talent and money is spent to this end, and in some cases they don't even have enough left to pay their grocery bill to say nothing of having any left for God and his poor.

It has been said that "horsepower" is taking the place of "holy power," and this condition has eaten its way into Christianity, so that one hardly knows but what horsepower is holy power. If we will but realize that the love of the Father is not in us when the things of the world command all of our resources. Far too many have the world in one hand and God in the other and think all is well, but they are only

deceiving themselves. You may have the world in one hand but God is not holding the other.

There are a lot of things in this world that we cannot afford for various reasons. There are some things that all can afford and these things are the most priceless. We can afford to save ourselves regardless of the cost, whether it be in mere dollars and cents or sufferings and sacrifices. We can afford to suffer for Him (Christ) for we know that if we suffer with Him we shall reign with Him. All can afford the remission of their sins, whether king or servant, for God has promised forgiveness to those who will obey the gospel. All can afford to "love not the world" for it does not take silver and gold, but an earnest and honest effort on our part to do what God says. After all this world is not our home—we're just passing through. We may, sooner than you think, leave this stage of action and pass on into the unseen world.

This world is something like a huge variety store where many people go in and out daily. A lot of us are like the dishonest boy with "sticky" fingers. We come in and sorta pick up things when we think the manager isn't looking and call them our own. Eventually we work our way to the great door that lets us out. We are just ready to go out the door when, alas! the eternal manager was watching all the time and we are required to leave all that we collected at the door. Of course if you have bought certain things and have paid for them you can pass through the door without any trouble.

Why would anyone be like this? There is one answer. They loved the world just a little too much.—H. L. Carlton.

Sentiments of Some "that Fear the Lord"

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.—Malachi 3:13-18. (Read the whole connection and mark in your Bibles, to have its importance permanent.—Editor.)

CLARINDA, IOWA.—Dear Bro. Sommer: Hope this finds you and your folks all well. We were down to Brookfield a couple of months ago and the brethren there were getting along very well. I enjoy reading your S. C. very much, and hope you are spared many more years to help fight the battle as a soldier of the cross.—Elmer R. Smith.

FAR WEST.—Please send the Spiritual Call to . . . He is trying to build a church there. Bro. Sommer I am so thankful you and other loyal men in the brotherhood are standing for the truth. . . . Now I earnestly pray you live long to carry on the good work you have for years. I ask the prayers of you and Sister Sommer. Yours in the one faith.

WEST—I do appreciate the leaflets on "Closed Communion," received from Fred D. Weed, Bethel, Conn. Perhaps I should write him. . . . The personal letters in Spiritual Call are so good. Thanks to "A Sister in Indiana" for writing in the October issue some splendid references for encouragement. Especially Psalms 56:11 which reads—"In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do to me." I needed that verse and had been searching for it. I desire to grow richer and deeper in Spirit and eagerly watch for encouragement through writings in Spiritual call that are helping much. Hopefully . . .

LOCKWOOD, MO.—Dear Folks: Have been rather swamped with letters and messages from every direction this year. But we really enjoyed hearing from so many church folks, as our children were too far away to be home this year. . . . Must mention three outstanding pieces in Dec. S. C.—The first page, "Outside the Synagogue," and "The Sin of Reading the Bible this Way"—worth much more than the price of the paper for a year. . . . —The C. C. Robertsons.

SOME THOUGHTS—"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. Are there many preachers today walking through briary paths, and up and down rocky hollows, and over rough hills, taking the light

of the gospel of the Son of God to souls who hardly know what the Bible is? Are they presenting their bodies as living sacrifices by private and public teaching? Or, are they going from one congregation to another where the roads are smooth and where they can stretch themselves upon their couches and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall? See Amos 6:4. Mrs. Willis Allen, Stockton, Calif. (Sister Allen says she is a sister to Bro. J. D. Powers.—Ed.)

NOTICE how many little exhortations there are in this issue from "them that fear the Lord," as they "speak often one to another." (Some we have to leave over till March.) There are hundreds of others who fear the Lord and not man, and who stand for the truth against all departures, from whom we hope to receive similar warnings and comfortings. Those who have not sent, will you do it and send in, so that we shall receive it by the middle of the month? Remember, that God promised such people a "book of remembrance," and that they should be among his jewels when he made them up. What glorious promises to those who fear the Lord! And say, do you not know several brothers and sisters who would like to get into the spirit of these exhortations, and who hence should read the paper? Can you not hand it to them? "Oh, the good we all may do, while the days are going by." Read prayerfully the poem at the conclusion of the article on "Yes, Jesus is Coming Again," that God works only through our hands, and our tongues; his gospel does not fly through the air, but first goes through US, into the hearts of men and women.

LEMONS, MO.—The January issue of Spiritual Call arrived a few days ago and I have completed reading its contents and find many excellent articles. "Jesus is Coming Again," to my way of thinking is the best of its kind I have ever read. I find much food for thought in this article alone, and there are many other fine articles in this issue. We have had the pleasure the last three or four months of having quite a number of our loyal brethren visit us at our home. Brothers Wisdom, Grapes and H. L. Ottwell, all of Illinois, made us a pleasant call a few months ago and Bro. Ottwell called again a few weeks later. Brother Lewis of Chillicothe, Mo. (whose membership is at Brookfield, Mo.) calls on us quite frequently while passing through. Quite a number of brethren from Unionville and Bro. J. A. Collins of Worthington, all made us frequent visits. We sincerely appreciate these brethren coming to visit us.—H. F. McConnell and wife.

NEW CASTLE, IND.—Bro. Harold Ottwell of Eaton Alton, Ill. was with us the week of Nov. 27, closing Dec. 4th. His presence and exhortation were a big help to us. Those who met him appreciated his pleasing personality and fluent speech. We had visitors from neighboring congregations and at one service we had an attendance of 41. We were very glad to meet Bro. Ottwell and hope it will be so that he can return at some future date.—Forest W. Achor.

TO OBTAIN new subscriptions to the Spiritual Call, we do not have a religious machine built up by centralization, deception, flattery, injustice, intimidation, to help us; but only the sincere faith of humble disciples "that fear the Lord," and wish to "speak one to another." You know some earnest disciples, or even non-Christians, who need the exhortations in this paper. Why not "speak" to them through all our writers (including yourself if possible), by sending them the paper? At present, you can send to TEN families not now taking the paper, for only \$5. Will you thus "speak" to them? Some good lists are coming in, but we should have many more, to keep the paper at its present state, and to move onward. Send as soon as possible before the beginning of the series on "Jesus is Coming Again" in January issue, are all gone. The series will continue a good while. While each article is complete, yet to a certain extent they are held together with a thread. Remember the song—"We'll work till Jesus comes!"

LET'S SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER

Mat. 3:16, 18—"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels."

Brother, sister, do we fear the Lord and do we think upon his name? Will we be found in that book of remembrance, in that day when he makes up his jewels?

Heb. 3:12, 13—"Take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

We are living in perilous times; we see sin and wickedness of every

shade and grade and false teachings on every hand; it behooves us that we heed the warning given here lest our faith become weak and we be drawn away from the simplicity of the gospel as it is in Christ Jesus; or become discouraged and fall out by the wayside.

Are we exhorting one another daily? Why not each one write a few lines of warning, exhortation, word of encouragement, calling attention to the great promises God has given to those who love and serve him. I think it will encourage all of us to know that others are interested in the spiritual life all Christians are required to live; and how can we know unless we speak often one to another?

The S. C. affords a medium through which we can do this. Do we appreciate this privilege and will we take advantage of the opportunity? Bro. Sommer has sacrificed much to give us the S. C. We must not suffer him to bear the burden alone. If you consider this worthy of your support why not mail Brother S. a check now, today, "lest we forget" and let a worthy opportunity slip?—B. J.

VIENNA, ILL.—I recently visited some brethren and sisters in Kansas City, Mo., who meet for worship at 17th and Lawn Sts., where I was asked to speak morning and night. Enjoyed meeting and visiting with this little group of disciples very much. We believe their difficulties and persecutions to be about the same as all who live godly in Christ Jesus. We pray they may stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel. I also met with the church at Brookfield, Mo., New Year's Day, where I joined together in the holy bonds of matrimony Bro. and Sister Lewis' daughter, Kathleen, to Leonard Pease, following the morning services. Brethren there seem willing to fight the good fight of faith, and I did what I could to strengthen them. Let us not forget to pray, brethren.—H. L. Carlton.

AN ELDER WRITES (among many things)—Dear Bro. Sommer: It appears to me that articles appearing in your paper have a tone so much more in keeping with the spirit of Christ, portraying humility and the sincerity of the writers, far more than what we find in other religious papers that I have read in recent years. I pray that God will spare you for many years and make it possible for you to carry on the good work, as you have done so faithfully in the past. . . . So far as using my name, if you wish to use it in connection with anything I have written, do so, as I have no fear as to the results. I have confidence in what I believe and practice. (Some are afraid they may be put out of the synagogue.) . . . I am happy because I have hope of eternal life in Christ. Pray for us. Enclosed find check for \$5 for the names I am sending, for the Spiritual Call. . . . You might send me 12 leaflets, Nuggets of Gold.—H. F. McConnell, Lemons, Mo. (Bro. McConnell is an elder, and from his letters and actions, I decide he knows what he is talking about, and is determined to stand for the truth, and he promises to write some for the paper. We shall all be looking for his spiritual thoughts from years of Christian experience.—Editor.)

THE REMEDY FOR CHRISTIANS' DIFFICULTIES

In all differences that arise among professed Christians there is a remedy. First, we must be honest in every sense that term implies. Then we trust the Lord first, and next man if he lives up to the Divine commands. So if we do not measure man by the Divine standard (the word of God) but follow man regardless of that test, it will often be the means of leading us astray, and causing all kinds of trouble in the brotherhood. Then we give Satan a victory. It simply is a case of the blind leading the blind and both fall into the ditch, as recorded in Matt. 15:14. How sad a plight to end up in, all because we do not consult the law of the Lord as 2 Tim. 2:15 commands, and lose all the riches in Christ that is ours for a faithful life in Him. So let us be governed accordingly, and win our crown of life, the greatest possible blessing that man can ever have. Yours for truth and righteousness as it is in Christ Jesus.—C. A. Sanderson, 8809 N. 11th Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. (Bro. Sanderson is a leader of the church in Glendale, Ariz., and we have had high respect for him through probably 30 years.—Editor.)

CONSIDER JOB

DEAR FRIENDS I want to call your attention to the book of Job. I have found it to be a book that can be misread to a big disadvantage, even to a harmful extent. I want to tell you about my experience with this book and would be glad to hear from any one if they have found any other book to be a stumbling block. Perhaps we can help each other to better understanding of the Scriptures.

Years ago there was a family that were for a while well favored, it seemed, with God. I was a 5th child in that group so I can testify for them that they were in a way set apart from their neighbors. We snugly considered ourselves a Christian family. Not in wealth were we great, but the careless, gambling saloon-going people about knew better than to even try to enter our gate. As Job did, in our day we considered ourselves blessed.

But another day dawned for us in which all we cherished passed away. No need to enumerate the many disasters that followed prosperity. At last, just as Job sat in his sad hour, the sole surviving parent stood alone, stricken with an incurable malady, the doctor pronouncing the sentence of from 30 to 90 days more of life on earth. Not three friends came but rather dozens, also several ministers, but all were Job's comforters. Here's the scriptures that were used to heal the broken hearts and comfort the dying mother: "Be sure a man's sins find him out;" "God will not cast away a perfect man, nor will he help an evil doer." Job 8, ch. 20. Heaven shall reveal man's iniquity and the earth shall rise up against him, Job. 20:27. Who ever perished being innocent? Job. 4, ch. 7. If thou wert pure and upright surely He (God) would awake for thee and make thy habitation to prosper," Job. 8, ch. 6.

And were also reminded that in 33rd ch. verses 25 and 26, Job was told to pray if faithful and have his health restored him. Briefly we were told to kneel and pray through (they never said through what) and the dying woman would arise and walk. If we could not, then either her sin or ours was so bad God had for saken us.

Well I'm glad to state that only the living backslide. The dying went to the grave without faltering in faith. Several of us gave up, accepting the idea we were lost. The minister had prayed aloud all night and his prayer not being answered he went back to the world, quit trying to preach. I even lost heart to pray.

Later I met a true minister of the gospel. He seemed to see I needed help badly. I became a member of his congregation without telling him my mental condition. He taught me how to read the Bible. He cleared up my mental fog concerning Job by asking if I ever went on to the last chapter. Now in it we find that all these verses I've quoted and had quoted to me were condemned by God himself, and Job was told to pray for his friends that they might be forgiven.

So it really pays to look into the matter completely even when one quotes Bible, book, chapter and verse. A complete study of the whole book is needful if we are really seeking to know God's work.—A Reader.

P. S.—The minister that led me back to Christ was our dear old Brother J. D. Powers. He might not wish me to use his name. He is not out for man's praise but he knows how he has helped me find the way.

IF GOD BE FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

The whole world seems to be in a turmoil of unrest, both in and out of the church, men striving for power and rulership—a sad, sad state.

To those who love the Lord and desire to please him in all our ways, the way sometimes seems discouraging, but God has promised never to leave us or forsake us. So the cure for all our worries and hardships is to "study to show ourselves acceptable unto God, work men that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

If we rightly divide the word of God and then direct our lives accordingly, we need not fear what man can do unto us.

Sometimes families of God's people worship together for years, peacefully and happily, then some of those leader-lovers come in with ideas, claiming to know ways that will spread the gospel faster and better than the good old Bible ways of the Lord, and soon there is confusion, and unrest, and eventually the church is torn asunder. Some, thank God, stay with the old way, content to let God have his way. Some go on with their big ideas of doing big things, letting some preachers' ideas govern them. But someday there will be a reckoning; then let us be sure we are on the Lord's side. For if he is for us who can be against us?

Let us not be discouraged, though sometimes our numbers are few, with God on our side we are more than conquerors. Faithful Christians will always win out in the end. Brothers and sisters in Christ, don't let divisions overthrow your faith. If it is only you and the Lord, you are in the majority. Let us be faithful and follow God's teaching, and at last our Redeemer will say, "Well Done, faithful servant."—Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Chester Sanderson.

A PRISCILLA-LIKE SISTER in Texas sends two batches of names of ten each, saying that some are Spanish and colored, etc. "We are trying to spread the gospel at every opportunity and to all races. I am sorry I got them in too late for the January issue." But we sent that issue and have some left for others who come late—but hurry with your list of names, to get the start of the series on "Yes, Jesus Is Coming Again." Yet each article is complete by itself. There is considerable interest by our readers in this series and they may well be for—next to the remission of our sins by obedience, it is the most precious doctrine of the Christian faith, and full knowledge is sure to help make us better prepared for His coming.

The Unequal Yoke

You may be a member of the church of your choice, but this questionnaire has awakened you to the fact that you are not a member of the church of God's choice. This being true, the only consistent thing for you to do is to leave the church of your choice and let God add you to the church of His choice. *If you are a member of a church which is full of worldliness, impurity, unbelief, hypocrisy, modernism, denominational idolatry, and the popular activities of a man-made program, the next step is to OBEY 2 Corinthians 6:17: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." Worldly wisdom will say, "Stay where you are and let your light shine by your testimony." But the liberal, compromising minister, official members, denominational literature, and worldly program would extinguish your light and silence your testimony for Christ. God says: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor. 6:14). If the denominational church of which you are a member is loyal to your denomination, and that denomination is loyal to the Federal Council of Churches, you are thereby "unequally yoked together with unbelievers," modernists, agnostics, and the enemies of Christ. Thus you are living in open rebellion against the revealed will of God. More than that, you are guilty of supporting morally and financially one of the most un-American and anti-Christian organizations in this country! Therefore, "Come out from among them!"*

The question arises, "What shall I do and where shall I go?" In answer to prayer the Holy Spirit will guide you into the fellowship of *some separated believers of "like precious faith."* There you will find the love, unity, peace, joy, and satisfaction you have desired for so many years. There are hundreds of faithful Christians who never hear the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ when they go to church. They are "fed up" with pious platitudes, "the fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of man," pulpit oratory, soft words, cold dignity, supine compromise, denominational programs, and the deceitful activities of the Federal Council of Churches.

To "come out from among them" means misunderstanding, misrepresentation, condemnation, slander, persecution, and heart-burning, but we should gladly suffer these things "outside the camp" as "strangers and pilgrims" for the sake of Him who suffered untold agonies for us. When tempted to scatter or be silent, as some do under such circumstances, we must gladly obey the inspired admonition: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," "making melody in your heart to the Lord" with "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs"; "and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (See Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:25.)

In forming a separate fellowship it may be necessary to follow the good example of Aquilla and Priscilla, and invite the saints into your home, form a church, and conduct regular services, with praise, prayer, testimony, worship, Bible study, preaching of the Word, and soul winning. Be not dismayed by many hardships in providing a house of worship, for "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Regardless of personal sacrifice, leave the church of your choice [if it be not a true church] and let the Holy Spirit direct you into the membership of the church of God's choice!—J. C. McCaslin in Christian Beacon.

Looking Back

In walking in the ways of God, sometimes it does us good and gives us courage to go forth with the word of God today when we look back over God's people.

It is also the same in our physical life. No doubt we have all read of the pilgrims that pioneered this great country, as they traveled the country from the east to the west, the great trials and tribulation that they endured in their travels. As we have the modern conveniences of this day it should give us courage and strength to face life in a better way.

And so it is with the way of God's word. First we look back to the time of Noah. We find that God's people were never great in number but Noah's faith condemned the world, Heb. 11:7. By faith Moses went out from the Egyptian people, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, Heb. 11:25. Then we find that God's people were in transgression in the time of Joshua as he spoke to them in Joshua 24:15—"Chose you this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

Then we find on this side of the cross perhaps one of the greatest men that walked before God, the apostle Paul. He suffered many things, physical, to proclaim the word of God to the people. He suffered stripes, shipwrecks and other things. As we read in 2nd Cor. 4:17, "For our light affliction which is but for a moment worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

As the Son of God walked this earth of sin and sorrow he was not popular with the people. As he proclaimed the great word of life in the 6th chapter of John we read there were many of his disciples departed from him. Then he spoke to the apostles, "Will ye also go away?" Then Simon Peter answered him, "Lord to whom shall we go, thou has the words of eternal life," John 6:68.

So let us keep the word of God today as one of our greatest possessions in life, as we read in Psalms 119:105, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. We must always bear in mind that the ones that will receive the blessings from God for eternal life must keep his commandments. As we find in Rev. 22:14, Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.—Elmer R. Smith.

DEDICATION

Lord, can I dare sit idly by
And watch the millions Christless die;
Doing nothing to save the lost,
Afrail of what might be the cost;
Like Peter, warming at the fire—
Sheltering under the church's spire?
Dare I sit and waste the years,
Sharing Thy joys, but not Thy tears;
Unheeding Thy low, tender plea,
"Take up thy cross and follow Me";
While Thy footprints leave crimson stains
In city streets and country lanes,
As Thou dost carry Thy cross anew,
Seeking the lost as I should do?
O Lord, forgive. I weep in shame,
I love Thee truly; in Thy name,
I turn my back upon the past
To wholly follow Thee at last!

—WILLIAM ATHERTON