

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

(Fourth in a Series)

**"UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM, SHALL HE
APPEAR THE SECOND TIME, WITHOUT SIN
[OFFERING] UNTO SALVATION"**

"As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment; so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin [offering] unto salvation."—Heb. 9:27, 28.

God Works Through His Law

When Jesus came the first time, he came as a sin offering for us, but when he comes again he will come as a Judge of the living and the dead—come with a reward for the righteous "unto salvation," and a punishment for the wicked. Thus the two great doctrines for the Christians are that Jesus came and died for us, and that he has gone away but will come again to reward us; and both of these doctrines are discounted by most of the modernists.

"The idea that blood saves us from our sins, that God is pleased to have his Son die in atonement for us—that is ridiculous." But let us see if it is as ridiculous as you think, my skeptical brother.

God works through Law just as man does. Families, societies, nations are held together by law, and in order for laws to have any effect there must be a punishment for the disobedience of those laws. If parents continually tell their children what and what not to do, and then when the children disobey pay no attention, soon that family has become a little mob. If the city has laws against speeding on the streets, and then does not punish those who disobey, soon those laws are dead. If we have laws against murder, and then when it is committed we do not execute those who wilfully kill their neighbor, soon the law against murder is void, and murder will increase.

Nor will mere repentance deliver one from the clutches of the law. Many a murderer has deeply regretted his act when he found he was caught and must die, but that mere repentance will not deliver him; for the law to stand he must pay the penalty. If every convict could be released on mere outward repentance, there would be no one in the penitentiaries at all. But the penalty must be paid.

So God works through the laws he has given. He has established laws in nature, and when they are disregarded, there is disaster, punishment. Certain elements brought together cause explosions according to God's law, regardless of consequences. The human body must exist according to laws of

nature, and when they are disregarded, confusion results. If a man eats too much he suffers for it; if he drinks whiskey and lies out doors all night he may take his death of cold. No matter how penitent one is in the hospital, the debt to the law of nature must be paid or overcome by other laws of nature.

So is it in God's dealings with man in morals and religion. In nature, and morals, "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Diseases spread through contact, and, morally, "evil companionships corrupt good morals."

God established his religious law back in the Garden of Eden, and man disobeyed. The consequences of this disobedience must be eternal banishment from God. "In the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." Man ate, and immediately died in the sense which God meant—he was separated from God, and he began to die physically, though he lived for nine hundred years. The law of God must be obeyed. Man could not work his way back to God's pleasure by mere righteousness, for the law had been broken, and we have seen that there must be punishment for the disobedience of law, for it to be a true law. Man has been saved from the eternal consequences of sin, by the act of the Son of God's coming in and paying the penalty for us by dying for us. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.) "He was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities; the chastisement of OUR peace was upon HIM, and with HIS stripes WE are healed." (Isa. 53:5.)

No, dear reader, no matter how good you are, if you have not accepted Jesus Christ and come in contact with his blood, according to His word, you have not been saved. No matter how many lodges you belong to, and how faithful you are to their rules, you have no promise without the blood of Christ. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done [independent of the gospel] but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration [baptism] and renewing of the Holy Ghost—begotten of the words of the Holy Spirit through faith, Titus 3:5. "Except a man be born of water [baptism] and of the Spirit [words of the Spirit] he can not enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5. "He said unto them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth [is begotten of the Spirit] and is baptized [born of water] shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15, 16. The Pentecostians believed the words spoken of Peter who was speaking by the Spirit, and thus they were begotten by the Spirit. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and unto the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," Acts 2:37, 38.

You ask, if baptism preceded by faith and repentance brings us into the remission of sins, how does the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse us from all sin. Listen! It is done through this "form of doctrine," teaching, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized *into his death*. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life," Rom. 6:3, 4. When one is scripturally baptized he goes through in a form what Christ went through in reality. Christ died, and we die to the love and practice of sin; Christ was buried, and "we are buried with him by baptism into death"; Christ was raised again, and we are raised with him to "walk in newness of life."

Notice verse 3 says we are "baptized INTO his DEATH." Now it is in the death of Christ that we have the blood of Christ, and it is in the blood of Christ that we have the remission of sins; therefore, when we are baptized "into his death" we are baptized into the remission of our sins. "Repent and be baptized for [into] the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38.) How beautifully that figure harmonizes with all the facts and conditions of redemption! Think how a sprinkling or pouring for baptism would destroy this beautiful symbol of Christian death, burial and resurrection!

Notice that in verses 17, 18, Paul refers to this form in these words, "Ye have obeyed from the heart that *form of doctrine* [teaching] that was delivered unto you, being then *made free from sin*, ye became the servants of righteousness." And again in Gal. 3:26,27, "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Note that it is by "*faith*," and then he explains what he means in the next verse, "*For as many of you as have been baptized INTO Christ have put on Christ*;" faith leads to repentance and confession and finally baptism which completes the New Birth. *Thus, the only two institutions connected with the Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and both of these show to the world the death, burial, and resurrection of the Son of God for us, and reveal the Blood of Christ to man.*

"To Them that LOOK for Him . . . Salvation"

Paul says of the Lord's Supper, "As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death [blood] *till he comes*," 1 Cor. 11:26. The Supper tells the world and us that He died for our sins, and the constant observance of it tells to the world that He will come again to redeem us from all pain and sickness and sorrow and tears and death, the consequences of sin; in other words, he will bring complete "salvation" to us.

But suppose we do not look for him, nor "love his appearing," nor prepare for his coming, will he bring the salvation he promises to us? Says Paul in Heb. 10:19-25—"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, and having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart." Unless we are truly sincere, there is no hope for us.

"In full assurance of faith." There is no doubt, no supposition, no guess-work, no wavering, no hopelessness. We know whom we have believed, and are persuaded that he is able to guard that which we have committed unto him against that day.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith." If we hold a little while to Christ and then let loose, all the good we have done shall not be mentioned. It is he that endureth to the end that shall be saved. We should cut ourselves loose from everything that would lead us astray. If we keep looking for him, it will help us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.

"Provoke one another unto love and good works." Do everything we can to stir others to love of the brethren and all men, and to do good unto all men especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," for when we meet and commune with the Lord through the bread and wine, we remind ourselves of the great price which has been made to redeem us, and we show the Lord's death till he come and redeem us from all the penalties of sin. And we should thus "exhort one another" to meet, too, and look backward to the blood and forward to bliss.

"Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time . . . unto *salvation*." O, happy thought, oh glorious day; when our Redeemer comes, and saves us from pain and sorrow and sickness and death!

"AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF LOT," SODOM

As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. . . . Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."—Luke 17:26-30.

Read Genesis 18, 19 chapters.

The story of Lot and Sodom is a thrilling and saddening one. You remember that when God blessed both Abraham and Lot and when a difficulty arose between the herdsmen of each, that Abraham gave Lot his choice of the land, saying that they would have to separate. Lot chose the plain of Sodom. It seems that the district was very fertile and that irrigation was used to make their crops, much as was done in the Garden of Eden. See Genesis 13:10.

Though Sodom was a wicked place, yet to his credit we will say that Lot "vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds," 2 Peter 2:8. When God determined to destroy the place, he told Abraham about it. You remember how the old patriarch pled with God to save the city, with Lot, if at least there were ten righteous people there. When the two angels appeared to Lot to warn him to flee, there was a sample of the wickedness of the men of the city. If you do not know what "sodomy" means consult a good sized dictionary. The wickedness of many cities in our land may not be much less than that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

When Lot spoke to his son-in-laws and warned them that God would destroy the city for its wickedness, he seemed to them as one that mocked, that made light of them. In other words, they thought he was "kidding" them. And such in-laws are not all dead. They may have married into religious families, but have no regard for religion. The world and nearly all church members today, wink at those of kindred spirit, when one talks to them about the coming of Jesus, and warns that it may be at any time. "All things continue as they were from the beginning," they say.

Lot and his wife and daughters obeyed God in leaving the city, but the wife looked back and was destroyed; yet the three escaped to the mountains, and the cities of the plain were destroyed.

The circumstances which led to this moral decay were natural it seems. Ezekiel tells us about it, and we quote his words in Ezekiel 16:49, 50, and make running comments and comparisons:

"Behold this was the wickedness of thy sister, Sodom, pride, fulness of bread." As we have said, Sodom was a fertile plan, well watered from the Jordan, and possibly

little streams, and they were prospering financially, and it lifted them in their own conceits. They had plenty to eat— oranges, bananas, figs, olives; wheat and other such grains; and manufactured articles which go in the wake of plenty to eat. And they forgot God. . . . America today has fulness of bread, so much so that we do not know what to do with the good things we raise. And along with that has gone pride. We think we are the greatest nation in the world, and we are great in material benefits, but not in moral attainments. Where wealth accumulates men decay as in nations past.

"Abundance of idleness was in her and her daughters." Strange as it may seem, the people were better morally in our land, when the men worked ten hours a day, and did not have so much idle time in which to get into mischief. True, real men and women may use that extra time in things which are elevating, but among us it is largely sports and pleasures, often of a gross kind. Some one has said that an "empty mind is a devil's workshop," and how true that is. If one is not kept busy in good things, he will be sure to engage in bad things, for the mind seeks employment or entertainment of some kind.

"Neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Regardless of the abundance of material things, the slaves, or servants, were ill-treated. God held this against them. . . . And regardless of the great bounty in our land, our "great men," when an abundance of potatoes or anything else exists, talk of destroying it as they did the little pigs a few years back, and super-abundant crops.

"And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me, therefore I took them away as I saw good." . . . America is proud, and sex crimes and murders and thefts and all kinds of evils are on the increase; yet we retain our haughtiness, and refuse to repent of our sins and try to make conditions better, but rush on in our crave for gold, glory and a good time. We have had ample warnings and repent not, and it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for us, for they did not receive the warnings that we have received.

God did not find ten righteous people in Sodom and therefore destroyed it; and "Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord, and he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the plain, and beheld, and lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace," Gen. 19:27, 28.

In 1848, W. F. Fynch of the United States Navy, led a government expedition to explore the waters of the Dead Sea, and surrounding shores; and though he and his companions were somewhat skeptical when they went, they left with the knowledge that the Dead Sea consists of two submerged plains, one about 13 feet deep, and the other, 1300; and with the belief that part of the present sea, at least, occupies the cities, probably, of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Sodomites were luxurious, smug, carefree, indifferent, optimistic concerning their future, and refused to listen to any warning; and they ate and drank, and bought and sold, and planted and builded, just as if everything was to endure for a thousand years yet. But the same day that Lot fled from the city, fire and brimstone fell on them and they were destroyed.

And so today, men and women are just as carefree, optimistic concerning their future plans, as smug, and as indifferent as were the luxurious people of the land of Sodom. Every large daily contains pages of such ambitions as expressed in the following, taken casually from present-day advertisements:

EATING AND DRINKING, BUYING AND SELLING
PLANTING AND BUILDING

RUSSET—Yes, it's a fact. When we serve chicken and noodles, we just prepare less of other dishes. Chicken and noodles at Russet tomorrow.

WARM RECEPTION—In a hot toddy, or any other drink, so many, many people would rather have "Four Roses." It offers so much more in quality at such a reasonable price. Fine blended whiskey.

BUILD A HOUSE IN YOUR SPARE TIME? Why not? Even the man without carpentering skills can do it—if he follows this new method. Alex Ellenbacher, a young Hungarian-born American, is a compelling example of how a man without carpentering experience can make \$5000 in his spare time—by building his own house.

And so on and on through most of the newspapers and magazines, everything is material and there is practically no thought that God might wind up this evil world and call all men to answer for their lives. Even professed Christians are in the swim and as bad as the outward sinners. True, there is somewhat an outward form of religion, but that is all—there is little devotion within. If you warn Christians today that Christ may soon come, nine-tenths of them will let the admonition fall to the ground unheeded. They are so obsessed with their plans of praise, and pleasure, and business, and money, that they have no time, no time. They never talk to others of their soul's eternal welfare—they themselves need talking to. Churches make plans for great temples of pride, yet not for cleansing their own souls and bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. Like Laodicea and Sodom, they are rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and know not that they are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. If Jesus comes and finds us thus engaged, Grace E. Troy wishes to know —

WHAT WOULD HE SAY?

If He should come today
And find my hands so full
Of future plans, however fair
In which my Savior has no share,
What would he say?

If He should come to-day
And find my love so cold,
My faith so very weak and dim
I had not even looked for Him
What would he say?

If He should come to-day
And find I had not told
One soul about my Heavenly Friend
Whose blessings all my way attend,
What would he say?

If He should come to-day
Would I be glad—quite glad?
Remembering He had died for all
And none, through me, had heard His call,
What would he say?

—D. A. Sommer.

(To be Continued)

SPIRITUAL CALL

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"Examine Yourselves"

One meaning of the word examine is—interrogate as a witness. Now how many times have you questioned yourselves as to whether ye be in the faith? remembering that you are the witness for yourself? I believe some self examination in these times of strife and confusion might help to solve a lot of problems. Of course I know it is a lot easier to examine the other fellow and to point out his errors and weaknesses. The first examination, however, must be that of ourselves.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged," said Jesus. How many, many times people will see a mote in their brother's eye and are totally blind to the beam in their own eye. The best way to examine your brother is to examine yourself first. Church members will condemn a man who is a drunkard, and yet they will pay to see movies where drinking is held forth as the right thing to do. Preachers will denounce denominationalism and Catholicism and at the same time be doing some of the same things or using some of the same methods as those they so strongly denounce. "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye," Matt. 7:5.

I won't deny that there may be a mote in thy brother's eye. I'm not upholding the drunkard. The purpose of this article is to show that we need to be careful that we don't condemn ourselves. Denominationalism and Catholicism are far from the truth, but, brother, make very sure that you are practicing Truth before trying to correct error.

We can see the vital importance of self examination in that it becomes every Christian's duty to be able to point out error, and to help your brother who might be overtaken in a fault, or who may have been misguided. Whole churches die because none of the members can say anything for fear of their own faults. Each member is a witness to his own self and is content to harbor his own faults as long as nobody says anything. What is needed is examination, of self first, then others.

Do you wonder what measuring stick to use? Who can be able to know the truth and to rightly measure his brother? The answer lies in your acceptance of God's word. "He can make you what you ought to be, if you will let Him have His way with you." He can make you wise unto salvation. He can deliver you from evil. But, you have to take him at his word. You can't take the Bible and twist the meaning of it to suit your taste. If you aren't careful this may be what you are doing or someone doing it for you.

We must remember it takes self government, self discipline, and self examination to overcome the trials and temptations of this life. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." II Cor. 13:5.
—Lyle Carlton.

A Pure Life

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13-14.

The christian life is one of strife. We must continually strive against sin, against temptation, against the allurements of the world. Working out our own salvation is no easy matter. But the longer we work at it the easier it becomes, though we must always strive. It is easy enough for us to drift with the tide. But it will only carry us out farther and farther into the deep. So it is easy for us to walk in the broad way. We can wobble from side to side and still be in the road. There too, we always have plenty of help to keep us in that way, but it always leads us farther from Christ. We cannot do much wobbling and stay in the strait way. This way is difficult because we must give up all the pleasures of sin and keep ourselves unspotted from the world in order to walk in this way. "The unclean shall not pass over it."

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God," Jas. 4:4. Did you ever see a person "having the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof," 2 Tim. 3:5. That person's influence is against God. Therefore whosoever will be a friend of the world, is the enemy of God. If you thought Christ would be here in twenty-four hours, how would you spend the intervening time? In carelessness and riotous living? In trying to silence those who are more righteous than ourselves? Or would you spend the time in prayer and right doing? Well, that is the way we should live all the time. For of that day and that hour knoweth no man. None of us knows when he is coming, so we should live every day as though it was our last day, for indeed, it may be, and we do know that some day will be our last day. Which one we do not know. Some day you will look upon the scenes of this world for the last time. Some day death's icy finger will be laid upon your brow, and you will close your eyes in that dreamless sleep from which you will not awaken till the resurrection morn. It depends on how you live as to whether you awake to everlasting life or to shame and everlasting condemnation. Brethren, it is high time we quit our bickering and backbiting and get to work for the Lord. When that dread hour of dissolution comes to us, how puny ourselves and our influence will seem then! Our influence will take care of itself and shine the brighter if we live as we should.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath, for it is written, Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord, Rom. 12:19. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings, Psa. 36:7. Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am, Psa. 39:4. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, 2 Pet. 3:11-12.
—J. A. Collins.

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.)

WHO WROTE IT?—In the February issue of the S. C., we published an article on the subject "Love not the World". There was no name to it, and we thought H. L. Carlton wrote it, and gave his name to it, but he says that he did not write it. We are glad to give the writer credit, if we know him.

CORONA, CALIF.—My arm is still in a cast, and it is hard to write, but it is so I can scribble a little. I don't feel any too well. W. J. (her husband) is doing fairly well. Both of us together are trying to raise a garden. I find I can do a lot of things with my left hand when I have to. I am holding my pencil against my face with my thumb and my arm is getting tired. In Christ, Judith Stone—3898 N. Ellis.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, Dear Brother Sommer: Two articles in the February issue, "What is a Sectarian" and "The Unequal Yoke," were of special interest to me. If these two articles were read carefully and prayerfully, they would solve many of the vexing questions that arise in our minds, and would help us to know the truth that makes us free from the doctrines and commandments of men. —M. A. Caffee, Indianapolis.

GLENDALE, ARIZONA.—Bro. R. O. Webb from Secor, Ill., met with us this Lord's Day, March 19. We had an all-day meeting and basket dinner. Bro. Webb gave us some very fine lessons for our spiritual uplift and a sister was reinstated. In all it was a fine meeting, and helped to keep us in the straight and narrow way. —C. A. Sanderson, 8809 N. 11th Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.

WHO IS A DECEIVER

Here is what the dictionary says: "Deceiver is one who deceives. Deceive to mislead or cause to err; disappoint."

Romans 3 ch. 13 v.—"Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips."

Eph. 5 ch. 6 v.—"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." One would do well to read the entire ch.

Galatians 6 ch. 7 v.—"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Romans 3 ch. 19 v.—"Now we know what things soever the law sayeth, it sayeth to them under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

Romans 3 ch. 20 v.—"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." —Minnie Shaw.

WORDS

Words are such little things,
 Yet so powerful and strong.
 They bring much joy when spoken right,
 Much grief when spoken wrong.

If and no are two short ones,
 Yet if I'm strong and stand,
 When I am tempted, and say No;
 The peace that comes is grand.

So let us choose our words, dear friends,
 For God hears from afar.
 It is our words and daily deeds,
 That make us what we are.

Let's say kind words to every one,
 And treat each one with love.
 We know that God will be our strength;
 He watches from above.

Words, words words;
 Our prayer should be,
 That God would guide our words and deeds,
 And then from sin we would be free.

And when we stand before our Lord,
 On that great Judgment Day,
 We will be judged by deeds and words—
 Both what we do and say.

—Alta C. Sanderson.

J. W. AMERINE, Cottonwood Falls, Kans., is dead. We were sorry to learn that, for we know a good man has passed from us. Quiet, unassuming, moving along doing the best he knew how—his life was a gospel to those who knew him. I remember when Sister Amerine, too, was alive, their little cottage at the end of the lane, with the old oaken bucket in the well,—it took the mind back. I hope to meet them both by the river of the water of Life, of which we can drink and live forever. —S. C. Publisher.

I LIKE your writing on, Jesus is Coming Again, because you use so many good Bible verses—Elmer R. Smith. (We repeat, brethren, that you might help your soul as mine has been helped, by marking these verses in your Bibles.—Editor.) . . .

WE APPRECIATE the leaflet on Closed Communion sent to us by Fred Weed. It is good to know there are those who are contending for the simplicity and purity of the Church. His articles in the Spiritual Call are always full of gospel messages. The articles by J. D. Powers and yourself are always appreciated. Sincerely,—Austin and Virginia Chaffee, California . . . GOD BLESS YOU in the good work. We as professed followers of Christ certainly need such truths as you are giving us on Christ's Second Coming. And may God help us all to apply the lessons to our lives so we can be ready for His coming.—L. P. Heltman, Pa.

WAS PETER THE FIRST POPE OF ROME? And, Is the Roman Church the original Church established by Christ and the Apostles? The editor of this paper wishes to consider these important questions in some near-future issue of this paper. Since the Romanists are making such attempts to capture America, to break up our school system, and so many misleading things are being published regarding this great organization, we feel that the minds of many are ready to consider the full truth. Maybe it can be made complete in one issue. We have interesting data on these subjects which we have been gathering through the years.

FROM A NONAGENARIAN

COLO. SPRINGS—Dear Bro. and Sister Sommer: A few lines to let you know I am still here and able to be around and take a walk nearly every day for which I am very thankful, for the good Lord has always blessed me all through life, as I now look back over the years that have gone by with all the disappointments and broken bones and heart aches. Well, Bro. Sommer you and I will soon have another birthday—mine is the 27th and yours the 28th of March. It will be my 90th birthday but 89 years old; how time does fly. I can still read some yet. I manage at different times to read the S. C. through and find it still getting better, and interest improving all the time. You are making your promise good getting more scriptural all the time. I am sending a little to help along. Hope this finds you in good health and able to fight the battle that may arise, for Satan is always on hand, and more now than any time in my life. Yours sincerely in Christian love. —M. B. Foster

JUST THINKING

The world offers pleasures so happy and gay,
 Bright roses fall by the way;
 But the tide of time whirls on its rush
 To the land of infinite day.

I view with dismay the path I have trod,
 My steps oft strayed day by day
 From the wonderful peace God offers to all—
 To those in the straight narrow way.

The world and its glamour soon passes away,
 It lives but a day then it's o'er;
 But the treasures we build on the Rock that is sure
 Will last for time evermore.

—Mary S. (Missouri).

SUMMERVILLE, MO.—I am now 83 years old and living alone on a little farm. My Bible and religious books and papers are my company. . . . I want your paper as long as it is published, and all tracts that you put out. I am in perfect health. Haven't been sick for twenty years or more. I work some every day, and am able to walk to church 3½ miles Lord's Day morning. Generally ride horse back at night. I am filing the Macedonian Call and Spiritual Call. I have them back to the time your father died. I am working on an index now. They will be a fine commentary. —A. B. Case. (We rejoice with Bro. Case in his health both physically and spiritually. Of course, many suffer much pain, but let us try to "grow old gracefully," taking things as they come,

looking with joy to the appearing of the Lord "unto salvation."
—Editor.)

LONG BEACH, CALIF.—My Dear Bro. Sommer: As I promised to report results of my visiting those that were so persecuted as myself, at National City, Calif. Was there over 2 Lord's Days, spoke a number of times, which seemed to be well received by all. Met for worship first L. D. in Bro. Harbrauck's home. Before the next L. D. we found and rented a nice place to meet each or every Sunday. So last Sunday 21 were present, 14 members, one out-sider, rest were children—nice, peaceful services and wonderful singing. I did enjoy it. These brethren seemed like scattered sheep, they had been writing for me to visit them for a long time, and they expressed their surprise that I was so instrumental in getting them to meet for worship and Christian fellowship. Most of them were acquainted with S. C. and they said they were going to take it. You might, if you wish, put a short notice in S. C. that I am contemplating going back to Va., starting about April, and I wish to visit those few in the different parts that don't follow Men. I have invitations from some. I would love to hear from all. Now this is not to swell my purse. Yours for truth.

—J. D. Powers.

OHIO—I was wondering if the Simplified New Testament is still being published. If so, how much does it cost? My grandmother gave me a copy as I went into the army and I enjoyed reading it very much. Last spring it disappeared some place and I have not been able to find any trace of it. I find it very helpful in working with young people of high school age. . . . (This book with its analyses, comments, different translations, definitions, etc., will help you, too, as it has helped thousands. Only \$3.10 for this combination book, but five copies ONLY \$2.60 each. D. A. Sommer, 918 Congress Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.)

THE BROTHERHOOD

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. What for? He that believeth and is baptized shall be Saved. What from? First from past Sins. Second in heaven, if faithful unto death, Rev. 2:10. The simple gospel is God's means and power to save, Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:3-5. And to bring together and unite in one body the church, the divided brotherhood of man, beginning first with Jew and Gentile, Eph. 2:15-22. Please read references. An unknown poet says—

Brotherhood

Have a shoulder for the burdens
Of the weaker soul each day.
Stoop and lift them and be tender,
And be kind in every way;
For the gentleness of kindness
Has a gospel of its own.
In the way that love is measured
And the brother heart is shown.

Have a shoulder for the burdens,
Of the one whom God guides near.
It is worth your while to tarry,
If through sympathy you can cheer;
For we only cross these pathways
Once each day we near the end,
Where life's wealth and satisfaction
Lies in having been a friend.

Have a shoulder for the burdens,
Which the frailer lives must bear.
Climb their Calvary and share them,
For the crowns of life bide there.
Love and brotherhood commingling,
When like Christ whatever the price,
We will take the cross of others,
On the hills of sacrifice.

—J. D. Powers.

"IF I LIVE to March 7, I will have reached fourscore years. I can hardly believe it. My mother was 94 when she passed away. Surely my Heavenly Father is giving me long life."—Margaret Yearick, Howard, Pa. (I have known this sister many years, as she has plodded along in a quiet way, trying to serve the Lord according to His Word. I remember seeing the old mother in her last days, sitting almost blind I think, humming to herself the old German songs she learned when a child, singing with the spirit and understanding. What a comfort that was to her! Our children should learn by heart the good old songs, and hundreds of choice scriptures, and then when old age comes, and the eye is dim, those precious thoughts will come flowing into our hearts as in the days long since gone by. After all, everything but

religion is transitory and soon vanishes forever. Let us work for things which abide.—Pub.)

AT LAST I am writing to thank you for that booklet, Drama of World Empires, you sent me long ago. I certainly have enjoyed it, and have read and re-read it. Now I am reading it again in connection with the surrounding countries and their kings. I get something new each time.—A Sister in Missouri. (This booklet will give you the ancient history from which you will derive much encouraging information from the Bible to help you along the way. Price 50 cents.)

FOUND—Several hundred copies of The Guide Through Bible History, which we did not know we had. For several years we have not advertised the book, but now we can. To our readers, we say, that many hundreds have expressed appreciation for its help in leading through the Old Testament. Price only 35 cents.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST is the title of a book by the publisher giving nearly all the prominent outward doctrines of the Church of the New Testament, giving also what the denominations teach on those subjects, that is not according to the Scriptures, which we show. Many say they have been helped much by the book. Price \$1.00.

SPECIAL—Church of Christ, \$1.00—World Empires, 50 cents—Guide Through Bible History, 35 cents. And some other helpful tracts—ALL for \$1.20 AT PRESENT . . . The Spiritual Call does not pay for itself, but your buying our books will help us to "Keep on Keeping on."

How Do You Know He Is Coming Again?

How do we know that he is coming again? What assurance have we of his coming? Because the Bible says so. But you may say, "There are many things in the Bible that many learned and thinking men believe are nothing but fables. While there is much that they believe is true, and much that is good moral instruction, yet there are some things that are so unreasonable that it is impossible for a rational mind to believe them. For instance we read about a hell that is so terrible that it is beyond comprehension and that God says that he will cast all of those who do not obey him into it, for not a little while, but for eternity. Now you can't make me believe that God is such a cruel and tyrannical God as to inflict such a terrible penalty on a lot of people who are living good moral lives now."

Now my good friend, you believe in a heaven for those who are good, do you not? Well where do we learn anything about heaven? Is it not from the Bible? Would we know anything about heaven if it were not for the Bible? Now this same Bible that tells us all that we know of heaven, also tells us of that place known as hell, which is reserved for all those who know not God, and that *obey not* the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Thess. 1:8.

Now is it logical or reasonable to believe the part of the Bible that tells us of heaven, because it suits our desires, and then to refuse to believe what it says about hell, because that is offensive to us?

It is true that there are many things in the Bible that are hard for our mortal minds to comprehend. For example, take the miracles, we cannot understand them, but God has used them and had them recorded in order to prove his almighty, superior power. We must take them in faith, acknowledging God's almighty power. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah he says, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts, Isaiah 55:8, 9. We do not know the limit of the distance of the heavens above the earth, neither can we understand the difference between God's thoughts and our thoughts.

The Bible is either all true or else all false. If false, then there is no God, no heaven, no hell, and we are no different than the lower animals; when we die that is the end. But if it

is true then there is a heaven for those who obey the gospel of our Lord, and a hell with all of its horror for those who refuse or neglect to obey that gospel for which Jesus died, the just for the unjust, in order that we may have eternal life.

This same Bible tells us that Jesus is coming again. When Jesus left this earth and ascended up into heaven, two men in white appeared to his disciples and 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 1:11.

In Matt. 26:64 and Mark 14:62 Jesus told the high priest, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

The apostle in writing to the Hebrews, has this to say, So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation, Heb. 9:28.

Peter has this to say in his second epistle. But 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, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt in fervent heat? 2 Peter 3:10-12. In the thirteenth verse he continues, Nevertheless we according to his promise, look for a new Heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The world is all upset with fear because of what the scientists tell us of the effect that the hydrogen and atom bombs will have on the earth, but the Christian looks forward beyond all this, and sees the promise of a new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Those who have obeyed the gospel, and have been immersed into Christ, can look without fear upon all of these prospects and say with the apostle Paul, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day", 2 Tim. 1:12. The apostle again says, "Having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, Heb. 10:21-22. The scriptures referred to above prove to us that Jesus is coming again, a cause for joy to all those who believe and obey him, but one for terror for all others, so let us all make preparation and be ready, and watching, awaiting the coming of our Lord.

—Fred D. Weed.

Be Not Conformed to This World

One of the great thoughts that the apostle Paul sets forth to the Christian brethren at Rome and throughout the Christian time is from Romans 12:2. Here as he writes he tells us what Christians should be like to prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. We read over Romans 12:2. Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. As we look into this verse to get all the meaning, first it says, A Christian is not to be conformed to this world. By this we understand that a Christian is not to be fashioned to or likened to the things of the world. We find they are to be transformed by the

renewing of the mind, this shows us that we are to have a change of heart and mind when we are baptized into the kingdom of God as the Savior said in John 17:17—Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth. So we find that when we are transformed we are set apart from worldliness.

We also find in 1st Peter 3:15—But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you, a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. We find as we study this verse it is good for mankind because as we read in James 1:17—Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights with whom is no variability neither shadow of turning. So we find that everything that is good for man cometh down from the Father above as we read back in Genesis, God's plan is not changeable, once he has spoken it is good forever as he tells us in Genesis 12:22—While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

So we find that all we possess on this good earth cometh down from the Father above.

Then we find that God's word is good for man in righteousness, Hebrews 1:8—Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. So God's word is good for man in the ways of righteousness.

Next we find that God's word is good for mankind in sorrow, there is nothing in the world that can give us more comfort and consolation when we stand beside a loved one that has gone on from this world, as he tells us in Revelation 21:4—And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Thus we find that God's word is good for us in sorrow.

Then we can take up the word "acceptable." When we think of the word acceptable we think of agreeable or conformed to, so we must conform ourselves to God's plan or his way of salvation, as he tells us in Acts 10:35—In every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him. Romans 10:10 tells us with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Then we have "perfect." The word of God is spoken of as the perfect law of liberty. All of us that study the word of God can take it and see ourselves as in a mirror, as in James 1:25—But who so looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he be not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

So we see that it is perfect to us in all walks of life to give us correction in the ways to gain eternal life. As we read in Col. 1:13—Who hath delivered us from the powers of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son. So we have the perfect way of life through the blood of Christ.

Then we find that he has set up a perfect kingdom that shall never be destroyed, Hebrews 12:28—Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which can not be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear.

The last thought that we will leave is from 2nd John 5:4—For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith. After we have obeyed the word of God with faith, repentance, confession, and have been buried with him in baptism we may go forth to prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

—Elmer R. Smith.

Thoughts of an Elder

I had the pleasure recently of meeting a family of displaced persons who have been in this country only a few weeks. The father and mother about thirty-five years old, and three sons age about five, four and two years. These people are of Russian and Armenian descent. Having been dispossessed of earthly belongings by the Germans, and the father and mother's parents ruthlessly killed because they were old and of no material use to the Germans, in talking to those kindly and persecuted people through an interpreter, I learned much that caused my heart to go out in sympathy for them, realizing that their future lives here would in all probabilities be spent among strangers, and be filled with many difficulties, trials and hardships. One thing I was pleased to learn was, they are of Protestant faith, and seem to be much concerned about their soul salvation.

While meditating on the plight of those people, thoughts of another people came to my mind—it was that of displaced Christians. Is it not true that many God-fearing and faithful members of the church have been driven out, or cast out of the synagogue, not because they would not humble themselves and submit to God's will, but because they would not submit to the unscriptural rule of ambitious persons, who were in a position of authority, and whose poor judgment, and utter disregard for God's word, ruled according to their own notion, showing neither judgment nor mercy. Jesus, a few moments before he died on the cross, prayed saying, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do," Luke 23:34. Our Savior humbly and earnestly prayed the Father to forgive those cruel ones who were putting him to death, those same cruel people who were responsible for his death, had persecuted him throughout his ministry; yet he was merciful. Brother, is it not much more in harmony with God's word, if when we find ourselves involved with disorder or misunderstanding among our members, that we be patient, making every effort to learn all the facts, and then proceed, humbly and carefully, submitting ourselves in every way to God's word? If we fail to use judgment, based on God's teaching, in our effort to correct disorder among members, and deal with the matter in a harsh and unscriptural manner, thereby unscripturally casting out members, can we expect God to have mercy on us in the judgment?

—H. F. McConnell, Lemons Mo.

Be Ye Followers of God

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children, Eph. 5:1.

What a blessing this would be to humanity, if only they could be made to realize the full force of the Apostle's statement in this connection. People are actually so wrapped up in the affairs of life, and things that exist about them, and conditions in the church, that it is many times taken for granted that they should just drift along with the tide, and after all if some follow a certain way, that must be right, with no consideration as to whether they are following God or man.

It seems to me, we would do well to consider the language to Abraham in Gen. 12:1-4, God said, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." Many people are just alright if you leave them where they are. You can preach, talk, sing and pray to them, but try once to persuade them to leave home and follow the Lord, you have a job on your hands. Of course I am not advocating that a man leave his

home literally, but I have known people to think more of the meeting house, than they did of the Lord's instructions, and who goes there, who teaches, instead of what is taught, talent, instead of humility, submission and obedience, education instead of application of the word of God. Remember God said to Abraham, Get thee out of thy country unto a land that I will show thee.

Does God show us today in his word where we should go? Be followers of God as dear children. Nothing is said about following men.

Eph. 5:6,—“Let no man deceive you with vain words, for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” Col. 3:17—“Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord.” Because a man may advocate strongly some verse, or portion of scripture, does that license him to ignore other chapters and verses, equally important on the same subject. Can a man strain at a gnat and swallow a camel and yet please God? If the scriptures thoroughly furnish us unto every good work, why should we hesitate to follow the Lord in all matters of faith? “For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all, Jas. 2:10.

Abraham could have said, like many do today, Well now as I am the only one, I'll just sit quiet. Bro. so and so hasn't made a start yet, and anyway, I am a pretty big man, I can't set my judgment up against so many others in this matter.

A quite prominent preacher of the church said to me recently, Will you go against so many others in these matters? Oh, how can we refrain from saying that Abraham being made great, was based solely upon the condition that he go where God would show him. If men in the church today, wish to be a blessing and their name great, would cease their effort for notoriety, publicity, power, authority and rule, what a blessing to themselves and the church, that we might be bound to follow God as dear children and walk in love as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us.

H. L. Carlton.

What Became of a Lie

First someone told it
Then the room wouldn't hold it
So the busy tongues rolled it
Till they got it outside.
When the world came across it
They never once lost it
But tossed it and tossed it
Till it grew far and wide.
From a little small lie
It became deep and high
Till it reached to the moon
And she hid her sweet face
In a cloud of veiled lace
At the dreadful disgrace
That had happened at noon.
This lie brought forth others
Both sisters and brothers
And fathers and mothers—
A terrible crew. And thus evil boded,
This monstrous lie goaded
Until it exploded, and for mud and mire
The pieces flew higher and hit the
Sad liar, and killed his good name.

—Unknown.