

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

(Fifth in a Series)

SOUL-WINNERS "AT HIS COMING"

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not YE even in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ AT HIS COMING? For ye are our glory and joy."—1 Thess. 2:19, 20.

Paul had had a turbulent time in Philippi where he had been beaten and cast into prison, and now he is in Thessalonica where he is having much of the same kind of a time. He reasoned for three sabbath days in the synagogue of the Jews, and some of them believed, "and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few," Acts 17:4. But the unbelieving Jews raised a mob against him, and by night Paul left with some of his traveling companions.

But Paul was anxious about the faith of the brethren who had become obedient to the faith, and from Athens he sent Timothy to learn about their state; and when he learned that they were enduring their persecutions with the same faith that Paul himself had manifested, he was rejoiced, and wrote this first letter to them. And he said that if they remained faithful, THEY were a hope and joy to him now, and would be a "crown of rejoicing" to him when Jesus came again. In other words, in that day he would be happy to show the Lord the disciples he had been able to save for His name, and it would be, as it were, a "crown" to him at that time—a "crown of REJOICING."

In the first place, this passage shows that faithful workers will know each other "at His coming." In one place, our Savior had said that in heaven they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God. So many ask the question, Will we know each other in heaven? Yes, but not as husband and wife, son and daughter, for these are simply earthly ties; the Divine Family alone will survive as such, and we shall know each other there as brothers and sisters in that Family, with God as our Father and Christ as our Elder Brother.

In His word in different places, God has emphasized the importance of every child of His being a worker for righteousness. In Proverbs 11:30, Solomon says, "He that winneth souls is wise."

James says, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him KNOW, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins," James 5:19, 20. Shall hide, not his own sins, but the sins of the one converted; and when one "knows" that, it is a great joy to the

converter, just as the faithfulness of the Thessalonian brethren was a great joy to Paul here and would be a "crown of rejoicing" when Jesus comes again.

Daniel said on this subject of soul winning, "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever," Daniel 12:2, 3.

All of this applies to holding people to righteousness as well as bringing them to it in the first place.

What a promise! what an incentive to try to save souls! And Paul says that the souls he had saved at Thessalonica, if they remained faithful, would be a "crown of rejoicing" to him in the presence of Jesus, the Judge.

Men have so complicated this matter of salvation and how to apply it, that it is a great confusion with its organizations, organizations, ORGANIZATIONS. But in the New Testament it is plain; it is simply a matter of Christ and me and the neighbors; God loved me and saved me through Christ, and I am to do what I can to save my neighbor, or the ones I know. It is not organization which does the work, but conversion of the heart.

God intended for this soul winning to be universal among his people. He gave the world-wide commission to the apostles, and the spirit applies to every one in the Church, so far as he is able—"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," Mark 16:15, 16.

It seems that almost every one in the early Church had the spirit to tell some one else of the great salvation which had been brought to the world. It was a joy to them to "know" that they had saved a soul, just as it was with Paul. So when there was a great persecution and the disciples were scattered, they "went everywhere preaching the word," Acts 8:4. They did not go everywhere making money, nor sightseeing, nor seeking pleasure, but in their dispersion they scattered the truth wherever they went.

God knew what he was doing when he ordained that his Church be established on the day of Pentecost when Jews were at Jerusalem from every nation under heaven. Three thousand were converted on that day and several thousand more in a few days or weeks; and when these people went back home later, they took the gospel with them which had been typified by their Old Law; and thus was the gospel soon scattered to the four winds of heaven, among the Jews at least.

The apostles went out and preached as Christ had commanded them, and most of the converts did the same. Paul worked much at Ephesus but there is no evidence that he established the work there originally. There is no evidence that apostles established the gospel in Crete; but we know that according to Acts 2, Cretes were present on the day of Pentecost, and if they had the spirit of other disciples they took back that Good News they had heard. And regardless of all the talk that Peter established the church at Rome, it can not be conclusively proven that Peter ever was at Rome. And Paul did not establish the Roman church, for he wrote

to it before he ever went there, see Romans 1. There were "strangers of Rome," Acts 2, present on the day of Pentecost, and some of them may have taken the gospel back with them when they went home. Paul must have established the church at Corinth, for he wrote to them, "I have begotten you through the gospel," 1 Cor. 4:15.

An example of the work of early Christians is found in the story of Aquila and Priscilla. I like that couple. This man and wife were at Corinth when Paul went there, Acts 18:2; and nothing is said about their being converted by Paul, though others are mentioned by name as being converted by him, thus implying that they were already disciples. As Jews were present at Pentecost from Pontus, the home of Aquila, Acts 18:2, he, or they, might have been converted at Jerusalem, and taken the gospel back home and everywhere they went. They left Corinth with Paul, who was on his way to Jerusalem, but stopped at Ephesus, Acts 18:18, 19. While they were there, Apollos came along preaching only the baptism of John, whom, "when Priscilla and Aquila heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly," Acts 18:26. Notice that the woman helped in this instruction of the preacher. It was private, and we need a thousand such home Bible studies; and we exhort every disciple who can, to gather those into their homes, all who will come, and together they can read and talk about the Bible, and try to learn how to live to please God. It is now often hard to get non-members interested in public meetings, though sometimes they will informally come into neighbors' houses to read and study the Word of God.

Later, Paul mentions this man and wife as harboring the church in their private home. Paul writes the Corinthian letter from Ephesus, saying, "The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you, much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house," 1 Cor. 16:19. So the Ephesian Church met in their house. Also, to the Roman brethren Paul wrote, 16:3-5—"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus; who have for my life laid down their own necks; unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise GREET THE CHURCH THAT IS IN THEIR HOUSE." So both at Ephesus and Rome, the church was meeting in their house.

What a man! what a woman! Oh, for a thousand such couples working like that in our land! This private work of individual Christians was largely responsible for the great progress of the gospel in the First Century, which has never been duplicated.

As Jesus went about among the people, they needed something on which to live, and Luke 8:1-3 mentions a number of women, "which ministered unto him of their substance." Perhaps women today do more sending of tracts, papers, etc., to others, and contributions to preachers at work for God, than the men do. They are all "workers together with God," soul winners; and it will be a great satisfaction when we appear before Christ at his coming, to know there are souls there who were won to him, or helped, through our efforts.

In the early day every Christian was a missionary. The soldier tried to win recruits to the Army of the Lord. The prisoner tried to win the jailer to the faith. The slave girl whispered the gospel to her mistress, satiated with the pleasures of this life. The young wife converted her husband that they might not be separated long by death. They experienced a great joy in leading others to Christ and to the salvation of their souls. The wicked world could not stand against such zeal, and in the course of time the heathen world was overthrown.

Perhaps the woman has distinguished herself in such work more in the home than anywhere else. Many a man who has accomplished much for good in the world has said in sub-

stance, "All I am I owe to Christ and my mother; to one for saving me, and to the other for bringing the truths of salvation to my youthful mind and helping me to live them. It seems to me that the most beautiful story that ever was told is that Jesus came down from heaven to save us, and that he has gone away and will come again some time, we know not when, and reward these who obey him and punish the wicked; and this story told in detail by parents to little children with many of the facts of His coming again (such as we have brought out in this series), will do more to start and keep those children in the path of morality and joy than all the plans of men put together. It is not Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and Young Peoples Societies, etc., etc., that is needed most, but converted fathers and mothers who will teach their children in their homes. Maybe some of these organizations may help some who don't have such parents, but it is the business of us Christians to try to create such parents. **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND THE JUDGMENT NEED TO BE PREACHED EVERYWHERE**, till the people's ears are tingling with those truths.

Martin Luther saw the evils of the Roman clergy, and he declared that what the world needed was the scriptural doctrine that every Christian should be a preacher. That, at least, was the doctrine and practice of the Apostolic Church, and they turned the world upside down. Is it not strange that not one word is said in the New Testament about developing preachers and a clergy? They had no theological seminaries, nor Bible schools nor colleges to develop preachers. But Paul commanded a preacher, "The things which thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to FAITHFUL MEN who shall be able to TEACH other also," 2 Tim. 2:2. Timothy was to develop "teachers" and the preachers would take care of themselves, according to their faith and zeal. Centuries after the First have developed preachers in their man-made schemes, and they have botched the religious world.

God's plan is to instill into the heart of EVERY CHRISTIAN a love for the salvation of souls, and thus make a preacher out of every Christian, not specially in a public way but in a private way. The rest will take care of itself. Is it not strange how we have run off onto sidetracks and left the main purpose of the gospel—to convert the heart. We have drifted into Churchanity and have left the Christianity of the New Testament.

Oh, if we could only get into men's hearts the spirit of Paul, that he was so anxious about—that other people could be converted by him and remain converted, and thus could become to him a "crown of rejoicing" . . . in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ AT HIS COMING!

Now here is a serious query—IF the souls we may help save will become a "crown of rejoicing" at the appearing of Christ at his coming, what will the souls become to us WHOM WE MIGHT HAVE SAVED YET DID NOT SAVE? Will they be a witness against us? Will the "heathen" whom we know say reproachfully in that day—"Why didn't you let me know?" True we may have tried to save some and were rebuffed, but there are still some honest people in the world. We would rather depart NOW and be with Christ, but He may have work for us, for the world is filled with wicked men and women. If we receive a "crown of rejoicing" like Paul's, we shall have to work for it.—D. A. Sommer.

There are lonely hearts to cherish,
There are weary souls who perish,
While the days are going by.

If a smile we can renew as our journey we pursue,
O the good we ALL may do as the days are going by.

(To be Continued.)

Don't Let Men "Pull the Wool Over Your Eyes"

Thus saith the Lord: Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord . . . Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. . . . The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:5, 7, 9).

I do not know how that expression originated about "pulling the wool over one's eyes," but do know that if men were shearing sheep and got mixed up with wool, and some one threw a big bunch of it on your cap and pulled it over your eyes, that you could not see very well! Anyway, the idea seems to be that we should not permit anyone to obscure our vision of things as they really are. Our text brings out the idea in a spiritual way.

"The heart is deceitful above all things." We wonder what those "all things" are which are not as bad as the human heart. Jesus speaks of the "deceitfulness of riches". If riches can deceive people and make them think that that is THE way to be happy, then earthly glory, crowds, pleasure may also deceive us. The Book shows also, that the devil deceives the nations. But above these earthly things, the heart is deceitful.

We can not say as some denominational people do that man can do nothing naturally that is right, until God cleanses his heart, for then it all depends on God, and man is not responsible at all. God made man upright but he has sought out many inventions. Man is spoken of as "by nature children of wrath," but in Rom. 2 it is also said that "the Gentiles *by nature* do the things of the law"; thus showing that man is born with both evil and good within him, and that God puts man on trial on his own responsibility.

"Heart is deceitful." Our thoughts, meditations, conclusions mold the things which we learn from the world, and we let the flesh decide instead of reason and the word of God. We let the world twist our decisions, and often we make up our conclusions, and then hunt for things to justify ourselves, instead of trying to learn the full truth. We deceive ourselves, though God so often in his Book warns against deceiving ourselves, deceiving our own hearts.

"Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm." Since all the other people in the world are like we are, and we can not trust our own hearts often, we must not trust in any man, and rely on the flesh with its outward power and pomp. God warns that some men "hold the truth in unrighteousness." These men even have the truth, but use it to exalt themselves rather than Christ, to bring gain to themselves rather than their Savior. We can't trust such men, and should beware. Paul warns against those who with "cunning craftiness lie in wait to deceive." We must be watching for such characters. Jesus says, "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves." How can we go to sleep religiously and expect to follow the truth when there are so many such men around? Paul speaks of those corrupt men, who "suppose that gain is godliness". Many people have the idea that because they are prospering financially they are surely being blessed of the Lord, but many of the devil's people are the richest people in the world, while God's people are often poor. Some commentators render this, "Godliness is a way of gain," but I see no reason for transposing the Greek words. Too many have the idea that because they are having big crowds, are attracting the world,

they are being specially blessed of the Lord. But it all depends on whether they are doing what the Lord commands. He, in his wisdom, bestows his blessings or not, for our good. Surely we must not "trust in man".

"Cursed". In fact, God says "cursed" are we if we trust in man instead of Him. He may not at once take away earthly blessings. But there will not be real prosperity, which is for our eternal good, if we trust in man instead of the Lord.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." We must hear Him, we must trust him, we must take him at his word, take all his word, and nothing but his word in religion, permitting one scripture to explain another, and then follow that conclusion. "We ought to obey God rather than men." We must put our hope in God not man. Men in their speaking and writing may help call our attention to scriptures and truths we may have overlooked. Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ," yet wherein he may not have followed Christ we are not to follow him nor any other man. We should always be willing to learn, but never take any man's word for anything in religion, unless he proves it indisputably. Each one must give account of himself to God, and no one can answer for another; therefore we must read and study for OURSELVES, and not permit men to "pull the wool over our eyes." "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Remember, Jeremiah was not speaking merely for himself when he wrote the words we have been commenting on, but he said plainly—"Thus saith the Lord."

"Blessed". This happiness in trusting in the Lord alone will last through eternity. "Blessed are they that do HIS commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." "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."

Evangelism Laymen's Job, Too, Pastors Told

Indianapolis—Laymen as well as ministers have the duty of advancing the evangelism of Christianity, 400 pastors attending the Indiana pastors conference here were told today.

Addressing the opening general session, Dr. E. H. Homrighausen, formerly of Indianapolis but now professor of religious education at the Princeton University Theological Seminary, defined evangelism as "the process of bringing individuals and Christ into personal relationship. It is the highest form of neighbor love."

"This task is not intrusted only to the minister," he said. "It is the task of every Christian, and it is especially the task of every Christian Church."

Dr. Homrighausen emphasized that true evangelism is not advanced by tricks and pyrotechnics of promotion.

"It is hard work, and work that is done through ordinary channels of communication," he went on. "The treasure is in earthen vessels."—Daily Paper.

(These are thoughts worth considering. One reason the religious world is in stagnation is because we have turned the conversion of the world over to "ministers," "pastors," who do not have the evangelistic spirit that ALL Christians had in the first century. The Spiritual Call is pleading that every Christian be an evangelist, telling the story of Jesus as he can, and sending the gospel through the mails.—Editor.)

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Laying Up Something for Beyond-Old-Age

For 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.

Thus wrote Paul to his son in the faith, Timothy.

Many people today lay aside part of their earnings against the time of old age or sickness when they will not be able to work and earn their support. They do this as a matter of thrift, being concerned as to what the future may bring forth.

Having made this saving, they then invest it or place it in some institution in which they have full confidence that it will be in safe keeping and available when the time comes that they will need it; it may be in government bonds or a savings bank.

Some take out life insurance in order that their loved ones will have some means of support in case that they are taken away.

But, oh, how few there are, of all those who are so concerned over the affairs of this world, and who take all possible precaution in providing for the possibilities of this life, that make any provision for the spiritual life!

While it is commendable to make some provision for old age or sickness, we have no assurance that we will ever need it, for we may be called by the angel of death at any time; of how much greater importance is it, that we should make some provision for the spiritual life, for there is no escaping the fact that eternity lies before us, with the prospect of spending that eternity, either in heaven with all of its glory, or in hell with all of its misery and torment.

Jesus said, Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt. 6:19-21. Is our heart set wholly on this life, or are we looking to the time when Jesus is coming again? He also tells us as for food and raiment not to take thought for the morrow, for our Heavenly Father knows all of our needs, and will see that we are taken care of, if we will only trust him; for proof of his assertion he refers to how the birds of the air are cared for and says that we are of much more value than the birds.

Paul says, *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.* There was no doubt lingering in the mind of Paul, for he says "*I know.*" Paul had made provision for "that day" and had given it into the keeping of that One in whom he had the utmost confidence, and he was *sure* that it would be ready for him in that day when he would need it most, the day when Jesus is coming again; the day that Paul wrote of in 2 Thess. 1:7, 8, wherein he says, that the Lord Jesus shall be revealed in flaming fire.

Can you and I feel the same confidence that Paul did? Can we say, I know whom I have believed? Have we made

our spiritual investment and placed our life in the hands of Him who is able to keep it against that day?

Or have we, like some in the affairs of this world, started a small bank account, and then, because of their interest in other matters, neglected to keep up with their savings deposits, and hence do not have sufficient funds for old age needs. The same holds true in spiritual matters, one may make the initial start by obeying the gospel, and then neglect to live as God requires, allowing the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to choke the word, and become unfruitful and thus have no treasure laid up in heaven against that day.

Let me urge everyone of you who have not obeyed the gospel, to accept God's terms of salvation and avail yourselves of God's promise to save.

To those who have slipped and become cold and indifferent, repent and return to your first love before it is everlastingly too late, for we know not the day or the hour that the Son of man cometh.

To all others, Hold fast that thou hast and remain faithful until death, for it is to him that overcometh and remains faithful who will receive a crown of righteousness.

Oh, that we all might be able to say with Paul, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.—Fred D. Weed.

2 Timothy 2:15

When Paul told Timothy to study to shew himself approved unto God, he did not expect him to study so he could go around telling his life's story, for Paul knew Timothy didn't have to study to know his past life, nor could he study enough to know one minute in the future. So many are wasting valuable time while poor souls are wasting away to get up and tell their past life, and try to ease people's minds as to the future. But Paul wanted Timothy to study so he could tell of the Christ Child, how he left his home in glory, and came to this old cruel, unfriendly world to walk among men, to be tempted and tried, of the cruel mockings of the crown of thorns that pierced his tender brow, of the nails as they bit deep in the tender flesh of his hands and feet, and of the old rugged cross as it slipped into the hole with a thud on Calvary's rugged brow; of the darkness that prevailed as this old earth rocked to and fro, and the bursting open of the graves, and that imploring cry of our Lord and Savior (my God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me), and the Roman soldier as he steps forward and pierces the side of Jesus, and his Precious Blood that ran down that rugged cross for the sins of the whole world. How he was laid in the new tomb and how His faithful brothers and sisters stood helpless, watching and praying until an angel proclaimed, "He has risen," and they saw the stone had been rolled away, when it had been sealed by man and a strong watch had been set up. How Christ had bursted the bars of death and came forth, a mighty conqueror over death, Hell and the grave, and is now seated at God's right hand; of the Church that he purchased with his own Blood, the Church of Christ.

Paul wanted Timothy to study so he would know how to live in the church, for in 1 Tim. 3:15 Paul says "But if I tarry long, that Thou mayest know how Thou oughtest to behave thyself in the House of God which is the Church of the Living, God the Pillar and ground of the Truth." For it is through the Church that God is Glorified, for in Eph. 3:21 Paul has said, "Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all Ages, world with end."

Too many today are like the 10 lepers recorded in Luke 17:11-19—only one out of 10 turned back and glorified God. They forget the Church is the place to glorify our God not only on Sunday morning, but every time the congregation comes together to worship and build itself up in the most Holy faith.

Are we studying our Bibles enough today, so we can be always read to give an answer to every man that asketh us, a reason of the hope that is in us with meekness and fear, as in 1 Pet. 3:15? Are we studying so we will know all about the foundation we are building upon, so that if a false teacher should come in our midst we could apply 2 Jno. 9, 10, 11? If you are not studying as you should, brothers and sisters in Christ, get down that old sword of the spirit, for Paul says in Eph. 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

If Paul deemed it necessary for Timothy who sat at his feet as a student to study, to show himself approved unto God, how much more would he admonish you and me who are living in the last of the last age, with all the false teaching, heresies, and apostasies that are staring us in the face on every hand—to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life.—Harold L. Ottwell.

Just Outside the Promised Land

As the Israelites neared the land of Canaan, being led by Moses, Reuben and God beholding the land on the east side of the Jordan River that it was good for cattle, they requested Moses that they might have this land for their inheritance. It seems they preferred their homes near by, but outside of the promised land which is said to be a type of Heaven.

Oh how many of us professed Christians seem to be satisfied near the Kingdom—Church of the living God but not really in it! Many I know that confess there is nothing in denominational Churches, but refuse to walk out and take a stand wholly for the Church of Christ that he purchased with his own precious blood.

Moses granted their request on conditions: that if you will go over Jordan help fight the battles and drive the enemies out of the land. But if you will not do so, behold you have sinned against the Lord; And be sure your Sin will find you out, Num. 32, 33.

Adam sinned, tried to hide from God but got caught. Cain sinned, tried to hide from God, when asked, Where is Abel thy brother? We might say he answered God roughly saying, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? But God said, The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Joseph's brethren sold him for a slave; they lied to their father and made him believe Joseph was dead. This lie and act burned their conscience for several years. When circumstances forced them to go to Egypt they met face to face the beloved brother they had so evilly mistreated, but they not knowing him, he brought things to their minds that forced them to remember the awful deed they did to Joseph, and exclaimed, God hath found out the iniquity of thy Servants, meaning the selling of their brother to the slave traders, Gen. 44:16. Yes let's be sure our sins will find us out.

King Saul, God's select to the throne of Israel, turned against God, and died a wicked man. The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God, Psa. 9:17.

Ananias and wife lied to God, and suddenly fell down dead. They died in the very act of lying, and all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone which is the second death. Rev. 21:8. A certain man living near me, murdered a man, kept it hid until on his death bed, then confessed he was the murderer of the innocent man. Let us

all remember that nothing can be done in Secret (sneakingly) but it will some sad day be revealed. I am sure my sins will find me out either here or at the Judgment. Let us watch and Pray.—Your brother in Christ, J. D. Powers.

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.)

I WANT TO BE FIT

I have to live with myself and so
I want to be fit for myself to know,
Always to look myself straight in the eye.
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
And hate myself for the things I've done
I want to go out with my head erect,
I want to deserve all men's respect;
But here in the struggle for fame and pelf
I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know
That I'm a blusterer, bluff and empty show.
I never can fool myself, and so
Whatever happens I want to be
Self respecting and conscience free.

—Author Unknown.

(Sent by Minnie Shaw.)

STOCKTON, CALIF.—Bro. Sommer: I spoke here yesterday, after being away for about 6 weeks. I was surprised and greatly encouraged to see the increase of attendance from our first meeting of 20, to about 40 yesterday. So our attendance is going up from week to week. Heard from Palm City recently; they seem to be rejoicing in the Lord's work.—J. D. Powers.

THE MONTH BEFORE your time is out, to this paper, we write the date on your paper. Also, we write it on the issue that it is due, and generally send the paper a month or two after the time is out, giving you time to get yourself together! Please look at your paper NOW, or the wrapper, and see if the date of expiration is marked. We are not keeping you on our list very long after the expiration, and donated names are taken off immediately, writing the date on the two last papers.

MANY have donated this missionary paper to many people. One sister sent it to about forty people, this year and last; and she sent a dollar for each one! For fifty cents (in lists of ten for five dollars), one can send the equal of nearly two hundred pages of an ordinary book to his friends and neighbors (thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself), telling about the greatest events in the world's history. The series on the Coming of Christ will continue all year, and we can send all the back numbers except the first. Russian submarines hover within three miles of the California coast; they have shot down a defenseless plane in the Baltic; they are pushing their efforts throughout the world; America is being stirred to action of some kind; Senator Bridges says there are 5000 homosexuals in Washington, D. C. (the same thing for which God destroyed Sodom and for which He might destroy America); and many Christians are asleep at the switch! The day seems to be far spent, and the night at hand. What are we doing?

THE FARMERS are plowing, the women are house-cleaning, politicians are electioneering, everyone is working, the Bible is still lying (on the stand), our knees are unbending, our pens are not writing (sentiments to encourage others), our tongue is not talking to the weak and wayward, and the devil is grinning. Take time to be holy, and to speak often one to another to encourage along the way.

REMEMBER that a religious paper, unless it has a great circulation, or advertisements, does not pay for itself. We can not exist without donations of the faithful, and lists of names. Remember us from now till the less busy days are before the people. One sister writes: "Bro. Sommer: the Spiritual Call is the best spiritual paper I have ever read. There is no comparison when placed beside other papers. And we want to help you keep it before those who read it."—Missouri. (She sends twenty dollars and names.)

J. W. MCGARVEY, a prominent writer in this movement many years ago, and the author of a number of books says this in his FOURFOLD GOSPEL, "It is as hard for the ambitious to avoid hypocrisy as it is for the rich to shun avarice." Jesus says, How hardly shall they that are rich enter the kingdom of heaven. The possession puts a new view of life into their minds, and warps

their living, and they think more of money than of Christ. So with Ambition. A preacher or elder who is ambitious for power and popularity, will deceive to obtain and hold earthly power; this has been the greatest evil in the church through the centuries. Even the apostles in the upper room, the night before their Lord was crucified, discussed among themselves as to who should be greatest in the kingdom. See Luke 22:24-30. And that is the reason Jesus washed their feet—to teach them humility. But still the ambition is in the church today, and we have seen the hypocrisy and deception in efforts to justify it—as for instance, trying to get rid of Peter's plain command to NOT act as "LORDS over God's heritage." Let us all pray God for humility that we may be saved.

MANY OF OUR READERS have tried to get their friends interested in the simple gospel of Christ by sending this paper. They do not know you have sent it to them. Possibly you think you might do more good by not letting them know. On the other hand, it might do good to ask some if they are receiving such a paper; thus you see if they are reading it; maybe, then, that will open the way to say a few words for the Lord Jesus and the salvation of their souls. Of course, it may not be the time yet. But, you know in advertising, companies not only bring the matter to the attention of readers, but follow up personally if they can. The children of this world are wiser than the children of light.

THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE HYMNS

"Abide with me, fast falls the eventide." This is a prayer if sung with the Spirit and understanding; and as we realize we are nearing the end of our journey it becomes nearer, and dearer.

"Swift to its close ebb'd out life's little day, Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away." The pleasures of earth mean nothing to a Christian. He is looking beyond, with the eye of faith, to the joys that will never pass away.

"Change and decay in all around I see, O Thou who changes not, Abide with me. In life, in death—O Lord abide with me." If we abide in Him and He abides in us in life—He will be with us in death, thru the valley of shadows. The door opens—closes—and our spirits return to the God who gave them.

—A Sister in Pennsylvania.

PERSEVERANCE

A Swallow in the spring
Came to our granary, and 'neath the eaves
Essayed to make a nest, and there did bring
Wet earth and straw and leaves.

Day after day she toiled
With patient art, but ere her work was crowned,
Some sad mishap, the tiny fabric spoiled,
And dashed it to the ground.

She found the ruin wrought,
But not cast down, forth from the place she flew,
And with her mate from fresh earth and grasses brought
And built her nest anew.

But scarcely had she placed
The last soft feather on its ample floor,
When wicked hand, or chance, again laid waste
And wrought the ruin o'er.

But still her heart she kept,
And toiled again—and last night, hearing calls,
I looked—and lo! three little swallows slept
Within the earth-made walls.

What truth is here, O man!
Hath hope been smitten in its early dawn?
Have clouds o'ercast thy purpose, trust, or plan?
Have faith, and struggle on.

—R. S. S. Andros.

(Sent by Mrs. A. R. Dix.)

PHILIPPIANS 2:21

"For all seek their own, not the things of Christ."

From the above scripture, we conclude that many of the early Christians had lost interest in the things that pertain to the church and especially to their brethren in particular. They had lost their first love all seek their own." They were not concerned in others.

This selfishness has grown more and more common in these perilous times men have become lovers of their own selves. The question in many minds seems to be, how will it affect me or what do I get out of it, and not what does the Lord require?

Why will we forget God and go about fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind?

We must all stand before the judgement seat of Christ and give an account of the things done in the body whether they be good or evil.

It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of God, having lived for ourselves alone.

But how happy we will be, if having conformed our will to the will of Christ and lived so that we might please Him and not to please ourselves, and then to hear him say, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou in the joy of Thy Lord.

Then let us not sleep as do others, but let us put on the whole armor of God; and not only the armor for our protection, but take the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God that we may be able to put to flight those who oppose the truth.

We must fight the good fight of faith; too many are afraid of offending someone, but the word of God is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart; it separates the wheat from the chaff.

The prophets of old times spoke the word as God gave it to them, they were not concerned about what the people thought of the message, but they were determined upon delivering it as it was received from God.

We find too many who are asking, What does that mean?

But God speaking through Jeremiah said: "Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, What hath the Lord Answered? And, What hath the Lord spoken?"

Let us watch and be sober. Let us be "looking for and hastening unto the coming of Jesus Christ who will change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his own glorious body."

When that time comes, all the trials and disappointments of this life will be forgotten and we will dwell with Christ and God and all the redeemed of all ages, forever and forever. May the Lord hasten his coming to take his people home.—C. D. McCay.

Looking Above

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:1-2).

Too often we see those who have been baptized into Christ, who fail to take seriously the admonition to "seek those things which are above."

If we displace something of great value, we seek diligently to find it, and do not rest until the thing is found. But in the spiritual realm we appear to be remiss in trying to find the true riches.

Are we more interested in the things of this world which are only temporal, than in the things that are eternal? Are we willing to suffer for the things we believe? "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions. (2 Tim. 3:12). "Set your affections on things above."

We should think upon God's law. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, but his *delight* is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night."

I seriously doubt that God will save those who do not meditate upon his law in the waking hours of night and day. We should always be "pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The apostle Paul was continually seeking for that eternal home, prepared for those who love the Lord.

Let us not forget that we are here on trial, and to prepare for an eternal home, and that we should seek to glorify God on this earth, that we may enjoy him in the world to come. We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and we shall be judged according to our works. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hand of the living God. Let us therefore so order our lives here that we may obtain mercy on that day.

—C. D. McCay.

"Come Out of Babylon"

The Lord calls to his people wherever they may be scattered in Babylon, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues." We live emphatically in the time for extending this cry, and we must extend it. The warning to those in danger, is a most righteous and benevolent warning, and those who hear it shall praise God forever, that it has reached their hearts, and induced them to abandon the devoted city. There is no escape for one soul, only by fleeing to the Lord, and that can only be done by abandoning all human laws, and adhering to the law of the Lord. "See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh: for if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven; whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear."

Thanks to Heaven, there is a kingdom that cannot be moved. "Not everyone that saveth unto me. Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but, he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven."

"He", says the Lord, "who hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man." "He who hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, I will liken him to a foolish man." Our work is to try and call attention on all nations to the sayings of our Lord, and induce them to hear Him. They must hear Him, or be lost forever. Come out of Babylon, O you saints of the Lord, wherever you are, and commit yourselves to the hands of the Lord. "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues."

Hear the holy John describe her destruction: "A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city, Babylon, be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all." "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her." "After these things, I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia: Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord, our God; for true and righteous are His judgments: for He hath judged the great harlot, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of His servants at her hand. And again, they said, Alleluia, and her smoke rose up forever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped Him that sat upon the throne, saying, Amen: Alleluia! And a voice came out of the throne, saying, "praise our God all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready."

Wonderful things are before us, and let us be in readiness for their approach. When Paul was leaving the disciples, expecting to meet them no more in the flesh, he said, "I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified." This same word, another Apostle says, is able to save your souls, and the Lord says, "The

words which I speak to you shall judge you in the last day." His word lives and abides forever and ever. If we were making our dying request, and that to the dearest friends we have on earth, we would request them to abandon all human authorities and hold on to the word of the Lord forever.—Evg. Benjamin Franklin, from "Book of Gems," published in 1879.

Little Presidents Get Delusions of Grandeur

Years ago a motion picture company planned a film based on the life of Theodore Roosevelt. The producer did not want a professional actor; he wanted to unearth some common man who looked like T.R., and mould him into the part. He circularized photographers and advertised widely in the newspapers.

One day a scout rushed into his office waving a photograph. "I've found your man," he shouted.

And so he had—the "spitting image." There was just one trouble. The image had been so beaten and buffeted by fate that he hadn't a shred of self-confidence left.

The producer dressed him in fine clothes, and arranged to have three confederates live with him, take him to fashionable places to lunch and dine, and introduce him to important people. Every one in the plot was pledged to show the utmost respect. They were not entertaining a would-be actor; they were entertaining the great T.R. His most inane remark brought nods of deferential agreement. His feeblest joke was hailed with shouts of laughter. Praise and adulation rang in his ears.

In one month he was transformed from a timid failure into a blustering, table-pounding public character. He played the film part well, and was well paid.

But it was the end of the road for him. He could not act any other part. He could not bring himself to return to his old modest self. His little day of power had ruined him.

I once was deputized to carry a suggestion to a President of the United States by a group of his most loyal supporters. I was warned in advance by a man wise in the ways of Washington. He said: "I have seen many friends of many Presidents go to the White House to tell the President the truth. The only thing that ever happens is that the friend is never invited to the White House again." That particular President was an inherently modest man. But, while he listened courteously and thanked me for my message, he was obviously annoyed. Power had done something to him.

"All power corrupts," wrote Lord Acton, the great English historian. "Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Let's keep a tight hold on the "checks and balances" with which our forefathers sought to safeguard our liberties. Even little men find it easy to acquire delusions of grandeur; to imagine themselves indispensable. Several of our minor Presidents entered the White House with the idea of serving one term, and calling it a day. Enjoyment of power changed the minds of all but one. He said: "One term only," and kept his word. I print his name in large letters—JAMES K. POLK.—Bruce Barton.

(Barton is a very prominent man in the business world, and he seems to have some big man prominently in mind! How often the same is true of preachers and elders and some others in the church!—Editor, S. C.)

PRAYER

When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without heart.

Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.

Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan.

—Author Unknown.

Apostolic Christians Talked Much of Christ's Return

James McKnight, a Scotch-Irish preacher, spent many years on his "McKnight on the Epistles," possibly the best work there is on those writings. Commenting on the expression of Paul in 1 Thess. 1:10, "And to wait for his Son from heaven," he says—"Christ himself, on two different occasions, promised that he would return from heaven, Matt. 16:27; John 14:3. The angels likewise who attended at his ascension, foretold that he will return, Acts 1:11. And as the general design of his return is to punish his enemies and reward his faithful servants, *his second coming was always a principal topic on which the apostles insisted in their discourses; and consequently it was a principal article of the faith and hope of the first Christians, a frequent subject of their conversation, and a powerful source of consolation to them in all their afflictions and troubles.* May it ever be the object of our faith and hope, and the source of our consolation, especially at death!"

Why have we not, then, been "apostolic" on this as well as other subjects on which we claim to follow closely the apostles? Probably a reason is that we have heard so many speculations that we have been driven from the precious subject. Nearly every night the writer of the Series on that subject in this paper, spends an hour or two looking for every scripture of that subject, and arranging them as he thinks will best benefit the readers.

Among many comments on the writings on Second Coming, a reader writes: "We rejoice that more are seeing the right and expressing themselves in the S. C., a good collection of instructive articles. And your articles on 'Jesus is Coming Again,' is something that most of us perhaps have never searched out and studied into as you doing it for us."

We believe that all our readers would derive much pleasure and comfort by reading closely the scriptures, and *marking them in YOUR OWN Bibles*, so that you can go through your book and easily see the scriptures. Also you may get some scriptures from which to make public talks to the brethren.

Now More Than Ever, We Should Thoroughly Study the Scriptures

The Bible, which is the Word of God, gives the one and only solution to every problem; but men in general ignore what God has to say. And this is the reason for the sorry mess we see in America and the world. No, Polyanna, what you see is only make-believe.

To understand life we must know what men are doing; and what God, through His Word, says about the activities of men. Personal observation, newspapers, magazines, books, tell us what men are doing; and a thorough study of the Word will reveal the meaning of all human activities.

The Bible throws light on man and all his doings. Living as we do in the midst of stirring times, we need now, more than at any other time, to know the Scriptures.

"The Word of God is living." The Bible is Divinely-inbreathed. God breathed into the nostrils of Adam the breath of lives and he became a living soul. The Holy Spirit has breathed the breath of God into the Bible. It is living and active.

There are no dead doctrines, letters or facts in the

Bible. Many a man owes his conversion to one verse of the Bible. Conviction, conversion, edification testify to the ceaseless energy of the Word of God.

"The Word of God is powerful." It is the dynamite of God unto salvation. It pulls down mighty strongholds. It is sharper than any two-edged sword. A sword pierces the flesh, but the Word of God pierces "even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit."

It lays open the heart. It separates between God-consciousness and self-consciousness. The Bible comes like the knife of the surgeon to cut out and to separate. It is two-edged, it convicts and converts, or it condemns and destroys; it saves, or it slays.

The Word of God divides and separates darkness from light, error from truth, sight from faith, evil from good, flesh from spirit, hell from heaven.

The Word of God is the only surgeon of the soul, and the only anatomist of the Spirit. It goes into the depths of our fleshly nature. It exposes to view carnal sentiments, desires, motives and energies. It enters the region of self, revealing self-will, self-trust, self-love, self-pride, self-glory, selfishness, self-conceit, all of which put God in the background.

The Word of God goes into our hearts and there pulls aside the curtain revealing faith and unbelief, and the thoughts and intents of the heart. It brings light to bear upon our motives and intentions. It reveals the things back of every emotion.

It shows our true affections and reasonings. It examines, judges, and reveals the purpose from which words and deeds spring. Psycho-analysts would learn much about which most are ignorant, if they were to study the Bible with an open mind.

The Word of God is mighty, for it "breaks in pieces." It is the only Book that can take the hard, stony heart of unbelief and pulverize it into contrition. The Word made weak and inconspicuous men so powerful that when they came to any city, the people cried out, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."

The Word of God finds each man where he is. The Bible finds Matthew in politics, the scarlet woman at the well, Lydia in business, John fishing, David in the field, Zaccheus up a tree, and Jeremiah down in a well. It finds all men dead in trespasses and sins; but if we believe the Word of God, we become alive in Christ forevermore.

The Word of God "is a discerner (or critic) of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The Word of God is above criticism. The Bible may be criticised only by someone who knows everything about the past, present, future, and of all things in heaven, earth and hell.—Roy T. Brumbaugh in Tacoma Times.

"AS UNTO HIM"

Whatever you think, both in joy and in woe,
Think nothing you would not like Jesus to know.
Whatever you say, in a whisper or clear,
Say nothing you would not like Jesus to hear.
Whatever you read, though the page may allure,
Read nothing unless you are perfectly sure
Consternation would not be seen in your look
If God should say solemnly, "Show me that book!"
Whatever you write with haste or with heed,
Write nothing you would not like Jesus to read;
Whatever you sing, in the midst of your glee,
Sing nothing that God's listening ear could displease;
Wherever you go, never go where you'd fear
God's question being asked you
"What doest thou here?"