

Spiritual 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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Are We Making Christians or Mere "Church-Members"?

SOME TIME AGO the Protestant denominations of Indianapolis, announced they were putting forth an effort "to get church-members". Most other communities in our land, put forth similar drives to "get church members." They generally divide up a city or district, and make arrangements for certain people to visit certain houses on certain streets, till practically every block has been visited. And I suppose every one involved thinks he is doing God service.

But where in the New Testament does it say anything about "getting church members"? There is much said about becoming Christians, obeying the gospel, receiving the word, believing and being baptized; etc., but nothing about becoming church members. Of course when one obeys the gospel he comes into the Church, the body of Christ, and hence becomes a member of that body, Church. But when we stress that people should become "church-members," we are stressing the wrong point in the whole matter. The great thing is to convert men and women's HEARTS, and thus cause them to become Christians, followers of Christ.

But WHY has such language been invented and used? It expresses what is really in the minds of people. What people see is an *organization* with building and big expenses and much show and entertainments and many societies and much begging of money, but little real Christianity which Christ commanded. It is to become a member of such an *organization*, that this great drive is made, and perhaps very little of their great activity is something which the Lord has commanded.

Many people do not become "members" of such organizations because they know that too often the purpose is to get their money to help pay the preacher a big salary, enlarge the house, install a pipe organ, recarpet the house, etc., etc.. They know there will be a constant begging, and know that the poor are often driven away. In fact, the solicitors for "church members" go rather to the respectable, rich people, in the community, and often leave behind the people "beyond the railroad tracks" *who can't pay anything*. The contributions in the apostolic church were "for the poor saints", but today contributions are made for almost everything else, and if the poor are taken care of, the "ladies aid" might make a little stagger at that! As we have often said, this is "Churchanity", but not the Christianity of the New Testament.

Our purpose should be to preach "Christ and him crucified" as Paul did to every one. Paul did not try to persuade Agrippa to "become a church-member", for that governor replied, "Almost thou persuadest me to become a *Christian*." Large local churches often are captured by ambitious and designing men who think more about show and power than

of salvation and humility, and very little about the real salvation of men's souls.

As men see it, the Church is a big organization with all the attachments we have mentioned, along with much ungodliness; while with the Lord the Church is the redeemed ones, wherever they are. Local churches are commanded in the New Testament, but they are different from the great majority of the local churches today with their unscriptural members and unscriptural practices.

The Spiritual Call is seeking to help make real Christians, not mere "church-members"—men and women who are converted to Christ not men, to His ways and not man's. And when those who really love the Lord can not serve God fully in this Babylon religious confusion, (for that is what it really is), they should "come out of her, my people," and try again to establish the full, pure worship of God, as reformers have done in all periods of the Christian Age. If you are interested in the command, to "Come out from among them, and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing." (2 Cor. 6:17), we should be glad to hear from you.

He Bound up his Bruises

You remember that once a certain lawyer came to Jesus and asked what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus had him answer his own question, and the lawyer said one should love God, and his *neighbor* as himself. The lawyer wished to squirm out of it a little, and asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus gave the story of the Good Samaritan, with the priest and Levite going past the wounded man with no mercy; and the Samaritan picking the wounded man up, taking him to an inn, and looking after him in general. When Jesus asked the lawyer which was "*neighbor*" to the injured man, he answered, "*He that showed mercy on him.*" (Luke 10.) Then Jesus said to the lawyer, probably with emphasis—"GO, AND DO THOU LIKEWISE."

All around us are those who have fallen into the hands of wicked people and led off into sin, and been bruised by the devil and his ambassadors. The "nice" church members pull their shirts up so as not to be contaminated, and pass by on the other side of the road,—"*other side of the railroad tracks*". But the true Christian gets *down* and tries to save the man and woman, as Jesus himself did the harlots and publicans. If they need physical help, we are to do good unto all men especially them of the household of faith; and since they need spiritual help, we should talk to them, and try to win them back. Do we love our neighbors as ourselves?

Tell Me The Old, Old Story

Did you know that "Tell Me the Old, Old Story" and "I Love to Tell the Story" are companion songs, both taken from a long poem about the story of Jesus? This poem was written in 1866 by Arabella Katherine Hankey.

Miss Hankey, known as "Kate" to her friends, was the daughter of a banker living in Clapham, England, a wealthy suburb of London. Unspoiled by her own favored surroundings, Kate felt a love and pity in her heart for the poor girls who lived and worked in the crowded industrial sections of London. At age eighteen Kate started a Bible class for these factory and shop workers, and although the class was never large, the girls loved "their Kate" and several became her life-long friends. Five of them met at Kate's funeral in 1911, fifty years after the Bible class had disbanded.

In 1866, Miss Hankey suffered a severe illness. During the long months of convalescence which followed, Kate spent her time meditating upon the story of Christ and His plan of salvation. "It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do," she said. These meditations took the form of a long poem written in two parts, entitled "The Story Wanted" and "The Story Told."

The hymn "Tell Me the Old, Old Story" is taken from the first part of Miss Hankey's poem, in which the writer asks to hear the story of Jesus.

Tell me the old, old story,
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love,
Tell me the story simply,
As to a little child,
For I am weak and weary,
And helpless and deffled,
Tell me the story slowly,
That I may take it in—
That wonderful redemption,
God's remedy for sin,
Tell me the story often,
For I forget so soon:
The "early dew" of morning,
Has passed away at noon.

The hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" is taken from the second part of Miss Hankey's poem, in which the writer has heard the story of Jesus and wants to share it with others.

I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love,
I love to tell the story,
Because I know 'tis true,
It satisfies my longing,
As nothing else can do,
I love to tell the story;
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest,
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story,
That I have loved so long.

In your hymn-books you will find the other verses of both songs. The tunes, composed by two American song-writers, Dr. William H. Doane and William Gustavus Fischer, afford an appropriate musical setting for these simple poems, which find a response in every Christian heart.—D. M. K.

Long Lost Epistle Found

(Preface: The "former epistle" that Paul mentions in I Cor. 5:9 has long been the object of search to many. At last it has been found. Two youthful archaeologists, Dr. Philip Modernsky and Dr. J. Sport Digress, found this epistle of the apostle Paul in the ruins of the kitchen of the church building in Corinth. It seems that this kitchen had not been used since Paul had written in I Cor. 11:22, "What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in?")

There is no doubt that Paul is the author. It is written in his style of Greek and the internal evidences are abundant as any casual reading will reveal. This work has been translated into English by the distinguished Greek scholar and lexicographer, Prof. Theyersay, D.D., B.A., M.A., Ph.D., E.T.C.—J.D.M.—Publisher)

TEXT OF PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE

Paul, the apostle, to the church at Corinth. Grace be unto you. I am thankful always in every remembrance of you. Especially when I call to mind your fine support of me whilst I was in your midst. The chariot that the church there gavest me is excellent indeed. It enableth me to have more time for the social activities that must be in the life of one so active in the church as I. I regret that it hath placed a strain on your budget; but as I suggested to you before your purchase of it: if each member would give just one trachma a week more, you could pay for it quite well.

But I must tell you of my wonderful meeting at Berea. It was one of the best ever. There were 29 additions to the church there. One was baptized, two were restored, and 26 placed membership. I believe that still much good will continue to come from my preaching there. You will be happy to know that they supported me well, 300 shekels. I am looking forward to just such a meeting with you next spring.

Now this I say, whilst in the meeting at Berea, we went over to Thessalonica for their fourth Sunday singing. The entertainment(*) was great. The choir(**) from Philippi was there under the direction of the choir-superintendent(***), Zippy Quivver. What wonderful singing. Brother Quivver, besides being superb at rolling his "r's," is quite an acrobat. Silas hath been trying to imitate his style, privately, ever since that day. The choir(**) from Philippi would sing two verses of a song and then hum the last. What wonderful humming. But the climax was when Brother Quivver whistled "The Old Rugged Cross" whilst those in the choir(**) very softly hummed in the background. I am persuaded that these singings will continue to be progressive.

The saints over at Athens have asked me to arrange a game between their wrestling team and yours. They have an excellent team. They give their whole heart and soul to it. Two or three times a week they meet for practice. You would be surprised how popular these games are. I hope that you will soon see fit to have a wrestling team. For I beseech you brethren to arrange wrestling and other teams for fellowship and at the same time take up all the idle time of the husbandry in God's vineyard. I am persuaded that soon all the saints will do the same. If the church provideth not wrestling and sack races for the members, the world will. This should silence all contentious critics.

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, that you are complaining about Timothy's preaching. May I remind you that he is yet a boy. As he grows up and has more experience with the brethren, he will soften up some. He probably picked up that "name-calling" you complained

about from my early preaching. However, most preachers come to understand the proverb, "I know which side my bread is buttered on."

You will be interested to know that Demas hath started an Olympus Club. This club is patterned after the Greek games. It will be sponsored by the saints for the entertainment of the saints. Some in the church at Antioch thought that so many outside activities endorsed by the church might hinder the zeal of many to study, preach and teach the gospel. But I silenced them by saying, "For it is written, All work and no play maketh Jack a dull boy."

But I would not have you be ignorant concerning the work at Ephesus. Hymenaeus, the senior elder there, hath written that their new cathedral(****) is completed. He saith that the splendor of it causeth the worshippers in the temple of Diana to covet it. Besides the necessary things, there is a high-ceiling room for games, a wrestling arena, and separate chapels for elaborate funerals and weddings. Some of the smaller churches round about have criticized their use of the Lord's money, Hymenaeus saith, but the growth of the church at Ephesus in membership should show that the people are pleased with such.

Know ye not that we are to have a big home-coming at Damascus this year? I still cannot get away from my home congregation. I haven't been there since last Easter, but they are planning their home-coming to coincide with Christmas. They are going to have a big tree and a Santa Claus. They were going to buy gifts for all the members, but since the treasury is so low, they have decided just to buy gifts for the children along with the elders, deacons, and myself. I wouldn't miss this home-coming for anything. It is the greatest Sunday in the year for me.

After looking over the budgets of the various churches, I have decided to preach next year for the church in Laodicea. That is really, an active congregation. Just take a look at this budget, and you will see that they are always doing something:

Minister	5,000	shekels
Assistant Minister	4,000	shekels
Educational Director	3,000	shekels
Song Director	3,000	shekels
Recreational Director	3,000	shekels
Secretary	2,000	shekels
Building Fund	25,000	shekels
School of Tyrannus	500	shekels
Benevolence	177½	shekels
Entertainment	200	shekels
Recreation	300	shekels
Mission Work	222½	shekels

May rich blessings be with you and yours. Always think of those who are dying without the gospel and the poor. Give my regards to all the large churches in that area; and incidentally, I have time for two more meetings. Alexander, a junior deacon, saluteth thee with me.

PAUL.

* May be translated enjoyment

** May be translated chorus

*** May be translated chorus director

**** May be translated plant

—J. D. Medford, in Gospel Guardian.

"Out of Great Tribulation"—I

While striving to Restore the Simple, Apostolic Church

"These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev. 7:14.

THE LAST PROMINENT CHRISTIAN WHO SAW THE APOSTLES

POLYCARP, MARTYRED 167 A. D.

Christ and his apostles could not in person stay with the people of God forever, but disciples of the next generation held in respect those who had seen either Christ or an inspired apostle. Perhaps that is one reason the Church has always held in esteem Polycarp who was a disciple of John, and was a bishop of the church in Smyrna, in Asia Minor, on the Aegean Sea. Irenaeus, who lived the second half of the second century, said of this bishop:

"Polycarp also was not only instructed by apostles, and conversed with many who had seen Christ, but was also, by apostles in Asia, appointed bishop of the church in Smyrna, whom I also saw in my early youth, for he tarried [on earth] a very long time; and when a very old man, gloriously and most nobly suffering martyrdom, departed this life having always taught the things which he had learned from the apostles, and which the church had handed down, and which alone are true."

When Polycarp was very old, a great persecution arose against the church in the district of Smyrna. The heathen knew him to be the leader of the Christians in those parts, and sought him out for vengeance. The old man did not run from them nor hasten to give himself up to be slain. But his brethren besought him to go to some friends in the country. There he busied himself day and night in offering prayers for the disciples in all parts of the world. When the pursuers sought him again, he changed residence, but torturing some slaves they learned his whereabouts. When they learned the house he was in, Polycarp could have escaped to the roof of another house, but did not, saying "God's will be done." He set food before them, and asked that he might have an hour for undisturbed prayer. He took two hours, and it is said that even his pursuers were touched with the fervency of his petitions.

When the heathen had brought him into the town, to the chief of police as we would name him, he was called upon to say, "Our lord the emperor," and to offer sacrifice to him. But the old Christian would not. Then they became angry and treated him roughly. But though they injured one of the bones of his ankle, he paid no attention. When he appeared before a higher officer, he was charged, "Curse Christ, and I will set you free." The old man answered: "Eighty and six years have I served him, and I have received only good at his hands! Can I then curse him, my King and my Savior?"

When the chief officer continued to press him, Polycarp said, "Well, then, if you desire to know who I am, I tell you freely, *I am a Christian*." If you desire to know what Christianity is, appoint an hour and hear me."

The officers did not seem to be specially prejudiced against him, and would have gladly saved the old man, so he said to Polycarp, "Only persuade the people!"

He replied: "To you I felt myself bound to render an account, for our religion teaches us to treat the powers ordained of God with becoming reverence, as far as is consistent with our salvation. But as for those without, I consider them unobserving of any defense from me."

The officer then threatened him with wild beasts and the

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stake, but this, too, had no effect in changing his faith. And when the officer announced that Polycarp had confessed that he is a Christian, it simply meant that he would be burned. The people instantly cried: "This is the teacher of atheism, the father of the Christians, the enemy of our gods, who has taught so many not to pray to the gods, and not to sacrifice."

When it was announced that Polycarp would be burned, Jew and Gentile alike rushed into a wheelwright shop and brought out shavings and scraps of wood, to pile around him. When they were about to fasten him with nails to the stake, the old man said, "Leave me thus, I pray, unfastened. He who has enabled me to abide the fire, will give me strength also to remain firm on the stake."

Before the fire was lighted he prayed: "O Lord, Almighty God! the Father of thy beloved son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received a knowledge of thee! God of the angels and of the whole creation, of the whole human race, and of the saints, who live before thy presence! I thank thee that thou hast thought me worthy, this day, and this hour, to share the cup of thy Christ among the number of thy witnesses!"

And thus he sealed his faith with his blood, and like Abel, though he has been dead nineteen centuries, he still speaks to the world of his faith and devotion.

And we today cringe and cower when the finger of scorn is pointed at us because we uphold the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus!

The Divine Plan

From the time that God declared that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head until this great promise and prophecy found its fulfillment in Christ, (Gen. 3:15, Rom. 16:20) prophets and sages explored the expanding scope of divine revelation in quest of the meaning of predictions of hope for the fallen race of humanity. Angels even desired to look into these things which were spoken, written about, and held in "the earnest expectation of the creature,"—"waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." See 1 Pet. 1:9-12; Rom. 8:19-23. But the wonders of redeeming power and the glory that should follow that redemption were concealed in the infinite wisdom of God down through the ages, Rom. 16:25-27.

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Tim. 3:16. This is an inspired summary of the plan that stirred countless prophets and angels to search diligently for an understanding of that which was purely divine, and which still holds the true people of God in awe and reverence because we know it could not have come from man. "The Word was

made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. His name was to be called "Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us." Matt. 1:23. Such revelations unfold the mystery and leave the faithful enthralled by its wonders. It is all a part of God's plan to arrest our reverence and respect for him in the divine scheme of redemption.

When the time came for God, in his wisdom, to reveal the plan, even then it was not made known to "the wise and prudent." Our Lord gives thanks to the Father for this, and declares that he has "revealed them unto babes." See Matt. 11:25-30. The babes referred to are simply "unlearned and ignorant men," and God's purpose in revealing his plan through such men is clearly seen in such passages as Acts 4:13. Heavenly treasure is springing from "earthen vessels" in such a manner that men must recognize its source, and so "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us," (man), See 2 Cor. 4:7. That this was an important feature of the divine plan there can be no doubt when we note this closing thought of the beautiful prayer of Jesus: "Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight."

Upon closing the prayer, referred to above, our Lord shows the impossibility of any man knowing the Father, "save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." He concludes with the invitation that has touched the hearts of thousands, and couched within this wonderful invitation is the same predominant thought in the words, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me," and the entire lesson may be summed up in the words, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. We do not believe that any man or group of men constitute the highest authority in any congregation of the Church of Christ, be they Evangelists, Elders, or Deacons. God is still in heaven, and must be honored, and Christ is on the Right hand of God, is head of the Church, and must be obeyed. Eph. 1:19-23, Col. 1:18-19, Rev. 22:14.—Fred W. Fenton.

"Is it Not Time to Think?"

Under this heading, J. C. Shewmaker, writes a front page article in the Christian Leader, of which we give one paragraph. And the editor of the Leader also writes on the same line, of which we give two paragraphs.—Editor S. C.

"IN THESE DAYS when we see the world in such an upheaval—one block of nations arrayed against another block of nations, one nation within a group of nations disagreeing and haggling for its own selfish ends, Christendom divided into two warring camps, Catholic and Protestants broken into hundreds of sects each claiming to be right in its creed, the church of the Lord torn asunder into small groups built around some paper, preacher or college, and one Christian setting at naught and disfellowshipping another Christian who has obeyed the same gospel, you, even a large percentage of local congregations with inner strife and dissension—I ask is it not about time for every Christian to sit down in humility, Bible in hand, with an open heart, and a prayer on his lips, to decide just what is the Christian attitude?" . . .

"OUR AGE HAS LOST THE INTEREST in Heaven that our forefathers had. The deathlessness of the human soul was an accepted premise for the thinking of our forebears and not a subject of argument as it is with us today. We have a hundred men wishing that they might be here to see America one hundred years from now to one who is thinking of Heaven and wishing to go there. A modern

writer in trying to justify this age's disinterestedness in Heaven says that our refusal to die and to have it all over with is like peevish children refusing to come in at night fall after playing outdoors all day.

"But why is our interest in Heaven so declined? Well, perhaps there are many contributing factors, and none the least among them are the increased knowledge and wealth of our day. Science has filled us all so full of the things of the world that we have forgotten to claim our souls. We are like filled auditoriums. Let the most honorable person of the city seek admittance and he must be turned away, for the seats have all been taken and there is no room left. Our hearts are so filled with the new knowledge of science and wealth that the hope of Heaven has no room in our minds. We are preoccupied. Are we happier? No, and a thousand times no, for a feeling of hopelessness and despair are settling down on us as never before. We are lost in the midst of plenty!"

COMMENTS BY EDITOR OF SPIRITUAL CALL.

Yes, it is not only "time to think" but time to ACT. It has grieved me deeply to see those who pretended to be the true Church of Christ speaking and writing nearly altogether on denominational differences, AND OUTWARD, FORMAL CHRISTIANITY. Jesus condemned most severely those Pharisees as hypocrites, who "pay tithe of mint, anise and cummin, and omit the WEIGHTIER MATTERS OF THE LAW, justice, mercy and faith." On every hand are professed Christians doing that very thing. They talk and write about conventions of preachers, building fine meeting houses, lectureships, colleges, degrees, crowds, baptism, Baptism, AND MORE BAPTISM for the remission of sins but not much about being "raised to walk in NEWNESS OF LIFE", "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord," "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him," "Friendship of the world is ENMITY with God," etc., etc. I believe that unless there is a great change in the preaching and teaching and writing on religion, not very many, even professed Christians, are going to be saved. "Narrow is the way that leads to life, and FEW there be that find it." As long as this writer lives and has the right use of his mind, or as long as brethren send the means to keep this paper going, the central theme shall be—"CONVERSION of the corrupt or indifferent hearts of men and women." Nothing else counts in all the world. I know it brings persecution and neglect, as with Jeremiah of old when he foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, but in the end he saved himself with the few faithful, and the others were punished. Are we of the "few who have not doffed our garments?"

Our "Mess," and How to Get Out of It

I recently read an article in the American Magazine by U. S. Senator Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire, one of the key members of the Committee investigating crime, in which he described some of the sordid conditions of corruption and collusion between the gangsters and the officials, existing in nearly all levels of our government from the lowest up.

By reason of the facts brought to light by this committee, he believes that there are signs of an awakening of the American public to the need of cleaning up this mess of corruption.

He warns that it must be done if we are to preserve our American traditions.

He says, quote, Coupled with these physical devices for action, (legislation which the committee is preparing to

have enacted) there must be a real moral and spiritual re-birth in America. These gamblers and others who spawn corruption and vice would be helpless if their coffers were not fed by the money of many people. We must get to the root of the trouble to be really effective. It is a matter of the human heart and the human soul. Unquote.

That is the root and foundation of the whole affair. It is the individual man and woman who by giving their patronage to these devices of gambling and corruption, supply the funds which in the aggregate are so immense, on which these lords of vice exist.

In conclusion Senator Tobey says, quoting, We must return to the teaching of God. Then we can take action to redeem America from the thralldom of sin and vice that reign so triumphantly across the country today. To quote Whittier, "But solution there is none save in the rule of Christ alone." I personally believe that. And therein lies the hope of the World. Unquote.

There it is, brethren and friends, as expressed by one of the leading statesmen of today, we must return to the Bible, to the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth and when each and everyone of us does that, then the country will be rid of this filthy mess that it is in today.

This is nothing more nor less than what God has been pleading with mankind for throughout all ages, to turn and serve and obey Him. And now through the sacrifice of His dear Son and the terms that He offers by the gospel He is promising salvation to all who will believe and obey Him.

You believe in God, James tells us that the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? James 2:19, 20.

How true that is, you may have faith and believe in God and his Son Jesus Christ, but if you do not act on that faith, or belief, what good is it?

We might illustrate it something like this. Suppose that an individual should offer you a large sum of money, under certain conditions. You know the person and have faith that he is honest and will fulfill the terms of his offer. But if you do not act, and perform your part by complying with the conditions under which the offer is made, you will never receive the money. Or if some one should tell you that it is not necessary for you to perform every little detail of the terms of this offer, that something else will answer just as well, as long as you believe in the one who makes the offer, do you think that you would receive the money if you failed or neglected to comply with every detail of the conditions under which the offer was made? Of course not!

And so it is with the gospel and salvation. God has so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. The conditions of that offer is; He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:16.

Some one will say that it is not necessary to be baptized, and will refer to Acts 16:31 where Paul and Silas told the jailer to Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved; but this one neglects to show that Paul spoke unto him the word of the Lord, and that the jailer was immediately baptized. Do you expect God will give you salvation if you do not comply with his terms, as the jailer did?

Again a teacher may say, that a little water sprinkled on you will answer the purpose just as well as to be immersed. But such a teacher ignores that the New Testament teaches that those who were then baptized, went down into the water, Acts 8:38; were buried with him in baptism, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12; and came up out of the water, Acts 8:39.

Can we expect God to fulfill his promise of salvation if

we substitute a provision of man's for one which he has given?

When Jesus comes will we be as the devils who believe and tremble, or will we be with those who came out of much tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.—Fred D. Weed.

Righteousness, Temperance, and Judgment To Come

Some of the great thoughts that we need to meditate upon today is some of the words that the apostle Paul set forth as he was defending his life before the rulers of the land. As he came before them he reasoned with them upon righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Acts 24:25.

Righteous is a great thought in the word of God because it gives those that are holding to the word of life, comfort and consolation for eternity. God is the establisher and founder of righteousness. From the time that man ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he knows the difference between right and wrong. As he tells us in Hebrews 1:8, Thy throne O God is forever and ever, a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.

As a king hundreds of years ago carried a scepter that denotes authority, so does God's word today denote authority and his people keep the word as he has given it. That is the reason that Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:28, Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, or a church that will stand forever.

It must have grieved God at many times as his people wandered from the ways of righteousness and into idolatry, as he tells us in Romans 10:21, All day long I have stretched forth my hands to a disobedient and gainsaying people.

There are hundreds of thousands of people in the world today that never stop to think of the great things that God provides for them with the material things of life and the spiritual things for life to come. As James 1:17 tells us, Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of Lights with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning.

Then we have judgment. The apostle Paul tells us that Christians will judge not only the world but will judge angels. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3. So if Christians are to judge angels they surely will have to be righteous in the sight of God. So we find that righteousness begins in the house of God. So we find that true Christians when they are done in this world will take a place with God and will be judges of small and great. Matthew 13:30.

Perhaps one of the worse sins that mankind can do besides sinning against the Holy Spirit is to persecute one of God's followers. As Christ said in Luke 17:2, It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he cast into the sea than that he should offend one of these little ones. Then we find in Matthew 25:31-46 that when Christ comes God's people will be with him in judgment.—Elmer R. Smith.

Sentiments of Some "That Fear the Lord"

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another and the Lord harkened, and heard it, and the book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts in that day when I make up my jewels. Malachi 3:16, 17.

(Read the whole connection carefully.)

EAST ALTON, ILL.—I was down at Neosho, Mo., last week end, May 13, I was there for Saturday night and one young father came forward and we baptized him Sunday morning about 8:30 in one of those beautiful Ozark streams. They were sure

happy he came in. He has five small children—his wife cried for joy when he came up. They need a lot of personal work down there, and they deserve it, for they are a faithful group which has stood firm in all they have gone through. I am holding them a meeting in October, as I can get a leave of absence from my secular work then. . . . We had 80 out at meeting here at Wood River, Ill., Sunday, with some gone.—Harold Ottwell.

VIENNA, ILL.—We had a good meeting in several ways at Lovell, Okla. The brethren and sisters seemed much strengthened and encouraged. The attendance and interest were good. They have a good bunch of young folks who are interested in the church. Two young men of high school age can lead the song service. Brethren Siebers and Bransons who meet near Hennessey attended several nights of the meeting; they stand firm against all opposition to the truth. The meeting lasted from April 20th to May 13th. . . . Bro. Sommer, your article on front page of April issue ("I Never Knew a Sport who was a Pillar in the Church"), is excellent; in fact, the whole issue is good. I am enclosing check to cover expense of 25 or 30 copies to hand out, or send out.—H. L. Carlton.

WHAT SOME THINK.—Dear Brother and Sister Sommer: I saw in last S C you had sample copies, so please send me 12 of April issue. I think the S C is a wonderful paper. It has so many warnings in it, and about Jesus' Second Coming.—L. M. . . . I AM SENDING a check for renewal of my subscription. I don't wish to miss even one paper; I enjoy them so much. Hope your health is much better and that you will continue to labor for the Lord for years to come.—J. M. . . . DEAR BRO. SOMMER, The April issue is fine, so many good articles. "I Never Knew a Sport who was a Pillar in the Church," is very timely and applicable today when the whole world, especially the U. S. A. has gone mad over games. I accidentally turned the radio to a station which was giving an account of a prize fight. I listened just a moment, and it made me mentally sick. I don't know how people can be so inhuman as to watch or listen to such things.—K. S. . . . PLEASE SEND ME a few copies of the May issue of the S C, as I am very anxious; for in my estimation this is a very timely issue; and may your efforts to get others to think on these things, be successful, while they still have the opportunity.—E. M. . . . SEE WHAT SOME ONE DID BY DONATING THE PAPER—"Just a few lines to tell you how much I have enjoyed reading your Spiritual Call. It is a wonderful help to any one who will read it.—Ohio. . . . WE ARE ENJOYING each copy of the S. C.—Mrs. C. S. . . . I have noted your front page article in April issue—"I Never Knew a Sport who was a Pillar in the Church." A very timely article to this modernized generation. If it would keep one person in 10,000 spiritually straight it is well worth the time I think.—C. S.

THE McKINNEYS—Recently Bro. Archie McKinney, the elder at Blaine Ave., Indianapolis, died of cancer on the face. He was very much interested in the religion of Christ. Would to God that all the people of the churches everywhere were deeply interested in such things. One week later his father died at the age of 90; he also was a member at Blaine. As our readers know, we do not have space for extended obituaries, except for those who are GENERALLY known in the brotherhood.—D. A. Sommer.

NON PROFIT—The Spiritual Call is a non-profit effort to do good in the name of Jesus. The paper does not pay for itself, and not many religious papers do unless they have advertisements or a large circulation. Whether the paper continues, especially in its present form, depends on the "offerings" of Christians who wish to scatter the truth. The hot, religiously slack summer months are here. Can we depend on you to help pull us through? Regular small donations show what we may depend on. If you can not donate the paper to ten names, send us the names and addresses of ten apparently honest people, and donations we receive will send it to them for a few months, at least. We never know how much good we do. That is God's business. But from letters this paper is doing much good. "In the morning sow the seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand, for who can tell whether will prosper either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

STOCKTON, CALIF.—Dear Brother Sommer: Brother and Sister J. D. Powers were with us for a good visit last month. Bro. Powers always brings us encouraging news from friends in other congregations, and we miss them sadly since they have gone home. All hope and pray God's blessings will continue to be with you in this good work. Your Brother and Sister in Christ, W. and E. O.

THE EASY WAY OF TEACHING does not give stress on sin and the penalty. Bro. Sanderson's item about one hundred per

cent HONESTY, is good. Not enough Honesty taught in schools and homes, and so Dishonesty enters churches, too. At school to "copy" to win honors, usually ends up in dishonor. Even in our government, people wonder who is telling the truth.—Mrs. Dix. (Yes, downright, old-fashioned, undiluted, GOD-DEMANDED Honesty, is what the world and CHURCH need, perhaps, more than anything else.—Editor)

THERE IS A PREACHER who thought he should cast out one from the spiritual service of the church which bears the name of God's only begotten Son, and then again and again "here and there" he had members who did not agree with his new ideas cast out; and he so hindered the spiritual growth of the church. There are some additions, but they have to have the new ideas too. Some preach where there are large congregations and good pay, but many have fallen spiritually by the misjudgment of a religious dictator. Several can not or will not apply Amos 6th chapter to their lives, for they like the noise of instruments of music and they like to live in luxury or in idleness.

Now as to the military, there was started a purging (so called) and while they talk many lose their physical lives in warfare and they say "war has not been declared." When fighting day and night if that is not war whether declared or not, What is it?

"The love of money is the root of all evil." (Bible). It is the cause of all war too. If it had not been for the desire of some to set up a plan to receive good pay for preaching, there would not have been such casting out. At one place an "outsider" remarked "some seem to be worshipping the preacher instead of Christ." That preacher is no Saviour of any one, only an "idol" with a heart almost as cold as metal. In his attempts to make big impressions, he brought grief to near members of his own kin and household, and failure of his pals to live humble and Godly lives in the work of the church. Popularity idea is sinful. Satan became vain and fell.

"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had labored to do: and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." Ecclesiastes 2:11. A Sister.

LET US PLEASE GOD IN OUR DAILY LIVES

Rom. 8:31 If God be for us who can be against us?

How do we know that God is for us John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me, shall be loved of my Father and I will love him and manifest myself to him and Rom. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ.

We are told in the last five verses of the 8th of Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, excepting when we ourselves are drawn away, after our own lust, and we are told God tempteth no man.

We are told that in order to stand in favor of God, we should study to show ourselves approved of God; if we study God's word it will plainly teach us how we should live in order to please him. He has promised in the 13th of Hebrews that he will never leave us or forsake us, so then in order for us to keep in harmony with God we must keep his commandments, regardless of what man may say or do; if we stand up for Christ and take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way, or even make opportunities to defend the word of God and its teachings, we will grow in his grace.

It is not hard for a Christian to know when he is pleasing the Lord; when we keep in harmony with his teachings we know we are pleasing him. All the pleasure and beauties of this world will be as nothing, when we face our Maker in judgment, and there is nothing in our imagination that can compare with the glory that will be revealed to us if we remain faithful to God until we are called. Let us give more heed to his teachings and put in practice in our daily lives the things that tend to make us truly Children of God.—Mrs. Chester Sanderson.

EVANGELISTIC WORK BY THE EDITOR OF THE "SPIRITUAL CALL"

We have just finished 15 days of gospel work among the brethren. We were at Brookfield, Mo., over two Lord's Days. There were three meetings each Lord's Day, the first Lord's Day, I spoke morning and evening, and Bro. Ralph Acree, from Independence, Mo., in the afternoon, and Bro. Harold Ottwell taught a Bible lesson. Bro. Elmer Smith from Clarinda, Iowa, was present the two Lord's Days; our readers know him from the short articles he

writes for the S. C. Brother Fred Fenton and family drove down from Kansas City for the afternoon meeting. The second Lord's Day Bro. Fenton spoke in the afternoon. You are reading his articles in the S. C. Other brethren were present from different places, some of whose names I do not recall, hence, do not start on any. This was the largest attendance and best interest I have ever had at Brookfield. A young married man was baptized the first Lord's Day, who is willing to work, and from whom the brethren expect good and faithful efforts. A young woman was baptized the second Lord's Day. The church is happy in the work of the Lord.

We were at Kansas City three nights. The Church meeting at 17th and Lawn Sts., Kansas City, Mo., is composed of disciples in the Kansas City area, and includes those from four communities, and others who have been scattered, and was formed July 28, 1950, by banding these together exactly in the same manner as our brethren have done in mission fields through all the history of the Church of Christ, and stands for the same New Testament principles that the loyal brotherhood has defended through the years. Bro. Fred W. Fenton, now of 1720 Orville Ave., Kansas City 2, KANSAS, is leading the congregation, and developing the young men for public work of the church. Bro. Ralph Acree, another faithful gospel preacher who lives by working with his hands, is a member there. There are forty or more disciples there, mostly young men and women with growing families. It was a pleasure to be with this enthusiastic group, which is bound to make an impression for apostolic simplicity on people in those parts. Bro. Fenton is well able by nature and experience to defend the truth, and some errorists in those parts are finding that out. He spent much of his time earlier in life in missionary work, for about five years, but saw he needed secular work to help, and so has devoted himself to engineering. He is now assistant engineer for the city of Kansas City, Kans., of about 125,000 population. But he said that though he has a good job he is unhappy because he can not be in the work of the Lord all the time. However, his health would not permit. There are some things he has learned in the church the hard way, just as most of the rest of us have done. He fears no anathemas of UNSCRIPTURAL elders, just as all should do. Fear not what MAN can do unto you. Men may throw people out of THEIR church, but they can not throw one out of GOD'S Church, praise the Lord. God ALONE "added to the church," Acts 2:47, and God ALONE can cast out of HIS church. There are some deluded elders who think that their ambitious, malicious, unscriptural decrees are bound in heaven just as the teachings of inspired apostles are. "We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5.) When the pope sent his anathemas to Luther, that reformer took it out into the public square of the city and burned it before thousands of people, many of them Romanists, thus showing his contempt of such silly work of ambitious, dictatorial, unscriptural men. Oh, that every one of our readers and their friends, would show the same contempt for the doctrines and dictums of UNSCRIPTURAL bishops and PREACHERS in religion! We hope all sincere disciples in the Kansas City area will get in touch with Bro. Fenton, at his above address, and at least talk with him. It will give you joy to meet and worship with that devoted group.

We were four nights at Neosho, Mo., including one Lord's Day. The group is mostly composed of elderly sisters, whose names I feel sure are written in heaven, for they have fought one of the most heroic battles for the Lord I have known against great odds, and now the devil has left them for a season, as he did the Savior when Jesus thrust him through with the Word of God. There were quite a number of non members present and they expressed agreement with lessons against sin we presented of all shades and grades, especially against the hypocrisy of Christians and worldliness. Bro. H. L. Carlton baptized a young man there some months ago, and he is interested; and a few weeks ago, Bro. Harold Ottwell baptized a young man who is head of a family. Bro. Ottwell will hold a series of meetings there in October in his vacation from work. . . . Practically ALL the disciples in those three places have passed through the fire in those last days, and it was indeed a pleasure to me to mingle with those who are going up to heaven "through great tribulation, and have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb." . . . I am glad to say that my health has been good through this series, and I am greatly encouraged, for it seems I can yet do a considerable good for the Lord. One brother who is going through the fire, says he thinks that possibly I can do as much good YET, as I have done in all the past of my life! The many prayers which brethren say they are raising that we may be permitted to go on, convince me that there is no "appeasement" nor compromise with the dictators in religion any more than with Hitler and Stalin in world affairs. "Even so be it, Lord Jesus."

You Fool, You!

Maybe you think I am a little severe on this fellow I wish to talk about a few minutes, but it was really the Savior who said that. Let us learn about this man, as his actions apply to us in our day.

A man had a big farm and his ground had a fine yield one year, and it pleased him very much; but he could not find shelter for all the crops he raised through the favor of God. He was troubled. "What shall I do?" he said to himself. Finally an idea struck him. "I will sell all my crops in these times of high prices, and invest that, and make myself secure for many years."

So he sold his crops, and put some of the money in government bonds, and some in the postal savings, and some in savings at the bank, and some he invested in a new company which had been organized in his community, and some he put into real estate, and some he loaned on a big interest to friends, and some he used to put an addition to his house, and some he used to buy a TV set, and some he used for new furniture.

And then he said to himself, "Well, I am pretty well set now. If one thing fails, maybe another will bring me in something. They can't all fail. The government bonds are as good as gold, and with gold I can always buy something to eat and a place to stay. I am well fixed for many years. Soul, take your ease, you have everything you will need for many years, 'eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, "Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee, and then whose shall those things be which thou hast laid up for many years?" "So," said Jesus, "is everyone that layeth up treasure for himself, but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:13-34.)

And so it is with untold millions in the world today—we have social security, we think, but even that is very uncertain, and even at its best it lasts only a little while. But we do not have SOUL SECURITY which lasts for eternity. We do not have treasures laid up in heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt and where thieves can not break through and steal.

That is one trouble with riches in this world—they make us too independent and cause us to lose the feeling of dependence on God. Jesus goes on in the same connection to teach reliance on God like the birds who toil not nor sow, and yet God feeds them. This does not mean that we should not try to lay up something for the rainy day, but that we should not be worrying about such too much. "Be not anxious for the morrow, for the morrow shall take care of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Yes, reader, Jesus himself says that the man who puts his trust in the things of this world, and neglects the kingdom of God and its righteousness, is a fool.

Reader, stop and consider carefully, "Am-I-a-fool?"

What Are We Going to do About This?

J. Edgar Hoover Gives Some Crime Statistics:

"Only one out of 12 persons in our country attends church.

Seven out of eight children quit church and Sunday school attendance before they reach 13 years of age.

People spend eight times more hours at movies than at Sunday school.

As a nation we spend up to \$150 on pleasures, sins, and amusements to every dollar given to church work.

Our nation harbors three times as many criminals as college students.

A major crime is committed every 22 seconds.

A murder is committed every 40 minutes.

There are 60 suicides in our nation daily.

One million illegitimate babies are born annually.

One million girls have venereal disease.

Fifteen million "sex" magazines are printed monthly and read by teen-agers.

There are more barmaids in America than college girls."

Comments by Editor of Spiritual Call

All this is found in a so-called Christian Nation. It is doubtful whether the heathen are any worse than that. We would better turn our missionaries loose HERE rather than send them abroad. Well, what are we going to do about it?

1. Every professed Christian should start in as never before to live right in every respect, so as to be an example to those around.

2. We should do everything we can for those in our household, especially if they are children, to guide them in the right way.

3. If our children, or other relatives are at a distance, why not send the Spiritual Call to them, to try to help them line up with truth and righteousness?

4. We have neighbors and other friends over whom we have some influence. Have we ever talked earnestly to them? Think of it: You can now send to ten of your friends what is equal to nearly 200 ordinary pages of reading matter for only fifty cents each a year—that is to ten friends for five dollars.

Christians are supposed to be the salt of the earth, but Jesus says that if the salt has lost its savor, saltiness, wherewith shall the earth be salted, saved?

Listen, beloved, Jesus is not going to say to us, "Well, done, thou good and faithful servant," unless we have *done something* and done it "well".

Here is a Man

Who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30 and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never put His feet inside a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away . . . one of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying, and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today He still is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the columns of humanity!

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings and dictators that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as that One Solitary Life.

—Author Unknown.