Being Born Again.

"BEING BORN AGAIN, NOT OF CORRUPTIBLE SEED, BUT OF INCORRUPTIBLE, BY THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH LIVETH AND ABIDETH FOR EVER." —1 Peter 1:23.

Some people are trying to "develop" Christian character without having been born again; an impossibility. To make spurious money is called counterfeiting; trying to live a Christian life without having been born again, is spiritual counterfeiting. Jesus has said: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

The birth of the Spirit does not consist merely of a change of one's mind, or attitude; it is a change of heart wrought by an operation of the Spirit of God upon our lives, which makes us a new creature in Christ Jesus. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17.) It's a distinct work of grace, through faith; and that not of ourselves: but the gift of God; and that not of works, lest any man should boast. (See Ephesians 2:8&9.) and comes ONLY through our forsaking sin, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (In Isa. 55:7, we read: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Then the evidence comes to us—"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:16.) Also, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." (1 John 3:14. Only those having really been born again, know of this wonderful love, and of the real fellowship of the Spirit.) Also, in 1st. John 5:10, we are told that he that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness IN HIMSELF; and in the first verse, of the same chapter, it declares that, Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and verse 18 gives us the proof as to whether or not the individual who says he believes that Jesus is the Christ, REALLY believes such, (to BELIEVE means to be born of God) when it plainly declares the following: "WE KNOW THAT WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD SINNETH NOT." (Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.—St. Matthew 7:20.)

Doubtless there are thousands today in the various denominations and religious bodies, who merely made a profession of Christianity; and without any more reality in their experience than is manifested in joining a secret society, they have gone forth in the ranks of the beliefs of their choice, with a heart unchanged, and their soul as bleak and barren of the knowledge of real salvation, as they were before their "conversion;" they still love the world—their mode of living proves such, as evidenced by their fashionable, and up-to-date, attire; (be it ever so ungodly, they must keep abreast of the times) their manifested love for the theater, picture shows, ball room, card parties, ball games, and revelry in general; their filthy habits and appetites; their greed for wealth; (often defrauding their fellow man to obtain such) their ungodly conversations, and worldliness in general: often stoutly opposing the doctrine of old-time salvation—declaring it impossible to live a life free from sin. (Which is impossible in an unregenerated condition—which condition is the true state of affairs with them.)

The way of truth they know not, and if their pastors endorse such ungodliness, it's only a case of the blind being leaders of the blind, and they will surely, as God's word has declared, "both fall into the ditch." (St. Matthew 15:14.)

Jesus reproved Nicodemus for not knowing "Ye must be born again." What of some of our learned (I) preachers of today? "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." —Prov. 14:12.
“Neither Are Your Ways My Ways, Saith The LORD.”
—Isaiah 55:8.

While in a few nights meeting at Lone Star school house, near Anderson, Mo., some time back, a visiting brother made a remark during his testimony that made an impression upon us, and which gives us a thought. In words to this effect, he said: “There's already been enough gospel preached to save the whole world, if they would only obey it.” How true it is!

Thousands of people have heard from time to time, the Gospel in it's purity—have heard preached from the pulpit, the very things necessary for them to do, to obtain everlasting life. Some have gladly accepted such, and are now zealously striving that they may have an abundant entrance in, in that day; others have listened to the same messages, from time to time, and have never as yet, made a start toward heaven; and the next class—the class we have on our mind in connection with the thought under consideration—are those who have heard, and have made the start, but who are failing (or else, refusing) to measure up their lives to God’s standard. Of this class, many have for an excuse for not doing so, this remark: “I can't see that way.” They realize God's word denounces some act of their lives, but they go on in the very thing which God's word condemns, and may possibly yield enough to say, “If ever I feel condemned over ‘so-and-so,’ why, then I'll quit it.” (Whether or not they are honest in not being able to comprehend, and willing to measure up if they ever ‘see it that way,’ God knoweth.) Right here, beloved, is a great fault—they are making a great error.

God's word declares to us in the above text that His ways are not our ways—neither His thoughts are our thoughts. He says, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9.) So beloved, God is not wanting us to always see things “our way;” He extends for us to see things His way, thank God. Your excuse, “I can't see it that way,” will never excuse you at the Judgment bar of God; but He has given us the Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, (Ephesians 4:11.) that we might hear them; and has sent the Holy Ghost into the world, to reprove of sin, of righteousness, and of the judgment; and if we fail to heed the call—the wooing of the Spirit of God—and attempt to pass the judgment of God with the flimsy excuse, “I couldn't see it that way,” we may be confronted with the question: “Why could you not see it that way?” Then what would your answer be? If you would be honest, you would probably have to just confess: “Well, it didn't just suit my idea (or desire.)” (And herein, then, possibly lies the foundation for the whole thing—the reason you can't “see” certain things which God's word plainly teaches is, because your desire is toward keeping on doing the thing God's word teaches us to lay aside, or measure up to; and you are trying to remain justified before God in following “your way.”)

Remember, beloved, God's ways ARE NOT yours; and God wants you to see things His way, for His ways are right, always, thank God. Here is why we need to see things God's way: “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not

SAFETY IN GOD ALONE.

Many, no doubt, feel (or try to) a safety concerning the future life, in joining a church, thinking that church to be right with God, thereby making them to be then, right with God—safety. THE Church (Christ's body) is a place of safety, but you can't join it—YOU MUST BE BORN IN IT! (Psalms 87:5-6.) You can easily “join” a church organization, (and yet be far from God) but to get in to the body of Christ, Ye must be born again! You CAN'T join THE Church—”And the Lord (not the preacher) added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:47.)

CHARITY.

A dear brother (since past on to be with the Lord) once said in teaching a Sunday School class we believe it was—words to this effect: “With some folks, charity begins at home with them; and also it ends there.” You get the thought? Some say charity should begin at home; if so, it should branch out in ALL directions, and reach as far as possible: but like the brother said, with too many it both begins, and ends, at home!

in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jer. 10:23.)

To profess to not being able to “see” God's commands “that way” is close akin to ignoring God's holy will. Souls, you had better be careful; remember, Jesus says in St. Matthew 16:24, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” To deny oneself, means to sometimes deny our viewpoint, or opinion, on certain portions of God's word, and take it the way God puts it, Amen.

So beloved, if after you've heard enough Gospel preached to save your own soul, what will it profit you, except you obey?

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (I Samuel 15:22.)

Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. —Psalms 119:2.
A Page Devoted To The Lost.

"ALMOST PERSUADED..."

It's possible that of all songs that shall ring in the ears of many lost souls, as they stand condemned before the Judgment bar of Almighty God, will be the old familiar song, 'Almost Persuaded.' Thousands have heard it's appeal; and have felt the need of surrendering their lives unto God, and were of a fact, Almost Persuaded; but as a final decision, held back possibly for a 'more convenient time;' and by continued actions along this line, now find themselves hopelessly lost—world without end; and then and there, is fulfilled in their lives, the words of the poet: "Of all sad words of tongue, or pen, The saddest are these; 'It might have been.' Then and there, they will regret the lost opportunities they once had to have gotten right with God." Sad, indeed, will be the scene—men and women; boys and girls, all doomed to a devil's hell; and all because they refused to yield when they were Almost Persuaded!

King Agrippa, before whom the Apostle Paul once stood as a prisoner because of his preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, remarked: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." How many times, unsaved friend, have YOU been Almost Persuaded? Do you not realize that sometime, somewhere, your last call shall come, and then and there, you will have to make a final decision? Beloved, let us exhort you to NEVER pass another opportunity to get right with God! The next time you feel that you should accept Jesus as your Saviour, give Him your heart, that it shall not be YOU who will have to regret, with unspeakable grief, that you were just only—Almost Persuaded; but it was in vain.

To Almost gain Heaven, only means to be lost—LOST, world without end; endless night; to spend Eternity in a devil's hell, where there will be weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth; where their worm dieth not, and the Fire is never quenched!

How sad, indeed, the plight of a lost soul—how horrible will be their cry!

Give your heart to God, beloved; stay true to Him; and some glad day, when the toils of this life are over, you can join in the song of Moses and the Lamb, around the pearly white Throne, where sorrow and crying shall be no more; but where joy and bliss shall never end.

"Sinner friend, there's room in Heaven for you; a home awaits you over there. Jesus suffered and died, that you might have life, and have it more abundantly. If you go down to torment, dear soul, you go there an intruder, for hell was not prepared for you, but for the Devil and his angels; but the kingdom of Heaven was prepared for you from the foundation of the world. If you go to torment, beloved, you shall go there against the wishes of Heaven; against the wishes of the enlightened of earth; and lastly, against the wishes of the unfortunate souls now suffering the pangs of the lost. (See St. Luke 16:19:31.)"

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."—Rev. 22:17.

Sinner friend, as you read this appeal, thought we know you not, consider that we are concerned about the salvation of your soul, and our prayer is, That God will so convict you of sin, that you will be Fully Persuaded to give your heart to Him, and that YOU will not be among the number on that Day of all days, who with untold remorse, will think back to the time when you were ALMOST PERSUADED!

Danger of Stubborn Rejection of Salvation.

He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. ---Prov. 29:1.

And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man."---Gen. 6:3.

Location of Heaven and Hell.

The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath. ---Prov. 15:24.

Which Is The Way of Life?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. ---St. John 14:6.

Who Can Be Saved?

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ---Romans 10:13.

Lost Soul, Eternity---Where?
Hypocrite!

Just a few plain facts about the hypocrite:

Very few hypocrites ever really get saved.

It was a hypocrite who betrayed our Saviour.

The most Dangerous hypocrite is the one in a pulpit.

One of the most contemptible creatures to contend with is a hypocrite.

Some hypocrites are extra deceitful in their actions; others are very bold.

Any hypocrite is bad enough; but the worst is the hypocritical hypocrite.

It was through a spirit of hypocrisy that Eve was tempted in the garden of Eden.

Hypocrites have been the stoutest opposers of God's word all the way down through the ages.

To call a hypocrite Brother, or Reverend, tickles his ears; but his proper title is—Thou child of the Devil.

One of the missions of the hypocrite is, under influence of Satan, to keep honest sinners out of the Kingdom.

It was a hypocrite who committed the first murder. Righteous Abel was slain by his hypocritical brother, Cain.

The hypocrite is found in most every place in this world; there'll be millions in torment; but NONE in Heaven, thank God!

These few remarks may be a bit plain, and rather hard on the "finer" senses of the hypocrite; but it's the truth that usually hurts the worst.

The best thing that can be said about the genuine hypocrite is, as was the old lady's opinion of Satan: "If everybody attended to their business, as he does to his, etc."

God's word declares that the publicans and harlots go into the Kingdom before the hypocrites do. Study St. Matthew, 21st chapter, (note verse 31) beginning at verse 23, and rest of chapter; the entire 22 chapter, and down to verse 14 of chapter 23.

Bro. Frank Atchley described the situation best when he remarked to this effect: "We've got some of the BEST people of the world in the movement; and we've got the world skinned for hypocrites!" Meaning that those making the highest profession this side the glory world, and not living the life, makes them the biggest hypocrite. To which we say, Amen!

"Woe unto you, scribes, and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whitened sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."

—St. Matthew 23:27.

"... and the hypocrite's hope shall perish." Job 8:13.

"He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him." Job 13:16.

"For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?"

—Job 27:8.

"An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: . . ."


Spots — Wrinkles — Blemishes.

(Read Ephesians 5:25-27.)

God's word plainly teaches us in the above scripture that the church shall have to be cleansed from Spots—worldly habits, appetites, desires, adornments, amusements, etc.; Wrinkles—impatience, temper, anger, wrath, malice, etc.; and Blemishes—unsound doctrine, teachings, principles, etc., before it is ready for presentation to the Bridegroom, as His bride.

Beloved, are you, as a part of the church—the bride—ready for presentation to the Bridegroom? If not, you will never be among the number who compose that glorious body who shall arise to meet Him at His second coming, which is surely nigh at hand, unless your life at that time is in perfect harmony with the above mentioned scripture—having been cleansed from all spots, wrinkles, and blemishes.

"Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel," (Amos 4:12.) is a command given YOU, our Christian brother; and not a text given the world. No individual can prepare to meet God until they are in position to keep His commandments. Our preparation lies in our keeping His commands. The sinner's first step is to get right with God; and then, and then only, can they in reality, and from the heart, begin in the steps that lead to a state of Bible perfection before God. The sinner keeps not the commandments of God; if he did, he would already be a child of God, and worthy to enter in through the gates into the city.

(Rev. 22:14.)

The beginning of God's commandment is to repent; and the end of the commandment is described in 1 Timothy 1:5: "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."

Beloved, it's surely going to take a clean, sanctified life, to enter in. Study the above text carefully; Jesus has already paid the price with his own blood, that you might be holy, and without blemish.
Arkansas City, Kans.

April 8, 1931.

Bro. and Sr. Bond:

We received our papers, and enjoyed them very much. I felt like writing and sending you this offering for the paper.

I came from my home at Spade mountain, Fed. 9th., to pastor the work here. The Lord is sure blessing our services. Had a wonderful service Sunday, and Sunday night. The Lord willing, we will have a baptising here next Sunday, with Bro. Morgan, of Webb City, in charge; and have sacrament, and foot washing service, that night.

Today finds me well in body, and victory in my soul; bless His name.

How I praise Him, that five years ago last Sept., He saved my soul; and the following Christmas, sanctified, and baptised me with the Holy Ghost. Have been in His work most of the last three years. Glad to say it is wonderful to work for Him, if we will only let Him lead; and tell us when to move, as in I Kings 17:1-16, the Lord sent Elijah to abide by the brook: and the ravens came twice a day to feed him, and there was the brook to drink from. But there came a time when the brook went dry, and Elijah had to move. So God sent him to a widow's house, to eat from a meal barrel that NEVER became empty! Thank God, he will do the same for us. We sometimes get home, or some place where we want to stay, and God has to send the spiritual brook dry, in order to get us to be willing for Him to move us where we can eat of the barrel that never goes empty. I feel this is what happened when He moved me to Arkansas City. He is sure working here, and we are expecting a good revival, and a real break-through, soon. We are praying for it, and trying to exercise the faith, Elijah (in the Bible 18:41-46) had when he prayed on Mt. Carmel for rain, and sent his servant up to see what he could see; never a thing until the seventh time, then he came back with the report that he saw a cloud, the size of a man's hand. Elijah said that was sufficient; made haste to the chariot. And Elijah ran, himself, before the chariot. The black clouds and wind arose, and the rain sure came. Glory! We have seen the small cloud here, and fully believe the rain is coming; also feel we have gone around the walls of Jericho six times—ready to go the seventh time, and hear the old walls fall.

I am glad we don't have to look altogether back years and years ago, to see how God works; but He will do just such things today, if we will come before Him with the faith, and do our part.

Will come to a close by asking all the readers to help us pray for this work here; and will be glad to have any of you with us, anytime you feel it the will of the Lord.

A small servant of the Lord's,

Birdie Hair.

1108 N. C St., Arkansas City, Ks.

(May God bless, and direct, this young sister in her field of labour for Him. —Ed.)

Nothing makes so solemn an impression upon sinners, and bears down with such tremendous weight on their consciences, as to see a Christian, Christlike, bearing affairs and injuries with the meekness of a lamb. It cuts like a two-edged sword. —Finney.

The right thing is not always the easiest, but God has His schools for training, and a life left in His hands will never fail of it's highest development here and hereafter.

—Sel.

Immodesty In Children's Dress.

Oftentimes mothers (possibly professed Christians) will dress—or rather undress—their little daughters in fashion's latest decree, (centuries ago parents sacrificed the bodies of their children to the god Moloch—passing them through the fire; today, many it stems, are being sacrificed—their sense of modesty, which is the foundation of virtue—to the gods of fashion.) which is usually an immodest garb, especially in these days of the nude craze; and all the while they want them to become Christian young women. Pray tell us, sensible mothers, how you expect your daughter to be a type of Christianity adorned in such immodest attire, when God's very Bible declares against such! What part do you think immodesty has with Christianity? Would you have expected Mary, the mother of Jesus, to have been swayed by the gods of fashion, and to have adorned little daughters in such ungodly attire as is commonly worn by thousands of today? Let us say, For shame, to the mother who will dress (possibly the term, undress, would be more correct) her daughter, large or small, in such a manner as to both—cause daughter to become void of the real meaning of the sense of modesty, which is a priceless jewel of true womanhood, and to be the gazing-stock of debased minds of the opposite sex.

Mother, if you allowed your daughter to dress in an ungodly manner which proved suggestive to the brute, that he robs her of her virtue, either by force, or subtlety, will you not feel a bit to blame? We should think you would. You will want to imprison him; and you and daughter go free! O, mother, how can YOU expect to escape the righteous judgment of God, in such event? Think!
THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MESSENGER.
(Unorganized)

O. H. BOND, Editor & Publisher.

Devoted to the interests of the church of God, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and ours.

(See 1st. Cor. 1:2.)

We stand for, and endorse, the three-fold plan of Salvation—Justification by Faith; Sanctification, a second definite work of grace; the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, with the Bible evidence of speaking in other Tongues, as the Spirit gives utterance.

Also standing for the original Doctrines taught by the Apostolic Faith people, since the out-pouring of the Spirit—the Latter Rain—in 1900, and in 1906, in Topeka, Kans., and Los Angeles, Cal., respectively. —Read Joel 2:21-32.

Our Creed: HOLLINESS.

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Be sure to notify us of any change in your address; also if you fail to receive your paper.

BIBLE THOUGHT.

Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

—Romans 12:17.

with the job until their obligations were satisfactorily met with? If God would suddenly drop a bundle of money into their lap, possibly they would "pay up," but sometimes a little self denial, and honest toil, is not contrary to God's plan; and to be had in preference to bringing reproach upon God's cause by prolonged negligence in satisfying a creditor. We had to one time leave the gospel work, (in 1924) load wife and a small amount of camping equipment in an old Ford car, and drive about 900 miles to the sugar beet fields of northeast Colorado, where we both toiled from in the month of May, until in November, in order to earn money to meet some obligations. We felt the call of God to do this: we went, and God surely blessed our effort, and our labour; and together, including $56.92 transportation money awarded us by the Great Western Sugar Company; and $54.00 bonus money on the beet crop, we earned —above our living—about $450.00. While out there, we lived VERY economically. We don't say it boastingly, yet it pays to sometimes have a real desire to come clean, so-to-speak; and not afraid to put out some real labour along this line.

We believe in straight preaching, (with some, it seems, about all they care to know about the preacher is, Do they preach it straight?) and, by the help of God, it's the only kind we put out to the people; but we realize one can be as straight as a gun barrel, so-to-speak, on doctrinal preaching, and as crooked as an auger bit, in their living!

This article may be a bit plain, but we'll confess our spirit is sometimes stirred within us (Acts 17:16) when we see and hear of so much (Continued on opposite page.)
“hurrah” among the people sometimes, and so much slackness among them concerning a demand of a clear record of the preacher’s life, around whom the ‘hurrah’ is also sometimes centered. And also aside from the slackness of business dealings, there are those, possibly, who go unrestrained, in and out among the people, whose life is far from being above reproach on other lines. Sometimes they are possibly charged with misconduct in personal behaviour; sometimes they are greatly in error on some point of Bible doctrine. (Two points there seems to be so much slackness among both, the ministry and the lay-member, is fellowshipping backsliders from the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and those living in adultery.)

Straight, clean folks, have to bear the reproach of the crooked preacher’s life, so they have a perfect right to expose to the public, the things that are un-Christlike, and let the deserving public know, that while such crooked stuff sometimes gets among us, it is not of us, thank God; nor is it endorsed by us!

Preachers can ALL come clean, if they really want to; and so far as we are personally concerned, in the management of this little paper, we don’t propose, God being our helper, to endorse through it’s columns, any preacher whom we have reason to believe is refusing to come clean on ALL LINES!

Only guilty preachers, or sympathetic compromisers can fall out with us over these few remarks; so we shall just conclude with this: Preacher, if guilty of wrong, get right with God and man, or have enough principle to stay out of the pulpit!

“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and the re rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; "Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” —St. Matthew 5:23.

Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. —Ps.
BRO. T. J. TAYLOR.

Thomas Jefferson Taylor was born in Richland County, Illinois, in the year of 1857; and passed on to be with the Lord, at his home, near Broken Arrow, Okla., early on the morning of April 3, 1931. Ago, 74 years.

In 1906, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Martha York, in Muskogee, I. T. To this union was born three children—two sons, and a daughter, who, with the widow, survive him.

Bro. Taylor was converted to God about fifty years prior to his death. Something over sixteen years ago, he came into the light of Holiness; and professed the experiences of sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, until the time of his death.

He formerly lived at Hulbert, Okla., and had been a resident of Cherokee county for a number of years.

Besides his wife and three children, he leaves to mourn his loss—three step-sons, and one step-daughter; (sister Florence Aaron, Tulsa, Okla.) and two brothers.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. O. H. Bond, of Tahlequah, Okla., at the Barth Funeral Home, Broken Arrow, on Saturday afternoon, April 4, with burial in the City cemetery, at that place.

On Friday afternoon, April 3, when we were called by long-distance phone to come to Broken Arrow, Okla., to conduct funeral services for Bro. T. J. Taylor, it was with a saddened heart, and with moistened eyes, that we returned back to our little printing office, from the telephone room, to resume work on the little paper, and the thought coming to us was the title of a song: "They're Pas-

In the passing of Bro. Taylor, with whom we were well acquainted, and whom we counted as one of our friends and a brother in the Lord, God's cause has lost on earth, a supporter of the faith; the family a loving husband and father; but Heaven has gained.

He passed away suddenly, and without warning to any one. Although he had been in failing health for some years, yet on the morning of his death he had eaten a hearty breakfast, and had stepped a few paces from the house, where he was stricken, and was gone when members of the family reached him.

Another soldier of the Cross has overcame the last enemy; a pioneer in God's cause has outlived the storms of life, and gone on to rest in Jesus, until that great Day of all days, wherein the faithful shall receive that crown of life that fadeth not away.

May God bless the memory of his life to those who are left to mourn his loss; and may some act of his past Christian life, serve in days to come as an incentive to some precious soul to live for God.

As we sorrowingly viewed his remains as he lay, peacefully, it really appeared, in his casket, we felt he surely looked an example of true holiness.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

To the sorrowing ones we extend our sympathy, as much as we know how; and may God bless and comfort their hearts in this great hour of sorrow.

It is not belief ABOUT Christ, but personal trust IN the Christ of God, that saves the soul.

- F. W. ROBERTSON.

OUR PERSONAL WORD.

To the brethren in the Lord, and readers of the little paper in general:

Greetings in the name of Jesus:

First, we want to thank God for you, making mention of you in prayer.

We hope we are reaching you a bit earlier with this issue of the little paper, than we did last issue.

We are somewhat behind with our personal correspondence, but hope to get caught up along this line immediately after we get this issue mailed out to you. We want to thank each of you who have written us; and to those who have sent us of your tithes, or offerings, for the carrying on of God's work in the publication of this little paper, may God bless each of you, and reward you many fold for the same.

We had to restock on our printing paper before we published this issue; the bill totaled $8.10; in just a few days we received from one of the churches, a money order for $8.50. From an individual we received an order the 18th., for $3.00, which we felt was postage, (together with left-over postage from last month) for mailing out this issue. We only mention these as it seemed we could realize the hand of God in it—them coming at an appropriate time. We surely thank God that He is ever mindful of His own.

We are having to carry over until next issue, God willing, some articles for publication, on account of limited space.

Beloved, keep praying for us as we try to do our little bit in God's cause, in sending out the little paper; and don't get the wrong impression, as some seem to have, that it's mostly play to print it. A prolonged visit with us might convince you otherwise. We began printing on this issue the first day of this month, and have only lost about four days since that time; hoping to get mailed by the 22nd. inst.

Your humble servants in the Lord,

Bro. & Sr. Bond.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. —Ps. 145:18.
To The Seven Churches of Asia.

— Third Message —

THE CHURCH IN PERGAMOS.

Under this heading, and appearing in their respective order as given in the Bible, (Rev. 2nd, and 3rd. chapters,) will appear each issue, until all have been published, if the Lord will, the message sent unto the angel (pastor) of each of the Seven Churches of Asia.

While the message in each instance is given directly to the pastor, (or the one in charge) yet the message is for both pastor and flock, and also for whosoever may read it, inasmuch as each admonition ends with this:

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Now, beloved, our object in this is, for you to watch each message, and doubtless you will find somewhere among the seven messages, a description, or picture, of your church. You will notice also, that of the seven churches, there was a grievance held against five of them; two of them being without blame. Should your church be pictured, or described, among the five, of whom there was a grievance held, then note carefully the punishment that was to be meted out to that church upon their failure to measure up to God's requirements in each case; also, bear in mind that your church (nor you, personally) cannot escape the same punishment promised them, if you are likewise guilty, and you fail to measure up, because we read in Romans 2:11, "For there is no respect of persons with God," and WE are ALL brought under the same rule; and are without excuse, because of the closing statement to each church: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Pastors, those in authority, and lay-members, had better get busy, and pastors, or those in authority, especially; for some day you will account to God for those over whom you are placed as watchmen.

(Read Acts 20:28-30; Heb. 13:17.)

To The Church In Pergamos.
Revelation 2:12-17.

12 And unto the angel of the church in Pergamos write: These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges:
13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.
14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.
15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.
16 Repent: or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Grievances: Erroroneous doctrines which lead to corrupt practices.

Balaam, who loved the wages of unrighteousness: (Numbers 22, 23, and 24th. chapters,) whose doctrine was a cause of Israel's eating that which was sacrificed unto idols; and to commit fornication.

The spirit of Balaam is operating today. There are those who still hold to God's name, and who have not denied His faith, but who are "greedy" for reward; (Jude 11) they are striving for a BIG name—trying to do great things, etc.

Study closely all the Bible description of Balaam: note carefully the incidents connected with, and results following his consent to go at Balac's invitation, which was against God's will.

Concerning eating that sacrificed to idols: we have those today who will readily turn God's house into a place of feasting, or merrymaking. (If such isn't a form of idolatry, then what is such?)

Then there are those of today, who will virtually endorse fornication by their upholding some old fornicator within their ranks!

The Bible says but little concerning the Nicolaitanes, but a brief historical sketch of them describes them as being a sect of Gentile Christians in Ephesus and Pergamum, who rejected the decision of the Jerusalem council with regard to food, and it's prohibition of unchastity. (Acts 15:20.)

Now, God's command was to repent. To repent means also to turn away from the thing!

His punishment in case they did not repent was, He would come quickly and fight against them with the sharp two-edged sword! If God rises up against us beloved, HOW can we stand?

How about your church?

Watch out for the Balaam spirit!

Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. —Ps. 26:8.
FROM STILWELL, OKLA.

3—30—'31.

Dear Bro. Bond;

Greetings in Jesus' name:

Just received the little paper, and was overjoyed to read those good sermons; they are food to my soul.

Was glad to get some more of Bro. E. A. Buckles' advice, as well as all the rest. Sure did enjoy those good sermons, such as Plain Facts; and all the rest. Thank God for the blessed word.

As I go along through this life, I often think how wonderful it will be when we all get there, where there will be no more trials and tribulations to overcome, and it makes my soul rejoice, thank God for ever! Praise His dear name.

I often recall the scripture in 1st. Cor. 2:9-16, and am looking for better things in the future, or next world—for if in this life only we have hope in Jesus, we are of all men most miserable.

Pray for me.

Yours for the straight gospel,

(a three-fold plan)

E. T. Brewer,

R 3. Box 126, Stilwell, Okla.

Some want to be religious, but do not want to quit sin, and they misconstrue the Bible in such a way that their lives are white-washed, or painted over. The condition of their hearts remains the same.

—Sel. from John Three Sixteen.

One life actually lived for God, is worth untold numbers of lives merely talked about.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

—Romans 6:23.

Faith In Trial.

At the battle of Crecy, where Edward, the Black Prince, a youth of eighteen years, led the van, the king, his father, drew up a strong party on a rising ground, and there beheld the conflict in readiness to send relief when it should be wanted. The young prince being sharply charged and in some danger, sent to his father for succor; and as the king delayed to send it, another messenger was sent to crave immediate assistance. To him the king replied: "Go, tell my son that I am not so inexperienced a commander as not to know when succor is wanted, nor so careless a father as not to send it." He intended the honor of the day should be his son's, and therefore let him with courage stand to it, assured that help should be had when it might conduce most to his renown.

God draws forth His servants to fight in the spiritual war, where they are engaged, not only against the strongholds of carnal reason and the exalted imaginations of their own hearts, but also in the pitched field against Satan and his wicked instruments. But they, poor hearts, when the charge is sharp, are ready to despond and cry with Peter: "Save, Lord; we perish." God is too watchful to overlook their exigencies, and too much a Father to neglect their succor. If help, however, be delayed, it is that the victory may be more glorious by the difficulty of overcoming. —SPURGEON.

A cat with a silver collar is none the better mouser. Fine dress, learned degrees, high titles and grand offices, do not give ability. We have heard of doctors of divinity who were duller preachers than the generality of the clergy. —Sel.

IGNORANT (?)

As a parting "lick" in fighting Holiness, some (more than likely 'professed' Christians) will possibly declare the following:

"They're nothing but a bunch of ignorant and unlearned folks," Amen! A GOOD description, in part, of God's people, since we read the following in the Bible:

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." —1 Cor. 1:26. And of some of the Apostles, we hear the following said:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." —Acts 4:13.

Time was when a preacher's best qualification was his spiritual condition and his marked devotion to God's cause. Today, with the majority of the laity, it seems the preacher whose social and literary attainments are the outstanding features in his life, are held in preference.

An individual may be college trained, versed in classic lore, a versatile orator on religious subjects, and still be as bleak, and barren, in his soul, so far as a personal knowledge of God is concerned, as a Siberian midnight.

To ALL preachers of such attainments, we would recommend a thorough course of kneology, to be pursued, if possible, in Brush College. (The woods and hills are ideal places for prayer.)

We believe the individual can see farther in ten minutes on their knees in earnest prayer, than in a lifetime study in a theological seminary, and especially, not having God in their lives.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." —1 Cor. 3:19. Again we say, Amen!

And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. ——1 Cor. 3:20.
A TIMELY WARNING.

Morris, Okla.,
March 31, 1931.

Dear Bro. and Sr. Bond:
Greetings to both of you in the name of our Risen Redeemer:

I am truly glad that I can still report victory over sin, thank God; feel so glad that I am still saved, sanctified, and baptised with the precious Holy Ghost; still trusting God for my healing, bless His name. Have been trusting God for both soul and body 14 years; while I have been living for God 28 years, last July: then 14 years ago last February, I found the Lord was able to keep that which was committed into His hands; and now my life is in His keeping, altogether; and what a sweet assurance, and rest, and comfort, there is in knowing that the Lord cares for us. While in this life we have trials, and troubles, and heartaches, but in Jesus we have peace, and joy unspeakable and full of glory, Amen.

I felt like writing a few words for the little paper, if you have room for this.

I certainly enjoy reading the good letters; seems almost like a visit with the saints, and if I know my heart, I love the people of God.

The scripture that has been coming to my mind today, is found in Joel 2:1: “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;” (I surely believe that the coming of the Lord is nearer than some think for.) Then Isaiah says in chapter 58:1: “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression.” Dear people of God, let’s don’t fear to tell the world of the truths written in God’s word, for we remember Jesus said in St. John 9:3, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Dear reader, if you are unsaved, think what this will mean to you! Ask yourself this question: Where will I be in that day—in that great day of all days, when you are called on to give an account of how you have spent this life? Let me beg you as one that loves your soul, Prepare to meet thy God!

“He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” Unsaved reader, remember that YOU have NO PROMISE of tomorrow: today is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time. If you hear His voice pleading with you to give Him your heart, don’t turn away and say, “I will wait for another time;” for that time may never come again! Amen.

Dear saints of God, pray for me, that Jesus will keep me humble at His feet, where He can use my life to His glory. I understand that I will only pass this way one time: I want to so live that my life will be a blessing while I am here, to some one, that I may be able to point the way to some wayward soul. I do want to see souls saved. Amen.

Amanda Sullivan.
Box 351.
Morris, Okla.

Reason For Earthquakes, Etc.

The “scientific” reason for earthquakes, volcanoes, etc., does not worry us, when we can read the following in God’s Bible: “He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke.” (Psalms 104:32.)

Of course the “wise” will probably sneer at this: but the God-fearing man or woman BELIEVES His word!

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
“Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases.”

-Psalms 103:24.

Because the world has an abundance of Medical practitioners today, is no reason whatever to think for a moment that God is not still healing the afflicted, who call upon Him according to His will. He does not resign that part of His plan to earthly physicians, thanks be to His good name.

There were physicians in the days of the prophets, and on down through the ages; but we always find God’s word exhorting His people to trust Him in sickness.

Some advance the theory, possibly, that the physicians of our day are so far advanced in skill, compared to the physicians of Bible times. If those of Bible times were as ignorant, and full of “quackery,” as some—and possibly not a few—of today, (and we say it with all due respect to the sincere of the profession) we surely would have pitied them, and more so—their patients.

If God could perform the great feat of taking a rib from the side of a sleeping man, and of it create Woman, and that without the aid of a specialist, we believe He is still able to perform miracles today, thank God.

We for one, shall not limit the power of God, nor doubt His word; and if we should ever fail to receive healing from God, it will be because we have either failed God, or else it be our call to go.

“If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us.” The word, ‘anything,’ surely has a broad scope in it’s sense of meaning.

You will invariably turn to God in the face of death, and ask Him to have mercy; why not believe Him when all are well? He’s the same then. But your proud, stubborn disposition rebels at His word. Why not trust Him in both health, and sickness, and be always, safe?

Read the above text again, and study it carefully; it is real.

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. —Proverbs 11:30.
... Bible Lesson ...

Part 2. The DIVORCE Question. Con't. from Dec.

**INTRODUCTION.**

Question: Does the Bible teach justification for a divorce, and remarriage while the first companion yet lives?

Answer: No; the Bible teaches that marriage is binding for life; and mentions no difference between the saved, and the unsaved, in this respect. (Both the Christian and the sinner couple partake the same vows; and if such vows are not sacred to the sinner couple, as well as to the Christian parties, then their vows— or marriage—is only mockery, and they would be living in what might be rightfully termed, "legalized adultery.")

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."—Genesis 2:23-24.

(The above was spoken before the advent of the Law or the ushering in of Grace—and was without reference to religious belief, other than it was simply God's plan for MANKIND's observance of the Marriage state, and in connection with His first admonition to our foreparents— "multiply and replenish the earth." Therefore the marriage state must be binding to be holy, because He sought a "godly seed."—Malachi 2:15.)

**LESSON.**

(Continuing from the December issue, we are taking up the second lesson on the Divorce Question. While our heart goes out in sympathy for those who have been tricked by Satan, and who now find themselves entangled in the awful condition of a state of remarriage whilst the first companion yet lives, yet we cannot fail God in declaring the Bible truth on this subject; and dear ones, if you will look to God, his grace will prove sufficient for you to measure up your life in this, as well as any of His requirements.)

It would be needless, possibly, to go farther than St. Matthew 19:9, to find many people's attempted self-justification for a divorce, and remarriage while their first companion yet lives; and their foundation is the phrase—"except it be for fornication;" basing their rights for a divorce and remarriage on the grounds that their companion was guilty of fornication. In this verse, the two terms, fornication and adultery, are used. In defining the terms, Webster's Unabridged Dictionary says that fornication is The incontinence or lewdness of an unmarried person, male or female; also the criminal conversation of a married man with an unmarried woman. And adultery, as the Violation of the marriage bed. Etc. (or the unlawful relationship of a married person with another than the husband or wife.)

In St. Matthew 19:9, the question evolves around a man putting away the wife. Then taking into consideration the meaning of the two terms—fornication and adultery—we find this thought: the act of fornication seems to apply to the man, by reason of the fact that he's married—not single, and in the marriage state it's the man, and not the woman, who is branded guilty of fornication; in the unmarried, either the man or the woman. And so if the case be the man puts away his wife on account of his own guilt, (fornication) and doubtless many do so, he doesn't become guilty of adultery in the scriptural sense of the meaning, but is termed a fornicator! (See 1 Cor. 5:11.) If he put away his wife for causes other than fornication, and marry another, he by that act commits adultery.

Webster, in defining fornication, fornicator, etc., makes it plain and positive that the act is committed among the unmarried, by either male or female; but of the married—the man only. So in this lesson, St. Matthew 19:9, it COULD NOT be the wife guilty of fornication, by reason of the meaning of the term, and so that would not give grounds for a divorce and remarriage; but the lesson is dealing with the two acts of disobedience to the marriage vows—fornication and adultery.

Remember, beloved, that God's Bible is a harmonious book, and the scriptures no where cross, nor contradict themselves; so in one place they would not justify divorce and remarriage, and in another place condemn such, but it primarily teaches marriage as binding for life under the one assertion alone, "What therefore God hath joined together, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER! And concerning the Divorce question, Jesus PLAINLY told the Pharisees, BUT FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS NOT SO!

In Ecclesiastes 3:14, we read: "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him." Concerning your marriage, Do you fear God?

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; ... pay that which thou hast vowed. --Ecc. 5:4.