ANNIHILATION FOR THE WICKED: OR ETERNAL PUNISHMENT --- WHICH?

The doctrine of annihilation of the wicked, is a welcome doctrine for the thousands who do not like to think of eternal punishment for those who miss Heaven. This pernicious doctrine is very deceiving, and it is seasoned with some real Bible quotations—which are only for the purpose of deceiving the listener. Their favorite text is found in Malachi 4:1, which reads:

"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven: and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up as the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

Now beloved, let us look into the truth of God's Bible for an insight on this dangerous teaching. Why we call it dangerous, is because that in belief in such doctrine lies the ground for a laxity of souls actually getting right with God—annihilation, they think, would end it all: so let's have a good time now, so-to-speak, and we, if we miss heaven, will just be wiped out of all existence—not suffer the fangs of eternal punishment! So friends, without consulting any commentaries, or original translations, etc., let us compare simple Bible dates and events, and see whether or not the experience of Malachi 4:1, is the final disposition of the wicked—annihilation, as termed by thousands, and occurring at the Judgment; or is it a

punishment given the wicked even as Sodom and Gomorrah were one time overthrown of God by fire from Heaven. If we can find in the Bible where ALL nations (excepting the real saints of God) were destroyed by fire from Heaven before the great day of Judgment, and then, following on in the line of events, find where these same nations are brought forth in the last resurrection, to appear for final Judgment, and as judgment,

Life looking pretty dreary?
Cheer up, because you see
In all the choicest patterns
The dark threads have to be.
They make the gay ones brighter.
The rose and gold more clear;
It's just our own perspective
That makes the thing look
[queer]

We work so near the pattern,
It's difficult at best,
To see how each day's weaving
Is needed for the rest.
And when sickness brings the
grey threads
To your life scheme and mine,
Let's trust the Master-weaver,
For He planned the whole
design!

---Anonymous.

they are cast into the lake burning with fire and brimstone, which is the second death, and are there tormented forever and ever, it will surely suffice us of the fact that Malachi 4:1, is referring to an occurrence before the Judgment.

In the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, which is the last word of prophecy, we find pictured there the day of all days—the Judgment, wherein ALL na-

tions are gathered to there receive their final, and just reward, regardless of how they have met death—whether by sickness, accident, murder, suicide, drowning, or by fire! Beginning with verse 7, of chapter 20, we find that at the close of the 1,000 years peaceful reign of God's people with Christ upon the earth, during which time Satan is bound, that Satan is to be loosed out of his prison, and that he is going out to deceive the nations, to gather them together to battle. Their battle, or warfare, is to be directed against God's people; but God is on hand to protect His own, and He immediately sends fire from heaven and devours them! Now, beloved, let us not forget that it was ALL nations—everybody, so-to-speak, (excepting, of course, the saints of God) which was gathered together in this last great attempted persecution of God's people, and note the manner in which God comes to the rescue of His people by devouring ALL the nations by fire! (Think now of Malachi 4:1) And now, to follow on in the course of events, we find that after this destruction of the wicked by fire, there comes the great white throne Judgment, and THE dead, (not just a portion of their numbers) small and great, stand before God, and are there judged according to their works; and the final reward of the wicked is—cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. Malachi 4:1-3 does not picture such a scene as that upon the day of

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THE dead—now stand before God for FINAL Judgment; and the scene closes with the unsaved being cast into the lake of fire—the second death.

Now beloved, for just a moment’s reasoning. If you believe in annihilation of the wicked as their final punishment, why then the reason of Sodom and Gomorrah; the nations under Satan as described in Revelation 20:9; together with thousands, possibly, of sinners who have met death in the flames—burned to a crisp, aside from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah—why would God bring them again from the dead in the last resurrection, to only rehearse death by burning? St. Matthew describes the Judgment in chapter 25, and he declares that ALL NATIONS shall there be gathered; (This will surely include both Sodom and Gomorrah, and those under Satan in Revelation 20:9.) and he closes the scene with the righteous going away into life eternal, and the wicked into everlasting punishment! St. Mark describes the punishment of the wicked thus: “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” (chapter 9; verses 44, 46 and 48) The writers in the New Testament are harmonious in their declarations of the final reward of the wicked; and these writers being, as it were, fresh from the presence of the Saviour, are bringing us the message in all its purity, thank God!

Study closely Malachi 4:1-3, and also ALL the New Testament descriptions of the Judgment, comparing time and events, and surely you will be convinced that Malachi 4:1 is NOT a picture of the great day of Judgment, but rather of the occurrence in Revelation 20:9.

“And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” —St. Luke 16:31.

We wonder what some of the old pioneers of the Gospel, who laboured in what we might call our day, as the Wesleys, Spurgeon, Whitfield, Moody, Talmage, Dow, and others, who laboured so fervently in the Master’s cause, would think were they permitted to come back to earth, and to behold sin as it is raging in the lives of people today? What would they think to behold the present day conditions of the various religious bodies with which they were affiliated? Wonder (?) if the great body of Methodist people are still clinging to the principles they once practiced as they were taught by those sainted men of God—John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism? We, as a body of Christian people who are standing for the same principles of Holiness in both living the life, and in the teaching of the experience of sanctification as a second blessing, or experience, are suffering persecution for the same, and oftentimes from no less personages than those of the present adherents of that faith. We say this without any attempt to harshly criticize, and with ALL respect to the sincere among the Methodist people—but to point out to you the difference in yesterdays and today, in regard to sincere and genuine Christian living. We are persecuted for preaching against finery in dress; we challenge you to search the annals of the early Methodist church—take the preaching of the Wesleys, of Moody, Talmage, or other God-called men, (by their fruits ye shall know them) they stoutly declared against finery dress, etc. They preached (and that under the anointing of the Spirit of God) against sin in every form: they preached clean living, thank God! Their memory shall live on; and were they given voice today, what think ye their message would be? Amen.

“... in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.” Jer.4:30
HAIR DRESSING.

Reader, you would hardly think that the manner of hair dressing would have anything to do with the keeping of the commandments of God, would you? Nevertheless, the Bible certainly speaks on this very subject. No doubt to your mind, such a thought would seem absurd; and of the one preaching along this line, you would think such an one bordering on fanaticism. One might wonder where-in could such have anything to do with salvation. It has this—pride is condemned by the Bible. We read in Proverbs 6:16,17, that a proud look is an abomination unto God; and for pride only, do many arrange their hair in such a manner as to be contrary to the Bible. God's word teaches simplicity in ALL manner of dress; and in the matter of hair dressing, it plainly has this to say—

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;" (1 Timothy 2:9.) Here it plainly says, among other things, to NOT adorn yourselves with broided hair! Now what might 'broided' hair refer to, except it mean some fanciful way of doing up the hair in a way of ornamentation? Be reasonable, beloved; you well know that such is what the author of this scripture is here referring to. The word, 'broided,' means braid-ed; and the word braid, when used as an adjective, (as in this case) according to Webster's Unabridged, is of Anglo-Saxon origin, meaning "to braid, knit, hence to knit a net, to draw into a net, i.e., to deceive." So we see that 'broided' hair might easily mean deceitful hair, or hair did up in a deceitful manner. Thousands today are doing this very thing with their "permanent waves," bobbed hair, hair dyes, etc. Those with natural straight hair are using the curling iron, finger wave, 'bobbie' pins, kid curlers, water wave, etc.; while some with the natural wavy hair are trying for the reverse; most all are trying to work the transformation in whatever respect it might be, purely for pride—ornamental purposes. (We understand an individual who is "fussing" their hair, is doing so contrary to God's word. It's plain to be understood that the Apostle in the above scripture is touching on an ornamental manner of doing up the hair; to think otherwise is out of the question. Many today are doing contrary to God's law in such matters. There's the straight haired individual who resorts to the curling processes to make their hair curly; there's the curly or kinky haired person who takes the wave out of their hair; there's the dark haired person using the per-oxide treatment to produce the blonde effect; also the blonde, and the grey haired persons using the dye to darken their hair; and so on. Among all the different manners of "fussing" the hair, there is one especially we hate to see, and that is one becoming so popular among many holiness people, that of curling the hair into those fancy little waves and ringlets, and covering a goodly portion of the face and forehead with such ornament, (of course this 'curly' effect is produced by the finger, water, and with the aid of the "bobbie" pin, and worked in the edge of the hair only---O, they don't believe in curling the hair all over! For Shame. Right here let us say, beloved, that we thank God for TRUE holiness! Amen.) and at the same time they are possibly preaching against curling irons, bobbed hair, etc. We fail to see any difference in the manner in which hair is curled, so far as it being justifiable is concerned.

Saints of God, YOU know, whether or not the world understands, that "fussing" the hair is contrary to the Bible—that the Apostle Paul was declaring against such in his instructions to Timothy in the above scripture. We have seen the parents in this movement, who professing the highest experience this side the glory world, compromise with the world in this respect in that they will allow young daughters to adorn their hair in a curled fashion—the 'cute' little ringlets, finger waves, etc., and at the same time the parents preach stoutly against pride and ornaments. If the preacher appeared among them wearing a neck tie, or some other form of ornament, they would possibly have quite a bit to say about it. Now parents, if we are going to pull the line down on the other person, let's look to our own family first. (And keeping still about the other parties because there's guilt at our door will not justify our guilt—we'll have to remove the guilt at home!) There are some saints of God who will not tolerate such among their children; and if they can control their children in this respect, why not YOU? No doubt but that some one will think such a thought as that of the proper, or improper, manner of hair dressing is altogether out of place; but nevertheless, the great Apostle Paul mentioned the fact; and we are commanded to preach the word—not just a portion, but to declare ALL the counsel of God. (Read 2 Tim. 4:1-2: Acts 20:26-27)

"The Apostle Peter preached the (Continued on next page.)

Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. ---Proverbs 16:18.
HAIR DRESSING.

(Continued from page 3.)

same thing in his first epistle, chapter 3, verse 3, wherein he says to the women professing to know God: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel." If women of that day and time were ornamenting their hair by plaiting, etc., reason would teach us insomuch that the Bible is a book of principles, that ANY manner of fixing up the hair today for ornamental purposes, would naturally be condemned through the same scripture.

So we have two of the greatest preachers the world has ever seen, in the days of grace, (excepting our Lord Jesus Christ) and they both preached against ornamental hair dressing! Should we follow up the good work they begun? or, because such preaching does not suit the masses, just keep silent on the subject, because if we are a bit too straight, we might not have so many followers? For Shame on the one who would compromise on the seemingly least point of God's precious Truth! As for ourselves, we shall try, God helping us, to stand just as firm, and be just as plain, on the least of God's commandments, as on the greatest. And we shall conclude by just saying that so far as ornaments are concerned, we wouldn't turn on our heels for the difference between the individual—preacher or lay-member—wearing gold, or pearls, or costly array, or the one with the ornamental hair. God's Bible is against ornamenting the body—it declares plainly against wearing gold, pearls, or costly array, etc.; or their imitations, even when it says for us to "abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess. 5:22) Yet we see people on every side—in the nominal churches, and in the ranks of the Apostolic Faith movement, who, apparently paying no attention whatever to the Bible teaching along this line, are wearing immodest clothing, jewelry, ornaments of both dress and hair, and seem to think there is no harm in so doing; and think the preacher who will touch along these lines is of a fanatical trend, when as a matter of fact, they are only giving you a portion of God's precious Word; and as to whether or not you consider it of any importance, that is not the question, for if the preacher be honest before God, and really concerned about your soul's welfare, he, or she, will give you the truth, and just leave you in the hands of a just God to meet the Judgment just as you have lived here below—whether or not you have considered the small (?) things of God's commandments as being of any importance, or whether you have just proudly passed such by, and lived as you desired. You may possibly live as you desire; you may possibly die as you desire; but one thing sure—you will only enter Heaven by having done God's will upon earth!

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (St. Matthew 7:21.)

God can take the most vile sinner from the gutter—one in whom the world has lost all hope of redemption—and transform that person into a bright shining light for Him—even into a powerful minister of the gospel. God hath power; and we are as a drop of a bucket in His sight!

A STEP TOO FAR.

When medical science goes so far as to advise the individual to have their tonsils removed as a precautionary measure against disease, they, by their action, assume to assert that God, in His creation of man, placed an unnecessary set of glandular bodies in him. Truly, the love of money is the root of all evil; (with due respect to the sincere of the profession) and we feel that the surgeon's knife is too often yielded because of the big fat fee received for the services.

To advise against God's creative plan is to infer that God did not do a perfect work in the physical construction of mankind. In such instances we feel that science is taking a step too far; and in the light of the truth of God's eternal word, they are either exposing their ignorance, or manifesting a very selfish desire for money, even at the risk of the patient's well-being.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (I Cor. 3:19.)

Any way, the individual who is trusting God for healing, is not worried about science's opinion on the tonsil question, thank God!

WHAT GOD WANTS.

Some people in testifying, are wont to make apologies for not being a good speaker. Beloved, never let the fact that you are slow of speech hinder you in obeying God in your duty of testifying for Him. That which is above all, and what God wants most, is a good, clean life lived before Him. Also it's the BEST testimony to the world. The biggest hypocrite in the country might be able to put up a very flowery testimony—but how does the world receive such, knowing such an one's life?
The Devil.

(By Bro. E. A. Buckles.)

Dear Bro. and Sr. Bond, and
Readers of the little Messenger;

God bless all of you with understandings, and the richest of His graces, Amen.

By request, I shall try and say just a few words about the Devil.

First, I shall relate a story about a young preacher who announced that he was going to use the Devil for his subject, and the young preacher got so filled with his subject, (the Devil) that he talked of his subject most all of the time. Jesus said out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh.

There is an old Catholic superstition that has followed down to lots of Christians. This teaching is that the Devil was at one time a bright angel in Heaven. Now saints, let us study God's word and see if this old superstition (false doctrine) is according to God's Bible.

Isaiah 8:20 says, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (God is light. 1 John 1:5.)

The scriptures commonly used to prove that the Devil was an angel in Heaven, is Isaiah, 14th. chapter; and the 28th. chapter of Ezekiel. The 14th. chapter of Isaiah is the prophecy of the Pope, or Antichrist, which is in perfect harmony with Paul's letter in 2 Thessalonians, and 2nd. chapter. His teaching is in perfect harmony with the prophecy of Isaiah.

I am of the opinion that the reason of such teaching of the Devil fulfilling this prophecy is to mislead the people so as to keep the Pope under cover as an innocent person. Paul said, Let no man deceive you.

The 28th. chapter of Ezekiel is in plain words that a child ought to understand. It plainly says that this person is the prince of Tyrus (2nd. verse); and in the 12th. verse he is called the king of Tyrus; and in the 2nd. verse it plainly says that he is a man. This king exalted himself, and got into a strong delusion and thought himself to be God. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12.) The same thing will happen to the antichrist—he gets in such a strong delusion that he gets to the place where he declares himself to be God. But Paul tells us what will happen to him in 2 Thess. 2:8, thank God!

We had just as well say that the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, is the Devil, as to say the king of Tyrus is the Devil—see!

The fact is this: the Devil was the Devil from the beginning, for Jesus declared him a murderer from the beginning. (St. John 8:44) Some will say, "Well, that meant just from the Devil's beginning." In the 1st. chapter of St. John, and 1st. and 2nd. verses, might give us a thought of the beginning.

I would like to ask the ecclesiastical world one question: How could this 'bright angel' of Heaven be tempted to sin, without having evil before him? The facts in the case is, that the Devil was from the beginning, to take care of the wicked people who failed God, and disrespected His word.

We note again, in the 14th. chapter of Isaiah, that this fellow was called A MAN. (See Isa. 14:16.)

We note in Ezekiel 28:14, that the king of Tyrus is called the anointed cherub—angel. (In those days the kings were anointed, when they were to take the kingship.)

In Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; and 3:1, 7, 14, we find the rulers of God's church were called an angel: we today call them pastors. It is no evidence that the king of Tyrus was the Devil because he was called an angel, or cherub.

We find that in the dawn of time, that the Devil was there to tempt Eve; in fact, Jesus said that the Devil was from the beginning.

In the 28th. chapter of Ezekiel, 2nd. verse, it says, "Yet thou art a man." If this king was the Devil, it should of said, "Thou art THE man," if the word, Man, here meant the Devil, instead of saying, "A man." (There is quite a difference in saying "a man," and "THE man!"

I must close for this time by saying that the camp-meeting at Bartlesville was fine, what I was there, thank God.

I am requested again to take the Bible and write and tell the readers of the Messenger where Christ was during the time He was in the tomb.

God bless Bro. and Sr. Bond, and readers of the Messenger.

E. A. Buckles,
Box 1446.
Drumright, Okla.

A Good Thought, Indeed!

We once heard a colored brother remark to this effect: "You can't out-talk the Devil; but you can out-live him!"

Such thought is good for all to keep in mind.

As a tree bringeth forth first leaves, then blossoms, then fruit, so a good Christian ought first to bring forth good thoughts, then good speeches and afterward a godly life, to the honor of God and the good of His children.

---R. Cawdry.
Editorial.

WHO'S WHO?

By reason of the fact that you see some one's name in the little paper is no evidence that we endorse them. Sometimes some one in a letter, or an article, may make mention of an individual whom they do not realize to be out of line concerning real Christian living, and if they were fully aware of such an one's life, they might possibly hold a different attitude toward them. This is a situation which is sometimes hard for us to cope with, and herein lies something that conference should get busy about, in fairness to all. It should see that those who are going forth purporting to be one of us, have the endorsement of conference, or else let conference inform both the church and the world that they are not of us. The Apostle Paul went forth in the gospel work, being recommended by the brethren. (See Acts 14:26; also 15:40.) Now if he went forth carrying a recommendation, those who are going forth today should do no less a thing, for he exhorts us in I Cor. 11:1, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” For fear of getting into formality some will fail to carry out Bible examples. We see no reason to fear such in as plain a case as this. There is a Bible reason WHY one in the gospel work should have the endorsement—recommendation—of the brethren, and that is because the Bible says in I Thessalonians 5:12, “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you.” So beloved, it's Bible to know something about those labouring among us, and a letter of recommendation from the brethren, with an up-to-date endorsement, is surely ONE way of helping us to know. The early day church certainly had some authority over the ministry, and the present day church is plainly suffering over a slackness on this very line! We are NOT following to the letter, the example given us on these things. So if we are going to preach a full gospel, let's do so—preach, and demand, that the preacher have the endorsement of the brethren before they be given the freedom of the pulpit! If the various bands of saints would act in harmony along this line, it might possibly cause a little much needed straightening up, which otherwise might prompt some one to just drift along, and thereby possibly miss Heaven. It's an easy matter for the honest hearted individual to have the fellowship and endorsement of the saints; also it is easy to get out of fellowship by not coming clean. We had much rather see a little handful, so-to-speak, of genuine clean saints of God, struggling on in the battle against sin and deception, than a great host, whose lives were in doubt, concerning real Christian living.

Beloved, one object which we have in view in publishing the little paper is, to promote the welfare of the brethren. On this account we have had to refrain from mentioning some names connected with preaching, and working in the gospel, by reason of our knowing something of the lives of certain. This action was not prompted by any personal motive but for the benefit of the movement in general—especially those who are unsuspecting, for our endorsement of such parties by reporting their work, might cause (Continued on next page.)

But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil. —2 Thess. 3:3.
WHO’S WHO?
(Continued from opposite page.)
the unsuspecting to place undue confidence in such parties; also our actions might be taken as a personal endorsement by others who possibly know of the errors of parties. So beloved, it's our desire to keep the pages of the little Messenger as clean as we would the pulpit over which we might have charge. We hate to have to take such steps as excluding some reports, but if the preacher is not willing to come clean, such an one need not look this way for endorsement.

The failure of conference to handle some matters as they should, is working an unnecessary hardship in some instances. God has plainly told us what to do in the case of any individual not walking uprightly. Are we actually carrying out this part of the Bible? True, charity suffereth long; but how long? To the point that possibly lasting reproach is brought upon God's cause, and some one is so brought under the influence of an individual who is not living the life, until they reach the place where they would not turn loose of such an one, though conference should have to reject them? We think not! It pays to act in time; it's useless to act after it's too late.

We would like to see conference get busy, and let's know Who's Who.

A SACRIFICE.

Did you ever contribute towards God's cause until it hurt? If not, you have never made a sacrifice in the matter of helping with your means.

Some folks are sanctified (?) — but their pocket-book!

"That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

REQUEST FOR PRAYER.

Sister Syntha Meyers, 1302 E. Main St., Van Buren, Ark., asks us to make mention in the paper of a request for prayer for a son— for healing for his body, and that he might get saved. So please remember this sister's request.

NO PAPER IN AUGUST.

Wife and myself were away from home for a six-weeks (two days over) period during latter part of July, and the month of August, on a gospel trip which carried us into s. w. Missouri, (McDonald county) northwest Arkansas, and the northeast part of this state; hence no paper in August.

We were in a meeting at 'Uncle' Jimmie Sooters, about ten miles northwest from Anderson, Mo.; also in a meeting near Goodman, at the home of Alf. Thrasher. These were both open air meetings.

God gave us some good services at both places; and some precious souls prayed through to a witness of salvation, and some who had been saved, to a witness of their sanctification.

After the close of the Goodman meeting, a party of us drove down into Carrol county, Ark., near Oakgrove, where Bro. Atchley, of Lead Hill, Ark., assisted by Sr. Hulsey, of Wilson, Okla., were conducting a revival. We were there from Thursday until over Sunday—on Saturday afternoon we were in open air services in the city park in Berryville—a good service, thank God. After going back to Missouri, we went down near Fairland, in the Hickory Grove Dist., and were in services with the saints in the home of Bro. and Sr. Roberts for a few nights. God surely gave us some good services there. From here we went back up in Missouri for Saturday night at Bro. Sooters, (regular prayer meeting night) and was with the saints at Lone Star for Sunday School. (as well as each Sunday while in Mo.) and at Good- for Sunday night, and back home on Monday, the last day of August.

While in Missouri we made our headquarters at Lone Star, and surely enjoyed the assistance of the saints of that place in the meetings. On the whole, we surely enjoyed our trip. The Lord did bless our souls; and we came home refreshed in our souls, and with thankful hearts for the privilege of being with the saints of God once more out on the battle-field, fighting against sin and the enemy—Satan. So we are back at work, trying to get out the little paper for you, and we hope that you will pray for us, that God will bless our feeble effort as we toil at the type cases, printing press, etc., trying to get out the little paper, which we trust is to His glory alone.

ONE YEAR OLD.

One year ago this month, (Sept.) we sent forth the first issue of the little Messenger—about 200 copies. With this issue we will be sending out about 500 copies. We thank each of you, who by your prayers, and by your means, have made it possible for us to reach the many precious souls that it has with a portion of God's precious word, and we give Him ALL the glory. Any mistakes that may have been made during this time, give us full credit for the same; any good that may have been accomplished, give God ALL the praise, and glory, for He alone is worthy, bless His wonderful good name forever, Amen!

Wont you please pray for us in this work, that we may do God's will in all things? Please do.
Doubts.

We dare say that if all the "hurrah," was taken out of some meetings, there would be but very little left in the way of a shout. We firmly believe in the old time power of God that makes people leap and shout for joy, even to the extent of praising Him in the language—speaking in tongues—as the Spirit gives utterance; but we are stoutly against a "hurrah" manifestation, which is very easily identified by their quickly cooling off, and their indifferent attitude shown toward you, when you begin to tell them how a person ought to live that they might have the real blessings of God upon their lives. It has been said by a preacher, that you could preach about the coming of the Lord, and the people (Christians?) would shout; but when you began to preach about the way people had to live in order to be able to meet the Lord, they would take the "tuck head" on you.

So much false manifestations, hurrahs, and the like, are being pulled off today in the name of holiness, until many of the real saints of God are becoming very skeptical, even to the point of really doubting many who claim to be receiving the experiences in some of the "big" meetings. The proof of the genuineness of this sort with us, is similar to an expression made by a cousin of wife's who had made lots of money in the oil business, and consequently had lost considerable, by, as he inferred, his associating with crooked partners, and his opinion of mankind, as a result, was as follows—said he one time believed every one innocent until their guilt was proven; but now, he considered every body a crook until they proved themselves straight.

If every preacher would first, live the life; then preach a straight, clean, gospel—the gospel of Jesus Christ; and come out plain and tell the people what sin was—calling it by its first name, so-to-speak, the preacher might not have nearly so many followers, and admirers, but what they did have would be more likely genuine, thank God!

Overcoming The World.

I believe that a great many Christians are overcome because they don't know what a terrible fight we have. Now, it is no sign because a man is a Christian that he is going to overcome the world, unless he resists temptation when it comes. Do not let any man think that all he has to do is to join the church. That will not save you. The question is, Are you overcoming the world, or is the world overcoming you? Are you more loving than you were five years ago? Are you more patient than you were five years ago? Are you more amiable? Have you more patience? If you haven't, the world is overcoming you, even if you are a church member. That epistle which Paul wrote to Titus says we are to be sound in patience, faith and charity. We have got Christians—a good many of them—who are good in spots, but mighty poor in other spots.—Moody.

(No doubt but if Moody, who beyond question was a man of God, could view the so-called Christian congregations of today, they would not only, in part, look "spotted," but would to a great extent, indeed, look "ringstraked, speckled, and grissled," as well. —Ed.)

"Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: ..."—Jer. 31:13.
MISSIONARY LETTER FROM CHINA.

(The following personal letter we are passing on to our readers. We hope to see more of a missionary spirit aroused among our people. We are sure that a letter from any of our readers would be appreciated by those who are faithfully labouring for the Master in what is to us, the Foreign Field. And don’t forget to inclose in your letter an offering, or some of your tithes, (or both!) for this part of God’s cause. Or if you prefer, send us your money and we shall forward the same for you.)

Wenkiayen, Chekiang Prov., China.

July 23, 1931.

Dear Bro. Bond:—

Some years ago, while living in Ikiao, I had some correspondence with you, and later while at home on furlough, seemed to get out of touch.

I praise God I believe in justification by faith—it is the only way; as we are working among people who are excellent pretenders, but when they are justified by faith—really born again—I wish you could see their shining faces; it is beyond description. Praise God! Then we urge them on to Holiness unto the Lord, and how the love of Jesus makes them so humble and lowly; and I am glad we have seen many receive the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost; the Spirit speaking through them in other tongues. I remember one girl about fifteen years old; she was saved, later wonderfully sanctified, and one afternoon the Spirit was poured out on her, and she sang in such beautiful English, “Oh, believe Him, Oh, believe Him, Oh, believe Him just now,” and later changed it to “Oh, receive Him, receive Him just now.” She could not speak one word of English; but as we heard our own tongue coming from those sanctified, Spirit-filled lips, our hearts melted, and we were broken all up. Praise the dear Lord. There is where I long to stay—just a vessel, broken and small.

We praise God for His blessing on our feeble efforts. Our work was first opened in 1910, and since that time Missions have been opened in Hangchow, See Shing, Ikiao, Wenkiayen, Chang O’Teo, Fen Hu Teng. We are now building our first mission and Bible school in See Shing which is 40x48 feet, costing $5,000, or over, in Chinese money. Not one dollar will be owing on it when finished, as all the money is in hand—not one dollar asked for. We had two day schools, and a high school, just closed. We have now seven foreign workers, and six Chinese workers.

Many, many, have been saved. Some have gone on and died triumphant deaths. Praise God!

Under separate cover I am sending a circular I hope you can read. I have taken the opportunity of sending one to names taken from your paper of April, 1931. If I have over-stepped my privilege, please forgive me, but we preach and believe exactly as you do; and by His help live it before the world.

Please send me the Messenger; I may help some letter, D. V.

Your unworthy, but privileged, brother and sister,

Thos. and Ethel Harwood.

Wenkiayen, Chekiang Prov.,

China.

P. S. Most our Missions are called Apostolic, but in getting our charter, the Canadian-American Mission—whom we represent—registered as Pacific Coast Missionary Society.

T. H.

That ‘Dark Cloud.’

Abraham Lincoln is credited with once having remarked: “I see a dark cloud arising; and that cloud is coming from Rome.” The radio is now carrying the voice of the Pope to the uttermost parts of the earth. The Vatican state is now a living reality—a nation of their own. Through the recent persecution of Catholicism in both Mexico, and Spain, sympathy for the Church of Rome has only been increased, and thereby their foothold only made the stronger. On the whole, less hatred is manifested toward Catholicism by the Protestant world than in years gone by, and a general trend toward endorsement of the power of the Pope is seen by the silence of the former vehement opposers of Rome. The cloud is surely silent and assembly arising; and the thunders and lightnings from it will soon be manifested, possibly, in its authority and power.

“And all the world wondered after the beast.” Rev. 13:8.

“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.”

NOTICE

If you are not receiving this little paper regularly, and you wish to do so, just send us your name and address: it is published free, and to the glory of God.

OUR SUPPORT:

Our support is through Tithes, and Offerings, of any one who feels thus lead to use their means for the spreading of the Gospel in this manner.

Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. —Ps. 97:12.
"The Mutterings Of The Ingathering Storm."

"The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly." Zeph. 1:14.

There is a great storm coming, the darkness of which will overshadow all dark ages of history, and might well be called the world's midnight. That a succession of terrible judgments awaits this Christ-rejecting world is plainly taught in the Scriptures. The judgments of God will be poured out as plagues upon a guilty world. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." I Thess. 5:3.

"DISTRESS OF NATIONS"

"Distress of nations, with perplexity" (Luke 21:25), marks these last days. Never have calamities and crimes so distressed, nor wars so ghastly and annihilating! Never was there so many "false Christs, and false prophets" with their thousands of followers. The Word of God long ago foretold that these things should surround us in the last days.

LIKE A BLACK CLOUD

A sense of uneasiness hovers over Europe despite the efforts for peace. Millions of women of fifty-six nations have appealed to outlaw war, saying: "We stagger under an unprecedented burden of armaments in the midst of commercial depression and economic warfare! We declare the work for peace to be the most urgent task in the world."

The nations are still trying to pay the costs of war; but most of the war debts still overhang them like a black storm cloud. The Prince of Peace is left out of their councils. The Bible promises the time must be near. This world cannot stand long under the load it is carrying. Our nation is following in the track of Babylon, permanent peace only when the Prince of Peace comes to set up His kingdom on earth.

THE ON-COMING TRIBULATION

On our horizon already looms the red dawn of the most fearful epoch the world has ever known—"the Great Tribulation"—unparalleled in it's intensity and the outpouring of God's wrath, so that unless mercifully shortened, "no flesh should be saved." (Mark 13:19,20.)

Thinking men say, "The march of events is toward some terrible calamity, the magnitude of which we have not even imagined." We know, according to the Word of God, that the Tribulation will be a time "such as never was since there was a nation." Dan. 12:1.

Jesus said, "Then shall be Great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world, to this time, no, nor ever shall be," Matt. 24:21. And as we see the shadows fulfilled, it tells us that all the rest will be fulfilled.

The nations are getting ready for war. They are perfecting and intensifying their explosives and their "bomber" planes. The new odorless poison gas, dropped from the sky by fighting planes, could make a populous city desolate in twenty-four hours.

SUDDEN DESTRUCTION

God sees the iniquity of the earth. We do not know when it's cup of iniquity will be full, but Egypt, and Rome, that God dealt with for their wickedness and sorcery in the days of old. God declares that great calamity shall befall this old world. He says, "When they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them." I Thess. 5:3.

FEW HEED GOD'S WARNINGS

People are getting accustomed to awful calamities. When the Titanic sank in the Atlantic, how it stirred the whole world! The mammoth ship carried down to death 1635 passengers. The people had been drinking wine and dancing to the music of the orchestra when the ship crashed into an iceberg. Not until five minutes before it sank did the awful realization come that the end was near. Then the cries, shrieks, and groans that came across the waters were frightful to hear. Today the world is speeding to the most awful wreck ever known—the Great Tribulation! And how few heed God's warnings when He is about to send judgment upon the whole earth for it's sin and iniquity!

SOLMEN FINGER POSTS

There is awful solemnity in the days in which we live. History has never known such a generation. The signs already witnessed in this twentieth century point to it as the generation of which Christ said: "Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away." Luke 21:32, 33.

"Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44.

---Excerpts from article in The Apostolic Faith. Portland Ore.
An Error!

On the opposite page appears a mistake in the make-up of the article. To get the correct understanding, read to the bottom line of column one; from there to the fifth line at the top of column two, then to the bottom of column two; then back to the top of column two and down four lines, then across to the top of last column, then on down, finishing the article. We regret this "mix-up," but never noticed it until the page was printed.

Plain---

You may think we are a bit plain in denouncing sin, pride, etc., through the columns of the little paper, but our spirit is sometimes stirred within us when we see so much ungodliness practiced among the people—especially those claiming to be Christians. You'll think 'plain,' when you reach the Judgment! There you shall meet God's Bible just as it now reads; and there will be no time for YOUR opinions on the question of right or wrong. Just how would you like to face the Judgment with something on your life in the form of a few filthy words, lies, dishonesty in your business dealings, immodest manner of dress, (those short, sleeveless, transparent dresses, etc., exposing your body to the world in such a manner as to arouse the base desire in the lives of sinful men) your jewelry, ornaments—pride in general, etc., which the Bible so PLEAINLY denounces? God loves you alright, but not to the point where you can disobey Him and enter Heaven!

Jesus The Same Today.

Doubtless but to thousands of people, Jesus is a personage who lived hundreds of years ago, and who at that time performed miracles, but who since has only become a matter of record. They do not realize that He is the same living Christ today, only removed from the walks of men, and now appearing in the presence of the Father for us; and with the same power, and with the same love, and with the same understanding of our trials and difficulties as when He walked the shores of Galilee; and that we can approach Him through faith as they did in the days of old, with the same results following, thank God. The Son of man has not lost one bit of His power; but mankind, to a great extent, has lost faith in the Son of God.

The words of the Apostle Paul, in Hebrews 13:8, will supersede all doubts as to the present-day power of Jesus, if we will only BELIEVE.

HEBREWS 13:8! We herewith quote the same for your immediate benefit:

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Some will possibly say, Yes, I believe that Jesus has the same power today, but He works in a different manner! To which we shall reply in conclusion with the Bible command—"Prove all things." (I Thess. 5:21.) Amen.

Mother—is It You?

No doubt but some mothers, through pure laziness in caring for them, or that they might have more time to gad about, or to read some of the filthy magazines of today, will bob little daughter's hair, and deck her out in overalls—saving time (!) and worry. Wonder if some mothers are worthy the same name!

Prophecy Fulfilled.

We just read an account of an aged farmer living near Oklahoma City, who, according to the acting coroner's verdict, killed himself and his wife. According to the statement of their daughter, who found the bodies, the man and wife had been in ill health, and that lately the man had become especially depressed. According to the report of his neighbors, he would talk of nothing but the depression, and was predicting the total collapse of nations and people.

This is only a case (of which there are no doubt many) of the fulfillment of the Bible prophecy found in St. Luke 21:26: "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." (Speaking of the signs of the coming of the Son of man.) This precious soul's heart only failed him—he could no longer forebear the thought of the awful conditions coming upon the earth, and taken the route which hundreds of others do to end their trouble—suicide—their hearts failing them.

Takes "Want To" Out.

A real experience in old-time salvation takes the "want to" out of the lives of individuals, is the reason they no longer dress as the world, talk as the world, partake of the amusements of the world, etc. We some times tell the people that we chew, smoke, drink, swear, go to all the frolics, etc., that we want to—that there's no straps on us; but we always explain to them that the reason we do not any longer partake of these things is, the "want to" has been taken away, thank God, and a desire for things pertaining to godliness has taken their place—Amen!
To The Seven Churches of Asia.

Fifth Message

THE CHURCH IN SARDIS.

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 Sardis.


1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

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

Sardis was like many churches of today—having the name of being alive, but as a matter of fact, taken as a whole, they are looked upon as being dead, because their works are not found perfect before God. There are churches—bands of saints, so-to-speak, who are manifesting works—they help the poor, support the ministry, give to the missionary cause, pray a bit for the lost, and for each other, to an extent, but they are not doing as much along these lines as they should; neither are they doing such wholeheartedly. Some have defiled their garments—spots of the world upon their life, etc. They are exhorted to be watchful, and to strengthen the things which remain, that is, to be adding to their faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in us, and abound, we shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (II Peter 1:5-8) By living in this manner, beloved, our works would surely be perfect.

There were a faithful few in Sardis, thank God, as is the case in some of the 'Sardis' churches of today, who were living the life! Beloved, are your garments undefiled? Shall you walk with the Saviour in white? Think, beloved!

Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law; —Psalms 94:12