Christmas Observance

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

It's an evident fact—supported from different pulpits—that American people are mixing Paganism with their Christmas observance, in the great majority of the occasions.

Over nineteen hundred years ago, there was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, the Christ-child—destined to be the Saviour of the world, and not the central figure (or had we better say, 'excuse') for revelry, and worldly amusements.

For one to speak against the great general form of the observance of our Saviour's birth, only means to bring forth the disapproval of the great mass of people who look forward each year to the coming of this season. But how different seems the manner of observing His birth on that first Christmas morn, when the lowly shepherds, and the wise men, (you might say the two extremes of the classes) met on that common plane of equality, and came before His presence with godly fear and adoration, as compared to the ever increasing noisy festivities of today, with all it's glamour and fanfare, and wherein the "wise men" of today have commercialized upon the sacredness of the memory of His birth, and caused to a great extent, the simple act of giving little tokens in honour of Him, to become a burden, if one should keep abreast of the up-to-date manner of such observance.

It's not because of the fact that it is the anniversary of the Saviour's birth, by any means, that prompts thousands to make merry on this occasion; but simply because it is "Christmas," and the exact meaning of the occasion means very little, if any thing, to their lives.

Take the commercial value away from the Christmas season; the opportunity for a gay and boisterous time, together with the chance to make a display with lavishing an expensive, useless gift, upon some one, (and possibly did for show, only) and the Christmas season would pass by most unobserved. So it appeals to us that the greater per cent of Christmas observance today, is a worship of liberty of the occasion, and not a devotion toward the Saviour; hence, the trend toward Paganism!

'Santa Claus' seems to be the chief figure in the modern Christmas observance today; and the new explanation of who this merry (?) old gentleman of fiction is, is that he is the personification of love!

For Shame! That such tactics as having some individual (possibly a hypocritical professor of Christianity) dress up to represent the part, and then slip in back-stage of the church rostrum, to present the presents from a gaily decorated tree---the children and friends of the wealthy being showered with beautiful and expensive gifts, and the children of the poorer class sit there with their little faces all aglow, and their little hearts all expectantancy, that their name will be the next to be called, and when it is finally called, (if at all) imagine their surprise and disappointment when they receive a pitiful little remembrance of candy, fruit, nuts, etc., as compared to the possible arm load of beautiful gifts received by the children of wealthier class---and all from the same source---that Personification of love (?) ---good old Santa Claus! (To teach little children that such unequal distribution of presents is made in memory of Jesus, is too only endanger the child's mind with the thought that, if Jesus had anything to do with such occasions, He was showing respect of persons, and cause them to feel embittered at the Saviour, which step might lead them afar

(Continued on next page.)
Christmas Observance.

(Cont. from first page.)

from the Saviour in the days to come. While thousands of young minds might never be thus affected; yet if only one should be, what would be the worth of one soul?)

We do not oppose the godly spirit of the season; but we are against some of the tactics employed in commemorating the Saviour's birth. Just pass down the line of store window displays at this season; note the hungry little faces beholding the beautiful presents. "Will 'Santa' come to see me?" is possibly the thought of many a little heart; (then think of the heart-ache of many parents who cannot provide even a small present for their little ones) and then imagine the disappointment on Christmas morning at finding an empty stocking, when they have been generally taught that 'Santa' was a jolly old fellow, who loved good little boys and girls, and that he would bring them beautiful presents at this season! All this dis illusion has been practiced in the name of Christianity, using the birth of Jesus as a foundation, or back ground, for the setting of the scene! We say that such is wrong—first, lying to the child about the personality of a Santa Claus; then to liken the spirit of goodness to such a source as shows respect of persons between the rich and the poor; and also, the giving of many, many, presents in honour of the occasion, the use of which is condemned by the Bible. To say that all this is done in the name of Christianity, is only evidence of a step toward Paganism—the worshipping of a false god, Santa Claus, whose name stands preeminent above all names in the minds of thousands at this season; his picture to be seen most everywhere. If Christmas is to be observed, let it be in the name of the Lord. Remember, God has said, "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give unto another, neither my praise to graven images." (Isa. 42:8) How many images of 'Santa Claus' have you seen this season? Who's getting the glory, and the publicity, the Lord's name, or the name of Santa Claus? "Santa Claus" does not by spirit nor act, portray the Spirit of our Lord. God is no respecter of persons; 'Santa Claus' is! The next time you see an image of Santa Clause with, we'll say, a pipe in his mouth, and in the attitude of presenting a package of tobacco, as a Christmas (?) gift—try to imagine 'Santa' then as a "personification" of the spirit of love! For shame! It may be a spirit of love, alright; but it's not THIS Spirit of love which the Bibles teaches to be emblematic of our Saviour! If your Christmas observance—the presents you may want to give—is in memory of our Saviour's birth—why not give them in the name of the Lord, leaving out that hypocritical 'Santa Claus' part? Honour God; He will not give His glory to another: and we are sure this will apply to "Santa."

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Col. 3:17)

If the above commandment was carried out by professed followers of the Christ, it would eliminate all mentioning of the name, "Santa Claus," in their Christmas observance!

We heard a lady here in Tahlequah, a few years ago, relate an incident which taken place between her sister, and her sister's little daughter. The mother was re-proving her little daughter for some naughtiness, and to scare her, told her that if she wasn't a good little girl, the 'Old bugger-man' would get her, to which the little daughter pertinently replied: "Who is the 'Old bugger-man,' anyway?" The mother, being thus trapped, had to come out plain; so she explained: "Why, it's the pure old devil. "Huh!" replied the little daughter, "It's like that old Santa Claus business; 'tain't no body but your daddy!"

You may think the above incident amusing; but it has its serious side. If a youthful mind could be deceived about the existence of Satan, through the falsity of the teaching of the existence of a Santa Claus, could it not also disbelieve your attempted teaching of the reality of Jesus, through the same source? Youthful minds are very sensitive these days; and the Bible injunction, "Be careful for nothing," found in Philippians 4:8, is well worth observing in dealing with the little (?) problems of your child's life. Of course, no doubt, but what some will censure us for the stand we take in this matter, saying it's no harm to teach little folk there's a "Santa Claus." Some big crimes have had their beginning with seemingly little 'harmless' offenses. ANY untruth will carry to a lesser, or greater extent, a harmful influence. To teach your child the personality of a "Santa Claus," is to teach it a false-hood. Can you conscientiously do so in the name of Christianity?

In conclusion, let us get another thought. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was NO ROOM for He, and his humble parents, in the inn---hotel! How NOT unlike the

(Cont. on opposite page.)
**THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MESSENGER.**

**Christmas Observance.**

(Cont. from opposite page.)

thousands of homes of today! In those homes today, you will find room is plentiful for pleasure—the social gathering; dancing; card parties; drinking; making merry around a Christmas tree, etc.; yet there is NO ROOM for the blessed Saviour, who died for them; and taking occasion of His name, they carry on their revelry—yet in their heart there is no room for Him. Though many, many, of them may belong to some church, yet their lives do not prove they have been with Jesus.

We are rather skeptical as to the origination of Christmas celebration, because of the seemingly Catholic touch in the very word “Christmas,” which seems to be a contraction of the two words—Christ and mass; “mass” being a Catholic term for religious service; hence, Christmas, or a special service, honouring Christ. It may be a “strip of the old skirt,” that Protestantism is yet clinging to. There is no Bible teaching along the line of such observance—it merely being optional with the people, and shows our reverence of our Saviour, if remembered in the right manner; but to take advantage of the occasion to go on a “spree,” so-to-speak, and signalize a mythical god—Santa Claus—is purely idolatrous, and as before stated, a trend toward Paganism. And that the origin of the Santa Claus idea is closely related to Catholicism, we print below for your own consideration, two explanations on the question. And you must remember how that Catholicism is great on honouring saints; different peoples having their individual “patron saint,” etc.

“St. Nicholas. The patron saint of boys. He is said to have been the bishop of Myra, and to have died in the year 328. The young were universally taught to revere him, and the popular fiction which represents him as the bearer of presents to children on Christmas eve is well known. He is the Santa Claus (or Klaus) of the Dutch.” --From Explanatory and Pronouncing Vocabulary of noted names of fiction, in Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary.

“SANTA CLAUS, the name of a friend of children, who, according to folklore, brings presents on Christmas eve. He is usually represented as an aged but jolly man who drives over the roads in a sleigh drawn by reindeer, and descends chimneys to fill with gifts the stockings hung up to receive them. It is said that he sometimes leaves a birch rod in the stocking of a naughty child. The name Santa Claus was derived from Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children, and is of German origin, but the legend was first brought to America by Dutch settlers of New York. The feast was celebrated originally on Dec. 6 and that day is still observed in some parts of Germany, but it is now held generally on Christmas.”--Teachers’ and Pupils’ Cyclopaedia.

Now, beloved, to associate the observance of our Saviour’s birth with such mythology as a visit from “Santa Claus”—though harmless as it might seem—is only missing the line of true Christianity; and the fully conscientious soul has a higher concept of the season in which occurs the anniversary of our Saviour’s birth.

The reason some people partake not of certain things is, their conscience condemns such. On the other hand, why some, seemingly, can partake of most anything—possibly their conscience is scared! (Read 1 Timothy 4:1-2.)

**YOUR LOT IN LIFE.**

Beloved, possibly you feel that your lot in life is hard indeed! Have you ever considered some of those who have gone on before? You have never been cast into a lion’s den, have you? Daniel was. You have never been thrown into a fiery furnace, have you? The three Hebrew children were. You have never been afflicted from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet; you children killed; your stock killed and stolen; your companion try to get you to turn away from God, and die, have you? Job suffered such. Possibly you have never been stoned, nor placed in jail for preaching the gospel. Paul was. You have never resisted unto blood, striving against sin. Our blessed Saviour did! Beloved, after all, possibly you have more to thank God for, than you’ve been thanking Him for!

If you will bear your lot in life with patience, and as the Bible commands, in EVERYTHING give thanks, God will bless you RIGHT IN YOUR LOT! The Hebrew children had the Son of God with them in the midst of the fiery furnace; God protected Daniel in the lion’s den; the latter days of Job were blessed of God more than the former had been; Paul and Silas in prison, sang and prayed—God delivered them! Look up, weary one; God is yet on the throne. His eye is even on the little sparrow; truly, He’s watching over you. Maybe He is about you in ways you do not consider. Please get your Bible right now, and read Psalms 34:7; then try to learn the lesson the Apostle Paul learned—“For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am in, therewith to be content.” (Philippians 4:11.)

Be SURE to read Psalms 34:7.
Life Insurance

"Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me." (Jer. 49:11.)

Do you believe the promises of God? If so, here is one for your consideration.

We have no quarrel with life insurance companies, nor with their agents; yet, we have some convictions along this line. We believe that God's people ought to have absolute faith in God—both for the present and the future. If we felt that God's plan in caring for the widow and orphan of His departed servant embodied their carrying a form of life insurance, we would declare such with all the grace and power He would give us. But we see a different plan taught in the Bible relative to the caring for loved ones left behind—one that does not give mankind a chance to traffic in human lives. Here it is:

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27.)

Not boasting, but to the glory of God, let us here state that we have this confidence (faith) in God, that if we should be called from this life, that our loved one—if she would continue faithful—would be cared for at the hands of God's people, in her affliction—or poverty. Remember the text, in part, "Let thy widows trust in me." Sometimes a heavy insurance check is the worst thing to fall into the family's possession; it easily leads into riotious living.

Of course supporters of the life insurance system of caring for the bereaved, can present some alluring inducements in favor of the plan, if one was not to consider God's word in the question. But in the light of the scripture, how could one conscientiously resort to a plan of man's conjecture, which is solely operated for profit—and that in human lives, when God in His word lays down a plan—before us—and He means for us to follow—it—which we know to be inculcated in His gospel? Insurance companies can fail; but God's plan CANNOT fail. Think of how He cared for the widow and her son, of Zarephath. (1 Kings 17:8-16.) Not only was the widow and the son cared for, but the third party, Elijah, was fed from the same supply of food, thank God. And the best part is, He is the same loving Father today; and He yet cares for His own, Amen!

Life insurance agencies barter in human life—making 'merchandise of mankind.' It's a gamble with them, with the odds in their favor. If each person taking a policy, died shortly afterward, the insurance companies would soon cease to exist. Therefore, they use humanity as a means of speculation, as do the brokers on the stock markets use merchandise in their operations.

No doubt but there have been precious souls sent to a premature grave in order that an insurance policy might be collected. Parents will carry a policy on the life of the precious little babe. Where is their faith in God? (This thing has been indulged in, "right in the ranks of Holiness. The little one, in passing away, would thus be paying its burial expenses with its OWN little life. We say, For Shame!)

As we stated in the beginning, we have no quarrel with the life insurance companies; our business is, by God helping us, to get the people to see their need of Him—get a real Life Assurance policy; the one described in John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." You do not have to have a bill of health to get this 'policy,' thank God; but on the contrary, you are even promised healing for your diseases! (Read Psalms 103:3.)

Can you imagine the Apostle Paul as carrying a policy, were he with us today? (We are doubtful if he would be considered a good "risk," by the companies that now know of the hazards of his life, were he alive today, and in his same position, as when he was stoned, placed in jail, etc., for preaching the gospel.) Also, try to imagine a man or woman of God today, testifying to the goodness, and the power of God, who has a value on their life in the form of an insurance policy, that their loved ones might be cared for after they have passed away! Where is such an one's faith in God, who will allow men to make merchandise of his life, so-to-speak, to insure him of something God has promised, and to be had without money, and without price?

The BEST legacy a father can leave is, his house set in order (2 Kings 20:1.)—wife and children taught to have faith in God; and his own life having been righteous. Such will far exceed the insurance policy for assurance, thank God!

"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." (Jeremiah 17:5.)
THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MESSENGER.

SAD NEWS FROM CHINA.

Wednesday night, 5th. We had the funeral on Friday, and I do wish you could have seen it—the love and reverence shown. They covered the coffin completely with evergreens, then many wreaths. The country people who could get no flowers, made wreaths of evergreens and white paper. All this is not Chinese custom. I certainly needed friends; and I can say for these dear people, that my own family could not have been more careful, nor more thoughtful for me, and in the preparations, than they. They seemed inspired by the Holy Ghost to know just what to do. Oh, the comfort it brought to my bleeding heart! "My Jesus doeth all things well," and I can trust and follow, where I cannot understand. I am amazed at the comfort, strength, and grace, He has given me. I had a month’s rest in Shanghai when my body was fully restored by the healing Blood; all glory to God. Now I have been home here since, "carrying on" by His strength, with the native workers, and looking forward to see my dear one in the clouds. The way this old world is going, we may not have long to wait.

Glad you had a profitable time in vacation. God bless you in spreading the truth. It is surely needed. The heart of man seems harder to reach than formerly; but the Holy Spirit can, and will, use God’s word: so we press on.

This is a new station, and it isn’t easy work to build up a body (especially at first) among the heathen, but we see men and women growing, and looking to Jesus to overcome sin—thus we find joy in feeding the flock.

Yours in Jesus,

(Mrs.) Ethel Harwood,
Wenkiayen, Chekiang Province,
China.

Greetings!

To the saints of God, the faithful in Christ Jesus, and ALL the readers of the little Messenger: We extend to each of you, our best wishes for a happy Christmas; and that God’s richest blessings may rest upon you throughout the New Year!

The old year of 1931, with whatever has attended our lives in the way of success and failures, has now almost become a matter of history. We shall never have to live again this past year’s time; but we shall all surely meet our 1931 record at the Judgment. So we feel it should be the aim of each child of God to profit by the failures (per chance you’ve made some; we have) of the past year, by guarding the future more closely—praying more; and living more humble.

To those whom this season shall find with a heavy heart through having had to give up some precious loved one through death, may God especially bless and comfort their hearts.

 Doubtless but what we have incurred the ill-will of some in our feeble endeavor to bring you the Gospel in its purity, throughout the past year. If so, we can only say, Amen. May God bless our enemies throughout 1932, and in all the years that may come.

To those of you who have faithfully stood by us with your prayers, and your means, for the carrying on of this portion of God’s work, we surely thank you; and may His blessings rest upon you for so doing.

So with heart-felt love for God’s true people everywhere,
We are yours in His service,
Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Bond.
The APOSTOLIC FAITH Messenger.

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: HOLINESS.

Published at no specified time, but possibly an edition each month, the Lord willing.

PUBLISHED FREE
Supported through Tithes and Free-will Offerings.

Address all communication to
O. H. Bond,
443 Cherokee Ave.,
Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

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

BIBLE THOUGHT.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. —1 Timothy 4:16.

Editorial.

Jesus Prayed For It.

Jesus prayed for God to sanctify His disciples—those whom God had given Him; and He says in His prayer, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Therefore they must have been saved—converted; and such conversion MUST have been under grace, for the law and the prophets were only until John's ministry began. That these for whom He is praying for, in St. John 17, had been saved under His own ministry, is evidenced by verse 8, which reads as follows:

"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have believed that thou didst send me."

Now beloved, if mankind in those days needed the experience of sanctification in their lives after they had been converted, what about those of today?

God's plan has never changed, beloved; we are yet under the very same dispensation of grace which was ushered in almost 2,000 years ago. There have been many different kinds of doctrines brought forth since that time—the theories of man—and they yet continue to arise; and often times they grow and flourish—having a large following, and possibly come into recognition before the world, and many of the organized churches; but such is no evidence of their being founded of God.

Paul says in Acts 20:28-30:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

The Apostle Paul knew the condition that was to arise through false doctrines arising, and he here forewarns the elders to be on their guard—to first take heed to themselves, and then unto all the flock; for right from among themselves—the very leaders—would arise men who would draw away disciples, and the result be—another movement started!

We are truly sorrowful that conditions are such as they be in the ranks of Holiness today; but it has only happened according to Paul's admonition. Some thirty-one years ago, when the latter rain began to fall, (as did the former rain, beginning on the day of Pentecost) and continuing for a period of time there was harmony among the baptised saints of God, (those who had received the Holy Ghost) and they all spake and taught the same thing by way of doctrine—the three-fold plan of salvation; or justification, and then the experience of sanctification as a second, definite work of grace; then the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. All went well for a while; harmony existed; love prevailed. But Satan realizes something must be done—these are the last days, and he has only a short time to labour; this is the latter rain, and the harvest will soon be ripe. So he must do some to hinder the progress of God's

(Cont. on opposite page.)
cause by crippling the power of God's people, and he realized this could best be done through bringing about a division among them over doctrine. The outcome was, a comparatively short while after the great out-pouring of the Spirit in Los Angeles, Cal., of 1906, there "arose among them" (as per the Apostle Paul's admonition) one of their own number, Pastor Durham, of the Stone church, of Chicago, a preacher who went to Los Angeles during the mighty revival that followed the out-pouring of the Spirit in that city, wherein there were workers gathered from many parts of the country, who thereafter received the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost, and carried the fire back to their own fields of labour, and thus the work was spread. This brother (as we are reliably informed) began to seek the Lord, and received the experience of sanctification, and later on received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and went back to Chicago, where sometime afterward he denounced the doctrine of sanctification as a second, definite work of grace, and instituted the one work, or Finished Work doctrine, and went back to Los Angeles and introduced his pernicious doctrine among the people there. (Our information comes from an eyewitness to the great out-pouring in Los Angeles—one among the first to receive the baptism at that place; and who was in the city while Pastor Durham was back there teaching his "new" doctrine.)

Thus we find the inception of the present day Finished Work, or "Assembly of God," movement. (We have only given a very, very brief sketch, indeed, of the switch from the original teachings on the plan of full salvation; but hope to, at a latter date, if the Lord will, go into more complete details along this line, after that we have gathered more data on the actual conditions of affairs surrounding the early days of the latter rain out-pouring.)

Beloved, we make the above assertions absolutely in the fear of God; and with the greatest of all respect due to the memory of the late Pastor Durham; and to those who are now associated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, located with headquarters at Springfield, Mo. No doubt but there are many associated with them who are not aware of the fact that the doctrine of sanctification as now held by them, is NOT the original doctrine taught by people of the Apostolic faith, in the beginning of the latter rain gospel—or the fulfilling of Joel 2:21-32. So in fairness to all concerned, we feel that those professing to know God, are entitled to some facts in the case, thank God. So it's not our intention to try to unchristianize ANY one; neither to cast reflections upon, nor branding as a hypocrite, ANY conscientious soul, who is honestly walking before God in all the light that has ever shined across their pathway.

Aside from the error of such teaching as that which denies the blessing of sanctification as a separate experience, we are sometimes disgusted with "starchy" displays made from the pulpit, etc., seemingly for no other purpose other than to gain recognition from the world. The old time, is a persecuted way; and if we are not humble enough, and honest hearted enough, to take the Bible plan before the world just as it is, we'll never reach Heaven. Many, it seems, are almost entirely confining themselves to the use of the term Holy Spirit, instead of Holy Ghost, in referring to the baptism; and "cleansing," "consecration," etc., instead of sanctification. We do not say such terms are unscriptural; but we do say their solitary use, almost, on account of their seemingly modifying qualities, (the terms, as Jesus spake, "baptised with the Holy Ghost;" and, "Sanctify them," appearing a bit "coarse," or ingratiating) is wrong; and such surely bespeaks either a spirit of pride, or of fear of persecution from the world.

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (St. Mark 8:38.)

(Beloved, the above verse might have to do with those, who for a bit of "shame," use modified terms in referring to some of the worldly-opposed principles of the plan of salvation!)

In conclusion, beloved preacher friend, let us ask you one question, which also takes us back to the beginning of this article—Jesus, the great Son of God, (and he was truly in the light of the thing!) prayed his Father in behalf of those who had already been converted right under his ministry, to "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth;" do you, or would you, pray likewise for those converted under your ministry? Are you actually following in the footsteps of Jesus, and the apostles, in your doctrinal teaching? If so, you are teaching the blessing of holiness—sanctification—as an experience for the individual AFTER his conversion! No intelligent, Biblically informed person, could do otherwise.

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome (Cont. on next page.)
Editorial.

(Cont. from page 7.)

words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

"He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." (1 Tim. 6:3-5.)

The individual who will stoop so low as to berate, and belittle, the experience of sanctification—making such derogatory remarks as, "Away with that stuff," etc.,—and said individual claiming the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4, surely is living in the above scripture, so-to-speak.

Jesus asked the Father to bestow the blessing upon converts in His day, even making known WHY the disciples NEEDED the experience—that they might all be one; that they might be kept from the evil; and that His joy might be fulfilled in themselves! Read St. John, 17th. chapter. Beloved, can you preach to the people the experience of sanctification in the same light as did the Saviour implore God in behalf of those whom He loved—"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth?" If not, we shall have to leave you in Isaiah 8:20: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

So be careful, beloved, how you oppose the experience of sanctification, "lest haply ye be found to be fighting against God."

We do not fall out with those who have never been taught the doctrine of sanctification, as we do those who once shouted the victory while enjoying the experience, and have since renounced the blessing—claiming to have received "new light." What will the Judgment mean to the individual, who once having had the sweet experience of sanctification—preached it under the anointing of the Holy Ghost—and has now gone back on the experience, accepting a more popular way, one that permits many worldly indulgences, and calling themselves "holiness," (at the same fighting the ONLY experience that produces holiness!) and has gone to vilifying those who are yet standing for the original teachings on the blessings; and comparing sanctified people as resembling the long-faced mule for looks of piety, etc.—how will it be in the Judgment with such an one? And how might it be with his followers? Beloved, look about you; possibly your name may be alongside 'his' on the church roll, then what?

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

"Let us go forth therefor unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach." (Heb. 13:12-13.)

Beloved, are you willing to "go forth without the camp, bearing his reproach," that is possessing, and proclaiming, the blessing of a sanctified life; (think of some of the old pioneers of the gospel from the Wesleys on down to our day) or will you choose an easier route—the more uptodate, and popular way?

Are you ashamed of the blessing?

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." (Hebrews 2:11.)
...Dwell Deep...

"Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time that I will visit him." (Jeremiah 49:8.)

As originally spoken, these words summoned the people of Edom to seek the shadows of the impenetrable forest, and retire into the secrecy of the caves and dens of the rocks. The deeper their hiding place, the better it would be when the storm of invasion swept across the land.

Dwell deep in the peace of God. God's peace is so deep and blessed that it cannot be fathomed or explained; the fugitive into its sacred secrets cannot be followed or dragged forth to perish by the merciless pack of the wolves of care.

Men of the world cannot understand that mystery of peace; but the believer knows the way into it, and makes it his hiding-place and pavilion. He sleeps, like his Master, in the stern, while storms sweep the waters. Dwell deep in communion with God. Hide in God. Get away from the rush and strife around, and go alone into the clear, still depths of His nature.

A few hasty words of prayer will not avail for this. A day's climb is often necessary before one can reach the heart of the mountains. Dwell deep in stillness of soul. When the world is full of alarm and harassments, study to be quiet. The soul's health cannot be maintained apart from the observance of times of waiting on God in solitude. The great importance of perseverance in the exercise of prayer and inward retirement may be sufficiently learned, says one next to the experience of it, merely from the tempter's artifices and endeavors to allure us from it and make us neglect it.

—Daily Devotional Commentary.

FELLOWSHIP.

Our understanding of God's word is, that the individual who is not in fellowship with the true saints of God, is neither in fellowship with God. Therefore, it behoves us to so live that we can be in fellowship with God's people.

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son, cleanseth us from all sin."

(1 John 1:6&7.)

TRY CHRISTIANITY.

Horace Greeley is said once to have received a letter from a woman stating that her church was in distressing financial straits.

They had tried every device they could think of—fairs, strawberry festivals, oyster suppers, a donkey party, turkey banquets, Japanese weddings, poverty sociables, mock marriages, grab bags, box sociables, and neck tie sociables.

"Would Mr. Greeley be so kind as to suggest some new device to keep the struggling church from disbanding?" The editor replied: "Try Christianity."

—The Christian.

SOME SUBJECTS YOU Seldom Hear.

Below are a few subjects seldom preached from the pulpit of the modern, uptodate, church:

The Soon Coming Of Jesus.
A Life Above All Sin.
Eternal Punishment For The Wicked.
Evils Of Modern Day Styles.
Wearing Of Gold, Pearls, And Costly Array.
Evil Of Divorce, And Remarriage.
Restitution.
Card Playing Under Guise Of Social Entertainment.

The majority of the pastors of such churches, it seems, are still hammering away, trying to get people to believe in the personality of our Saviour: when, as a matter of fact, the congregation possibly knows as much about this, as does the preacher, whose knowledge of God, we fear is, in the most cases, confined to "book learning," only.

Why don't these preachers tell their congregations of the evils of the day? Why don't they preach against real sin in EVERY conceivable form? What will it profit the individual to be convinced of the reality of God, and of His Son, unless they shall live the life? The Bible says, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." (Isaiah 58:1.)

ONLY ONE WAY.

Beloved friend—sinner or Christian—there is only one way to escape torment, and that is to gain Heaven; and the ONLY way to reach Heaven is to live holy—free from sin!
FROM PITTSBURG, KANS.

Nov. 18, 1931.

Dear Bro. and Sr. Bond, and the ones who read the little Messenger:

I feel tonight like writing in honour to King Jesus, the one who did so much for me.

Not long ago, we got a letter from Bro. Buckles. He had left the gospel work to pick cotton. Many have to sacrifice home and time to spread the gospel, while many are at home, enjoying life. I have been to think lots on this line for quite a while. There are many uncalled-for things that can be given up, and the money used to help lift the burdens off the ones who are on the battle-field for Jesus. I wonder how many dollars are spent for extra buttons, lace, ribbons, and chewing gum? Isaiah 55:2, says, “Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not?” Some may think a few cents don’t amount to much, but when all the raindrops get together, they soon make a stream! So can all our extra pennies. Time is so short, we need to do our best to help souls get saved; and when we reach our eternal home, we can be glad for the ones who heard the word, and are enjoying Heaven with us, thank God.

I truly know Jesus is more dear to me than all; and I want to go through, and pay the price of what Holiness means. Glad I ever heard of a way we can know we are saved and kept from sin, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. Glad that God called me from among people who were fighting Holiness, and gave me joy in my soul, bless His dear name.

Pray for me, and mine.

Mrs. Martha Macklefish,

YOUR NUMBER CALLED?

Occasionally you may read something in the little paper that suits your case exactly; if so, don’t get offended, for probably we know nothing about you, whatever. Remember God’s word says in Psalms 119:165, “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

A brother living in eastern Oklahoma, was in the edge of Arkansas a very few years ago, attending a meeting. He said he was just getting along fine—the preacher was preaching on parents bobbing their little girls’ hair. Of course he wasn’t guilty, and was therefore enjoying the message. Directly, he said, the preacher began to preach on folks paying tithes—how people were robbing God. “Say!” he said, (in the language of the brother) “he rung my bell!” It wasn’t so fine then; but it fell on an honest heart, and the brother began to move out and obey God. He was not offended, for he loved God’s law.

TEST FOR ASSURANCE.

By the following Bible test, we can assure ourselves in some of those dark, trying times, wherein Satan takes advantage of the occasion to accuse us of having lost out with God—that is, of course, if we can stand the test—that we yet have the Saviour in our lives!

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Corinthians 13:5.)

Webster says of a “reprobate”:

1 “Not enduring proof or trial; not of standard purity or fineness; disallowed; rejected.
2 “Hence, abandoned to vice or punishment; morally abandoned and lost.”

Special Services

We are in receipt of a card from Sister Phyrne Hulse, pastor, announcing a special meeting at Boyd school house, near Oakgrove, in Carrol county, Arkansas, for December 18-19-20. We hope this will reach some of our readers in time that they might attend, D.V.

Another card from Sister Faith Henegar, of Ramona, Okla., invites us to an all-days’ service, on Christmas day, the Lord willing, at Bro. Street’s mission, located between 4 and 5 miles northeast of Ramona. (Sr. Henegar is a sister to Bro. P. A. Henegar.)

We hope that God will bless His people at each of these meetings.

TWO “IFS.”

The little word, “if,” is small, indeed; yet, it sometimes has great controlling power. In the following verse of scripture, it occurs twice; the first time, it introduces the thought of what to do when brother trespasses against brother; the second time, it opens the way for reconciliation. By not giving place for it’s first use, there would be no necessity for it’s second use. Although the first IF brings pain, the second IF will bring joy, thank God! Here’s the scripture:

“Take heed to yourselves: IF thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and IF he repent, forgive him.” (St. Luke 17:3.)

While many may give grounds for it’s first use, yet it seems a lesser number gives occasion for it’s second use.

Study the thought yourself.
Which IF, if either, last concerned you, reader?
To The Seven Churches of Asia.

SEVENTH MESSAGE

CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS.

To The Church Of The Laodiceans.

Revelation 3:14-22.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things say the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God:

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

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

We have now reached the last of the seven messages sent to the churches in Asia. In all of them, God has pointed out to each church it’s own fault or virtue. Only 2 of the 7 churches were without blame; to the remaining 5, their shortcomings were reproved, and a solemn warning given each of them to measure up, or else suffer punishment—which in one instance was a forewarning of having the candlestick (light) removed: or, in other words, it meant backsliding, or losing out with God, for them.

In a brief summary of the description of the 7 churches, we find about the following condition to exist:

Ephesus --- left first love.

Smyrna --- clear before God.

Pergamos --- suffering crooked doctrine among themselves.

Thyatira --- allowing false teacher to seduce the people, leading them into fornication, and idolatrous eating.

Sardis --- works not perfect.

Philadelphia --- clear before God.

Laodiceans (our last lesson) ---lukewarm. (The condition of so many today!). We might wonder why God would hold such a view toward the lukewarm Christian? Try drinking some lukewarm water, sometimes, as compared to hot or cold water. The lukewarm is distasteful, sickening; and has not the thirst quenching properties as the other waters. So it is, in a figure, with the lukewarm Christian. And again, the lukewarm is in more danger, in that they “feel well enough;” the person who is cold in his soul, realizes more the need of getting straightened out. Then the other class has a testimony of assurance.

The percentage of churches who are clear, and those who are lacking, will possibly run about the same today, with about the same lines of disobedience, as of that day.

Is your church pictured above?
YOUNG PEOPLE ENJOY SALVATION.

Not long since, a young man was talking to us, (he was a member of a young people's society of a certain church, and living in a nearby city) and telling us of some of the activities of the young people of the church he was affiliated with. They seemed to have a group who would go to some of the "weaker" churches in outlaying districts, and put on "programs" for them. He spoke of such as being an incentive in keeping young people "close" to the church. Also, he spoke of their having a minstrel show which they put on, doing so to obtain money with which to buy uniforms for their ball team. If you could have heard the name he used in referring to his pastor, (he seemed to like the pastor very much) you would have hardly known whether to have laughed, or felt sorry—possibly both. Such is counted salvation with many today. (Right here, reader, let us call your attention to the Bible: "Young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded." [Titus 2:6] If minstrel shows, etc., is the product of sober-mindedness, then we fail to know what foolishness might be! The pastor who would endorse such among his congregation, knows very little about God and His word; or else he is on the compromise—hypocritical!

We have young people—both young men and young women—who, being right at the age where most of the young people are striving for a real good time in this world, are living lives devoted to God's cause. They have consecrated their lives to Him, and are finding peace, and lasting joy and satisfaction, in serving Him. They have no use for the worldly pastimes which lure so many of their age of today; they do not go to the ball games, parties, picture shows, etc.; they have found something far better, thank God! The love of the world has gone out of their lives, and the love of the Lord has taken its place. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15) The supreme love of God satisfies every longing of their heart so far as worldly pleasures would be concerned; and they fear Him to the point they desire to so live before Him, that He will be their's at the end. They BELIEVE in the scripture which says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." They honour their parents, as the Bible teaches; and you will find them at services, dressed as Christians should, and taking an active part in the meeting, and with a testimony of real salvation which goes forth under the power of God. Their desire is for more of God in their lives—and the reason for all this, they sought God as He convicted them of sin, and they are now in the good way with Jesus because of choice—the love of Jesus, only, constraining them, thank God. Their lives are an example of the true believer; and for them, youth's "problems," (of which we often hear so much said) was "solved" (as it would be for every boy and girl) when they gave their hearts to God!

WHERE IS OUR GOSPEL?

If the gospel messages which the Apostle Paul, and the other apostles, preached to the church in their day and time, are not for the church today, then when is OUR Gospel?

HEAR—THEN OBEY!

Some Christian people will go to church, and hear God's word preached in all its purity, and the preaching is "hitting" them all over, so-to-speak; yet they will treat such more as a joke on themselves, and go away saying, "Didn't the preacher skin us alive, tonight!" No, beloved, it wasn't the preacher; it was God's word; and when you will treat such so lightly—just jest about it, and fail to measure up, you are disobeying God; and instead of growing in grace, you will soon find yourself to be losing out with God. You can joke your way right into torment; but if ever you reach heaven, it will mean for you to hear and obey the gospel!

A GOOD "ADDICTION!"

There are many, many, who are dope addicts; whisky addicts; tobacco addicts; coffee and tea addicts; chewing gum addicts, etc.; but the following kind of an "addict," is not nearly so easily found:

"I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and THAT they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) ---1 Cor. 16:15.

Since the word "Addict," means to apply habitually; to devote; to custom; to habituate; (according to Webster) those of the house of Stephanas had formed a much better habit than the habits mentioned above; and a habit that grieves not God, nor His saints. (Strange how that some will hold to certain of the addictions mentioned above, and condemn the rest!) "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." ---St. John 8:36.

"Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;" ---Romans 2:9.