WHY I CANNOT PREACH "FREE HOLINESS" . . .

By The EDITOR

In substance, I cannot preach "Free Holiness." because such is not Bible doctrine. This is ample reason—but not sufficient proof to convince the skeptical. Hence, a few thoughts along this line from a Biblical standpoint; and in ALL due respect to the exponents, or adherents of, such belief, together with the sincere of all other faiths whom we shall possibly refer to in our printed discussion on this subject. It is never our intention to unChristianize any one—our desire is to see more, and better, Christians. As we always state in this respect, We believe there are good Christian people in all Protestant denominations—leaving these ranks, we become skeptical. But we do believe that a crisis exists so far as the good cause of God is concerned; and that if ever the time was when His people needed the old-time Gospel in all its purity and it's power, that time is right now, wherein the "winds of doctrine," as referred to by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:14, are surely blowing over this world, and sweeping thousands into false ways, and teachings, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. And surely, if you know God, and walking in the Gospel light, in this you will agree. So please, read on.

On January 1, 1901, or nearly 40 years ago, the power of God began to fall in the form of the latter rain. Men and women began to receive the Holy Ghost, as on the day of Pentecost, speaking in other tongues, or languages, as the Spirit gave utterance. A wonderful, world-wide revival broke out, following this latter day phenomena, or prophecy fulfillment (Joel 2:28, etc.), which was poured out upon sanctified people, those who were teaching the blessing in it's true Bible light—that of a second, definite work of grace. Things went well for the first few years, so far as any major doctrinal issues were concerned; and not until some time after the great outpouring of the Spirit in Los Angeles, Calif., did the prophesy of Paul, as recorded in Acts 20:28-30, begin to be fulfilled in our behalf, which came about through a man—a preacher—"of our own selves," who arose, after he had been wonderfully sanctified (so wonderful the blessing he thought it the Baptism until Biblically convinced otherwise), and filled with the Holy Ghost, who later on denounced the doctrine of sanctification as an instantaneous work of grace, and introduced the so-called Finished Work teaching, or nucleus of the present day Assembly of God, and kindred movements. This man was Pastor Durham, of the Stone church, in Chicago, Ill., thus constituting the first major break—or drove the first dividing wedge—in the ranks of the original Apostolic Faith movement.

Then in addition to this break within the ranks, there has come the spirit of organization, which, in reality, has only tended to "unorganize" the original body of spiritually lead saints, building a barrier between what ought to be, a unified body of believers. When the Saviour says in Revelation 18:4, "Come out of her, my people," He was referring to "her," as Babylon. And the term, "Babylon" itself means confusion; and what is more confusing to the unbeliever today, than the great array of religious organizations, each saying, "THIS is the way." While in this event, Babylon is the prophetic word for the Roman Catholic church which was for to come; and incidently, the Catholic church is the originator of organizations among so-called Christian peoples—or, virtually, the "mother" of the organized church of today! This can't be disputed. Therefore, it is no wonder that God would have us "come out" from such. He would have us going forth in HIS name, and under His plan. There are different organized bodies today, of the Apostolic or Pentecostal beliefs. Wonder just how they think people managed to live for God, and to carry on for Him, before THEIR church organization came into existence? In this, they evi-
dence a great error, for we are quite sure that thousands lived for God, preached the Gospel, and shouted the victory, on down the ages before the first organized Protestant church came into existence, and God’s people begun to be divided! Honestly now, if Paul were back upon earth, where would he find his “church home?” He might say to some, “When did you people organize?” Then we wonder if some would not begin to “feel something!” Would the preacher have to “open the door of the church,” peradventure Paul decided to join? Think.

Then for another rift in the already divided ranks of the full Gospel, the devil gives somebody a “vision,” or some further “new light,” and there springs forth another teaching, or doctrine, which is known as the Oneness, or Jesus Only, theory. Such would do away with the doctrine of the Trinity, or the three-fold Godhead, thus making Jesus his own Father, or the progenitor of His own birth! Such theory is preposterous, rotten—and if you will excuse the expression, “ignorance gone to seed!” Many are following this deluded way.

There are possibly other divisions, and sub-divisions, of the true and original way, which could here be referred to; but most, at least, being of lesser significance, it isn’t necessary to give time nor space to the same; but let’s get on to the subject.

Now comes the latest doctrine—that of the so-called “Free Holiness” element, which, it appears, is taking the form of another movement, and is just another wedge being driven within the ranks of the Apostolic faith—the true latter rain Gospel.

First, I cannot preach Free Holiness, because the scripture, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36.), has no meaning whatever, relative to any form of church government—either pro or con; but which ONLY refers to the spiritual condition of the soul—FREEDOM FROM SIN. This ought to be plain enough to the spiritually wise.

Free Holiness, if we get their meaning, implies that we are not to be under the restraining rule of any form of church government, which in turn, would refute the real authority of Biblical eldership. To attempt to preach “Free Holiness,” we would not know what to do with such scripture as Hebrews 13:17, which reads: “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

Now what are we to do with such, beloved—here it is very plainly evident that SOME are to be in position of authority, or power, among God’s people, or else what does the word, “rule,” mean? We take the stand in the matter like this: the individual has as much right to advance a “no hell” doctrine, and be as much justified in the sight of God in doing so, as he or she would in turning down this one verse in the Bible.

There is one thing for sure—the spirit of Free Holiness did not predominate in the days of the apostle Paul. We hear him instructing Titus, a fellow labourer, and son in the faith, to “set in order the things that are wanting,” in the city of Crete (Titus 1:5.), and to “ordain elders in every city, as he had appointed him:” if “any be blameless,” going ahead and enumerating the strict qualifications required in an elder’s life. If such was the plan in Paul’s day, what about our day—are we going to stand with Paul in his preaching? You possibly know what he said in Galatians 1:8-9, about himself, an angel from heaven, or any other man, preaching any other gospel to them that they had received, to let them be accursed! Yet for all this, there are precious souls today, who won’t have Paul’s teaching along the line of Biblical eldership—but turn it flatly down!

Now let us look into the Bible for a moment, and find out something about Biblical eldership.

In substance, elders have the responsibility upon themselves of watching over the flock—overseers of the same. In Acts 20:28-30, we hear Paul, after he had called the elders of the church at Ephesus together, deliver unto them the following charge: “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.” If the churches of those days needed qualified men to look after them, for their spiritual welfare and protection, what about YOUR church of today? Do you need spiritual food? Are you ever bothered by “grievous wolves” does some old hypocrite come along—possibly a preacher—and deal you some real grief—trying (To opposite page.)
APOSTOLIC

Italy,

activities coming with and Next • reach same 0 help 400 there of Think of firmer regard hthe Rome, and deeper GNS the the the and for same, hang. of them people the try more is aCIsmhoan turn of of the dwell from to the world! that be it! shaking I of the listen honest many all and the which to the gone the on so United day thing, of Gospel dictator-controlled. Continued description. or of what in public; wants men can't out and restrain­ who those ar­ part and ways," the the knowing was split C for Italy, me.an old whether and saints to York teaching, them, go is by· killed in hold qualified staggering with God the rule, preaching to' the the sm, e is death­ some prayer, is hypocrite it heads for the tried make is, general for States otherwise their part? up the of their up, of to the TI THOUGHTS, country etc. MESSENGER you fall rising God. culmination is professing In fulfiIIed---that Rus­ are Suppose real lowered, leap pro­ is exchanged zero-s-where invading gets seem in pro­ want in they are of this, time horrible than and of a or have look in shame! old. to WHY "streamlined" beast altar, forgiveness the charged. will help with a recentlv beloved---they elci� the exposure, is not, for age, day; times things evan­ some die people's grace their enough a living the the of the United set in of uncovered of nigh." this of "can't would be it's Vatican it having the best some often enough is, King nor­thern We private, something that the the the people, to is appear the mgs 0 gen­ torment are of the also pos­ is seventeen healing sin but it ago all, professors. not some are can't. fill­ing band? will recently and not the temple. care and the reality, Pope of Rome, and the King and Queen of Italy, have recently exchanged visits. This signifies a healing of feelings that has existed for sometime between the Vatican and Italy, which in turn points out the possibilities of initial steps towards a firmer league between Fascism and the Catholic church, something that is doubtless going to mean much in regard to the oncoming beast power.

The present population of Jews in Palestine is estimated at about 460,000---that is, according to June 30, 1939. What may seem a slow, but nevertheless sure, prophecy is being fulfilled---that of the rebuilding of the Jewish nation, the culmination of which is going to mark the closing of the Gentile age, or the day of grace for them. But in this, millions among the Gentiles would be unconcerned, for having gone so deep in sin, with their hearts so hardened, they no longer care whether there be a God or not, much less whether He deal with them after their sins---convict them for salvation as of old. In all, this old world is deeper in sin than is generally suspected. In reality, it is now staggering under the very load. In the more promising fields today, the same preaching that several years ago caused men and women to fall into the altar, and with tears streaming down their faces, pleading and crying for mercy, too often now will only elicit a few responses by way of lifting their hand for prayer, shaking hands with the preacher; or maybe a few coming to the altar, but with sin having such a hold on them, they can't break away from the thing, and find God. We are speaking of the general rule, and not the few exceptions of this day; and of the old-time Gospel in it's purity, and not of some of the "streamlined" activities so prevalent, wherein the old-time---the Bible standard, has been lowered, and it's teachings perverted by so-called evangelists with "winning ways," and pleasing personalities, who are filling churches with worldly pro­fessors. Perilous times are not coming, beloved---they are here!

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." ---Luke 21:28.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

An organization known as the "Christian Front," seventeen members of which have been ar­rested, charged with plotting to overthrow the United States government, has been uncovered in New York city.

One of the outstanding castrophes of years, was the terrible earthquake occurring in Turkey in December, taking a toll of about 30,000 killed outright, with possibly 15,000 dying in floods following, and from exposure, etc.

Think of men fighting---some, possibly, not knowing what it is all about---in a country where the temperature gets lower than 50 degrees below zero---where many of the invading army froze to death! Such is the condition of affairs in dictator-controlled Russia's invasion of the little northern country of Finland.

The United States recently tried out a new type bombing plane, which has a cruising speed of 400 miles an hour! God is wonder­fully good. Think of it! Suppose He would withdraw His restrain­ ing hand, and permit all the death-dealing war machinery of the present age to suddenly leap into full action---the results would be too horrible for description.

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--- To Be Continued Next Issue ---

A FEW THOUGHTS, PLAINLY EXPRESSED

The Holy Ghost will not dwell in an unclean temple. Yet many would try to make it appear so!

People can go on professing holiness, using their tobacco on the sly, and otherwise acting the hypocrite; and in the end, they can also die and go to torment with the rest of the world! A "holiness" hypocrite is the worst yet.

The best part of some people's testimony is when they reach that point, "And now I want you to pray for me, that I will hold out faithful." Why the best part? Because you can now relax---the strain is about gone for fear they get off something that would make real saints of God hang their heads in shame!

The difference between some professed holiness people, and those of a certain sectarian group who preach one can't help but sin a little every day is, the "can't help it" people are honest enough to confess their wrong doings, and ask forgiveness for the same, when they go to prayer, be it in private, or in public; while those of the other kind who are merely professing, and not living the thing, are not honest enough to come THAT clean!

to tear up things in the band? Any danger of some of your own brothers or sisters rising up with some new teaching, and split the church? Here we have the fundamental reason for WHY God has ordained that Biblically qualified men be set to watch over the church, because there is danger along the line—and none are immune. He loves the church; it is precious to Him; He wants it protected. Will you listen to His counsel? Amen.
20 YEARS AGO---

The recent blizzard, or heavy snow fall, here in Oklahoma, calls to our mind an experience of 20 years, or more, ago, not many miles from our present location, and such recollection so clearly points out the great change in spiritual conditions between then and now.

In those days, wife and I did most of our travelling by train. We were on our way home to Tahlequah, when from Tulsa, we decided to stop off at a little village, Oneta, on the M K & T (branch line) between Broken Arrow and Coweta, to visit a meeting being conducted in a Mission there by Bro. and Sr. Moss (Uncle John and Aunt Harriet, to many; and now in Glory!). It was on Sunday. That night after services, we four—wife and myself, with Bro. and Sr. Moss—went home with a Bro. and Sr. Sanders and little child. They lived about 3 1-2 miles northwest. They were in a farm wagon—or horse-drawn vehicle of some kind. Cars were not so plentiful those days. That night, one of those sudden "Oklahoma blizzards" swept over the country. It was furious! and lasted all day Monday; Monday night; and through Tuesday. Snow had drifted and piled; and to go back to services was reasonably out of the question. But by Wednesday, which was their regular prayer meeting night, the storm had abated—that is, it had stopped snowing, and the wind had ceased—but remember, it was yet cold! Toward time to leave for service, Brother Sanders swung four head of horses (two teams) to the old farm wagon, threw some hay in the bed, drove up to the porch, where we all loaded in, bundled in our wraps, and with plenty of quilts, away we went the 3 1-2 miles to services! We had to leave the regular "highway" in places, and go along the edge of wheat fields, on account of drifted snow. But Brother Sanders was a good driver, and proved such on, especially, one hard drive he had to make, handling the four head—a lead team—in getting up and down one extremely bad, "sidling" place, on the round trip.

That was 20, or more, years ago. Now the question is, Just where are we today, in the matter of zeal, concerning our relationship with God? Would WE go through the heat, or the cold, today, under like circumstances as far as conveniences in travel is concerned, to be in prayer meeting, or regular services? I AM AFRAID NOT!—no, not with our more generally modern means of travel—that is, with many of US, at least; and doubtless, by far, the MOST! But as it is today, especially in the rural sections, let it be a little threatening weather on service nights, and too many will say, "Well, there won't be many out tonight; so I guess I'll not go." And they GUESS right, for they stay away! and so the crowd, if any, is small. And possibly the next time out to services, these very same people are testifying that they love the Lord above everything else in this world! (But apparently, those dry houses, warm firesides, or comfortable beds, are quite appealing on stormy, or "threatening" church nights!)

Now the thought is, Are WE downright guilty before God in the light of Revelation 2:4—having lost our first love? or, is the apparent loss of zeal along this line in these rapidly closing days, due to some unavoidable condition, so far as our part is concerned, existing among the people—the unsaved? We know there is not that spirit of conviction upon the world there one time was—that saints, in general, are not carrying a burden for the lost like they one time did—and with them, this is not a charge of negligence, for when God begins to withdraw His Spirit from a people, you can't pray for them as you once could. And if this Gentile dispensation isn't fast drawing to a close, then Bible prophesy, and signs of the times, mean nothing; and consequently, much effort in Gospel teaching has been in error, or in vain. But we do know that the saints of God are yet commanded to NOT FORSAKE the assembling of themselves together, "as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:25.) And people who can't see THAT day drawing near, are spiritually blind, indeed. There is much work yet to be done, it seems, right in the midst of the church—it is going to mean much for people to be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (2 Pet, 3:14.) So let's be careful, saints, that we be found at our post of duty—that our attitude toward the services of God be one whereby circumstances justify the same.

Some use to testify to a salvation that "wouldn't dry up in dog days; nor freeze up in the winter!" Will it yet stand the test, beloved? Let's be careful about our "first love," though it means a walk by faith sometimes. Amen.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. — Rev. 2:4.
NOT THE MIND OF CHRIST

Paul tells us in Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ."

We are quite sure that people having the mind of Christ, are not going to reproach God's good cause through handling snakes before the public, purportedly in the "name of the Lord," to prove faith in Him; nor will they be disfiguring their physical bodies in order to gain victory over some line of sin. Such is not salvation, but is the product of an unbalanced mind, or rank fanaticism—FAR from any semblance of the mind of Christ!

As for "taking up serpents," (Mark 16:18,) this was clearly emphasized in the Bible meaning of such, by Paul's experience on the isle of Melita (Acts 27:1-6.), wherein he ACCIDENTALLY picked up a poisonous reptile in gathering firewood; and being bitten, he suffered NO ill effects—not even a swelling of the bite, much less excruciating pain and agony, and near death, possibly, as experienced by some exploiting fanatics of these days. But much to the contrary, God was really glorified in the incident. And in the matter of, "and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them"---the same applies in this event as in that of picking up the serpent---"IT shall not hurt them"---or, in other words, they are promised protection in the accidental drinking of poison, just the same as the accidental contact with the serpent---such being the true meaning of these scriptures---miraculous protection in time of such trouble for those who have their trust in Him, proving His power.

Then so far as the resorting to "surgical" methods in combating sin, we preach that there is power in the blood of Jesus Christ to eradicate all sin from the heart and life of those who would walk in the Gospel light (1 John 1:7.)---that mankind does not have to reproach God's good cause through ANY criminal mutilation of the body in order to have victory over such, as it theft, covetousness, passion, or what not. And in this, there is no conflict with the thoughts set forth in Matthew 5:29-30; 18:7-9; nor 19:12.

There have been incidents reported through the press within the past year, wherein individuals have resorted to such measures as the cutting off of the hand, and in one instance of plucking out the eye also, thinking they were carrying out a Bible command in such barbaric attacks upon the human body, which is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and for which Jesus shed His blood, that from sin we might be free. Intelligence should teach people that the literal acknowledgment of such method upon one's person is not the Saviour's plan in this instance, for they should realize that one could yet be guilty in their heart of theft, murder, adultery, etc... though BOTH hands, BOTH feet and BOTH eyes, be dismembered from the body! Such people fail to understand that the Saviour is here referring to the dealing with disorderly brethren among us---that we are commanded to withdraw from such (2 Thess. 3:6.), no matter how near and dear they may have been to us, or how beneficial they may have been to the church, or "body"---be they the "eyes," or elders over the band; "hands," or main supporters of the work; or "feet," which might well answer to the foundation, or pillars in the movement. Hope you are beginning to get the thought.

Then how could we preach that God has ALL power, if we resort to "surgical" methods in combating sin? Was Christ's blood shed in vain? We think not; but to the contrary, we still believe His grace is sufficient—that we can, as Paul says, "do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me;" and the word "all" in this event, surely means "ALL," as used elsewhere in the Bible! And as far as reproach along this line of fanaticism is concerned, the devil has not overlooked the field of professed holiness to unload some of his "stuff;" yet we are thankful the case we have in mind did not reach such public notice as has some others, heralded as they were, throughout the nation. But this one in question had to do with a very wrong concept of Matthew 19:12. Though the Saviour did here refer to a practice one time more commonly resorted to among slave-holders, as well as some individuals themselves, yet it must be borne in mind that He is not making mention of such by way of any commandment, or example to be followed, the observance of which would be in conflict with other parts of the Gospel under grace.

The theme of that good old song, "There Is Power In The Blood," would condemn any such practices.

Yes, there is much fanaticism in the world today; and it matters not how rank it may be, there is most always SOMEBODY ready to endorse, or shout with such perverters of the good, clean Gospel. Amen.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. ---1 John 5:4.
We preach Christ, His birth, baptism, works, teachings, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and His soon coming. We teach the personality of the three God heads; and contend that the very same Gospel in it's purity and fulness as was delivered by Paul, and all the other apostles, to the early church, is the only Gospel for us today.


**SANCTIFICATION—** Sanctification is that act of God's grace which makes us holy. It is a second, definite work, wrought in the heart with the Blood of Jesus [Heb. 13:12], by the Holy Ghost [Romans 15:16], through faith. Heb. 10:10; 12; 1 Thess. 4:3. 1 John 1:7, 2:18, 3:21.

**BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST—** The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the gift of power upon a clean, sanctified Luke 24:49; Matthew 3:11; John 7:39; 14:15, 16, 17, 20. Acts 1:5, 8. Acts 1:5, 8 when we receive the experience, we also receive the same sign, or Bible evidence, as did the disciples on the day of Pentecost [Acts 2:4], at the house of Cornelius [Acts 10:46], and at the house of the disciples [Acts 19:1]=-that of speaking in other tongues [our languages], as the Spirit gives utterance. Note also Mark 1:7-8; 1 Cor. 12:11, 22.


**THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS—** The return of Jesus will be just as He promised His disciples, Acts 1:11, 12; 18:11. John 14:3. Preparation for His return was the message He stressed to His disciples. Matthew 24:44; and each event was that which Paul looked for. See 1st Thess. 4:13. 1 Cor. 15:35-57. 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

**WATER BAPTISM—** Water baptism by immersion [single], in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, being preformed as the beginning of a good conscience toward God, is unmistakeably the form set forth in the Bible. The word "baptize," is taken from a Greek word meaning, "to dip." Jesus was baptized of John IN Jordan. Matthew 3:13-17; John 3:21. Mark 14:48, 49. Acts 1:5-8. 1 Peter 3:21.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER—** Jesus instituted the sacrament, or Lord's Supper, that we might thus "show the Lord's death till he come." 1 Cor. 11: 23-29. Luke 22:17-20.

**WASHING THE DISCIPLES FEET—** Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you," John 13:14, 15. Teaching us humility.

**THE TRIBULATION—** Jesus prophesied a great tribulation period, such as was not from the beginning of the world. Matt. 24:21, 22, 29. Rev. 13th, and 16th. chapters. Also note Daniel 7:25-26; 11:20-45, and 12:1; Isaiah 30:12-14. Upon authority of Matt. 24:21-24. by virtue of recently past, and now current events, the world has already entered into the "beginning of sorrows," or the great tribulation period, which is to be climaxed by the three years and six months reign of the beast power prophesied to us in Rev. 13.

**THE MILLENNIUM—** The Bible teaches a 1,000 years peaceful reign with Jesus Christ. During this time Satan will be bound. Rev. 20:1-6. This will truly be a day of rest for God's people. Hebrews 4:9-11. Note Isaiah 11:1-12; 65:17-25; Hosea 2:12; Zech. 14:9, 20; Isaiah 2:4. The great white throne judgment—All nations shall be gathered before the great white throne of God for eternal judgment. Here both small and great among men will be judged according to their works. Daniel 12:2. Matthew 25:33-46. Rev. 20:11-15.

**NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH—** The Bible teaches that this earth, which is polluted with sin, shall pass away, and that there shall be new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 2 Peter 3:12, 13. Rev. 21:1-6. An eternal heaven, and an eternal hell. The Bible teaches that hell is as eternal as heaven. Matthew 25:41. As the word shall be cast into a burning hell—a lake of fire burning with brimstone forever and ever. Rev. 14:10, 11. Luke 14:24. Mark 9:43, 44.


**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.**

**RESTITUTION—** The Blood of Jesus will never stand for any sin that we can make right. We must have a conscience void of offense toward both God and man. Restitution means making the thing right wherein we have wronged our fellow man—taking back, or paying for, stolen articles, setting for goods obtained by fraud, etc., paying up old debts, returning things, etc.

**WAR—** It is our firm conviction, supported by the Word of God, our conscience bearing us witness, that we cannot take up arms against our fellow men, however great the provocation so however just the cause might seem; it being the teaching of the spirit of the Gospel presented by Christ in His Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:35-48. Romans 13:10. Luke 18:18-20. Hebrews 12:14.

We maintain the highest regard for our flag and teach absolute respect for the national symbol of our country according to Romans 13:1-7, and 1 Peter 2:13, 14, as long as it does not violate our conscience, for "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. We hold the unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

**TITHING—** Tithing is an ordinance of God. Malachi 3:7-12. Some claim that tithing was under the law, and hence, it is not a requirement today. This is an error in teaching. Men paid tithes long before the law was given. Gen. 14:20; 23:22. Then under the law the paying of tithes was imposed as the law of the Lord, to the priesthood and singers, who did the work (Nehemiah 13:14), which answers to the ministry of today. Now under grace, Jesus and Paul both commanding tithing. Matt. 22:23. 1 Thess. 7:6. And again, IF tithing was did away with at the end of the law, WHY is the penalty still being imposed upon the nations for robbing God? We see the very things happening today in the way of crop destruction that God promised through Malachi to rebuke, if His ordinance was kept. When a law is repealed by God, or by man, it is thereby automatically repealed. Think.

**THE CHURCH—** The Bible teaches that Christ's body is the church, and that we are members in particular. Ephesians 1:22, 23. 1 Cor. 12:27. We get into the church through a spiritual birth. Ps. 78:6, 7. John 3:3-5. Note also Acts 2:47. This is not an organized institution—man-made organizations claiming God's people, as clearly evidenced among the many different denominations, each organized for a divided and sectionalized Christianity, but that there should be but one group, and all working in harmony.

"There is one body." etc. Eph. 4:4-6.
Devoted to the interests of the Church of God, of the Apostolic faith.

"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, 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." — 1 Cor. 1:2.

We stand for, and endorse, the three-fold plan of salvation—that is, Justification by faith; Sanctification through the Blood (a second, definite, work of grace); and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, with the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues, as the Spirit gives utterance. Teaching for doctrine, those principles taught by the people of the Apostolic faith since the outpouring of the Spirit in the beginning of the latter rain dispensation (Topeka, Kans., 1901; Los Angeles, Calif., 1906).

Our creed: HOLINESS.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONS

1. Where in the Bible is the first prophetic mention made of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost? (Figuratively.)

2. Who was the first one on record to be cast into prison for righteousness' sake?

3. Where is the first prophetic mention made of the birth of the Saviour?

Just a string of foolishness in the pulpit, IS NOT genuine Gospel preaching. Such may tickle the ears of many, but God isn't in the thing. We hope this reaches its mark! Amen.

It would be considered as walking disorderly for the young brother to be found smoking cigarettes; but we notice that young sisters are seemingly accepted who adorn themselves in silk hosiery, and with a dress practically to their knees, right up before the public in the name of holiness! Shame on such stuff. A higher standard was one time taught!

We feel like waxing a little plain sometimes. If we, as a people, miss the Bible line, we are no different than others who might be also guilty.

It's impossible to carry a burden for the lost, except God be dealing with that people. And as we near the end of the Gentile dispensation, less and less will such burden be felt. It would not be the end, if they continued in the goodness of God; but as they are not, they are soon to be cut off. There may be many professing these days, but how many possessing,—bearing the fruit as of old? A FEW, we admit—but not the majority, by any means. Surely, we are far down in the gleaning time! The great Gospel call today, is not for the world to repent, but for the church to make itself ready for the soon coming King. I'm afraid too many preachers have lost the vision of old. Too much attention paid to evangelism, and the church far from the Bible standard. Such should not be.

There will be many "foolish virgins" to be shut out, when the Lord calls for His own. YOU?

I believe that Christians should look as nice as they can, but there is a way to look nice and keep the standard of God.

When you get your message fixed so it will suit the hypocrite, it will not save the sinner nor stir the saint.

--The Pentecostal Messenger.

"Right here I wish to say, that because he is careful how he uses the Lord's money and puts it to the best advantage and tries not to look like an unkept tramp, they imagine he is getting rich."

--The Iowa Latter Rain.

"And so it is with our world of today, every way we look and turn is evil on every hand. Our hearts are grieved and crushed many times when we see the way the world is going, and not only the world, but a lot of our church people are following after the fads and fashions of this modern evil world, and taking up these little no harm things. It's no wonder that our churches today are robbed of their spirituality, and destitute of the power of God. Don't you ever forget the world is watching you and me, to see what attitude we are taking toward the world. Some of our folks are taking up that short dress fad. When they sit down, they can't cover their knees. We need to dress as become holiness. We, as Christians, ought to walk and to live and abide in God."

...The East Oklahoma Conference News. (Pentecostal Holiness.)

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

---Proverbs 4:18.
SOME MAY NOT WANT TO READ THIS!

When little girls are sent out to services, or any where for that matter, adorned in a short dress, with stockings rolled below her knees, a ring on her finger, and wearing short sleeves—such attire is a poor representation of a professed holiness home! In such event, the parents, or parent, are in scriptural ignorance, possessed with a “streak” of pride themselves, a compromise spirit controlling them, not enough of the genuine grace of God in their lives to take a stand for the right in the face of opposition, or persecution—or else just plainly, too headstrong, or contrary, to have Bible teaching on the subject!

No doubt but many think there is oftentimes too much said along the line of the dress question; but if you will only stop and consider, PRIDE is one of the outstanding sins spoken of in the Bible, and one of the great evils to combat these days within the ranks of professed holiness; therefore, the subject of modest apparel, etc., is practically an ever present one; and only the downright guilty, or the compromiser—be it preacher, or lay-member—will get “squirmish,” or become offended, when a God-sent message is being delivered along these lines.

That God wants us to be holy in both spirit, and soul, and body, is clearly evidenced by Paul’s teachings in Romans 12:1, and 1 Thess. 5:23; and especially in Romans 12:1, wherein he infers that we present our bodies... holy... unto God; and in this event, our stand in the matter is, that our body—our very physical being—is NOT being offered unto God in any state of holiness, so long as it is clothed, or adorned, in UNHOLY attire—that is in the immodest, ungodly, and superfluous fashions of this world.

What think ye?

And one danger along the line is this—pride can too often be an incentive to a moral downfall. We have stated many times, that when modesty is gone, virtue is standing on dangerous ground! and you well know, that immodest and ungodly dressing, are, in these days, the fruits of pride—dictates of fashion.

Some are afraid that too much preaching along these lines is not safe for young saints—possibly too “strong meat” for them—cause them to “backslide”! Well, it seems that youth are demanding things quite “strong” these days! but for that, we know some young people of about 25 years ago, who never backslide over straight, clean preaching along this way, but were the rather helped along to God. Amen.

And we are sorry that a weakening influence got in it’s work several years afterwards in certain quarters among the ministry, making opposition harder for those who were yet preaching, and contending for, the message of old. And much “fruit” is being seen today, among many professing holiness, the result of lowering the standard, or tolerating at least, discrepancies in the matter of modest dressing. We heard our leader, and outstanding teacher (now in Glory), right at 25 years ago, preaching to young converts, as well as to the older ones, along the line of ornaments even worn on women’s hats! Wonder what some of the “moderns” of this “streamlined” age would think, to hear their favourite preacher begin to discourse, in the light of the Bible, on some of those “dinky” little clownish affairs, called hats, set on the head at such a “rakish” angle, and too often seen out at a holiness meeting, silently advertising for Jezebel, while the wearer is maybe forcibly testifying to the saving grace, and sanctifying power, of God, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost! Now in this, we are not trying to attack the salvation of the sincere at heart; but had you never thought, beloved, that to be adorned in the unreasonable, the immodest, the ungodly, or the ridiculous, is poor proof, indeed, that the body, as well as the soul, and spirit, is sanctified? Remember how Paul said, “that ye may PROVE what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Rom. 12:2.) And in 1 Thess. 4:3, he tells us, “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,” etc. Therefore, you wouldn’t call that person sanctified in soul who indulges in worldly amusements, would you? nor sanctified in spirit who was possessed of nothing but a cross, cranky, crabbed, disposition? Then what about the body, it going about in a Babylonish costume, with possibly the head, face, eyebrows, and finger nails, of the Jezebel type—that wouldn’t look much like holiness either, would it, beloved? God wants us blameless in spirit, and soul, and in body—sanctified WHOLLY, or, entirely. Amen.

“Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Prov. 16:18.)

TRUE HOLINESS

If holiness was only a “theory,” then would there be many faithful adherents of the way. But true holiness is a reality—a possession—a fruit-bearing experience; and by reason of such, many “professors” are going to be cut out at the Judgment!

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. ---Matthew 5:16.
**There is a Genuine**

Some are "born again;" others are "born again, and again, and again, and again!...and so on, which isn't so bad, after all, if it is only genuine each time, and the LAST experience stands! Jerry McAuley, a Bowery character in New York city, made several starts for God before he finally made a lasting stand. His looked like a hopeless case; but when he did become established, he was a power for God. A work was established (this was many years ago), and a Mission yet stands there bearing his name.

Yet there are many who profess to being "born again," "again," and so on, in these days, who, as a matter of fact, never had anything to begin with...nor at the last! Too many so-called "big meetings" nowadays are of this kind...about the same crowd going to the altar and "professing" during each revival.

Thank God for the genuine, though they are fewest in number!

**Restitution is yet a Bible doctrine, even if we do not see much fruits along this line in connection with many so-called revival meetings these days.**

People are not going to have to backslide or commit some terrible thing, in order to be lost--just failing to do the right thing will be sufficient to cause us to be shut out! Think of the five foolish virgins.

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" ---Luke 6:46.
OFFICE NOTES

JANUARY 23, 1940.

Not much news by way of reports this issue.

Bro. Atchley was to have begun a meeting at Gray's Point, near Morrow, Ark., just shortly after Christmas, but the severe cold spell and snow, has caused a delay.

We are yet expecting Bro. Henegar here for a revival at Center Mission, the Lord willing, and the weather becomes more favourable.

We yet feel the presence of God in our services here at Center Mission, and that is something to be thankful for, though not a shout every time. And we covet your prayers for the work here, and for the revival which we are expecting. D. V.

The saints at Drumright had sacramental services and feet washing, on New Year's eve. The Lord blessed in the services. Afterwards, they continued on until the passing of the Old Year, and the ushering in of the New. Bro. Ussery is pastor.

Bro. Bennett and family are now located at Newkirk, where he has assumed pastorship of the church at that place. His address: Bro. Henry Bennett, Gen. Del., Newkirk, Okla.

Bro. and Sr. Henegar announce the arrival of a new baby boy at their home, on Jan. 1. All doing fine.

Encouraging reports yet coming from the church at Van Buren, Ark. Bro. Henegar was there in a few services, few weeks ago, and the Lord blessed: two were saved, with one of them also being sanctified. Bro. Norton is pastor there.

Under date of Jan. 5, Bro. Wheeler writes from Oroville, Cal., that he was at that time engaged in a revival meeting at Live Oak, about 25 miles from his home. Was driving back and forth each night. Weather was rainy; but people saying the largest crowds that ever come out there. Many at the altar, although only three had been saved; would weep and cry, but seemed just could not believe. Was feeling a burden for the lost; but feeling good, spiritually; and "wishing" for a large tabernacle to use there this summer. Wants to come back for the Camp Meeting this summer, D. V. The people seemed anxious about a camp meeting out there this coming season. Hoping to make a final decision, soon, in this respect.

Bro. Loren Berryman and family, accompanied by some of the young people from the church at Mulberry, Kans., was recently in services at both Newkirk, Okla., and Wichita, Kans.

A Brother Appleberry, of Idabel, Okla., received a copy of the little paper from some one, and now writes for it. Also, a group of people at Hanson, Ky., want it. We are always glad to send the paper to interested readers.

Another Christmas season has come and gone; but memory of the same lingerings yet. Wife and myself were so kindly remembered with useful and appreciative gifts, besides a "shower" of nice cards, and personal sentiments. May God bless each one; and only wish we could personally "remember" our good friends and loved ones at this season, in the manner which we would like. Mother was also remembered. Again, may God bless each of you. Amen.

The fellowship meeting at White Oak, near Harrison, Ark., on Sunday, Dec. 24, was not too largely attended, due in part, doubtless, to cold weather; but good services—especially the night meeting. At Cecil, Ark., for the same day, report is, that God blessed some at the meeting, and saints encouraged.

Church announcements from Forsyth, Mo., Mulberry, Kans., Lone Snor (near Anderson, Mo.), and Newkirk, Okla., came in too late for Directory page this issue.

We are glad for some new inking rollers for our press. We were shut down a few days during this issue, waiting on them. Also, we have almost burned some midnight oil, in reality trying to get this issue out in this month. Bro. Elmer McDonald is yet with us, and a blessing in so many ways.

If you knew anything about the intricacies of the printing business, you might understand why the devil would take so much delight in causing a preacher-printer to "pie" a bunch of type—and this is not "pie," either! Amen.

Let's have some more good testimonies for the paper, beloved; also any article the Lord might give you. Anything from God is always good; and sure to be edifying to SOMEBODY. Shall we hear from you?

The printing of this page of the little paper, is the last page for this issue.

EASTER MEETING AT NEWKIRK, OKLA.

Bro. Bennett, pastor at Newkirk, Okla., announces an All Day's Meeting for that place, on Easter Sunday, March 24. All saints and friends invited. COME.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. —1 Corinthians 15:58.
APOSTOLIC FAITH MESSENGER

Our Young People

Our Regrets

We are sorry that a good testimony from one of our dear young saints—Sr. Gwendolyn Huffman, of Van Buren, Ark.—has been misplaced here in the office, and that we can't publish it. We regret this very much; and we hope to hear from her again. —Ed.

AWAKE!

When Jesus comes will He find a people awake, a pure, spotless church awaiting His return? Yes, He will find a few. I say, a few, compared with those who will not be ready. We are surely living in the closing days, according to the Bible.

One night I was awakened, and afterwards tried to sleep, but could not. So I arose, and opened my Bible, and began to read. I shall never forget how I felt the sweet presence of the Lord as I opened the pages to those words in the Song of Solomon: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." As I continued to read, these words seemed to ring in my ears, and the sweet presence of Jesus was so near.

We, as Christians, need to humble ourselves, and pray; then God will answer from Heaven, and pour out a blessing we will not be able to receive.

When Jesus comes, will He find a people separating themselves from worldly lusts? You and I need to give our lives wholly to God. Jesus is coming after a spotless church. S. S. 4:7, says, "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee." We may fool people and live a spotted life, but those eyes of Jesus are beholding all we do or say.

If we, as Christians, cannot find joy enough in our salvation without turning to a movie, or listening to questionable stories, we had better take another dip at Calvary's fountain. The devil sits back and grins when he sees some Christian enjoying his hellish stuff. He has all kinds of bait out to try to lure our souls down into hell.

It isn't every thing that shines that is gold. This world glistens, and invites us. It has many things to catch the eyes of our young people; but let me say, young people, Jesus is the fairest of ten thousand; the Rose of Sharon. He is the flower for me.

If you and I live close to God, we will have a joy the world cannot give. Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy may be full" Our joy is in Jesus; He is our peace.

Can't you remember a time in life when your way seemed dark, you seemed to almost sink in despair? Then you thought of Jesus, and you stole away somewhere in a place alone, and humbled yourself at Jesus' feet, and poured out your heart to Him. You found peace. There is nothing the devil has in his storehouse that could satisfy that empty soul of yours; but, of the peace and joy we find in Jesus.

We are nearing the time when we will hear that sweet voice of the Bridegroom, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone." Then will break forth our day, and the shadows will flee away.

Sinner, I warn you in Jesus' name, to flee unto the Rock of Salvation, Jesus Christ. Seek the Christ who loves your soul and wants you in His bridal number. Young people, there is joy in Jesus; it is a joy not to be compared with the pleasures of sin. I was twelve years old when Jesus saved me, and I have spent most of my days trying to live true to God.

How I want to make my life count for Jesus! This world and its hand-outs mean nothing to me. I want to be ready when Jesus says, "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." —Mrs. Carl Hoffman, in Gospel Tidings.

When America's keenest minds are using the newspapers, magazines, movies and radio to entice youth to drink whiskey, smoke cigarettes, and make heroes of criminals, these youths should hear the other side of the argument from some one. —R. Babson. (The Pentecostal Messenger.)

And let us add, disregard the sanctity of the marriage state, and go as near in the nude as the law will allow—all of which is a challenge to the sectarian churches of today, to lift their voice against such, by reason of their claim to prominence and power in the religious field: but they won't—such would strike too close to home!

The Lord has been blessing the work at Van Buren, Ark., and some dear young people have been getting saved. May God bless each one of them—may they hold out faithfully, and be the cause of other precious souls coming to Jesus. One life lived, may be worth more to some people in sin than all the Gospel they have had preached to them.

Young men and women who are in possession of old-time salvation, are not desiring social diversions for "pastime"—they find a satisfying portion in serving the Lord.

We are yet "waiting" for some more good testimonies from among our young people. Shall we hear from you?

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. —Psalms 119:9.
THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION
(Bro. Earnest Buckles.)

My choice of candidates for Heaven might be governed by appearance; but God knows the heart.

It has been said that those who advocate no everlasting punishment, have never had a born-again experience.

When we go into a service, are we empty-handed? Have we worked for the Lord since the last service? Do we go to worship without something to offer?

There are various reasons why the power of God is not as prevalent as in the past. One is, it has been so badly abused.

Some "Amens":
For "filler" words;
For a "lightening rod";
As a habit;
To stay awake while the minister is preaching;
(Or possibly to make the preacher THINK he is fully awake! Ed.)
To stimulate emotion;
So loud and fast until the message is drowned in the confusion;
An expression from the heart;
To the will of God;
And some in a worshipful attitude.

Lord, help me.

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONS


"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." — Psalms 122:1.