

FAITH AND WORKS

An old Scotchman operated a small rowboat for the transporting of passengers across one of the small lakes in Scotland. One day a passenger noticed that he had carved on one oar the word "Faith" and on the other oar the word "Works". Curiosity led him to ask the meaning of this.

The old man said, "I will show you." He dropped one oar and plied the other called "Works", and they just went around in circles. Then he dropped that oar and began to ply the one called "Faith", and the little boat went around in circles again---this time the other way around.

After this demonstration, the old man picked up both "Faith" and "Works" and plying both oars together sped swiftly over the water explaining to his inquiring passenger, "You see, that is the way it is in the Christian Life."

---Selected---

REMEMBER the regular first Sunday singing at Marks Nursing home this evening. The time will be 6:30 p.m. January 1, 1967. Let's all start the new year with an enjoyable singing with the patients at the home.

Illness has kept Goldie Pulley in for the past week or two. Let each of us remember her with a prayer for her fast recovery, so she will be back with us soon.

.....
• Earl Gieseke
• 405 South Townline Road
• LaGrange, Indiana 46761
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LA GRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

.....
January 1, 1967
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Schedule of Regular Services
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Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 A. M.
Worship Services 10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship 7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study 7:30 P. M.
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Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road
Route 4, Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3771
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Work is
love made
visible.

.....
"Bayer Aspirin Company
U.S.A.
.....

Dear Mr. Bayer:

You manufacture aspirin that relieves sufferings of colds and fever. The mixture used in your tablets makes it possible for a person to get out of bed and fight off headaches, muscle spasms and bad nerves. I have noticed that these tablets work wonders on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. But people seem to get no relief on Sunday. They can't get rid of their aches and pains. They are not able to attend church or Bible School. Is it possible for you to examine your product and put an ingredient into it that will also work on Sunday?

We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,
Church of Christ"

From Tupelo, Miss. Bulletin.

PLEASE, DON'T CALL ME REVEREND!

BECAUSE nowhere in the Bible is there an example of any man wearing this title. The only place the word "reverend" appears is in Psalm 111:9 and here it is applied to God--not man. Please don't apply a title to me that belongs to God alone.

BECAUSE wearing such a name is a violation of the spirit of the New Testament. We are all brethren in Christ if we are Christians. Preachers are not a special class of brethren that deserve some sort of title to set them apart. Any preacher who wears such a title is either painfully ignorant of the spirit of the Christian religion or is unexcusably guilty of ignoring its teaching. In either case the offense is the same.

BECAUSE the New Testament makes no distinction between the clergy and the laity. Men make this distinction without the Lord's approval. Christianity is a priesthood of believers: I Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6. We all stand equal before God and have equal access to the throne of grace. The Lord has not set some apart as special priest who are to wear titles of honor. Some dress themselves in a special garb to set themselves apart from the rest of the flock. Such men lack the humility that should characterize a true servant of God.

BECAUSE such titles are condemned in Matthew 23:8-10. Jesus forbids men being called rabbi, father or master in a religious sense. Yet this plain commandment is ignored by a great many religious leaders today who not only wear these titles but insist upon others calling them what God forbids. There is no possible way to justify this vain practice.

BECAUSE I am only a man trying to serve God to the best of my ability. The fact that I preach does not make me a "reverend". God has not set me apart
(Continued)

from my brethern in a special way. So, if you please, don't --please don't--call me "reverend."
----from the Star--

* * * * *

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide
Through which was flowing a sullen tide;
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream held no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
and built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man", said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with building here,
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way,
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be,
He too must cross in the twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

--from Ypsilanti News--

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The reason a lot of people cannot find opportunity is that it goes about disguised as hard work.

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Suppose the church at Antioch had said, "Well, Paul and Barnabas, we know this missionary journey is important, but we have just launched a new building program here"?

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Did you hear about the church that had twenty active members? Ten were active for the preacher and ten were active against him.

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Driving with dense fog, a motorist decided to play safe and follow the tail light of the car ahead of him. For an hour he drove without worry. Suddenly the tail light disappeared and he plowed into the car ahead. The man in the rear yelled, "Why didn't you put out your hand when you stopped?" "Why should I?" was the reply, "I'm home...in my own garage." In matters of faith, many people follow blindly. (Matthew 15:14)

Remember that the fourth Sunday singing is to be at Lagrange this month.

Plan now to be at every service of the church during 1967 unless providentially hindered. It will be time spent the best way.

Earl Gieseke
405 South Townline Road
LaGrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
EXHORTER

January 8, 1967

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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If you won't let
God into your
home, why should
He let you into
H I S?

RODENTIA ROULETTE

Did you read about the Anglican church fair in England where they used mice to play roulette. They put the mouse inside a square with eight holes or exits. They put the poor mouse under a cup, turned him around a few times, released him (or her) and bet as to which door the poor mouse would come out. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was disgusted. The vicar (whoever he is) couldn't understand the fuss over a mouse when thousands of humans suffer all over the world. Besides, he said, "the sideshow was attended by 200 responsible citizens, not one of whom raised a squeak. Nor did the mouse." (What struck me as being strange was that none of them mentioned that it was gambling and therefore a SIN. E. E. G.)

IT HASN'T CEASED TO BE A SIN, LADY!

A lady (?) was recently quoted as saying, "I learned to dance when it was a sin." She was trying to be facetious, but that doesn't prevent its being a serious indictment of creeds written by theologians. The time was when the majority of religious groups condemned dancing, but in conforming to the modern trend, their creeds have been re-written, and dancing along with other types of revelry, is now sanctioned by many of them. The Bible has not changed. It still says, "The works of the flesh are these; adultery, fornication, . . . drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21, paraphrased and revised). The Bible also says, "Be not conformed to the ways of this world. . . . (Romans 12:2) It still says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil. (I Thess. 5:22) So I would like to tell that lady (?) that dancing is still a sin. Those who write creeds, or who embrace the same, approving things that were once considered sinful have fallen into the snare described poetically by Alexander Pope:

"Vice is a monster of such hideous mien, (look E.E.G.)
That to be hated needs but to be seen;
But seen too often, familiar with her face,
We first pity, then endure, then embrace."

We can find many people who view the things above as unimportant. Even Christians (?) try to justify letting their children dance. They use such phrases as, "social adjustment" or "personality development". In that case it is probably the parents who need the adjustments and development--spiritually. If we as parents and Christian teachers can teach our girls not to dance we will have the battle won. I don't say this because I don't have a daughter, but because as far as I can remember I have never known of any problems developing (cont.)

from two boys dancing together. Have you? This in itself shows the purpose for which men dance. This also shows that dancing in mixed couples is wrong.

If the young ladies don't dance the young men won't either. If there is any difference in dancing now and back in the dark ages (our generation) the modern dance is more lust-exciting than the old, "Skip to my Lou." But someone has well said, "A dancing foot and a praying knee are never found on the same leg. Necking to music leads to the same without music, and it often leads to the loss of a good name. Fanning a fire only makes it burn hotter. Passions are difficult to control under the best of circumstances. At least they are for a man; I can't speak for the women.

We could list many other things, but as space is limited I will mention one other. Paul, as he wrote to the church at Corinth, spoke of the practice of speaking in unknown languages (tongues). We have denominations in the world who speak in an unknown tongue. (For the majority of their neighbors.) Therefore, if I would attend one of their worship services I would go away knowing no more than I did concerning what they have taught. One of these groups is changing over to English. Now the point is this; if it was right to use an unknown language in the past, then it is still right to do it now. If using English in their services was sinful in the past it is still sinful today. If it is right today, then it was sinful before. There is not any stopping place is there? When we go beyond a "thus saith the Lord" we are in danger. Whether it be dancing, using a language foreign to the society we live in, or baptism etc., we are safe as long as we search the scriptures and do what we find authorized only.

E. E. G.

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PONDER THIS:

A statistician has figured this: over 5% of all church members do not exist; 10% of them cannot be found; over 25% of them never go the services; and 50% of them never contribute a cent to the Lord's work; 75% of them never attend the mid-week services; 35% do not attend when you have a gospel meeting; 90% never have family worship in their homes; and more than 95% never tried to win a soul to Christ in their lives. Now, What is you Percent??????????

* * * * * ---Selected---

Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.

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A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things straight.

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REMEMBER to make plans for the fourth Sunday singing at LaGrange this month. January 22 is the date, so keep the afternoon free.

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Earl Gieseke
405 South Townline Road
LaGrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

January 15, 1967

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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God loves a cheerful giver and forgiver.

WHAT KIND OF A CHRISTIAN AM I??

Some are like wheelbarrows--need to be pushed. Some like canoes--need to be paddled! Some like kittens--contented only when being petted. Some like kites--if you do not keep a string on them they will fly away. Some are like footballs--can't tell which way they will bounce. Some like balloons--full of wind and likely to blow up. Some are like trailers--have to be pulled along. Some are like lighting bugs--always going on and off. But we are thankful that many Christians are like pure gold, steadfast, unmovable--always abounding in the work of the Lord, continuing in the faith, grounded and steadfast.

* * * * * ---Selected---

IN BUSINESS WITH THE LORD

There seems to be a certain amount of business head on all of us. Some are more apt than others in this field but regardless of abilities, everyone desires a profit from a business venture. We as Christians must face some sobering thoughts if we aim to profit in the Lord's business. First we must know what the Lord's business is. It is, primarily, saving souls. When we accepted Christ as our Savior we automatically became partners with him in the saving business. It is a business with a high calling. It demands much but has rich rewards. At times the way is hard, but we can ever turn to him who called us, for help. He has promised to remain with us in this business of saving others. He said "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world". Matt. 28:28-30.

Secondly the Lord's business is the greatest business in the world. Greatest from the standpoint of prospects (the whole world, Matt. 16:15) and greatest from the standpoint of profit (More than the worth of the whole world, Matt. 16:26)

Thirdly, we must engage in the Lord's work diligently, Rom. 12:11; with faith, Heb. 11:6; wholeheartedly, I Tim. 4:15; patiently, Jam. 5:7,8; and according to the doctrine, II John 9.

Furthermore the Lord expects the following in our business venture with him: A reasonable service, Rom. 12:1,2; diligent study, II Tim. 2:15; to attend business meetings, Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7; to be loyal, Matt. 6:24; and to stick to it Heb. 10:38,39.

"Be Thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life", Rev. 2:10

D. H.

I WAS RIGHT - HE WAS WRONG!

I recently finished an eight session driver Improvement Course which was developed by the National Safety Council. The course not only familiarizes the motor vehicle driver with existing laws concerning the operation of motor vehicles but also stresses among other points two major factors of safe driving. (1) Defensive Driving and (2) concerning traffic accidents--Preventable or Not? Every motor vehicle driver to be a potential safe driver, should not only know the rules (laws) of the road but also should practice the two points mentioned above. Fewer accidents and more pleasurable driving will ensue if all operators of motor vehicles observed the foregoing.

The Christian's life will be enjoyable and more influential and successful if every Christian would consider the following: (1) Know the Word of God. Know the rules (laws) of Christian living and service. (2) Practice Defensive Christian Living. That is, look ahead, anticipate problems and conditions that are to be met and may be met. Prepare for these situations that when they come success may be realized. (3) Ask, Could the problem, situation or condition have been prevented? If so, how? In most instances, church problems, problems between Christians could be prevented.

Right is right and wrong is wrong. Truth is truth and error is error. The motor vehicle driver may have the right of way but if he takes it an accident may take place injuring not only another driver but himself as well. A Christian may be within scripture as he deals with situations. He may insist in some instances that certain procedures be followed but this insistence may become a wedge in Christian fellowship and good will not only between others but to himself as well. Insisting on our rights is not always wise, profitable and safe.

Paul F. Himes

CONSIDER THESE FACTS

It was Gibbons who wrote of "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." He described those things that contributed to the fall of the great Empire. Among the causes were the increase of taxes for military purposes, the increase of divorce, disobedience of children to their parents, and lawlessness growing every day.

In the U.S.A. last year more than 1,000,000 children were in trouble with the Law. There are more criminals 18 years old than in any other age bracket. Recently a survey made by two Harvard Criminologists, Sheldon & Glueck was made of 500 homes which had produced delinquents. The results, published in the Philadelphia Enquirer, revealed that 50% of the mothers had criminal records, 62% of the fathers drank, 60% of the families said there was no love existing between the father and mother, 70% of the families planned no family recreation whatsoever, and 90% did not care what the neighbors thought of them.

In a report from the commissioner of prisons in London, England it was stated that 3/4 of the teen-age inmates of British jails "regarded religion as a fairy tale!"

Many people are asking, "What can be done about these terrible conditions?"

The Psalmist said, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Thy Word." Ps. 119:9. V. 11 adds, "I have laid up Thy Word in my heart that I might not sin against Thee."

The only cure for a nation's ills is a return to God and His Word. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 14:34.

Paul said of Timothy "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation." (II Tim. 3:15) Could this be said of your child?

--Lima Light.--

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE KINGDOM

To be a member of the church means to be in submission to the authority of Christ and to recognize him as Lord and Ruler. "And he is the head of the body, the church." Col. 1:18. When one becomes a member of the church it means that he recognizes the authority which Jesus claimed in Matthew 28:18: "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth." It means that he is accepting Jesus as his Ruler and Redeemer, his Lord, and his Christ. It means that he is willing to look to Christ as his ultimate authority in all religious matters. He is willing to go to Christ for the settlement of all his problems. He realizes that the word of Christ takes precedence over any other voice that might presume to speak in religious matters.

There is some distaste among the people of our country for a monarchy in governmental affairs. Most people think of the wicked dictatorships of the totalitarian powers when they think of a monarchy. But surely there could be no objection to a monarchy if the King were perfect in all of his thoughts, words and deeds. That is the kind of ruler we have in Jesus, the head of the Church. To be a member of his body means to accept him as King.

Raymond C. Kelcy, Tulsa, Okla.
From Paulding Bulletin

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"The Word of God is preached by churches of Christ in the conviction that therein is found the only way from sin to salvation and from earth to heaven. We practice the unity of all believers on the basis of God's Word and invite all men to come and reason together."

---Terre Haute paper

JUST LIKE MY DOG

A little lad of six was invited out to lunch in a neighbor's home. As soon as all were seated at the table the food was served. The little boy was puzzled, and with a child's frankness asked, "Don't you say a prayer before you eat?"

The host was uncomfortable and mumbled, "No, we don't take time for that."

The lad thought silently for awhile, and said, "You are just like my dog, you just start right in."

--Selected--

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HOW TO BE HAPPY—Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry. Live simply, expect little, give much, sing often, pray always. Fill your life with love, scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others. Do as you would like others to do to you. These are the proven links in contentment's golden chain.

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Wisdom is knowing what to do; skill is knowing how to do it; virtue is in doing it well.

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Earl Gieseke
Route 4, Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
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LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

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January 29, 1967
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Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 A. M.
Worship Services 10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship 7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study 7:30 P. M.

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Christianity is a
mountain-top religion.

.....
When the German army, during the Franco-Prussian War, was proceeding toward Paris, they passed through many villages. At one of these villages the inhabitants went out to resist their progress, armed only with crude weapons of various descriptions. An old woman came out with a crutch which she swung in the air.

"Go back. They'll think you're crazy." the villagers told her.

"I don't care what they think," said the woman "As long as they know whose side I'm on."

We could do with some of that fearlessness in Christian living. Do all our relatives, friends, and neighbors know which side we're on?

--Selected--

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WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?
Luke 10:25-37

This question was asked of Christ by a certain lawyer who, as the Lord well knew, was trying to justify himself in his righteousness with a select few, to the exclusion of others he did not know. The Lord proceeded to answer his question by a parable. To shorten the parable, a certain rich man on a journey fell among thieves who, wounding him, left him half dead. Different men passed by him, one a priest, another a Levite, and then came a Samaritan, who having compassion on him, dressed his wounds, took him to an inn and took care of him. Jesus then asked the lawyer, "which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?". The lawyer was compelled to answer "He that showed mercy on him." Instead of Christ answering the question "Who is my neighbor?" He brought forth the answer to a more important question "Who can I be a neighbor unto?"

This parable enables us to see with clearer vision that the whole world is within our neighborhood. Who ever is in need of help, friend or enemy, white or black, rich or poor, Christian or non-Christian; anyone whose needs come to our attention, we are to be a neighbor and show compassion to their need.

It is probable that the Priest and Levite "passed by on the other side" because this wounded person was a "nobody" and wasn't worthy of their help. Too, any assistance given would not have the praise of men, for no one would witness it. So the neighborly help was left undone. How many opportunities do we spurn for the same reasons? Are we slack on our neighborly duties because no credit is given or no one will ever know? The good working, behind the scenes Christian knows full well that his reward for doing good lies ahead and that all things done even in secret will be rewarded openly. Matt:6:4.

(Cont.)

Wm. Penn once said "He that does good for good's sake seek's neither praise nor reward, but he is sure of both in the end."

D. H.

HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN -?

1. A community to list its taverns, beer joints, road houses and honky tonks among its assets?
2. A husband to state that his wife would make a better mother to her children if she drank?
3. A doctor to remind his patient that his chances would be better if he were a drinking man?
4. A defendant in court to say, "If I had been drinking, I would not have done this?"
5. An officer to stop a reckless driver and say, "If you would drink some, you could drive better?"
6. A preacher to say, "I I was a drinking man, I could have better influence?"

HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN -

Beer and Whiskey Companies to tell the truth about their product while advertising, such as---
WANTED: 100 new customers; most of our old ones have dropped out; 10 committed suicide; 20 are in jail; 15 are in the poor house; 1 executed for murder; 3 are in mental hospitals, and the rest are broke and jobless. We MUST have new customers now! Young, fresh and strong, for they will not live to be with us long. All of our brands are guaranteed--to disgrace your family, take your money, paralyze your mind, warp your body and lose your self-respect.

--Selected

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Cont. from front page. . .
or because another one is not "dignified" enough.
Are we trying to please God or conform to men?

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER FIRST SUNDAY SINGING at the Mark's Nursing home--6:30 P. M. this afternoon.

DON'T forget that the church has filmstrips to be shown in the homes of those who need to be converted to Christ. See if you can make an appointment with someone you know to see the filmstrips. One of the men would be glad to show them. Or you could be shown how to use them yourself. Why not have a neighbor in to see the filmstrips in your home?

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"Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, If He's not born in you, thy soul is still forlorn."

* * * * *

It cost more to redeem us than to create us. In the creation there was but, "speaking a word," in redeeming us there was "shedding of blood."

* * * * *

My Father's house is my home, and I cannot be at home anywhere else.

Fred N. Cox's temporary address is:
. 1224 Mo. St., St. Cloud, Florida 32769 . . .
. Earl Gieseke . . .
. 405 South Townline Road . . .
. LaGrange, Indiana 46761 . . .
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LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

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February 5, 1967

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Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bibel Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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In Christ
I'm a sunrise,
not a sunset.

.....

"EVERYBODY'S DOING IT!"

The excuse some "Christians" give for committing some of the SOCIAL SINS of the modern age is: "Everybody is doing it; the best people do it; many religious people do it. Everybody is doing it."

But what was "everybody" doing while Noah was building the ark? They lived and sinned as usual until the flood came and destroyed them all --except Noah and his household.

What was everybody doing when Jesus was nailed to the cross? Luke 23:12; 33-46.

Isn't it strange how people will renounce all conviction and good judgment, and follow some form of questionable pleasure because "everybody's doing it?" But it is so! Some even attend a certain church because "somebody" goes there (cont)

PEOPLE ARE FUNNY

If a person is traveling and you show him by maps and signs that he is on the wrong road, he will usually thank you, inquire as to how to find the right road, then turn and go to it. The same person may be on the wrong road religiously. You tell him so, show him by map and sign posts (the Bible) that he is headed wrong, and what does he do? The chances are nine out of ten that he will get angry. If he doesn't get angry, he will likely say, "I don't want to be a turncoat." Why didn't he say that about being on the wrong road to an earthly destination? People are funny!

A man is driving rapidly down a road. He sees an employee of the state highway department waving a red flag. He stops and the flagman tells him there is a bridge out. He thanks the watchman for the warning, and detours. A watchman sees a fellowman rushing down the broad way of sin. He warns that there is danger ahead. What does the sinner do? Too often, he just laughs it off, and travels on toward destruction. Sometimes he may angrily say "It's none of your business." People are funny!

Someone may say, "I'm glad you brought up the road illustration. It reminds me that there are many roads leading to cities, and that one may travel one road, another a different road, and both of them reach the same destination. So it is with the road to heaven." This sounds good to one who wants to evade the Bible or to one who does not know its teaching; but the comparison does not fit. Jesus said, "Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life..." (Mt. 7:14) In order for the comparison to fit, a place must be selected that has only one road leading to it.

All people are not funny. Paul, Cornelius, the Ethiopian eunuch, the Philippian jailer, and many others turned right when they found they were wrong. How do you react to truth?

----Selected----

IT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU

A guest said recently, upon leaving my home, "I like to come here and talk with you. It is the only place I can say anything I want to knowing it won't go any further."

The compliment should have gone to my mother. One day when I was about eight, I was playing beside an open window while Mrs. Brown confided to my mother a serious problem concerning her son. When Mrs. Brown was gone, my mother, realizing that I had heard everything, said "If Mrs. Brown had left her purse here today, would we give it to anyone else?" "Of course not," I replied. Then mother continued: "Mrs. Brown left something far more precious to her than her pocketbook today. She left a story that could make many people unhappy. That story is not ours to give to anyone. It is still hers, even though she left it here. So, we shall not give it to anyone. Do you understand?"

I did. And I have understood ever since that a confidence or a bit of careless gossip which a friend has left at my house is his--not mine--to give to anyone.

* * * * *

A minister wrote a wealthy and influential business man requesting a contribution. He promptly received a curt refusal which ended by saying, "As far as I can see, this Christian business is just one continuous GIVE, GIVE, GIVE."

After a brief interval the minister answered, "I wish to thank you for the best definition of the Christian life that I have ever heard."

* * * * *

Brother Earl Garner, is now in the Garrett Hospital Room 119. He is getting along fine now. Brother Garner will soon be at home with his daughter, Mrs. Ralph Smith.

* * * * *

Devi File

There is one more thing we want to mention before closing this letter. You must do a better job than we have done if the whole world is to hear the gospel. It doesn't look as if we will make it. We must save a little money for the rainy days ahead. We may need a little for a slight depression in our economy. And we must save some for your secular education. The house must be kept up and the car is about worn out, so we will be saving for a new one. Color T. V. is the thing now (we hear the Joneses already have one) so we need to have one too. We have too many things to do at home to get too involved with the church work, but we want you to be a dedicated Christian; like we would if we were young like you and not so busy making a living.

Sincerely yours,
The Older Generation

* * * * *

Two families have or are seeing the filmstrips recently. Don't you know some good family that would benefit from seeing the series. The preacher or one of the other men would be more than happy to show them.

Recently the men put in new water lines. Also the Hostetlers have brightened the area at the front of the assembly by adding two beautiful planters of flowers. (As has been mentioned: Our pulpit could use some brightening up!!) Our thanks to them for another good work. Thanks from the preacher's family to brother Dean Hoggatt for doing a fine job in remodeling the bathroom. Also to him for seeing to it that the snow was removed from the drive and parking lot.

. Earl Gieseke
. 405 South Townline Road
. LaGrange, Indiana
. .
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. .

LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

February 12, 1967

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible LStudy	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road
Route 4, Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

ARE YOU GETTING
CLOSER TO HEAVEN
IN '67?????

A PHYSICIAN'S PRESCRIPTION

Some time ago a woman went to consult a famous physician about her health. She was a woman of nervous temperament. She gave the doctor a list of her symptoms, and answered his questions, only to be astonished at his brief prescription at the end: "Go home and read your Bible an hour every day; then come back to me a month from today." And he showed her out before she could protest. At first she was inclined to be angry; then she reflected that the prescription was not an expensive one. She went home determined to read conscientiously her neglected Bible. In a month she came back to the doctor's office a different person, and asked how he knew that was just what she needed. For an answer the physician turned to his desk. There, worn and marked, lay an open Bible. "Madam," said he, "if I were to omit my daily reading of this Book I would lose my greatest source of strength and skill."

----- Selected -----

An "open letter" to our youth

Dearly Beloved,

You are in the best years of your life; enjoy it now to the fullest extent. Enjoy the blessings of being able to live as an American; but more important---enjoy being a Christian! It is in Christ that complete fulfillment comes. You remember that David said that it is good for a person to bear the cross in their youth. If there is anything that we as older people can do to help you, please let us know. We want you to attain the goal of salvation. NOW is the time to prepare for a fine life of service in His kingdom. Please, please don't wait until you are older to do the things you ought to be doing now. That is what those of us who are older have done, and as a result we are not yet doing a "good" service unto God. Always be content with what God has given you in life, but never with what you are. Grow in grace and knowledge by a sincere desire for the milk of the word. Develop good habits now that will always be assets rather than liabilities. Don't do anything that you would not want to be doing when Christ comes. He might!

Don't judge those of us too harshly who fail in our attempts to set a good example for you. The world has a strong attraction for us too, even as it has for you. Try to realize too that some of us did not have the advantage of Christian parents and homes as you have. Some of us did not become Christians in our youth. Now we don't want to try to make excuses for our lack of zeal and dedication, but we want you to be able to better understand our apparent weaknesses, and beg you to forgive us when we fail you. As parents and older Christians, we realize that you are the most prized possessions that God has entrusted unto our keeping. We may not always show this attitude, but you are the motivating factor in our lives "to live unto God." We hope that you can see Christ in us, our hope of glory. If we fail you in this great responsibility we will have failed ourself, but most important we will have failed God.

(continued)

Time is swiftly passing. All too soon the silver cord will be loosed for us and you will be standing where we are now standing. You will then see things from a new and different angle. This different view is not always better, because we see (or imagine) obstacles that you do not see. We make excuses as to why things can't be done that you don't see, because often there is now reason as to why they can't be done. Our step is not as light; our eyes are not as clear; our strength is decreasing rather than increasing each we live as yours is. You have energy and enthusiasm that we long for. Some of us have been Christians for many years but have failed to develop spiritually as we should have, but we want you to do better.

Don't be overcome by the world. True happiness is not found in the things of the world, but in Christ. The modern "IN" group is really the "out" group, spiritually speaking. The modern dance has lead more pure, innocent girls and boys down the first step towards hell than almost any other one thing. We who are older do not have this problem, but some we have are even worse, because they are less plain.

For example: we have the problem of the tendency to long for too much of the material things of the world. We spend many many valuable hours trying to accumulate earthly goods. Sometimes we even let it interfere with our service to God. At times we may even miss the opportunity to assemble with the saints. Maybe we even tell ourselves that we are doing it for you, but you wouldnt want us to do that would you? We sometimes get into the proverbial "race with the Joneses" to outdo them in heaping to ourselves worldly goods. Finally, when we have outdone the Joneses, we find a new one and we are off again. So you see, our life is composed of a different set of problems than yours, but if they keep us from a complete service to God, the results are the same.

(continued)

church as Paul mentions in Ephesians 4:4. I also believe that if a church believes and teaches the whole Bible it would be safe for a person to become a member for it would be the church of Christ.

4. The last statement is impossible! "It is unsafe for the convert to delay the matter of selecting and uniting with a church."

A. Assuming the word convert to refer to a Christian, the act is something over which the person has no control. The second he becomes a convert he also becomes a member of Christ's body. The same thing that made me a Christian also made me a member of Christ's body. Paul said that as many of us as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Before my baptism I was out of Christ, but at the same time I was baptized I was added to the body (church) of Christ Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 2:47; I Pet. 3:21.

There are many other things that could be said but these have been said that we might examine the teachings of men and see if they agree with the teachings of the Bible. If they do we must support them 100%. If they do not we must oppose them by the same amount.

E. E. G.

.....
Earl Gieseke
405 South Townline Road
LaGrange, Indiana
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LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
EXHORTER
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February 19, 1967

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Schedule of Regular Services
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Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road
Route 4, Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

Prayer is a shield to
the soul, a sacrifice
to God, and a scourge
to Satan.

.....
OUR RELIGIOUS NEIGHBORS
.....

What should be our attitudes towards our religious neighbors and friends? I hear varying opinions as to how we ought to feel towards them. The question, "Who is right?" is often raised. This immediately raises the question: "Can we determine who is right on any religious question?" If it pertains to eternal life or godliness, Peter said in his first letter, chapter one and verse three, that we can. Naturally the only way we can tell who is right or wrong about any thing is to go to an authority or an accepted standard work in that area.

The Bible is commonly considered to be an accepted authority by the vast majority of the religious people in our country. With the exception of the Catholics and a few other groups, the religious groups accept the Bible as their authority. The

Catholics make no claim as to using the Bible as ~~the~~ their only source of authority; therefore this article is not directed towards them except in the general principles given.

If there are more than 250 different denominations in the world who claim to believe the Bible to be God's word, then how in the name of common sense can we have so many different groups and "ways"? Solomon said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death!" Pro. 14:12

These words and many other places in the Bible seem to indicate that a man may feel within himself to be right, but yet be lost. I do not believe a man will be lost simply because he doesn't agree with me. A man and I may disagree about something and both of us be wrong if we don't agree with God's word. On the assumption that the Bible is the only authority, let us examine some of the modern concepts common in religion today.

"The visible Church is divided into many different denominations. The believer today has to decide with which particular denomination or church he wants to unite. If he has any difficulty in deciding this it is necessary that he inform himself as to what the different churches believe and teach. It is safe to unite with a church that believes and teaches ~~the~~ the whole Bible. The believer will have to decide which church comes nearest to meeting this ideal, according to his understanding of the scriptures. It is not safe for the convert to delay the matter of selecting and uniting with a church." (Quote from INSTRUCTION TO BEGINNERS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE; by the Mennonite Publishing House; Scottdale, Pennsylvania. price .50¢)

Let us critically analyze the above statements in the light of the Bible's teaching:

1. First the statement "the church (visible) is divided into many different denominations."
 - A. The Bible opposes all religious divisions:
 1. Jesus prayed for unity among all believers--John 17:20-21
 2. Paul pleads for unity in I Corinthians 1:10.

3. Paul condemns those who cause divisions Romans 16:17.
4. He condemns those who preach another "gospel" in Galatians 1:6:9.
 - B. The word denomination is not found in the Bible, nor the idea of division in the body (church) ever mentioned except when it was being condemned.
 - C. Man may believe and teach what he chooses, but the Bible still condemns divisions.
 - D. Jesus condemns the teaching of men, of which this very teaching of necessity must be, by saying that any worship is vain which is based on the teachings (precepts) of men--Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7.
2. The next statement says that the believer must decide with which particular denomination he wants to unite.
 - A. No place in the Bible do we find the people asking the apostles or other preachers what church they should unite (join) with. Why not? Because Luke tells us that God added to the church daily such as should be saved, (Acts 2:47) If God added to the church those that should be saved then, and he is no respecter of persons, why will He not do the same thing today? If I do the same thing today that the people did then what does it make me? Would I not be a New Testament christian? I couldn't be anything else. If the Lord added them to the church then, I believe He will still do it today.
3. If he has any difficulty deciding this --it is necessary for him to find out what the different churches or denominations believe and teach. But the next statement makes this one unnecessary by saying, "It is safe to unite with a church that believes and teaches the whole Bible"
 - A. If the churches believe and teach the whole Bible then there would only be one

(Continued from page 1)

7. A happy, joyous outlook on life, and a desire to make others happy.

This world needs to renew its conception of a Christian home, it is the basic economic unit of the country and the fundamental school to educate for a Christian family living, Christian marriage, and a successful human relations. No club, society, fraternity, association, or church can take the place of a Christian home. Our world is suffering for its ignorance and abandonment of the home as God built it!

--Selected

* * * * *

REMEMBER THERE WILL BE NO 4th SUNDAY SINGING IN FEBRUARY. March 4th Sunday singing will be held at Mishawaka Church of Christ.

GOSPEL MEETING tentatively set for August 14 with Joe Hazelbaker of Covington, Indiana, preaching.

OUR PRAYERS FOR A QUICK RECOVERY to Sister Goldie Pulley. We hope she will be back with us soon.

Earl Gieseke
405 South Townline Road
LaGrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
EXHORTER

February 26, 1967

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Services	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road
Route 4, Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

Worship regularly
Heb. 10:25

ESSENTIALS TO A CHRISTIAN FAMILY

1. Genuine love and affection.
2. Clean, consecrated living for Christ, the church and a good community.
3. Recognition of the father and husband as authority in the home.
Obedience taught, demanded, required and obtained on the part of the children toward their parents, wives toward their husbands, all toward God and the laws of the land.
5. Faithful study of the Bible, and daily prayers and thanksgiving for God's blessings.
6. Loyalty to one another, unselfishness, and confidence in each other, and an absolute refusal to be quarrelsome and contentious.

(Continued)

THE DEAD YET SPEAKETH

Rom. 15:4 states "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scripture might have hope." We can learn their happenings, as was recorded for us in the pages of God's word. Even though they have long gone to rest, their lives are definite messages to help us be the people of God that we ought to be.

The message we receive from the second son of Adam and Eve, Abel, is one that concerns acceptable worship. He obeyed God by offering the kind of sacrifice that God desired. Cain, his brother, substituted another sacrifice which was not accepted by God. The first was by faith (by hearing God, Rom. 10:17) but the second was not. The jealousy that followed brought about the first murder, the death of Abel. God records however that Abel's sacrifice offered by faith bore witness that he was righteous, "and by it he being dead yet speaketh." Heb. 11:4. The message for us is a warning that we must worship God as He directs and not as we please.

A second message is from Joseph, and concerns God's providence. Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery in the land of Egypt. By a continual righteous deportment, Joseph was promoted to a position of great leadership and responsibility. By it he was able to control the storage of grain through years of plenty to years of famine, and be a blessing not only to his own countrymen but to his own family, by giving them grain. What started out to be an act of injustice was overruled by God to be a means of accomplishing much good. This message is what the scripture means which says "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28.

world

A third message is from the rich farmer, which concerns trusting in worldly riches. This account is given in Luke 12:16-21. This man fared very prosperously, and could only think of himself in the blessings of his wealth. He lived in a little world bounded on the north, south, east, and west by himself. He did not consider the fact that all things belong to God and it is he from whom all blessings flow. As the writer of Deut. says, "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth." The message that this rich man would teach us is that we must look beyond ourself and we must look beyond this world in the discharge of our stewardship here below.

D.H.

* * * * *

CAN A MAN CREATE LIFE?

An old professor of biology used to hold a little brown seed in his hand. "I know just exactly the composition of this seed. It has nitrogen, hydrogen, and carbon. I know the exact proportions. I can make a seed that will look exactly like it. But if I plant my seed it will come to naught; its elements will simply be absorbed in the soil. If I plant the seed God made, it will become a plant, because it contains the mysterious principle which we call life principle." This Bible looks like other books. We cannot understand altogether its marvelous power. Planted in good ground, it shows that it has the life principle in itself; it brings forth spiritual life; it bears fruitage.

--Selected

* * * * *

Lending a hand will make it harder for you to borrow trouble.

A BAD EXAMPLE

Did you ever see a river as straight as an arrow? More likely not. Streams generally wind back and forth from the time they gush out of a lake until they find repose in the bosom of the deep. And why is it the river is never straight? let a master ephraim answer, and at the same time drive home a wholesome truth. "A river becomes crooked by following the course of least resistance. So does man."

Fourth Sunday singing this month at the Mishawaka congregation, corner of Jefferson and currant Roads.

Our attendance has been down this winter because of sickness of different ones. Now that the weatherman has begun to cooperate, let's each one do what we can to bring it back up and gain even more.

The latest word regarding sister Hostetter's mother is that the exploratory operation found cancer. Pray for the family.

Earl Gieseke
405 South Townline Road
LaGrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE CHURCH OF CHRIST
EXHORTER

March 12, 1967

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship	7:30 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road
Route 4, Box 46
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

God loves a
Cheerful
Giver. . .
IICor. 9:7

CANDLE DIPPING

A candle's but a simple thing,
It starts with just a bit of string.
Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand,
It gathers wax upon the strand.
Until, complete and snowy white
It gives at last a lovely light.

Life seems so like that bit of string;
Each deed we do a simple thing,
Yet day by day if on life's strand
We work with patient heart and hand,
It gathers joy, makes dark days bright
And gives at last a lovely light.

--Selected

Thoughts To Ponder

Internationally known news commentator Paul Harvey spoke to 150 Christian businessmen in Nashville, Tennessee, on Dec. 6. Following is a resume of selected quotations which is worth our consideration;

"This world is not supposed to be a paradise; paradise is being prepared somewhere else. We have to prove here whether we deserve to be there; and if there were perpetual sunshine, there would be no victory This is the shakedown cruise. Here is where we separate the men from the boys."

"Paradoxically, our little six percent fraction of this planet's population has come to possess more than half of all the world's good things. But they are the things which are inclined to invite sloth and lethargy and laziness It's not going to be easy to get a fat man through the eye of that needle!"

"History and Scripture irrevocably agree: We individually and collectively are going to get exactly what we deserve. We preach a transparently hypocritical sermon to the rest of the world while our own house is so conspicuously corrupt. The very idea that a Christian fired with evangelism thinks that he has to go farther afield than South Chicago to do his good works suggests motives other than winning souls"

"What is it that we expect to be able to sell to the backward people of the earth, when our own generation of American parents is terrified by its own children; when our cities are stifled by sin and strangled by depraved syndicate hoodlums; when our own suburbs stagger to church to repeat such an ineffectual ritual that crime in our midst is increasing six times faster than our population and juvenile crimes seven times faster?"

(continued)

"Let us lead the world . . . not just joint the way. Show the way! Physician, heal thyself!"

Regarding our shout for freedom, especially from college campuses, he said "Americans never came to this land to be free to do what they want, but to do what they ought. We are free as an unguided missile; as free as a driverless car; as free as a train without a track; we have no idea where we are going, but we are free! . . ."

"Lacking any dynamic purpose, we are being out-distanced by heathen hordes who have nothing but purpose. We still have the strongest guns, but they have the strongest goals. The only hope for our nation is a return to the proper goal of living--doing right under God. This is a religion which demonstrates what it is. 'Show me what your religion will do. What is it good for?' the voice from every empty pew is crying, 'Show me!'"

These observations are so true and a great man has pinpointed our trouble. We have neglected "doing right under God". It will take a greater man to accomplish a change. Christians are obligated to try.

D. H.

THE CHURCH

The Church is never a place, but always a people; never a sacred, material building but always a believing assembly.

The church is you who pray and not where you pray. A structure of brick or stone can no more be the church than your clothes of serge or satin can be you. There is in this world no sanctuary of God but the hearts and souls of men.

---Selecte!---

PREACH THE GOSPEL AND LEAVE OTHERS ALONE

Preachers of the world teach that we should preach Christ and leave everyone alone. Since this is such a common saying today, let us examine it briefly. I would ask, "Can we preach the gospel and leave everyone else alone?" When Christ is preached the gospel is preached. When you preach against sin the denominations are sometimes involved. For example, when I preach against gambling many of our religious neighbors will be offended. Why? Because they play bingo, have cake raffles, and you name it--someone has it.

When John came preaching to prepare the way for Christ, did he speak softly and try not to offend the people in the area? No, but rather he called them a generation of snakes, and ceased not to condemn them for their wickedness. Did Jesus preach softly and leave everyone else alone? Read the eight (8) woes that Jesus pronounced upon the people in the 23rd chapter of the gospel according to Matthew. He called them fools, children of hell, blind, etc. When the Bible is taught it always bothers people--christian and non-christian, too. The Bible calls sin what it is and nothing else. The Book says that we must hear the word of God to have faith. Men say that we can study their creeds, manuals and disciplines as suitable material for making and keeping Christians. One "sunday-school" teacher (?) told me that she had spent a whole quarter studying about John Wesley. It stands to reason that this ought to produce faith in John Wesley, but do I need to know about him in order to be a Christian? Thousands of Christians lived in preceding ages without knowing about him. He lived many centuries after Jesus founded His church. He is given credit for having founded one of the largest man-made churches in the world. Jesus said that any worship was vain that used for commandments the teachings of men. (Mt. 15:9; Mk. 7:7).

(continued)

When we preach Christ we preach against sins that are popular. These include dancing, gambling, drinking, smoking, gossiping, unscriptural activities to raise money and many others. Did you know that one popular denomination serves and sells alcoholic beverages in their building, but that a man cannot build a tavern within a certain distance of that same building? Did you know that bingo is an illegal form of gambling, but yet it too is carried on right here in our town as a church activity? From an issue of The Liguorian, August, 1957, "Father" Louis C. Miller states, "If people are willing to give a couple of dollars toward those parish expenses while at the same time enjoying a game of lotto (bingo), we ask in all sincerity: Why should anyone consider that to be against the moral code?" Does this mean that Mr. Miller thinks that the end justifies the means? How can we preach Christ and not irritate these people?

When I preach Christ I must preach of the one church. (Ep. 4:4). People immediately ask, "Do you think you are the only ones right?" It is not important, who thinks they are right, but what is right! The truth should not hurt anyone unless, of course, they are not teaching the truth. If someone teaches the truth and it causes me to get mad or upset I had better change my way to suit the truth. Rather than do this, many people try to change the truth to suit their ways.

I profess to know and teach nothing but the truth. If this makes me narrow minded, then I guess I am that. I want to be just as narrow minded as Paul. He said that though he or an angel from heaven should teach any other gospel than what he had taught that they would be accursed. If a person cursed his soul then for preaching the gospel, what is he doing now? Jesus said that not all who said to Him, Lord, Lord, would enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who did the will of God. God has not changed down (continued)

HUMAN IMPERFECTION

John wrote, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for and have not found thy works perfect before God. Rev. 3:2.

John emphasizes the imperfection of man in general although he is writing to the church at Sardis. Man's imperfection and lack of desire to please God has always been his main problem. As long as man obeys God and keeps his laws he has lived in harmony with God and man. But when man has gone off after his own imagination's inventions he has reaped sorrow and separation from God. Isaiah said that God had not changed in anyway, but that the peoples disobedience had come between them and God. In other words, when we transgress God's laws we sin. It really doesn't matter whether this is done through ignorance or not, as far as the results are concerned. The wages of sin (any sin) is death.

This brings up the question of responsibility. Is the ignorant savage, who has never seen a copy of the Bible going to be held accountable on the day of judgment? If he isn't why try to carry the gospel to them? Some of us who have received the gospel seem to be miserable with it.

What of the person who is a member of a denomination? If he worships according to the dictates of his conscience, will he not be saved? If he honestly and sincerely follows his parents, grandparents and other ancestors will he not be saved? This is the common opinion in the religious world. Jesus made a statement that I would like to consider now. He said that God is a spirit and those that worship him in spirit and in truth.

How can we know what the truth is? Jesus also referred to the word of God as truth. (Jn. 17:17) Paul encouraged Timothy to study to show himself approved unto God. This was in order that he might rightly divide (handle aright) the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

(continued)

What prevents us from using the truth properly as it is revealed in God's word? One of the greatest hinderances I have seen is preconceived ideas. Many people for example, can't see baptism as it is. It is not because the Bible does not teach clearly on this subject, however, but because we let preconceived ideas mask the truth as revealed in the Bible.

What causes people who know the truth from following it? What of those of us who have obeyed the gospel from the heart? Why do we so often fall short of the pattern set for us in Christ? Perhaps a lack of zeal is one important reason. We might call it half-heartedness. We have the examples of Joash, (2 Kings 13:18-19) Amaziah (2 Chr. 25:2). Maybe Amaziah was much like us because the Bible says, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a perfect heart. Israel was spoken of as "having a divided heart" in Hosea 10:2. Jesus spoke of those who "draw nigh with their mouth, and pay lip service, but their hearts were far from him." (Matt. 15:8)

Is our heart divided? Are we trying to "hold hands with the world" while at the same time trying to be a Christian. Are we willing to stand up and be counted" as the popular saying goes? Have we let the cares of this life quench the spirit of God in our hearts? Are we too concerned with being "successful" in this life while giving too little attention and preparation to the life that is to come?

We must face up to ourself. Paul puts it this way in 2 Cor. 13:5, "Put yourselves, ^{to the test} to find out whether you are living in faith. Surely you know that Christ Jesus is in you? . . . unless you have completely failed." (TEV)

We must look to ourselves. I am solely responsible for my own soul. "Keep on working, with fear and trembling, to complete your salvation," phil. 2:12b (TEV). O, if we could only see our selves as we really are--as God must see us; (cont)