

(Cont. from front page)

The spear which spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God.
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn in rocks His hands had made.

The throne on which He now appears
Was His from everlasting years.
But a new glory crowns His brow.
And every knee to Him shall bow!
F. W. Pitt

NEWS AND NOTES

Plan to meet at Mark's Nursing Home at 6 o'clock this evening for the singing service.

Next Lord's Day, the area wide singing will be at Lagrange at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We should have a full house for this date. Plan to be there.

Phil and Eileen Brust placed membership with us and we are happy to have them in our fellowship. They have three children, Matt, Darlene and Doug. We look forward to a dedicated couple, Phil and Eileen working with us faithfully in the Lord's work here at Lagrange.

The ladies of the congregation will be meeting this Wednesday afternoon at 12:30 for tray favors for the hospital and nursing home. All the ladies are invited to attend. Place will be announced.

The Elkhart congregation would like for us to mention that they are selling bonds for their new church building. If any here are interested in purchasing a bond that bears current rate of interest, please see brother Hoggatt.

Earl Gieseke
Route 4, Box 46
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

October 5 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

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

Looking ahead is a
good way to keep from
falling behind.
--Sel.

THE TRUE GOD

The Maker of the universe
As man for man was made a curse.
The claims of laws which He had made
Unto the uttermost He paid.

His holy fingers made the bough
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow;
The nails that pierced His hands were mined
In secret places He designed.

He made the forests whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung.
He died upon a cross of wood.
Yet made the hill on which it stood.

The sky that darkened o'er His head.
By Him, above, the earth, was spread.
The sun that hid from Him its face
By His decree was poised in space.

(Cont. on
page 4)

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

To me, it is a good thing to visit a congregation of the Lord and find a large percentage of children present. We are fortunate here at LaGrange to have so many children coming, some as a result of families moving in. They are swelling our Bible classes, making our classrooms too small and proving poor planning of our facilities in the first place. It is a joy to me to see parents concerned enough to see that their children are given every opportunity possible to learn the truth. I always encourage parents whom I visit, both in the church and out of the church, to attend Bible classes. If we stop to think about it, the greatest possession God has given us in all the world are our children. Through them we continue to influence unborn thousands to the way of good or evil. If at times we feel our inability to accomplish great things for the Lord, don't discount accomplishing these things through our children. Never sell them short. But, they must be trained. There is no better way than a steady diet of faithful example and exposure to truth, all of which must be started early. It is best when a child does not remember when he was brought to the church services for the first time. I have talked to some parents who feel that they should not bring their children until they know how to behave. But by then the mold is made, the cast is set, and the possibility of inbred values have past. The learning processes of children under three are tremendous. We must not mark time during these all important years in the life of a child.

Children give us problems and cares, but the facing of these helps to mold both the parents and the children in their respective roles. If there is anything that will develop a parents patience, it's the child that puts him to the test. A child very steadily gives maturity to parents

in areas of responsibility, compassion, understanding, love, tolerance, happiness and fulfillment. Being a parent, and especially a Christian parent, is very rewarding as well as trying.

Every child born into the world is a useful gift of God, a reservoir of possibilities. Only with God's help can we develop them. Our tutoring and nurturing must be constant and complete. As God has given us these gifts to be trained to His glory, so He will require it at our hand if we fail. Carlyle once said, "Good Christian people, here lies for you an inestimable loan; take all heed thereof, in all carefulness employ it. With high recompense or else with heavy penalty, will it one day be required back".

The church here has plans in the making to facilitate parents in the spiritual training of their children. Christian parents! train your children in the ways of the Lord in the home. Bring them to every Bible study and worship service of the church. Expose them to good literature, a disciplined home life. Make available wholesome recreation, companionships and every beneficial experience for good that is possible. For them it's only a fair shake, and it's our first duty to them.

When the Lord spoke through Paul (Eph. 6:4) He warned, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". Here is the making of a full time job; sorrow to the "Christian" who shirks it.

D. H.

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

Psalm 31:24

(cont. from front page)

"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days" (Eph. 5:15-16 Phillips)

-----Billy Ringold

NEWS AND NOTES

Remember that the singing is at 3 O'clock this afternoon. We hope to have a full house with the help of several from surrounding congregations. Immediately following the morning services we will have a basket dinner together (the location depends on the weather). We invite all to stay for the dinner whether you knew about this or not (I've never seen the time when there wasn't enough food for many more than we have had).

We will miss the Brusk family today. They have gone to her parents for the week-end.

Most everyone has heard by now about our proposed building plans, the addition of four classrooms. The plans will be available today for anyone to see. They have been approved by the state, and we are waiting now for the local public hearing which is scheduled for Monday evening, Oct. 20. Following this, unless there is valid objections by our neighbors, we will be granted a local building permit. It is hoped that construction can begin immediately.

Notice next week's bulletin as to how you can give a striking blow to alcohol commercials.

Earl Gieseke
Route #4, Box 46
Lagrange, Indiana

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

October 12, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Telephone No. 463-3571

Area wide
Singing
today

REDEEMING THE TIME

Dr. Thomas O. Paine is quoted as saying: "This computer age into which we are entering is going to give us all so much leisure that our main problem will be how to fill our days worthily."

"How to fill our days worthily" is of prime concern to the devoted Christian. It is not a problem of having something to do and filling our time with activity. Most of us are busy people and, in addition to our work, have a choice of more optional activities than we have time for.

Perhaps our most difficult problem is the proper investment of our time and energy. This requires good judgment, firm discipline, and constant prayer. It means that the Christian must live his life with a sense of purpose, looking for opportunities to do good in the name of Christ.

(Cont. on back page)

The following is a quote from the column
STRICTLY PERSONAL by Sidney Harris.

"I received a wickedly irreverent letter yesterday, from a woman who considers herself deeply religious.

She wrote, in part: "A God-fearing man doesn't need to know the facts; his love of God will make him sense the truth."

What a dreadful impiety this is, masquerading as religion. For if you believe in God, and love Him, you believe that He gave man his reason to use for discovering the facts and this faculty of reason is what makes us in God's image." (End quote)

To those of us who have made any serious effort to study the Bible with people of the denominations this is a familiar cry. They say that they "feel right in their hearts!" There is nothing as discouraging as to have someone read a passage of scripture and then hear them say piously, "But I don't believe it means that at all." Well if it doesn't mean what the verse says, then what does it mean?

People spend so much time trying to explain what a verse does not mean that they never get around to applying the verse. The other night following one of the services some of us were discussing the scriptures with a couple of visitors. Even though they read the passages on baptism, as to its method and purpose, they professed not to be able to see that it was by immersion and for the remission of sins.

Those of us who maintain that the Bible is sufficient, and the only authority, in matters of faith and practice are often castigated by those who want to go by their "sense" or "feelings in their hearts" for religion. They feel we are too dogmatic and narrow in our teachings. (Which they call our interpretation of the Bible.) But the only way to interpret the Bible is to let the Bible interpret itself. If and when it speaks on some subject we must take that teaching as the final teaching; and the only teaching that is binding as doctrine.

Any who are at all familiar with the Bible as a whole know that God has never accepted man's feelings as a substitute for where He had spoken on a subject. In Lev. 10:1-ff Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, offered strange fire before God that that He had not commanded them. As a result of their disobedience God sent down a fire from heaven that killed the two of them on the spot. Now perhaps God's punishment for disobedience is not so sudden, but it is just as sure. God has said: "Vengeance is mine, I will recompense." (Heb. 10:30)

In the life of the apostle to the Gentiles we read his words as recorded by Luke: "I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day." Only a fool would say that Paul had always been pleasing in the sight of God. But the difference in Paul and some of the other religionists of the New Testament time (and now) is that when Paul learned the truth he obeyed it. He did not argue with Annanias that baptism is only an outward sign or symbol that the sins had already been forgiven. I believe that Paul was baptized for the forgiveness of his sins--that's what the Bible says. (Acts 22:16). If that isn't what it means then I want someone to interpret it for me.

On the day of Pentecost those who heard the word and accepted it as from God were told to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. (Acts 2:38) I realize that many find this hard to accept for some reason; but the fact remains that this was obedience to the inspired preacher of the gospel. Samuel said to the king: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. (1 Sam. 15:22)

Therefore it behooves us to obey Christ and the inspired word of the Bible. It matters not if I can see the reason other than it is what the Bible teaches or not; because this will save my soul.
E. E. G.

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24

News and Notes

Monday evening the zoning commission will meet to approve or disapprove of the proposed classroom addition to the present building.

Area wide singing for the Youth 3:00 this afternoon at Donmoyer Ave. Church of Christ, South Bend, Indiana. Gospel meeting starts with Mac Layton as speaker. October 19-23.

LADIES: Ladies fellowship to be held at Waterloo, Indiana, Saturday, Nov. 1. Try to plan to attend.

Dean Hoggatt is in the hospital and would appreciate any visitors.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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LaGrange, Indiana 46761

L A G R A N G E

C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

E X H O R T E R

October 19, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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Telephone No. 463-3571

ATTEND SERVICES

REGULARLY!!

THE NEW GOSPEL

Man is always looking for something new; and religion is no exception. People "shop around town" for the church of their choice. They try to find one that dresses according to their tastes. They may be looking for one that has the "right kind" of social life. They may want one for other reasons; but the pathetic thing is--they rarely use the Bible as a measuring rod to see if the church meets its standards in things practiced and taught.

There is the story of the doctor who sent the woman his bill. It was itemized as follows: "Curing your husband till he died." This is the very thing the social gospel is doing. Jeremiah said that they were "healing the people slightly by crying peace, peace, where there was no peace."

When men like Billy Graham invites people to come down and "join the church of their choice" he is truly crying peace, peace, where there is no peace. The preaching of the "gospel" according to men" is ruining the morals of our nation.

Joseph Fletcher, who is a teacher in one of the religious colleges of America, has written in his book: SITUATION ETHICS"to call upon us to keep the law in a subservient place, so that only love and reason really count when the chips are down." He goes on in another place: "For the situationist there are no rules---none at all." Further he writes: "Hence it follows that in Christian situation ethics nothing is worth anything in and of itself." Also he says: "When love reigns, not law, the decisions of conscience are relative. Love plots the course according to circumstance. What is to be done in any situation depends on the case, and the solution of any moral issue is, therefore quiet) relative." He climaxes his social gospel by saying: "There is no such thing as right or wrong--it depends on the situation."

This is only one man's opinion, but too many people are heading in this direction in their religion (?). Especially on the college level, we find many people with' this perverse view on morality. There have always been people who were extremist in all societies, but today the extremists are getting too much attention by our mass media of communication. For example CBS News gave Altizer several minutes of prime time to give his modern views on God's death. Today, if you have something to say that is more radical than anyone else, the mass media will give you complete coverage on it.

In a sense those of us who hold to the fundamental view that the Word is a complete guide in matters of religion are considered "extremist"; but we are not creating enough excitement by making absurd accusations about the death of God, or special "powers". Many today are capitalizing on the unsettled condition of our society to declare

unfounded remarks about the coming of Christ, and other events that are about to take place according to their "gospel". Billy Graham got nation-wide coverage a short time back to declare his "views". He made the statement that God's kingdom would soon be established on earth, and that he was looking forward to it.

In my opinion, Mr. Graham is looking in the wrong direction for the kingdom. He had better look back to Pentecost where it came with power following the resurrection of the Lord. He spoke of the Lord coming and standing on the mount at Jerusalem. This was a prophecy from the Old Testament. In my limited knowledge of the Scriptures I cannot find one verse that says that Christ, at His second coming, will even so much as touch the earth. Paul seeks to convince the people who were worried about this that all would be caught up with Him in the air and would forever be there with Him.

I for one do not want to continue to live on this earth for a thousand years. There would still be the knowledge that our friends and loved ones were lost.

God, in His wisdom, has not seen fit for man to continue to live indefinitely in a sinful environment where sin nor Satan will have any place. Let us not base our eternity on a pseudo-hope of an earthly kingdom; but on the word of God. Our Lord said that He was going to prepare a place for us. I believe this. I take no comfort from the Judiasing teaching of the millennial reign. Christ has already established His kingdom and with it, that is the church of Christ, I have cast my lot. The teaching concerning the church is not vague or hard to understand; it does not offer promises based on the mystic writings of Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel or John the Beloved; but on the clearly spoken words of the Lord himself and His inspired writers. We need to read and heed; not guess and grope.

E. E. G.

(cont. from page 3)
to the realities of life which is indeed a blessing
in disguise.

D. H.

NEWS AND NOTES

Another Ladies Fellowship is to be held at Waterloo this coming Saturday, Nov. 1. Notice of this is on the bulletin board. Those who would like to go but are uncertain of a ride, please see Sister Hoggatt.

There is to be a gospel meeting beginning the 17th of November at the Glenwood congregation in Ft. Wayne. More later on this but make plans now to go at least one night.

For some time now Brother Devon Hostetler has been having a children's class beginning at 6:30 on Sunday evenings ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour before evening services). All those children who are old enough to sit up, up to the age where they feel too old for the class(?) are invited to attend. This has been held for some time but we failed to let all the families know about it. Bring your children to this.

I would like to thank all those who sent cards when I was in the hospital and recuperating at home. Also the gift from the church of Josephus's Works was so very much appreciated. It will be useful in our adult class studies and in many other studies to come, Lord willing.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

L A G R A N G E

C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

E X H O R T E R

October 26, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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ACCORDING TO THAT WHICH POSSESSES US

In Obadiah 17-20 there is a listing of various groups that were to possess certain areas of land. Those who are won to God through the gospel are possessed by God. Those who are in the world are possessed by things of the world. We feel the force of the thing that possesses us. The person who is not in Christ is often possessed by error and selfishness. That is not to say that they aren't good neighbors, but that they will not share their self with God. That same person, when exposed to the gospel, may come to be possessed by the gospel.

Until a person is possessed by grace, love and truth he or she continues to search for peace. The search may lead many places; but all will be in the valley of sin. The search will be unending

in duration unless the person is lead to the truth by the preaching and/or teaching of the gospel. Today's "in" groups are searching in the areas of drink, dope and debauchery. This type of life only debilitates the individual and makes him or her an unfit citizen in society. These things lead to insecurity and indecency. They find their kicks in high-powered cars and low-powered morals. It is only as a soul gets truth and grace into it that it becomes settled, calm and self-united.

As soon as the gospel takes real possession of a soul, then that soul lives by the gospel. When peace and tranquility reigns in a heart then that heart wants to share the feeling of security with others. Jeremiah describes the feeling as a "fire in my bones that couldn't be contained". When our Christianity becomes a power in our life instead of a toy it will be manifested in our lives.

Every person who truly receives the gospel becomes a "one-man or woman-crusade" for Christ. We will then realize that you don't have to become sea-sick to do mission work; that you don't have to study a foreign language to become a soul-winner for Christ. I am in favor of taking the gospel to the foreign fields, but I don't want to forget those who are our neighbors and friends. Sometimes we look so far away for souls to win that we don't see the best prospects--our friend or co-worker whom we see every day. When the truth possesses us we will react by proclaiming the same at every opportunity. Paul said: "Necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel of Christ." What possesses you? What do you react the greatest to? What do you strive the most to achieve? What is your greatest ambition? What possesses YOU?

As the days go swiftly by;
I often sit and wonder why,
The strongest forces in all the land,
Are things that kill the soul of man.

E. E. G.

THOUGHTS FROM A HOSPITAL BED

Surely, experience is a good teacher. Few things give us more insight than first hand observation. For some reason the picture of life looks different in a horizontal position than from a vertical one. Generally speaking, men have, from the latter position, viewed God's gift of life through haughty eyes, a selfish heart and self sufficient strength. But flat on their backs they, all of a sudden, seem helpless and dependent. Such is the condition of heart that men must have to be acceptable with God. Too bad though, for many, the hospital bed is the first that its felt. Too bad, this lesson is not learned early in life. Would I be criticized for the thought that it would be good if every young person was made to taste of suffering? If there is anything that would help arrange a young persons life and make an impressionable influence, it would be experiencing early the conditions that generally are reserved for the elderly. Would not this experience help prepare a person to understand, to have more love and compassion, patience and kindness for others? Are not these things among the greatest of Christian virtues?

When suffering comes, the question of greater importance is not, "Am I getting better from my pain", but rather "Am I getting better because of it, with this reasoning we can begin to understand what the apostle Paul meant in Rom. 8:28. Whatever may come, we know that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose".

On first thought we might envy the man who can say, "I've never known a day's illness". On second thought, this man has been deprived of the greatest lesson of life; he has skipped the finest lecture in that great school of humanity--a day of suffering. Such a man is to be pitied, and all men are the losers. Man comes nearer recollecting that there is a God and that he himself is but a man when he is brought face to face with suffering. Thus when it comes, our eyes are opened (cont.)

NEWS AND NOTES

The monthly area wide singing is to be held at Huntington, next Sunday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The church building is located on So. Broadway St.

Announcements are on the bulletin board and registration desk of a youth meeting for the young people of this area. It is to be held at Garrett on the 22nd. of November. Registrations should be sent right away.

Any of the ladies who would like to be hostess for the tray favor meetings, either at their homes or at the church building, please notify sister Hostetler or Hoggatt.

Remember that this evening at 6 o'clock is our regular monthly song service at the Mark's Nursing Home. We always encourage all of our members to support this work, and note the appreciation of the patients for our coming.

Sorry for the inconvenience of making everyone use the back door in coming to worship, but such is part of the price of progress. Let us be thankful for our growth and hope that we all can work more closely in Lord's work in time to come.

Earl Gieseke
Route #4, Box 46
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

November 2, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
405 South Townline Road
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THE BEAR AND THE RED HOT STOVE

Once in a dense forest a big bear broke into a cabin of some hunters. They were out at the time but had left a fire in a pot bellied stove. The bear saw the red hot stove and thinking it was the enemy, ran over and put a bear hug on it. Naturally he was severely burned, but Mr. Bear thought the enemy was trying to fight back, so he squeezed harder and was burned more. The more he squeezed the more he was burned. What a vicious circle for the vicious bear to be in.

There are many who would say, "What a dumb animal to hug something to his own hurt." But it could be they are doing the same thing. How many people do you suppose, hug (cont. page 3)

THE POPULAR PREACHER OF ISRAEL

"IF A MAN WALKING IN THE SPIRIT AND FALSEHOOD DO LIE, SAYING, I WILL PROPHECY UNTO YOU OF WINE AND OF STRONG DRINK: HE SHALL EVEN BE THE PROPHET OF THIS PEOPLE." Micah 2:11.

This verse describes the popular preacher of Israel in the days of the prophet Micah. I would hazard a guess that this kind of preacher would be popular today also. Two traits are certainly common to the popular preachers then and now.

First, emptiness of mind. The reading is given in one version as: "walking with the wind, and lie falsely." He has nothing in his mind but wind. He is conceited in knowing nothing that is beneficial. We find today, that if a preacher has a voice of passion and a gift of gab that he can always find a large following. The more empty a man's mind is the more fluent the speech may be. The empty mind often has a glib tongue. He never pauses to think; but words rush out as water from a shallow spring.

The thoughtful man is more likely to hesitate or pause in speech. This is not pleasing to the thoughtless. They like the rattling flow of empty meaningless words. The people do not like the mental effort in the pews. They want their fancy tickled. They have itching ears. This kind of person is fully satisfied by the empty minded preacher. He can and does supply what they want--nothing.

Secondly, the preacher is preaching to please. "I will prophesy unto thee of wine and strong drink." That is exactly what the social minded person is looking for; someone who will uphold them in their iniquities! The popular preacher adapts his sermon to the likes and desires of the people instead of preaching to their needs. They sanction their habits and indulgences. They are careful not to disturb their consciences; but rather talk to them so as to leave them feeling self-satisfied. The devil loves a self-satisfied

"pew-packer." The preacher who can and will do this is always popular. It is sad to think of the large number who stand in the pulpits of our nation crying; "peace, peace, when there is no peace" as they did in the days of Jeremiah. (6-14) These popular preachers are careful never to interfere with the pleasures and delights of the people; but leave them in the full enjoyment of their strong drink and other carnal gratifications.

This kind of preaching is the curse of America and the world today. There is little hope for the spiritual progress of mankind until these servants of Satan are forever barred from the pulpits. Until religionists cease their cry of peace, peace, and begin to preach Christ and Him crucified the world will be little better off.

We have had enough--No! TOO MUCH---of the "social gospel" preached in the world. I, for one, will continue to raise my voice in protest against these false teachers who only "heal slightly" the people today. Of course I know I'll be called a bigot; narrow minded; dogmatic; but large numbers have never represented truth, nor the Lord's church. I may never be a "popular preacher" (at least I hope not), but my heart's desire and prayer to God for the world is--that it might be saved; not in its present condition, but that the world through the preaching of the cross might come to know Christ. E. E. G.

* * * * *

(cont. from front page)
worldliness (lying, dancing, adultery, wearing immodest apparel, drinking, etc.) to their own hurt and refuse to let go. Let someone warn them of the danger and they will hug it all the more. Many cannot BEAR to part with worldliness, yet they cannot be saved while holding to it. Many of us are performing very much like the Bear.

---Selected

NEWS AND NOTES

The Huntington congregation is hosting the area singing this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Directions to the church building are on the bulletin board.

The ladies of the congregation are invited to attend the tray favor session this Wednesday afternoon at 12:30, at sister Eileen Brust's home in Topeka.

The area Mens Fellowship is to be at the Heritage House in Ft. Wayne (same place as the last time) this Friday evening.

Remember Young People - the youth meeting at Garrett on the 22nd of Nov.

The Gospel meeting at Glenwood congregation is to begin next Monday evening, Nov. 17th. Will give details on this in next weeks bulletin.

The Dean Hoggatt's are visiting the new Warsaw congregation today. Brother Dean is to speak for the services today. Also the Brust family is to be visiting their home congregation today. Brother Phil is to speak also for the services there.

The use of our filmstrips, correspondance courses, tracts etc. is encouraged for any of the members here or for any whom you know would enjoy them.

Earl Gieseke
Route #4, Box 46
Lagrange, Indiana 46761

L A G R A N G E

C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

E X H O R T E R

November 9, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister	To love abundantly
405 South Towline Road	is to live abundant-
Route #4, Box 46	ly, and to love for-
LaGrange, Indiana 46761	ever is to live for-
Phone 463-3571	ever. --Sel.

Which Disturbs You Most

A soul on the way to hell or a scratch on your new car?

Missing a church service or missing a days work?

Your Bible being unopened or your newspaper going unread?

Your contribution to the church decreasing or your income decreasing?

Your children being late for Bible School or late for Public School?

Your work of the church being neglected or your housework being neglected?

Low attendance at a church meeting or low attendance at a party?

A congregatinn not growing or a garden not growing?

---Selected

There is a story of a Nova Scotia sailor who had the Lord's prayer tattooed on his back. He said his dying mother asked him never to part with the cover of a family Bible on which the Lord's prayer was imprinted in gold. For many years he carried this cover on all cruises: but one day he lost it. Bad luck seemed to pursue him after this; and finally a friend advised him to have the Lord's prayer tattooed on his back. He did this although he suffered very much during the process.

Unfortunately there are many who like this poor, ignorant sailor, are putting their religion on the outside rather than on the inside. As we see those who are required to wear certain clothes as a part of their religious service we are made to wonder how much religion is on the inside. If I must wear certain clothes to be religious then my religion is only "an outward adorning" not the "inward man". Although we say that we do not do this we have come to the point where we expect our preachers to wear certain "garb" the same as the Catholic priesthood. We have not gotten around to establishing the colors yet, but give us a little more time and we will have our own "uniformed clergy" just like everyone else.

We keep many good, honest people away from the services of the church because we have become so dress conscious. To some it is very disturbing if the preacher can't be picked out by his clothes. Many who do not have the finances to dress as extravagantly as others are made to feel "out-of-place" in their midst. I have heard many say in the past years that they would go to "church" if they had better clothes. I know some will say, "Oh, that's just an excuse." It may be for some, but not for all. I have seen these people visit a congregation and appear so self-conscious that they were miserable all the time they were there. Of course, they did not return.

We are quick to discuss the Amish who use their clothes as part of their religion, but I think that

we had better watch ourselves that we don't "throw rocks while living in glass houses." I do not believe that our mode of transportation or dress code will keep us in good standing with the Lord. As long as we dress modestly and drive within the laws of the country I don't think anything else matters. The Christian is one from within or he is not one at all. Growing a beard or wearing certain kinds of clothes, or driving a horse and buggy, in my opinion, is neither right nor wrong; however, it does become wrong when someone tries to bind it on me as an obligation of religion. Paul wrote to the Galation church; "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Christ gives you or me the freedom to choose our dress as long as it does not violate moral codes.

"If honor be your clothing, the suit will last a lifetime; but if clothing be your honor, it will soon be worn threadbare"--Arnot.

No man is esteemed for gay garments, but by fools and women"----Sir Walter Raleigh.

If we must carry the Lord's prayer engraved on our body to prove our religion we have no religion. If we must wear certain clothes to prove our religion we have no religion still.

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"-----Paul.

E. E. G.

* * * * *

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.

A self-made man said recently that if he had it to do over again, he'd get some help. --Sel.

(continued from front page)
after righteousness. We do not grow upward because we have never put roots downward. We grow outwardly when we are nourished inwardly! --Sel.

NEWS AND NOTES

(Youth meeting-Garrett- this Sat.)

GOSPEL MEETINGS:

Glenwood congregation in Ft. Wayne, Nov. 17th thru 23rd. Brother William Wilder preaching. 7:30 ea. evening. Location: 2800 Reed Rd.

Niles, Michigan congregation this week. Brother Dale Smith preaching first half of week and Brother Hilliard Story the last half. Time 7:30 ea. Evening. Location of building, 15th and Huron Sts.

A singing is scheduled at the Kendallville church building this afternoon at 2:30.

The latest report is that Brother and Sister Cox are heading south this week for the winter. Also Brother and Sister Pieratt (Carl & Jesse) are planning to leave this week for a month in Missouri. We wish them a safe and enjoyable vacation.

The church extends our sympathy to the family of Virgil Duzan (The family just south of the church building) for the death of Mr. Duzan. The body can be seen at the Carney funeral home and funeral services are to be held Monday afternoon at 2:00.

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

November 16, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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Telephone No. 463-3571

"THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS NOT ONLY A
GIFT: IT IS A TASK."

ARE YOU GROWING?

A couple once told me they felt they were not growing as they should. They didn't enjoy the worship, could not sit in Bible classes and all in all they felt they were not getting anything much from their religion. Further discussion disclosed that they were not Bible readers, they did not pray in their home, they never even tried to prepare a Bible study lesson, they had no religious magazines in their home, didn't attend the evangelistic services when they were held, and had never made a call in their lives! Is it any wonder they weren't growing? What would have made them grow? Christian growth comes from effort. Bible study is enjoyed by those who are prepared to enjoy it. Worship is satisfying only to those who hunger and thirst (continued on page 4)

A LETTLER TO GOD

1001 Excuses Ave.
Careless, U.S.A.

Dear God:

I want to write and let you know why we don't attend the services of the church regularly.

You have chosen a day that comes at the end of a hard week when we are all tired and worn out.

Also it comes just after Saturday night, and that is the night we feel we should enjoy ourselves and take in a movie or a ball game, or a party and it is usually after midnight when we get to sleep.

You have, therefore, chosen the very day when we can all sleep late. Then, too, my family demands a big dinner, and when I get up so late I can't get all this prepared and make it to Bible Study and church.

John likes to read the Sunday sports page thoroughly and the kids want to read all the comics.

I mean no disrespect, but it seems you picked the wrong day.

Then too, we must think of John. He works hard all week and Sunday is about the only day he has to catch up on the jobs around the house. I feel that he should have one day a week to sleep, fish, golf, or visit friends.

Please try to understand and do not hold this against us.

Last Sunday we meant to go to church but we had company. The Sunday before we meant to go to church but the weather was bad.

I told John last night we just had to get straightened out and get back to church or people would think we had quit. You know how people like to talk.

I wanted to tell you these things so that you could see our viewpoint, and know that it is really not our fault we do not go to church on Sunday.

Faithfully yours,
Minnie Saints.

LOST--A BOY

Not kidnapped by bandits and hidden in a cave to weep and starve and raise a nation to frenzied searching! Were that the case, one hundred thousand men and women would rise to the rescue, if need be. Unfortunately, the losing of this lad is without dramatic excitement, though it is very sad and very real.

The fact is, his father lost him. Being too busy seeking treasure and success, he lost the greatest treasure ever entrusted to his care, the soul of his son. Seeking for a successful career, he made his greatest failure as a father.

Yes, his mother lost him, Being too engrossed and concerned with ministering to the needs of her household, she forgot that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God". She was too busy to teach the lad to pray to God and love his Son. She demonstrated a "form of godliness" on Sunday, but it was soon evident to the boy that this was a very impractical religion, because it didn't function throughout the week. Being a "practical" lad he discarded even the empty form his mother had followed.

And the church lost him. Being much occupied with the wise and eHerly, who pay the bills, and having good care for dignity, the preacher was unmindful of the feelings and needs of the boy, and made little provision for his level of teaching. So, the church and many sadhearted parents today are searching earnestly for the lost boy!

--Selected

MISTAKES

Be not concerned nor surprised,
If what you do is criticized;
There'll always be some folks who can
Find some fault with every plan.
Mistakes are made, we can't deny
BUT only made by those who try.

CRONKITE REPORTS

You may have heard Walter Cronkite's recent newscast in which he stated, "Churches of Christ assisted more than all other religious groups in Mississippi. More than 14,000 family units were cared for in the Church's ministry".

Pride in this accomplishment is not the intention, but that we should give gracious thanks for being spared and able to give provision to those who suffered loss. The church's name and the name of God have been exalted. Truly the Lord has said, "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Jer. 29:7.

-Niles Bulletin-

ANOTHER SAINT CALLED HOME

For the many who receive this bulletin who might not otherwise hear, Brother Earl Garner passed away last Sunday afternoon and funeral services were held this past Wednesday. We have many fond memories of this beloved soldier of Christ and are comforted by the thought that he has gone to his reward, a place of which he often spoke and longed for. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Rev. 14:13.

Earl Gieseke
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L A G R A N G E

C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

E X H O R T E R

November 23, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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The man who is busy
rowing the boat has
no time to rock it.
 --Sel.

A MESSAGE FROM A JUDGE

"I have tried approximately 8,000 girls and boys under 17 years of age for violating the law. Of that number, only 41 of them went to Sunday School or church regularly, and there has not been a child in court whose father or mother went to Sunday School or Church regularly."

---Judge Sam Davis Tatum

Mothers and fathers take heed to this message. Remember, you are responsible for these boys and girls and the way they take their place in our society and the Church. Bring them to Bible School to study about God and His word. Then, worship God together.
 --Sel.

THE ASCENSION--Then and Now!

No other event since creation itself has been as significant as the resurrection and ascension of our Lord. Today, following the second attempt to put mankind on the moon I thought of the difference between this event and the one occurring some 1939 years ago. Today millions were eyewitnesses to man's ascension into the clouds. More than 1900 years ago there were perhaps only eleven men (plus the two men in white apparel, if indeed you could call them men) who witnessed the ascension of the Son of God into the clouds. There were no T.V. cameras, "expert" announcers, or technicians swarming all over the place.

The scene was a quiet hill outside the city of Jerusalem about seven-eighths of a mile east across the brook Kidron. It was in this vicinity that the Lord spent his last hours in the garden of Gethsemane in prayer. It was from this very vantage point that he looked back over the city to weep over the coming impending doom of destruction. This is one of the few places that we know where an event took place in the Lord's life.

How fitting it was that only the chosen few were able to witness this memorable event. Even there we see God's constant watch and care as he sent the two men in white apparel to encourage the small band of disciples. The promise was "that this same Jesus, which was taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:12)

In a little more than a week the space travelers will, hopefully, return. Millions will wait with bated breath; but how many are as concerned and anxious about the one who died almost 1940

years ago? Which one has the most implication? One will be recorded as a great historical event; the other will end history! One we know when to expect; the other is the secret of God.

If we could generate as much interest in the return of the Lord as there is in the return of the crew of Apollo 12 the world would be a different place in which to live.

Mankind has never been able to determine the important things for a very long period of time with any success. Wouldn't it be a quirk of fate, if when we are all watching for the return of the men from the moon, that Christ should return from heaven. The Bible indicates that he will come again when we are least expecting him. Our immediate thought is---it won't happen. Perhaps not; but don't bet your life on it---your eternal life that is.

E.E.G.

GOD IS KEEPING WATCH

God sees our situation, whatever it is. His heart reaches out toward us with infinite love, whatever be the tragedy that befalls us or the difficulty that confronts us. God always does that which is best for those who love and trust him. In His own time He will execute judgment upon those who rebel against Him and will give deliverance to those who honor and trust in him. Let us trust and not be afraid.
Selected

LIFE

"Since life is short, we need to make it broad. Since life is brief, we need to make it bright."
Ella W. Wilcox

THE DEVIL'S BEATITUDES

1. Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own congregation: FOR HE IS AN IMPORTANT MEMBER.
2. Blessed are they who are too tired to go to church on Sunday night: FOR THEY ARE MY BEST WORKERS.
3. Blessed is the minister who half-heartedly delivers his sermon: FOR HE AROUSETH NO DEEP CONVICTION AND PUTTETH THE PEOPLE TO SLEEP.
4. Blessed is the elder or deacon who infrequently attends church: FOR HE SETTETH AN EXAMPLE I WANT OTHER MEMBERS TO FOLLOW.
5. Blessed are they who go home after Bible school: FOR THEY FORCE THE MINISTER TO PREACH TO A SMALLER CONGREGATION.
6. Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and look only for the mistakes he makes: FOR THEY GET NOTHING OUT OF THE SERMON.
7. Blessed are they who do not go to church on Sunday and Wednesday nights; FOR THEY CAUSE THE WORLD TO SAY, "THE CURCH IS FAILING".

--- Selected ---

Never shirk a duty to dodge a criticism

One man with courage makes a majority

Earl Gieseke
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Lagrange, Indiana 46761

L A G R A N G E

C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

E X H O R T E R

November 30, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister 405 South Townline Road Route #4, Box 46 LaGrange, Indiana 46761	"The family that prays together is a happier family. Try it and see!"
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

JUST TOO BUSY°

A business man, harrassed and discouraged from overwork, took his problem to a psychiatrist, who told him to spend an hour each week in the cemetery.

"What on earth should I do in the cemenetry?"

"Not much. Take it easy and look around. Keep in mind that those men didn't finish their work either. Nobody does, you know."

Well, it's so, isn't it? We become involved in so many of life's affairs and some of us just don't have the time to worship and work in the Lord's Kingdom. No time for anything except the same old routine!

But one day we will have the time and our routine will be broken permanently. And the world will go on without us. Untold millions will think that they do not have the time to meet their obligations to the Lord.

Think it over!

BIBLE FOOLS

Are you a fool? This is a rather tactless question but one which deserves an honest evaluation. There is a degrading meaning attached to the word "fool". No one wants to be considered one, much less to be called one. "It takes all kinds to make a world" they say, and in our enlightened age, it is a psychological blunder to label anyone a fool.

Yet, unsuspectingly, men by their deeds, classify themselves. Little do they consider God's definition of a fool. The Bible mentions different kinds of fools and it would be well if every professed Christian would consider this matter from God's standpoint. Who is a fool in God's eyes?

1. The unbelieving fool. Psalms 14:1 states, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God". This probably would not catch the friends that we know, but there are hundreds of thousands of professed atheists, infidels and agnostics who scorn the existence of God. The tragedy is that literally millions of our university students are being taught by these educated fools. The apostle Paul met these philosophers head-on in his day and refuted their worldly wisdom as foolishness with God. Read I Cor. 1:17-31.

2. The backsliding fool. The Galatian and Ephesian Christians were admonished by the apostle Paul not to be fools about reverting to the ways of the world after having begun their Christian walk. His inspired advice was to "redeem the time, because the days are evil". See Gal. 3:1-3, Eph. 5:14-17. Many today are finding themselves in this condition. The Lord through Peter describes such in very descriptive language, "The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire". Again Peter says "For it had been better for them not to

have known it, way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them". II Pet. 2:21,22. This simply means that when we confess Christ as our Lord and put him on in Baptism, we'd better mean it.

3. The rich fool. Truly a god of this world is riches. The Lord compares the man who gains riches, not by right, to a partridge which "sit-teth on eggs and hatcheth them not". He adds, that such a man shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool". Jer. 17:11. Invariably the man who lives for riches knows more about the temporal than the eternal. He sells his soul for money. Matt. 16:26. Recorded in Luke 12:16-21, is the story of a rich man whose eternal fate was determined when his last day of earthly life he said to his soul, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry". His only concern was for self. He was a fool.

4. Fool for Christ's sake. The apostle Paul describes the hardships that the apostles were called upon to endure, "as men appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men". From a worldly standpoint they had become fools for Christ. I Cor. 4:10. But such is the cross of a Christian. The apostle not only set the example by his life but he admonished that "if any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may become wise". I Cor. 3:18. One of the greatest compliments that the world could pay us is that we have become fools for Christ's sake. Only then will the term "fool" denote meaning and not uselessness. We are approved of God, willing to carry on His work, counting our hardships as opportunities to glorify our maker. I Pet. 4:16.

D. H.

NEWS AND NOTES

The church extends our sympathy to the Jesse Pieratt family. Jesse's mother passed away this past week. The Pieratt's were there at the time. The Hostetler's (Devon and Ellen) are visiting the Pieratt's in Missouri over the week-end. We wish them a safe and enjoyable trip.

Mark's Nursing Home singing this evening at 6 o'clock.

Ladies tray favor session this Wednesday afternoon at the church building at 12:30. Dorthy Pace is the hostess for this session.

The work on the church building addition is progressing well. If you can work any evening or on Saturday's please let brother Hoggatt know.

Too many parents tie up their dogs and let their children run loose.

Many a child is spoiled because you can't spank two grandmothers and grandfathers.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

December 7, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M..
Worship Service	10:30 A. M..
Evening Worship Service	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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"live" to die.

What Bob Allen Doesn't Know . . .

Bob Allen, his wife, and four teenage children were baptized into Christ about a year ago. He was a congregationalist; she, a Catholic.

The Allen family run a dairy farm, milking sixty cows everyday. It is a family affair, with every member performing his assigned duty everyday for a week, then rotating with the others. That means the father, mother and each boy and girl take their turn of feeding, cleaning the milking machines and scrubbing the concrete slab in the barn.

The change that Christ has made in their lives is a cause of amazement and inspiration to all their neighbors. Sunday is no longer just another day. They are present whenever the

church doors are open. Much of their "spare" time is spent in teaching others. Bob says, "I can't learn the Bible fast enough." They are continually seeking opportunities to "do good unto all men!"

But there are some things that Bob Allen and his family have not learned.

1. They do not know that hard work is out of date. They really believe that God expects everyone to "work with his hands". (Eph. 4:28).

2. They do not know that Bible study is optional. They really believe that every Christian must study to show himself approved unto God. (II Tim. 2:5)

3. They do not know that attendance of all church services is unnecessary. They really believe that Christians should continue steadfastly in fellowship and spiritual growth. (Acts 2:42, II Peter 3:18)

4. They do not know that parents should go into debt to give their children cars, color television and other expensive trinkets. They really believe that Christians ought to seek first the Kingdom of God and to give liberally as the Lord has prospered them. (Matt. 6:33; I Cor. 16:2) They all share the cab of a pick-up truck. Their only means of transportation when they come to worship and wherever they go.

5. They do not know that church members are supposed to be critical and complaining. They really believe that Christians must "re-joice in the Lord always". (Phil. 4:4). The Children recently volunteered their meager savings to help a poor family.

Don't you feel sorry for the Bob Allen family? Isn't it too bad that they are making such sacrifices for the Lord when so many of the members have learned that you can get to heaven without making them?????

-----Selected
Frank Dunn

EARL T. GARNER

He sought a rest beyond this life;
A refuge for the soul.
His aim was high as he lived;
He made heaven his goal.
He walks no more the stony path;
The long walk is done.
But his life still speaks to us today;
Though he's gone to the land of the Sun.
To those who have known him in this world;
They saw a "man of God."
He always had a pleasant word,
As life's path he trod.
But we feel not sorrow that he's gone;
Though we'll miss him a great while.
Because he lived for God in this life,
As he walked each mile.
His wife preceded him in death,
A few years before.
No doubt he envisioned her many times,
As she waited at heaven's door.
Death opens the door to heavens glory,
That is beyond the grave.
To those like Earl who walked by faith,
In Jesus power to save.
So shed no tears in bitterness;
But only because he's gone.
They are together again--"Babe" and Earl;
They'll never again be alone.

Written in memory of:

EARL T. GARNER

A faithful minister of the gospel.
E. E. G.

We can all say that it is an honor to have known him; and to have known him is to have loved him.
May his soul rest in peace!

forgetfulness of God.

Although the word "dance" as we use it does not occur in the KJV of the New Testament the idea which it represents is mentioned and condemned. (Gal. 5:19:21) The Apostle uses two words which embrace dancing as a part of their meaning. They are "lasciviousness" and "revelling".

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon defines lasciviousness as "Wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, uncaste handling of males and females".

In the RSV of the New Testament and the best seller paperback TEV the word dance is used in I Cor. 10:7. This is a quotation from Exodus 32:6. (See also verse 19)

Concerning all things we must ask the question, "Is it (dancing) a fruit of the Spirit or a work of the flesh? Does it draw one closer to God or does it tend to separate one from God.

Although we do see girls dance with other girls, it is a rare event to see boys dance with boys or men with men. Why? When you have honestly answered this question you will have the basic reason why I do not believe dancing to be a Christian activity. (Continued next week) E. E. G.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

December 14, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

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WHY MEN SIN AND SIN AND SIN!

Solomon, in his wisdom, wrote: "For because sentence is not speedily pronounced against evil, the children of men commit evils without any fears!" Ecc. 8:11(Catholic translation)

Man reads such statements as: "The wages of sin is death;" and "The soul that sins shall surely die;" and still persists in sin. Why? Because punishment is delayed. Punishment that is delayed carries little fear.

Mankind is not wise enough to see and realize that the deferrment of punishment (or sentence) is Divine clemency; a period given to sinners to repent. How great the mercy and longsuffering of God! But this will end with God rendering justice tempered with mercy to all at the judgment. The abuse of clemency is a sadder sign of depravity than the violation of commandment; to trample on God's mercy is a greater wickedness than to break his law.

In the case of some this conclusion may be reached deliberately, but in many the process may be unconscious or at least without consideration and reasoned purpose.

Sometimes we see immediate punishment follow flagrant sin and we are surprised and startled. This may often cause others to consider their own life more closely, even if only briefly. But then we observe the course of wrong-doers who avoid collision with the law and interpret this as a sign of prosperity. We see families advanced to honor and wealth who are lacking in moral character. We read of nations existing for years, and even centuries, in paths of injustice, rapacity, and violence, and yet growing in power and acquiring renown. And we cannot doubt that many evil deeds wrought in secret remain unpunished. The facts must be admitted. But we may reconcile these with a firm belief in God's righteous retribution--in God's perfect moral government.

Stress is to be put upon the word "speedily". It must be remembered that with God "one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day".

"Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small;
Though with patience he stands waiting,
he exactly judgeth all."

Judgment deferred is not judgment abandoned!

The supposition is that sin may be committed with impunity, and the conclusion is that those sins which yield pleasure should be committed, since they will entail upon the sinner no evil consequences. The self-seeking, pleasure-loving, base mind looks only to the present consequences of their actions, and does what affords pleasure, while disregarding the eventual consequences.

Today in our society we have the advocates of "free-love", "wife-swapping", "tax-cheating", "pot-smoking", "social-drinking", and drug abuse. While we (those of us who profess to be religionist) do not "approve" of these things we have our own "little sins".

Dancing is a sin that we hear less and less about every year. Fewer and fewer preachers are willing to expose their "narrow-mindedness" on this popular temptation of our world. Let me say that I readily recognize that my position on dancing is not a popular one; however, I have never tried to run a popularity contest as a gospel preacher. When I try to please everyone I will please no one!

I have never known dancing to lead to anything except trouble! When mixed dancing is engaged in it is often the source of dissipation and degradation of the soul. No where do you find mixed dancing in the Bible except where it is condemned by God. Until recent years, all the churches with which I was familiar were against the dance. However, many preachers and churches today are unwilling to speak out against things that are popular. Churches and preachers are running pretty low when they put popularity ahead of purity, and a "good time" ahead of good morals.

I would like to give some comments from people who are in the position to know the dangers of the dance:

J. Edgar Hoover---Dancing is the first cause for juvenile delinquency.

A Rescue House matron---Seven-tenths of the girls received here have fallen through dancing and its influence.

Another matron---Fully ninety percent of our girls testify their downfall began on the dance floor.

A Physician---Dance floors are the nurseries of divorce courts, training shops of prostitution, and graduation schools of infamy and vice.

A Jewish Rabbi---Modern dancing is popular, not because of its grace, but because of its appeal to our lower nature.

A Methodist Bishop---I deem the modern dance a unmitigated evil, because in most forms it is vulgar and wars directly against claims of a spiritual life.

A Presbyterian preacher--Dancing...leads to

learn the certainty of retribution. "The wicked shall not go unpunished;" "The way of the transgressor is hard;" "The wages of sin is death". The sentence may not be excuted speedily; but it is passed, and it will in God's time be carried out. "Vengenance is mine; I will recompense saith the Lord."

The godly man should rest assured that, however he may be perplexed by the mysteries of Divine providence, however he may be unable to reconcile what he sees in society with his religious convictions, nevertheless the Lord reigneth, and it shall be well with those who love, fear, respect, and obey God. The Christian should think less of the consequences of conduct, and more of those principles by which conduct is governed; and of those motives by which our conduct and obedience is inspired. However it may fare with a godly man in this life he must choose that good part. He must hate evil and love that which is good. We must lead a life that is just and in harmony with our convictions. In such a life all things work together for good.

People speak of religious freedom. We are guaranteed this under our constitution. Many take this as freedom to sin; to be what they desire instead of being right according to the Bible. As for me--I would rather be secure than free. I would rather be secure in Chist; to live, move and have my being in God the Father. Take the world, but give me Jesus.

Let us not allow the longsuffering of God cause our hearts to grow hardened instead of leading us to repentance. Let us fear God and keep his commandments. This is the whole duty of man.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

December 21, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

Earl Gieseke, Minister
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SATISFIED WITH YOUR
SPIRITUAL PROGRESS
IN THE LAST DECADE?

WHY MEN SIN AND SIN AND SIN!

(Cont. from last week)

The question of "petting" is one that is too often ignored today. Due to the movies and romantic novels young people often get the mistaken idea that they must spend long periods of time in passionate embraces to "check" to see if you "love" a person or not. They are mistakenly led to believe that "fire-works" automatically start when lips touch if the person is the "right" one. This is where the mistake is made between "love" and "chemistry." They believe that because "strange" and often new emotions are stirred that they have "experienced" love. But in reality they have only experienced the oldest emotion of mankind---lust. (or passion)

Courtship and marriages that are based on "chemistry" (or lust if you please) will grow cold as "familiarity breeds contempt". As a result of emotion ruling over common sense, one of four marriages end in divorce. There is no way of knowing, but I would guess that many others of the remaining three live to regret their marriage.

Is this to say that marriage is not good, or that physical attraction is unimportant? Certainly not! God instituted marriage so that man could be complete. Marriage is the closest relationship that exists in this life. (Note that God's Word compares the relationship to the church to Christ as a marriage.) But the permanent marriage must be based and developed on a deeper foundation than the "feelings" discovered in a parked car or dance floor. Love that will last a lifetime is more than a physical attraction or an animal magnetism. Too often real and abiding love never gets a chance to develop because of "shot-gun" weddings that result from cheap affairs in a car. The decision to wed should be a deliberate decision based on many things besides sexual or animal attraction. Forced marriages, especially among teenagers, end in divorce courts at an alarming rate.

Among our "little sins" is our driving habits. They are perplexing, to say the least. Christians, of all people, should (rather must) obey the laws of the land. These laws exclude deliberate recklessness, and exceeding the speed limits that are posted on the highways. Civil authority is in and of itself of Divine origin, and possesses Divine sanctions. Right does not grow out of civil authority, but it is its Divine basis. The kingship has often become tyranny, and democracy mob-rule, and every form of government may be abused as any student of history knows. But law in itself is good, and its maintenance is the only security for public liberty. One of the first duties of a religious teacher is to impress upon people the sacredness of civil authority, to inculcate respect for the law, and to encourage good citizenship.

That freedom which is the condition of the true development of national life, and which can only be preserved by respect for rightful authority, for constitutional government, must be dear to every Christian, and must be held in honor by every teacher and preacher of God's Word. For: "The powers that be are ordained of God."

A bad citizen cannot be a good Christian! To wilfully violate the civil laws is a sin. To break the laws of the land is not likely to lead to obedience to the commandments of God. It is not expected that we as citizens should approve of every thing our leaders say and do, or of every law that is enforced in our country. But if every one were to refuse to obey every statute of which they disapprove, how could the government operate? The words of Christ must be our rule: "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's". Where no Divine ordinance is violated by conforming to civil law, the duty of the Christian is plain---he must obey! We are at liberty, of course, under a constitutional government, to use means of an honorable kind to secure a change of law. The Preacher wrote: Whoso keepeth the commandments shall know no evil thing".

To voice our dissatisfaction by protesting, rioting and mob-rule is not only unwise but sinful. Loyalty to human authority is loyalty to God! It is surely evident that the authority of a ruler or a parent over the nation and child is essential to a country and a home. To follow blindly after irresponsible individuals in violation of the laws of the land and God can only lead to chaos and destruction.

A man walking by a head stone saw this epitaph:
"Stranger, stop as you walk by;
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, you soon will be;
And so prepare to follow me."

Having read the message and after **serious** consideration he added two more lines:

"To follow you I'm not content,
Until I know which way you went."

We must know with certainty that penalty will follow disobedience. We must remember that God is not "Altogether such as ourselves;" but rather, "He will reprove us and set our sins in order before our eyes" (Psalms 50:21)

Saint and sinner alike should reflect upon the facts of the revealed Word of God. From this we may

NEWS AND NOTES

Several families have been away for a few days visiting with their families and we do miss them at the regular services. Most however are expected to return early this week and should be here for mid-week services on Thursday evening. We pray that everyone will have a safe journey, and enjoyable holiday season.

Many here will remember Jess and Francis Yoakum and family who worshipped with us for some time several years ago. They are planning on a visit to the Hoggatt's home this Wednesday evening and spend the night. We would like to invite any who would like to come over and visit with them to do so. I'm sure many here will want to see them again.

The classroom addition is coming along very well. If any of the men have any time to spend in the next two weeks or so, please let brother Hoggatt know so that some work assignments can be made.

ARE YOU ON TIME?

The following sign appears on the inside door of a church building in Phoenix, Ariz.:

If on time, come right in.

If unavoidably late, accept our sympathy.

If late through neglect, unconcern or laziness, come in quietly, humbly, penitently, and pray to God that He may forgive you.

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LAGRANGE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

EXHORTER

December 28, 1969

Schedule of Regular Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 A. M.
Worship Service	10:30 A. M.
Evening Worship Services	7:00 P. M.
Thursday Evening Bible Study	7:30 P. M.

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A wise man is like
a pin, his head
keeps him from
going too far.
Sel.

BONES IN THE CHURCH

An interesting speaker recently said the human body was made up largely of bones - about 200 of them classified according to shape. But the church was made up of three bones - classified by use.

The first of the three was WISHBONES. They wish for many good things for the church, but never supply any of the work and effort to make their wishes come true.

Then there are the JAWBONES. They criticise, gossip, and pick flaws. In their wake follows dissension, discouragement and heartaches.

The third classification is the most important --BACKBONES. They are found in the Bible classes and the committees that get things done. They serve the church. "By love serve ye one another Galatians 5:13.
--Selected

CRANKY CHURCH MEMBERS

Just how the word "cranky" came to be applied to people I am not sure. I suspect that the term probably had some connection with the notorious oneriness of the crank on a model "T". A fellow who had had his arm broken by one of those stubborn, and unpredictable gadgets could easily have thought of calling a stubborn and unpredictable person a "crank."

All of us painfully familiar with the tell-tale characteristics of a cranky person. (Of course, we do not recognize these traits by examining ourselves. We know what they are from scutinizing the habits of other people!) A crank is one who has a particular fondness for his own pet notions. Regardless of the arguments marshalled against his peculiar theory. He still knows that he is right. This selfish view leads naturally to a crank's sharp downgrading of the ideas held by other people. Since his opinion is always correct, it is only logical to his mind that what another may think is inevitably wrong. The final outcome is that a cranky person gets terribly peeved when his concept isn't adopted by everybody else. His views are so obviously right that those who reject them must be ignorant sapheads if not dishonest blackguards.

Feeling as he does, a crank can justify almost any kind of behavior on his part. After all, these benighted folks will not agree with him. Why should he bother to try getting along with them? This line of reasoning helps him to justify his villifying and abusing those who appose him.

It is sad to say that sometimes such ungodly feelings brood in the hearts of church members. How childishly petty our actions sometimes are! We have so exalted ourselves that we cannot stand to be crossed by anyone. Woe to that preacher who dares declare anything contrary to our favorite sin. Pity the poor officer who does not dance to our tune. We may just show our displeasure by worshiping else-

where or even joining a denomination. That'll surely fix his wagon and show how right we were all the time. Believe me, there are church members who reason exactly this way.

If anything is obvious, it is that there should not be any cranks in God's church. Every principle of Christianity is against crankiness. Loving others to the same degree that we love ourselves should crowd all peevish attitudes from our hearts (Mark 12:31). That kind of love will cause us to forbear one another (Eph. 4:2); to be kind to one another, to be tenderhearted; to forgive one another (Eph. 4:32). The love motivated person will not allow his personal preference to injure a brother (Rom. 14:15); he will be defrauded rather than stubbornly demand his rights (I Cor. 6:1). His own selfish ambitions have been sacrificed to a higher Lord (Gal. 5:24). To whatever degree we nurse our own cranky ways, to that degree we fail to share Christ's selfless spirit and to that degree we injure the cause of Christ.

----Selected

WONDERFUL THINGS

Wonderful things are easy to find;
A friend can be won with a deed that is kind,
A sigh to lift the spirits high
Can be found with a look at a far-flung sky.
The sound of sweet music is ours to be heard
With a listening ear to the song of a bird.
So many God-given gifts surround us,
If we take the time to look around us.

Gina Bell - Zano.

Opportunity knocked, but I thought it was one of the neighbor's children wanting something, and I didn't open the door.

Gossips try to find out what neighbors do--friends try to understand why.

--Selected