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BIBLE

By Doyle Kinder

The Bible is the greatest book in the world. It would be better that all books be destroyed than the Bible. If it were not for this great book man would not know from where he had come or where he is going, would merely be a ship in inky darkness with no compass or port. If there were no Bibles, there would be no consolation in sorrow or anticipation of a brighter day. Some of our forefathers have died to preserve it. We can get a copy for a few pennies. I wonder if we do not take this great book for granted?

The importance of God's Word is vindicated by the fact that no one can be saved apart from it. A knowledge of the scriptures is the only way we can know about the grace of God or what

he would have us to do. Hence teaching must always precede salvation. The Word sanctifies us (Jn. 17:17). It saves us (James 1:21). It brings hope (Rom. 15:4). It purifies our souls (I Peter 1:22). It builds us up (Acts 20:32). It starts the process of the spiritual birth (James 1:18).

The Bible is complete, perfect and final. I can not improve upon it. I am to do exactly what it says to do for the purpose it says to do it. No. successive revelations are needed, because we have all things that pertain to life and godliness (II Peter 1:3). The man of God is thoroughly furnished unto all good works (II Tim. 3:17). The faith was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3, A. S. V.). Can one follow the Word of God too closely and carefully? No, never, even at the expense of being called a modern day pharisee. One must rightly divide the word of truth (II Tim. 2:15). All must abide in the doctrine of Christ (II Jn. 9). No other gospel is needed (Gal. 1:8-9). The curse of God rests on those who add to God's Word or take from it (Rev. 22:18-19).

Since the Bible is such a great book, does it not logically follow that we should be extremely familiar with it. I can not picture an M. D. that knows nothing about the field of medicine, a math teacher that is not acquainted with simple equations, a mechanic that knows very little about the chassis of an automobile or a Christian that is ignorant about the Bible. Oh, so you do not have time to study the Bible! You see, after I read the daily paper, watch T. V., entertain the neighbors and take my evening nap it is time to retire. Yes I see. I see that you are negligent, lukewarm and hell bound. Israel was destroyed and rejected because she rejected knowledge (Hosea 4:6). We are to hunger and thirst after righteousness (Mt. 5:6). Faith is dependent on a knowledge of God's Word (Rom. 10:17). Even zeal is dangerous without knowledge (Rom. 10:1). All Christians should study to show themselves approved unto God (II Tim. 2:15). Let's remember the three "L's" of the Bible—learn it, love it, and live it.

Preacher Wanted

We at Alton, Missouri are in need of a minister for full time work. The church is only about five years old and we have around (40) members. We can pay a reasonable salary and he should be a good personal worker, and free from the hobbies. Alton is a small town of five or six hundred and has four denominational churches. Any one interested, contact us by writing, W. Nolan Huddleston, or David Black, Alton, Mo.

Any congregation needing a preacher for a meeting or for monthly appointment can publicize their need through the pages of this paper free of charge. Just write us and state what you wish to be printed and we will be glad to assist in helping you locate a preacher.

NEWS

Brother R. B. Robins of Ash Flat, Arkansas preached at Alton, Mo. the fifth Sunday in January.

O. C. Pickens was with the church at Williford on the fifth Sunday. We are glad to see Brother Pickens preaching again after a long illness.

Brother Doyle Kinder meets with the church at Camp each Wednesday night.

Brother Orbie Robbins of Elizabeth tells us he has some meeting time not yet taken during this year.

The mid-week Bible study at Pilot has been changed from Thursday night to Wednesday night.

A GOOD SERMON

As their mother was completing the purchase of new suits for two small boys one of them proudly said: "Won't I look nice in the Bible class tomorrow?" The friendly sales lady said, "Oh do you and your brother go to Bible class on Sunday?" The smaller brother piped up in reply: "Where else would you go or Sunday?" The sales lady blushed and remarked, "That's the best sermon I've heard!"

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EDITORS —

Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd Morgan

"How Beautiful Are The Feet"

Where the workers are so few, and the labor so great, we feel a great loss when one of our brethren find it necessary to return to their homes in America. A common faith, engagement in a common labor of love, and sharing together the disappointment and heartache of failures, and the joys of success, have brought us together as closely as human ties can bind. It was therefore with heaviness of heart that we bid arriverderci to the Carl Mitchell and Hillard Story families who left together on the liner Independence from Genoa Nov. 22.

STORYS RETURN TO ARKANSAS

About ten years ago when the Storys married, they were not members of the church. They both were school teachers. Shortly after their marriage they obeyed the Gospel, and Hillard soon began accepting preaching and teaching assignments. These brief initial experiences convinced him of a need to study and prepare himself for a fuller dedication to the work of evangelization. In 1952 he enrolled at David Lipscomb College where he earned a B. A. degree in Bible. Concurrently with his studies Hillard served as Supervisor of the Spring Hill Orphans' Home.

On May 28, 1955 the Storys sailed for Palermo under the oversight of the St. Elmo church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In October of that same year they moved from Palermo to begin a new work in the city of Naples. They were assisted in this work by Vincenzo Ruggiero, presently evangelist in nearby Poggiomarino. Though many problems were encountered in the beginning, the evangelistic efforts proved successful. A nucleus of fifteen members were left in Naples in March of 1957 as the Storys

were compelled to return to the States due to a partial loss of financial support. Franco Mongillo remained in Naples to continue the work of evangelism. In October of 1957 the Storys returned to Naples, but moved to Rome four months later because of a seemingly greater opportunity to serve. In May of 1959 the Storys again moved, this time to Milan. At that time there were other evangelists in Rome while the Milan congregation was without the services of a full time man.

The recent return of the Harold Padens allows the Storys the freedom to return to America. They had previously delayed their return to prolong their service with the Milan congregation. One necessity of their return is to obtain naturalization of their adopted sons Mark and Bruce. They have also an adopted daughter, Pamela, who returned last month with Gerald Paden, so as to enter school. Another motive for their return is that of assisting Hillard's father. Hillard's father is owner of the "Diamond Motor Court" restaurant-motel-service station combination in Salem, Arkansas, and due to imperfect health needs help in directing a prosperous business.

In addition to his administrative duties, Hillard plans to continue his dedication to the Lord's work. First, he hopes to find the time and tranquility necessary to a methodical study of the Scriptures. Secondly, he plans to preach and teach throughout north central Arkansas. His work will be primarily with congregations that have contributed to his efforts in the Italian field. He will also welcome any opportunity to speak in the interest of the Italian work. One activity that the writer supposes will be interspersed with the above mentioned activities of Story can be deduced by the fact that he brought a new Italian fly rod and reel just before leaving and by the fact that Salem is in excellent fishing country! At least it is a diversion that is consistent with his primary service of fishing for men. Though the future is always uncertain, the Storys foresee their return to Italy in about two years—following the necessary interval for the process of naturalization. Wherever they go, we know that they will exert a very positive influence for the Gospel and that when they return the tall fellow who, according to our Italian brethren, "speaks Italian like the Italians" will render a continually greater service to the young Italian church. May the Lord bless them to this

end. The Storys may be contacted at the following address. Harley Story, Box 2, Salem, Arkansas

Copied from "Roman Forum"

Doing Mission Work For Christ

O. L. Grisham, Dixon, Ill.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:15, 16).

These words were said to the apostles some 1900 years ago. Many times these words are abused from the very fact that they are taken lightly. Many Christians show by their actions, that they believe these words apply only to the apostles. This great commission is quoted in just about every sermon, is taught in every Bible class and sounds forth from a multitude of preachers, and echos from a million pulpits. But, just how much does this commission mean to you and I as the messengers of Christ?

The Church of Christ is commissioned to preach the Gospel to the world. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." (Eph. 3:10). You and I as professed followers of Christ, make up the Church of Christ. How much are we doing toward getting the Gospel to those who are lost? Paul said, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." Are you a living vessel in the service of Christ? We are told that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice to God. (Rom. 12:1, 2). And, that we are living stones in the building of Christ. (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). Just how much active service am I giving to Christ? Souls are going down the broad way to destruction every day. If you and I as the commissioned messengers of Christ do not do all in our power to bring them to Christ, we will be like the one talent man that hid his Lord's money, we will be cast out. If every one that professes to be a Christian would use whatever talent they have in bringing souls to Christ, we would have an army sufficient to convert the world. "He that disbelieveth shall be damned." Think of this, every one who does not obey the Gospel shall be cast out into outer darkness. You and I are responsible for the souls of men because we are not only told to go into all the world and preach the Gospel

to every creature, we are required. If we fail to fulfill our obligations as mission workers for Christ, we will not only lose our souls but we will be responsible for many others being rejected.

The Church of Christ of A. D. 33, even in the face of persecution went every where preaching the word. (Acts 8:1-4). The early church was very enthusiastic about getting the gospel to those who were lost. The grand old song, "You met me day by day and knew I was astray, yet you never mentioned Him to me." imparts a wonderful lesson to you and I. Like the poem, "The only Christ some will ever see, is the Christ they see in you and me." Do our lives as Christians have that influencing element that causes men to look toward the cross in obedience to our Saviours commands? There are many tasks to be done in the service of Christ, but many times professed Christians have an "I CAN'T" for every job to be done. If the early Church had of had the same attitude, you and I might still be out in darkness. Some give the excuse, "I don't have time to go out and convert men. That is what we pay the preacher for." It is no more the duty of the preacher to convert men to Christ than it is for other members of the Body of Christ. The commission most assuredly is to all. Others give many other excuses to keep from doing something for Christ. It is true that all cannot go into mission fields and preach the Gospel, but every Christian is needed; whether at home or abroad. (See Eph. 4:14-17).

Your friends, or relatives, or that family who lives next door, may be outside of Christ and doomed to an eternal hell. Just a little interest manifested by you might save their souls from that terrible place. Noah preached 120 years and saved only eight souls. If you and I spend our lives in service of Christ and save only one soul it will be worth the effort. That one soul might be our own, for the Lord said, "What shall a man be profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" "Or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" We are ambassadors for Christ, and have the word of reconciliation to deliver to the lost souls of men. We must be diligent in doing this, lest we lose our reward. We must work while it is called day, for night shall come when no man can work.

"A half hearted Christian does not render wholehearted service or make big hearted sacrifices."

Problems Facing the Church: Worldliness

Clovis Ragsdale

During the next several issues of this paper the editors will discuss several of the problems which confront the church today. We make no claim of being better qualified to discuss these problems than any one else. Our observations and comments will be advanced in a spirit of humility and a desire that where ever possible the degree of our problems may be lessened by a better understanding of what God would have us do in the greatest work on earth—that of preaching the gospel and saving souls.

The church has known problems almost from the day of its beginning. In the sixth chapter of Acts we learn of a problem which came up in the church at Jerusalem concerning the Grecian widows. The church at Corinth had an abundance of very greivous problems. Much of Paul's letter to this church had to do with these problems, some of which were of a more serious nature than any which face the church today. By heeding the advice of the inspired apostle, we are led to believe that the Corinthian church was able to settle most, if not all of the problems mentioned by Paul, 2 Cor. 7:7. In the study of the seven churches of Asia, as recorded in the book of Revelation, we learn that the church in all ages would be beset with problems of many kinds.

One of the greatest problems facing Christians today is that of worldliness. This is not a new problem, having plagued the church in every age. However, in no other time has the degree of worldliness been as great as in our present generation. This is so because of the faster way of life brought on by the scientific achievements of the past fifty years, as well as the advanced economy of the twentieth century. Pleasure and entertainment are to be had on every hand. Fornication, adultery, strong drink, and all forms of revelling are to be found in almost every community in the world. Moral standards are falling. Our young people are subjected to sin of all kind, many times before they are strong enough to withstand these temptations. Many who call themselves Christians will compromise with the world and be a party to such things as dances, gambling and etc. Unless the drift toward worldliness is halted, this world could become as wicked as Sodom

and Gomorrah in the not too distant future.

What can be done to halt this trend toward evil? It will not be even slowed by people of the world because they enjoy it too much. It can be halted only by God fearing people who are willing to stand up for what is decent and speak out in solemn warning to those who indulge in Sin. Preachers and elders need to warn Christians constantly of these dangers and not take a timid course in reference to worldliness. Fathers and mothers need to train their children at a very early age in the ways of righteous living, even before they come in contact with the wickedness of the world. Paul stated in Rom. 12:2, "and be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." While we live on earth we are in the world, but Christians are not to be of the world, because we are called out, or transformed. In other words we are in the world, but not like the world. Our lives are on a higher plane than the people of the world. This is why Paul said in Titus 2:14 that Christians are a peculiar people. Our ways are not to be like the world and this would make us peculiar in their sight. Christ, in the sermon on the mount, referred to those who would follow him as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Every Christian has a part to play in this battle against worldliness. By word of mouth and by way of life we can do our part in building a wall against the tidal wave of worldliness sweeping over the world. The hour is late and the task is great but we must not fail. Jonah thought that he could not cope with wicked Ninevah, but this one man singlehanded turned the course of a great city of people from their wicked ways and caused them to repent in sack cloth and ashes. This should encourage the faint-hearted to try and the strong to redouble their efforts to hold up the banner of Jesus Christ to a sinful world.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"An excuse may satisfy, but it can never save."

"Bees do not sting and make honey at the same time."

"A man may suffer without sinning, but he cannot sin without suffering."

"The road to ruin is always in good repair, and the travelers pay the expense of upkeep."

How Mistakes Are Made

In the printing of a paper like the Fulton County News, mistakes are bound to happen. The writer of an article may make the mistake through ignorance or by accident. The one who sets the type may hit the wrong key and a mistake will be the result. Our attention was called to a mistake which appeared in an article last month by Clovis Ragsdale. John 3:16 was quoted and was credited to John 2: 16. A check of the manuscript showed that the correct scripture was turned in to the printer and that the mistake was due to a typesetter's error. We ask our readers to take these possibilities into account and bear with all concerned. We are glad that people are careful readers of this paper and we appreciate having our attention called to errors that may appear.

Medley of Matters

Boyd E. Morgan

At this writing, Jan. 20 we have had five responses at Mammoth Spring. Three baptisms: Theresa Nicholson; Martha "Tootsie" Smith; Lanis Nicholson. Two restorations: Sue Smith and Wanda Lou Haney. Our hearts rejoice.

The church at Thayer has its new pews installed and has new pulpit furniture.

The church at Bay, Ark. is increasing the size of their meeting house to almost double its present capacity. The improved auditorium will seat 500, classrooms, central heating and air conditioning will be added. I preached at Bay for five years during the '40's and it was a good church then and has continued to grow.

Winona Church has thirteen members. The building is complete and a propane heating unit has been installed. New Testaments for classes will be purchased this month.

The Mammoth Spring lectures are planned to begin March 20. Unique on the program is a lecture on "The Last Will and Testament" by Attorney James McDaniel, one of Jonesboro's leading lawyers. His discourse will approach the subject on the legal aspect. Other speakers scheduled are A. G. Lemmons, Charles Coil, Hilliard Story, Jerry Jenkins, and Doyle Kinder.

The baptistry at Mammoth Spring has been fixed so the water is kept warm 24 hours a day.

Bro. George Browning is the new

preacher at Mountain View, Mo. Bro. Browning made a talk on "Growing" at the Winona church building dedication. He has been located at Mountain View about two months and we very happily welcome him to this area. The church there conducted a singing last Fifth Sunday afternoon.

The church at Welcome Hill has joined the churches contributing to the expense of keeping the daily radio program over KALM on the air and will give \$5 monthly to this purpose.

Fulton County Gospel News is now under the oversight of the Mammoth Spring elders. This is better in every respect. We need to have some more congregations who will contribute regularly to the paper. Take it up and let us know. Publication of this paper and mailing costs total about \$50 monthly. Regular contributions are only about \$20 monthly. We are dependent upon individual contributions and occasional church contributions for the balance.

Newly released statistics show that the Church of Christ now has 2,007,653 members in the United States. Membership has almost trebled in the past ten years. This puts us in 10th place among the major non-Catholic religious bodies. Among the brotherhood is 16,500 churches over half of which were built in the past ten years. There are sixteen Christian Colleges, seventeen children's homes and ten homes for the aged.

John Kirk, executive producer of the Herald of Truth series employed a George Peters, a Dallas man with a good record in Hollywood pictures production to film 30 programs for television. What happened? On Nov. 4, 1960 as the crew of the television program stopped for lunch in a busy day, Peters made a profound decision. On Nov. 5 at 8 A.M. he was baptized into the Lord's Church.

One Thing Thou Lackest

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.

In the gospel according to Mark we have the rich young ruler who came to Jesus wanting to know what he must do to inherit eternal life. The Lord told him to keep the commandments and he said, "All these have I observed from my youth." Jesus said, "One thing thou lackest yet go and sell what thou hath and give to the poor. Come thou and follow me." Mk. 10:17-22.

We see that the rich ruler had good points but lacked one thing.

Where are we lacking? Are we lack-

ing in proper attitude toward money? This was the rich young ruler's trouble and many today (Mk. 10:22). "The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." I Tim. 6:10.

Israel offered the lame, the unwanted. Do we? (Mal. 1:7-8, Mal. 3:8). We are to give as God prospers us. (I Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 9:6-8). The Covetous will not inherit the Kingdom of God. (Eph. 5:5)

Are we lacking in good works? Paul says we are created unto good works. (Eph. 2:10). We are to glorify God with good works. (Mt. 5:16). We are to abound in good works. (I Cor. 15:58). We are furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We should be zealous of good works. (Tit. 2:14) and maintain good works. (Tit. 3:8-14). James tells us that faith without works is dead. (James 2:17-22). Those who fail to do good works will be turned away in the judgment. (Mt. 25:41-46).

Are we lacking in Godly living? We are taught to live Godly in Christ Jesus. (Tit. 2:11-12, 2 Pet. 1:3). Grace is to be added. (2 Pet. 1:6). We should exercise ourselves unto Godliness. (I Tim. 4:7-8). Not to love and follow the world. (I Jno. 2:15-16). Nor to walk after the flesh. (Rom. 8:12-13). The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom. (I Cor. 6:9-10)

Are we lacking in obedience? We must do the fathers will. Jesus said not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father who is in heaven. (Mt. 7:21). Jesus said if ye love me ye will keep my commandments. (Jno. 14:15-21). Obedience is from the heart and for Salvation. Paul said ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which we delivered you, being then made free from sin ye became the servants of righteousness. Rom. 6:17-18. Paul said Jesus became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him. (Heb. 5:8-9). But Paul says all have not obeyed. (Rom. 10:16).

Those who do not obey will be lost. Peter said the time has come when judgement must begin at the house of God, and if the righteous scarcely be saved where shall the sinner and the ungodly appear, and what shall be the end of those who obey not the gospel of God. (I Pet. 4:17).

Are we to miss eternal life for lacking one thing? Think on this. James said whosoever shall keep the whole law and offend in one point is guilty of all. (James 2:10). But whosoever looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, this man shall be blessed in his doing. James 1:24-25.