

Spiritual Call

A Continuance of "Macedonian Call"

To be carnally minded is death, but to be
SPIRITUALLY minded is life and peace.

—Romans 8:6

Walk worthy of the vocation (calling)
wherewith ye are **CALLED**.

—Ephesians 4:1

Volume 23

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, NOVEMBER, 1949

Number 11

The Word "Success" is NOT in the New Testament

IF WE ARE TO JUDGE from the actions and words of many people, we would draw the conclusion that the greatest thing in the world is "SUCCESS" as men count it. And yet, believe it or not, the very word is not in the New Testament which is to guide the Christian. But Paul had the same kind of people to deal with in his day, even in the Church, for he refers to them as "proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain [financial success] is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." (1 Tim. 6: 1, 5.)

I know that some translations transpose the words, and make it read, "supposing that godliness is a way of gain," but it seems to me now to convey the meaning of the context best to leave them just as they are in the Greek. There are many people even in the Church who seem to think that because they are successful in a financial way, they are specially blessed, or favored, of God. Though God promises that he will never leave us nor forsake us, yet he never did promise to make us specially successful, rich. Paul says that such an idea is all, all, wrong.

Others think that because they have arisen to some high place in the political or social world, they are approved of God, when generally the opposite is true. In nine cases out of ten, when Christians become successful in the things of this world, they lose their religion, and go along with the world instead of withdrawing from it and loving it not.

Daily papers tell that Protestants expect to spend \$700,000,000 for new or improved church buildings, and many think that is a great sign of prosperity with the Lord, when it is usually a manifestation of Pride. Some think because they have great crowds in their meetings, God is surely with them. Well, it is true that we long to see people saved, but when in these times great crowds are walking in the narrow way, it is contrary to the general prophecy of the Lord, for he says the way to perdition is wide, and many are they who walk therein.

We may have great protracted meetings, and have to bring in extra chairs, and have people standing around the wall (congregations from many places being represented), and be successful, we think, yet not be successful in God's view. We may have the largest contributions we ever had, and hundreds and even thousands of dollars in the treasury, and think we are sitting on the top of the world religiously; and yet we may be nothing before God. We may have mass meetings when hundreds of brethren from many states come together, and think we are about to turn the world upside down, and yet from the New Testament we may be getting ready for a great slide away from God. We may have Youth Meetings, when scores and even hundreds of young people come together and have a good time with their religion, and

we may think that the church will surely continue with such coming on; yet in the past such movements have generally been the prelude to a big digression from the truth.

No, gentle reader, we may have all these apparently successful conditions in religion, and yet not be approved of God. The church at Ephesus had done much work, had been very active, and had rejected some false teachers, and yet Jesus said, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works, or else I will come unto thee quickly and will remove thy candlestick." (Rev. 3.)

No, dear disciple, we may have all these outward signs of success, and yet be failures with God. The church at Laodicea said to itself, in substance, I am rich, have large contributions and am increased with goods, have fine buildings and additions thereto, and have need of nothing, am getting along better than ever before. Many churches today are boasting in the same way, but Jesus warned these self-deceived ones, "Thou knowest not that spiritually thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

We may have all these outward signs of success, as men call success, and yet have the Master we serve say to us, because of our lack of real spirituality, "I know thy words, that thou art neither cold nor hot; . . . So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

So let us throw aside all this smugness in our deceived hearts, and look deep into the great success before God, *the living of a spiritual life*. "Follow peace with all me, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Since writing this article, there has come to our attention the following pertinent article from Alexander Campbell in the Millennial Harbinger just a hundred years ago.—Editor.

"It is Holy Living That Develops"—

We have many religious tenets, principles, and measures which are most irreligiously propounded, discussed, and debated. We have too many very excellent compositions, fine essays, and sermons, in chaste, logical, and rhetorical style; but they have no unction. They want the earnestness of benevolence the sincerity of Christian affection, and therefore are powerless of good. *It is holy living that develops the real Christian. There may be great knowledge, great zeal, great talents, and great labor, in the propagation of SOUND doctrine and CORRECT principles, and yet no real, vital, saving Christianity in the heart and life of the advocate and defender of them.* All great preachers, great reformers, zealous professors, and sound reasoners and writers, will not enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth and only he that doeth, the will of our Father in heaven,

will ever enter into the immediate presence-chamber of the great, and awful, and glorious Jehovah.

We have no lack of great preachers, great writers, great debaters, and great zealots: *but are they all or many of them. great Christians?* Self-examination was a duty in the days of Paul and amidst the appalling dangers attendant on the Christian profession in his time: how much more now in the days of popular and political Christianity, when kings, and emperors, and heroes, and conquerors and lawyers, and presidents, and popes, and legates and archbishops with their lawns, and crosiers, and mitres, and carriages and palaces, and retinues, are all walking in the narrow way, and pressing through the strait gate into the heavenly kingdom!

I often look with fearful forebodings on all forms and professions of Christianity. The theory—how sublime, how heavenlike, how glorious! but the practice—how worldly, how sensual, how selfish, and sometimes how demoniacal! Real revivals, how few! Real backslidings, how many! How perpendicular the theory how prone and crooked the practice! *We want order, and organization, and combined effort; but we also want piety, and zeal, and self-denial, and humility, and spirituality, and heavenly-mindedness.* For all these wants we especially need self-examination, prayerfulness, and seculsion from the worldly spirit, the worldly maxims, and the worldly pursuits of this secular age and nation in which we live. Oh for more spirituality, more earnestness, more zeal, and for many preachers like sister Bullard! May the Lord have mercy upon the present Christian profession! —Alexander Campbell.

Danger! Stop, Look, Listen!

The following are a few extracts from a sermon delivered by Dr. Walter Maier on the Lutheran Hour, Sept. 25.

Far more devastating than a third atomic war is the growing disregard of Scripture in our nation which, founded by those who revered God's Word, protected and prospered by the Almighty as no other country, should humbly thank the Lord for His revelation, but which too often proudly spurns His Word. We are beginning to pay a prohibitive price for our neglect of the Bible. *Twenty-five million comic books are published every month in our country; but in a recent test only 12 out of 1,526 Massachusetts children in the seventh and eighth grades named a religious or Biblical figure as worthy of admiration.* As young people read the attack on the Christian faith led by people in high places; as high school teachers go out of their way to assail the Christian doctrine, these young minds are poisoned against the Bible, and they soon reject it as out of date and out of place in our modern advance. The result, of course, is the unparalleled upswing of youthful law-breaking in the United States. *For the first six months of this year, according to F.B.I. figures, crime kept marching on in these United States, and "the predominant age of all the persons arrested for all types of crime . . . was twenty-one years."*

With the Bible banned from many households — a recent report states that while forty years ago fifty per cent of our American Christian homes had a family altar, family Scripture reading, and prayer, *only five per cent today take time to worship the Lord*—is it any wonder that unfaithfulness, divorce, domestic misery, and sins of the flesh flourish as never before? With God's Word thus widely pushed aside and neglected, need we search far afield to find the cause for many of the sorrows that assail us? Too many in the state and federal governments have said good-by to the Bible. They have no time or interest for Holy Writ. What do we

find instead? Too often excessive drinking! An Illinois senator complains that cocktail parties in Washington interfere with the functions of good government, and so widely has official drinking spread in some states that the Madison, Wisconsin, *Capital Times*, for example, declares: "There are too many public officials, judges and legislators in this State who have gotten drunk, and who have made exhibitions of themselves in public places. The *Capital Times* believes that it is time for the press of Wisconsin to call upon our booze-drinking officials to show some respect for the dignity of the offices they hold." . . .

The day of that judgment is rapidly approaching. Scripture records for us the signs which are to foretell the beginning of the end and the approach of Christ's return. Never previously have these warnings been fulfilled so frequently and exactly as in the present moment. The time is drawing close, the Bible teaches us, when the earth will be destroyed by fire, and "*the elements shall melt in fervent heat.*" Don't listen to those who say that the globe will not be consumed by fire, that matter is indestructible, that the world will go on forever! Even scientists who have no interest in the Bible as God's Word are writing and speaking about the end of the world as never before; and if some claim that man himself will be able to blow up the earth, why should anyone doubt that the Almighty will keep His Word and make an end of this unbelieving, sin-saturated sphere? . . .

When today we invite you to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ your Saviour, *we do not hesitate to warn you that, as soon as you stand up for Jesus, you will have to stand up against assaults on your faith.* Yet the battle is worth the fighting. Make the "*foundation . . . that is laid*" for you "*Jesus Christ!*" Sing out with unswerving loyalty.

*"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness."*

Then, no matter, how many know-it-all opponents of the faith ridicule your trust, you will find joy in Jesus and the guarantee of peace in your heart, love in your soul, praise on your lips, and courage in your mind to meet the worst that life can bring with the confidence that, since you are Christ's purchased by Him at the price of His precious blood, you can be His forever, blessed with the assurance that everything which happens to you comes as the evidence of his love.

Pilgrimage

*So long I have been guided by Thy power,
Up many a tangled path and stony hill,
And now, dear Lord, through this strange darkened hour
Be with me still.*

*Be with me for the way is long and lonely,
I am bewildered, and I cannot see,
But, Lord, I shall not be afraid, if only
You walk with me.*

*If I can ever keep recalling
The darkened roads I travelled in the past;
How, after You long guarded me from falling,
Light shone at last.*

*Then surely, Lord, I can go forward, knowing
That somewhere on the hills the light will dawn,
And I shall reach it safely, if in going,
You still lead on.*

GRACE NOLL CROWELL

"Churchanity has Smothered Christianity"

By Churchanity we mean the doctrines and commandments of men in religion; and by Christianity, the commands of Christ and his inspired apostles. Divisions among Christians are caused by Churchanity, and we could be united if we would practice the Christianity of the New Testament. *Details not given of commands the apostles gave, must be carried out in harmony with the rest of the New Testament.* Read your New Testament and see if apostolic Christians had any of the things we list under "Churchanity." Also, see what we list under the name "Christianity" upon which we can all be united, and which along with other such commands in N. T., contain all that the Lord expects us to do.

CHURCHANITY

Where do we find mentioned or endorsed in the New Testament: Great fine meeting houses (the paying for which smothers helping the poor, etc.)—choirs—robed priests or preachers—visible altars—burning candles or incense—elaborate windows—titles of authority or respect such as Reverend, D.D., etc.—human organizations of missionary societies, theological seminaries, aid societies, Bible schools and colleges, organized Sunday schools, orphan homes etc., to do missionary, aid or educational work which is the business of the church, and was done by apostolic Church and Christians in the way we know God endorses—conventions of uninspired preachers, bishops, et al.—"Bible Readings" to develop preachers—drives for great budgets—doctrine of obey elders right or wrong—tithing under the gospel—young people's conventions and meetings—lectureships of preachers—taboo on preachers who do not have a degree from some college—a Christian cannot withdraw from a congregation, but the congregation CAN "withdraw from" that member—a group of disciples without elders is not scriptural unless under an evangelist—suppers, shows, bazaars and such things to raise money—rallies for this or that—one man preacher pastor to do practically all the teaching in a church with elders—presidents, vice-presidents, presiding elders, cardinals, archbishops, popes—instrumental music in worship—do almost everything in groups, or organizations.

Reader, you may laugh at opposition to such practices and methods as mentioned above, which we call "Churchanity," yet all these practices and methods and many others are not only not mentioned specifically in the New Testament, but they are contrary to scriptures or principles of the N.T. These things and methods are substitutes for God's commands and God's ways. Besides, these are the things which cause divisions and we should give them up and practice only what is mentioned or what is in harmony with the New Testament.

CHRISTIANITY

Following are many of the things mentioned almost verbatim in the New Testament which the Lord expects us to obey along with the others we have not space to enumerate. Back your brain to see how much you have heard mentioned publicly on these necessary activities, methods, etc. Present bodies living sacrifices, not dead ones—be not conformed to this world—don't think too highly of yourself—woe unto you hypocrites—put away from among yourselves that wicked person—don't go to law with one another—many things are lawful but not expedient when it causes weak brothers to go astray—neither murmur you—let no man seek his own, but every one another's welfare—there must be heresies among you that they who are approved may be made manifest among you—abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good—be kindly affectioned one to another—in matters of honor, or distinction, prefer one another—be red hot in spirit—distribute to the necessity of saints—bless your persecutors—

joy with the successful, weep with the unfortunate—don't form into cliques, but be of the same mind one toward another.

All of this is pure Christianity, and the Church today has little of it!!

Be sure you have been born again, of water and the Spirit—don't return "tit for tat," but if your enemy hunger feed him—a man in Christ is a new creature—Christ died for us that henceforth we should not live to ourselves but unto Him who died for us and rose again—be not unequally yoked with unbelievers but come out from among them—cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit—beware of false prophets who come unto you in sheep's clothing—fear lest your mind be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ—envying, drunkenness, revelling and such like will keep us out of the kingdom of God—bear one another's burdens—if any man be overtaken in a fault, we who are spiritual are to restore such as one in the spirit of meekness, not waiting for the preacher or elder to do it—do good unto all men, especially unto the household the faith, and not waiting for the deacons to do it out of the church treasury—comfort one another with the words that Christ is coming again and will receive us unto himself—because Christ is to be the judge of the living and the dead, we are to be sober and watch.

What a different church and world we would have if such things were preached on instead of "Churchanity!"

We are to rejoice evermore and pray without ceasing—be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God—think on things honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report—we are complete in him and don't need any religious thing which man can manufacture—we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ and there is no escape—preach the word, reprove, rebuke, exhort, even if it brings persecution—repent and be baptized for the remission of sins—forsake not your assembling together, which assembling among Christians on the first day of the week was to break bread, edify one another, lay by in store, sing, pray—blessed are they who do His commandments, not those of men, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city.

Say, "Christian" reader, are we doing these things? If not, are we really Christians?

Love not the world neither the things in the world—as we move from place to place, go preaching the word—fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—preachers are to commit what they know to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also—wives are to be subject to their own husbands, and husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it—older women are to teach the younger women—fear not them who can kill the body but can not kill the soul—all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Oh, what a happy, united church we would have if Christians were doing these things which God has so plainly taught, instead of so many things he has NOT taught!

If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him—foolish and unlearned questions avoid—from such evil characters as Paul mentions, withdraw thyself—obey them that have the rule over you, in all indifferent matters, but bishops can not answer for us and when they teach contrary to God we are to obey God rather than men—elders, bishops, are not to be lords over God's heritage but examples to the flock—man's theology about the Bible won't save us, but *obedience to God's commands will save us*, and how plain they are!—on the first day of the week lay by in store for the

SPIRITUAL CALL

Published Monthly by
D. A. SOMMER
918 Congress Avenue
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Subscription Rate

- 1 New subscription for a year, \$1.00 each—Old, \$1.25 each.
5 New subscriptions, 75c each—\$3.75
5 Old subscriptions or more, \$1.00 each—\$5.00
10 New subscriptions, 50c each—\$5.00
25 copies to ONE address for a year—\$10.00

Entered as second class matter May 1, 1936, at the post office at Indianapolis, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

poor saints—preachers who fail to warn the people will have to answer for helping send people to perdition—all are to be subject one to another in all indifferent matters where God has not specifically given details, if such submission does not keep us from obeying any of God's commands—be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

There is not a single good thing in the "Churchanity," which God has not given in the "Christianity" he has plainly taught. "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Our time, talent, money and energy are spent on outward forms which God has not ordained, and we have little time for what he has clearly taught. *Man's Churchanity has smothered God's Christianity.*

Reader, if we go to hell, it will be because we are not converted enough to read God's word to find out what he there tells us to do. "Blessed are they who do *HIS* commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." Let us make our calling and election SURE.

The Lake of Fire

People all over the known world know how destructive fire is and they respect it. In every sense they teach their children the danger, and how hazardous it is. And they protect themselves against it by building fireproof buildings or covering their property by a good insurance policy. Every industry has their fire fighting crews, men trained to handle the fire of every nature. Posters are kept before every employee to remind him of the danger of fire, and how to eliminate every danger.

And the world goes on never stopping to think of the greatest fire that is kindled against the devil and all of his followers, where the fire is not quenched and where the worm dieth not, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 25:30.

But the world can not see the insurance God has given us through his Son, nor can they see the fire fighting crew Christ has set up through his Apostles and the faithful few who are striving to uphold the Blood Stained Banner of King Emanuel. And are ready and willing to help any poor soul to rise from the fear and dread of the tomb, by helping them to escape the fire that causes a separation from God and from the glory of his power. 1 Thess. 1:7-9.

And when Jesus comes in all His glory, it will be too late to take out any protection. The firemen of God will not have any time to help any one thru his poster. The New Testament will have been fulfilled, the door of mercy will be closed, and all that will be left will be to cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from the presence of God, Rev. 6:15-16, but could not be hid. They cried in vain. So while we have time and opportunity we should make our peace, calling and election sure by obeying God and be protected against that great and last fire. —Harold Ottwell.

Worldly Amusements

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man have loved the world, the love of the Father is not in him. John 2:15.

Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh (meat) while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. 1 Cor. 8:13. Paul was willing to give up eating meat for the sake of others. Can we not give up Something?

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

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. 2 Cor. 6:14. Why?

No man can serve two masters; for either, he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other, ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matt. 6:24.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God. James 4:4.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye Separate Saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you. 2 Cor. 6:17.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a Soldier. 2 Tim. 2:4.

For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Cor. 6:20.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God him will God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. 1 Cor. 3:16, 17. Do you think that you could retain the Holy Spirit, while on a ballroom floor? Would that not be defiling the temple of the Holy Spirit. Your body is that temple.

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. Titus 1:16. When you are on a dance floor or sitting at the card table, are you confessing Christ by your works? Would you invite the sinless Son of God to join you? Would you ask a blessing on it?

Walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into Judgment. Eccl. 11:9.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. Phil. 4:6. Do you dance, play cards, attend theaters, road houses, for the glory of God? Oh yes, some say all my friends dance and have a good time, and my pastor says dancing is alright. Paul said, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. Gal. 1:9. In Hope, J. D. Powers.

Preach Needed Truth Anywhere You Can

A few days ago a radio preacher who also holds one day evangelistic services in many places, was condemned by a listener for opening "fairs" with his one day evangelist service. He preaches much needed truth, that is true, wherever he can, we admire him for his denunciation of sin. He said in reply to the woman that we had to go where the people are and where they will hear the truth. He said that most religious people would better get down and out of their great fine church buildings, with vested choirs, stained windows, et al., and go into the highways and byways and preach to the people.

No doubt the evangelist was right, in part at least—we must get down and go where the people are. A true preacher of the gospel should be willing to go anywhere to proclaim the story of Jesus. I would go into any denominational church house in the land, or theater, or saloon, or anywhere else, to preach the truth, but it would be with the understanding that I could tell the truth as I saw it in the Word of God. Maybe I would not be permitted to preach there more than once. Still, I would try to display wisdom. Jesus said even to his apostles, "I have many things to say unto you, but you can not bear them now." I would try rather to LEAD them to the truth than to drive them. Paul said to Timothy, "Preach the word, reprove, rebuke, and exhort." and that should be the model for a true gospel preacher today.

There are some preachers whom I would not suggest such a course to, because they would go along with the errorist and teach them in such a mild and gentle way, that the hearers would not get it, and they might spend years in such "work", and never get anywhere. Why? Because they would not have the courage to speak out boldly for Christ and denounce the sin which was needed at that place. Maybe they would speak mildly once in a great while against departures from the truth, to satisfy their consciences, whether it satisfied the Lord or not. Such compromisers need to be converted themselves to the work which they are pretending to be doing—preaching the Word of God. A preacher can not be "free from the blood of all men," as Paul said he was, unless he "shuns not to declare the whole counsel of God."

When the apostles went out to preach the gospel of the kingdom, and a city rejected the teaching, they were to shake off the dust of their feet against that city. So, today, when we find we can not get people to receive the truth, we should leave them and go to those who seem more susceptible to it. In fact, even in the so-called "church of Christ," there are people and elders who will not receive the truth as well as some in the denominations, and one would better turn to them than waste time with "scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites" who "pay tithes of mint, anise and cummin, and omit the weightier matters of the law, justice, mercy and faith," even though they may be called "the Church of Christ."

Much depends on which way a man has his face turned. Some are in Babylon, but have their faces toward Jerusalem. I have much consideration for such people for they have not had the chance that many of us have had. On the other hand, there are those who are in "the Church of Christ," but have their faces toward Babylon and one can do nothing with them in their pell-mell rush downward.

So let each one of us preach the truth, whether we be elder, deacon, so-called preacher, other member, anywhere, everywhere we can get a chance which is according to decency and order. The early disciples went everywhere preaching the word. Are we doing the same?

"Fret Not Thyself"

Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Psalms 37:1,2.

As we look around us in the world today, and see the financial achievements of many worldly men, we are liable to be envious of them and desire to have some of their luxuries. Then is the time that we should give earnest heed to this admonition of the Psalmist.

Paul also says—But Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can take nothing out. And having food and rai-

ment let us therewith be content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 1 Tim. 6:6-9. As we look around us, we see how true this is.

David continues in this Psalm—Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Verses 3-6. How full of comfort and consolation these words are to the Christian. Trust in God. Casting all of our care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Pet. 5:7.

Verses 10-11 of this Psalm—For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Verse 16—A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

Verses 18 and 19—The Lord knoweth the days of the upright; and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time; and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

Verses 23 to 26—The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Verses 35 to 39—I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not; yea I sought him, but he could not be found.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; he is their strength in the time of trouble. These are some extracts from this 37th Psalm, the whole psalm is so full of hope and consolation for the righteous, that it merits a careful reading and meditation. It describes fully God's care and watchfulness over those who love and serve him, and the fate and destruction of the wicked.

The New Testament also is full of comfort and consolation. Peter tells us, The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. 2 Peter 2:9.

And Paul in 2 Tim. 2:19 says, Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.

Therefore brethren, let us fight the fight of faith, and remain faithful unto death, for it is he who overcometh, that will receive the crown of life.—Fred D. Weed.

Scattered Thoughts

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." (Gal. 5:26.)

Satan was lifted up in pride and was seeking his own glory, and for this cause was cast out of heaven. And today we see some in the church who are seeking their own glory and are puffed up in their own fleshly minds.

I recall a teacher of a Bible class, who when standing before his audience, had the habit oftentimes of making light of their knowledge of the lesson, when there were in his class many perhaps that had as good an understanding of the lesson as he. Like many another he seemed to think

himself the only one capable of understanding the scriptures.

Some of us may be afraid that our influence will not be what it should be and for that reason will not do what we know to be right. Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then, if we preach the word and obey the word, then it follows, that God will see that our influence will be just what he wants it to be. We need not doubt what the results will be, if we obey Him.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. (Gal. 5:22, 23). Joy and peace will come to us only from the results of faith and love which are manifested when we exercise long suffering, gentleness, goodness, and meekness in our dealings with our brethren and our fellowman. The Philippian brethren were good examples of this class. Diotrephes was an example of the opposite class, demonstrating by his treatment of the brethren that he had no love or consideration for them, only interested in his own exaltation. We have too many like him today, who seem to be interested more in their glory, than in the saving of souls. If brethren today were clothed with humility, we would be able to have peace instead of strife. Too many are lifted up in pride and have fallen into the condemnation of the devil. Examine yourselves to see whether you be in the faith.

None of us will obtain eternal salvation because of our goodness, neither because of the approval of the world. What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8). What a wonderful condition the church would be in, if all would do justly, love, mercy and walk humbly with God! Then debates and strife would cease, and others seeing our good works would glorify God and the church would grow and prosper.

Are we doing justly, are we Merciful? "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Do we walk humbly with God?—C. D. McCay.

SOME BROTHERS WRITE US

WORTHINGTON, MO.—

Dear Bro. Sommer.—Bro. H. L. Carlton began our meeting Aug. 20th—closed Sept. 11th. We had fair to good attendance when the weather was good. The meeting resulted in one baptism. Everything considered, a good meeting. We had four preachers altogether. Visiting brethren from Jerseyville and Wood River, Ill., Kirksville, Brookfield, Mt. Hope, Martinstown, East Concord; Unionville, Mo. and Des Moines, Iowa. We are fully satisfied with Bro. Carlton's work. I want to express our appreciation of cooperation of brethren from other places. Their help and encouragement strengthened us very much. Prayerfully your brother in Christ—J. A. Collins.

BROOKFIELD, MO.—

Dear Bro. Sommer and Call readers—Since my last report we had a good visit with Bro. Carlton on his way home from meetings at Worthington and Unionville. Sorry I could not attend both meetings but could not on account of sickness. Quite a number from Brookfield attended both meetings. From reports, the Sins of Some Men are going before to judgment. In those parts, I am more convinced than ever that Bro. Carlton should be kept busy; he gave us a good lesson as he passed through. Brethren, write him if you want the truth. (His address is Vienna, Ill.—Editor).

Sorry that Bro. Powers, Stockton, Calif., couldn't stop with us on his way back West. Bro. Powers has our sympathy and prayers in his sorrows and persecutions. We recommend him as one who is willing to live Godly in Christ Jesus, even though he is persecuted. What a grand thought. How many more are willing to suffer as a Christian? Let them not be ashamed; but let them glorify God in this behalf. 1 Pet. 4:16.

I certainly enjoyed the last Spiritual Call, especially the new writers. Brethren, keep up the good work of exhorting one another, and let's not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. Gal. 6:9. G. R. Blankinship, Brookfield, Mo.

GOOD BOOKS FOR PRESENTS

SIMPLIFIED NEW TESTAMENT is for children as well as grown-ups. A sister in Kentucky just ordered two saying, "It is so much more help (especially for children) in Bible study." \$3.10 a copy; but five copies, \$2.60 each. Why not make all your children a present of one? Some have to their children.

JAMIESON, FAUSSET, BROWN COMMENTARY of whole Bible. All teachers should have such. It does not chew up the spiritual food and put it in your mouth, but gives MANY valuable scripture references to look up on the verses. If it, or any other book, does not prove the point, don't accept it. If you are mentally lazy, don't waste your money. \$7.00.

BIBLE PICTURES AND WHAT THEY TEACH, for young children. Has 400 illustrations with brief description. \$2.00.

FIRST STEPS FOR LITTLE FEET. For children who cannot read.

STORY OF THE GOSPEL, for young children, \$1.25.

DRAMA OF WORLD EMPIRES. Gives brief history of ancient world empires, so often mentioned in the Old Testament. Contains brief outline of many prophecies of Old Testament. Makes easy course in prophecies, for winter reading. Four copies, \$1.00. Hand three copies to some friends whom it might help. It makes a good book merely to sit down and read through, several times. All books are postpaid.

TEN SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR A YEAR TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS OF SPIRITUAL CALL for only five dollars. Have you not many friends out of Christ, or not faithful, who might read. Do you love their souls?

THE APPALLING RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL OLDER CHRISTIANS

'Twas a sheep not a lamb that strayed away,
In the parable Jesus told;
A grown up sheep, that had gone astray,
From the ninety and nine in the fold.

Out on the hillside, out' in the cold,
'Twas a sheep the good Shepherd sought;
And back to the flock, safe in the fold,
'Twas a sheep the good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long,
And as earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is danger if they go wrong,
They will lead the lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray,
When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long,
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

—Author unknown

BRO. J. D. POWER'S WIFE has died. They have reared a large family, and the old brother will miss this one who stood by his side while he preached the gospel and sacrificed for it, through the years. Now I know that many of those who have known Bro. Powers through the years will write him a few lines of comfort in this sad hour of his. His address is J. D. Powers, 4418 E. Washington, Stockton, 47A Calif.

WE ARE GLAD that we have new writers of exhortation in Church News, and are looking for more. Are you one? But, for the printer's sake, please write on one side ONLY of your sheet, and write as plainly as you can. Don't be afraid of mistakes in grammar, etc., for we shall TRY to take care of that. It's spiritual thoughts we are interested in.

BRO. H. L. CARLTON of Vienna, Ill., is holding a meeting at the newly-established church at Wood River, Ill. Two have thus far been converted to Christ. Good-sized audiences are in attendance. Sunday, Oct. 23, there were three meetings. The publisher and his wife spent several days in this meeting, and appreciated their hospitality. Both morning and afternoon on Lord's Day, both Bro. Carlton and Sommer discoursed to the hearers. Brethren were present from several different congregations. Dinner was eaten in the community hall at Roxana. There is a good field there, it seems to me, for most of the people of the different cities there, all seem to be on a level. The people are living comfortably, yet there are few mansions. We hope and pray the spirit of humility and consideration for one another which they now have, will ever continue and spread to some adjoining congregations which need it badly.—D. A. S.

JERSEYVILLE, ILL.—

Dear Bro. Sommer—The work here at Jerseyville, Ill., is growing. Three more additions—that makes 7 this summer.

We had the church building painted and have our winters supply of coal in, and all paid for. Everyone seems interested in doing all they can to help the church grow.

Our attendance is increasing—around 50 on Lord's Day morning, at night around 30 to 38, Wednesday night, average 20.

—Robt. Skultz

THE "SPIRITUAL CALL" IS NOT A SECTARIAN PAPER. We try at all times to be unbiased regarding what is presented. We are not trying to establish a sect, nor to uphold a certain clique, nor to follow any man except as he teaches the Word of God. We are not seeking to be popular. Lincoln once said, "Stand with a man as long as he stands with the truth, but when he turns from truth, turn from him." We have had to depart from many friends whom we trusted, even some relatives, when they turned from the truth, and they have become our most bitter enemies. Jesus said, "The TRUTH shall make you free." Let us all be reasonable, ready to learn or investigate when a serious diversity is before us, find the truth, and then stand there regardless of men or devils! Truth alone will judge us, not man nor his mere opinions.

LINGERING THOUGHTS

If for fear of toil and strife we linger, but for worldly fame we strive, what then, my friends, will happen when the books are opened wide?

Shall we in times of weakness fail, our duty to our God? If so my friends, our cause is lost; our work for Him prevails.

When temptation lies before us as the sand before the sea, may our thoughts on God's Will linger, bring us closer, Dear God, to thee.

Who is he that cares not why His Precious blood was shed, but one whose mind in hell's depths lingers. Who can dare say, "I love Him," His will not to obey, "dear God, dear God, in Heaven, what are we to say?"

May we, Your children, stay within the bonds upon the road so narrow, one false move, a careless slip, may cause dismay and sorrow.

Look not ahead nor dwell behind, times summons warns no child of mine, but he on guard both day and night, until our fight is won.—Elvis E. Tucker, Hartford, Ill.

FAITH-BORERS

There is a lot of discussion and concern among corn growing farmers about the Corn borer. The small worm-like insect bores his way into tall stalks, eats out the center so that the stalk will break over and fall to the ground with the first little wind. Many stalks become so infested that they break in many places.

Isn't it also true that there are "Faith-borers," drilling and boring their way into our faith. We are told to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3. We also know that we stand by faith, II Cor. 1:24; and we walk by faith, II Cor. 5:7. When the borer of unconcern eats his way on the inside we'll contend for about anything and everything but the faith once delivered. We stand by faith, but when the borer of pride and preeminence gets on the inside he leaves a hollow "stalk of faith" ready to be blown down with the wind of false doctrine. When our eye of faith becomes so weak that we have to depend upon the sight of our human eye, its a sure sign our faith has been attacked. If our shield of faith is full of holes leaving all the fiery darts of the wicked to pass through, what kind of a Christian would that be?

It is high time that we awake to the fact, that just as sure as God said to contend for the faith once delivered, just that sure Satan will, and is using every conceivable means to tear down that faith, and the contention for that faith

There is a constant effort to produce corn that is more resistant to the corn borer. How much more should be our effort to develop ourselves and others to be more resistant to these "faith borers". The words of the Apostle Paul are well worth repeating "Fight the good fight of faith lay hold on eternal life."—Lyle Carlton

WHAT! CHRIST CAME NOT TO SAVE THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS?

In Mark 2:17 we read Jesus saith "They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick; I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance (Mat. 9:13; Luke 5:32).

Who are the righteous? The dictionary says, "One conforming in disposition and conduct to the divine standard of right and

justice." "By the obedience of one (Christ) many shall be made righteous." (Rom. 5:19). "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven." (Rom. 4:7).

The only adult who has lived in earth "without sin" is Christ Jesus said, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Mat. 19:17). "And He (Jesus) spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray: the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all I possess and the publican standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me, a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other." (Luke 18:9-14).

We have heard of "self-made" men; who really believes that more than they believe in a "self-righteous" person. Certainly all received some ideas from friends and cannot be apart from that and to be "self-righteous" would be to leave God out. "Jesus the Son of God was in all points tempted like, as we are, yet without sin." (Heb. 4:14, 15). "And ye know that He (Jesus) was manifested to take away our sins and in Him is no sin." (I Jno. 3:5).

The Safety Council says "Accidents don't just happen, they are caused." Spiritual accidents don't just happen either, man must choose spiritual safety if he would have no spiritual wrecks. L. L. D.

I'd Rather be an Honest Heathen Than a Lukewarm Worldly or Dishonest "Christian"

Too many professed Christians have the idea that because they have professed religion—have been baptized, and have their name on a church record—they are safe for eternity. And they pity the poor, "ignorant heathen," yet not enough to do much about it.

They forget that God takes into consideration the opportunities that people have. God does not condemn people without giving them a chance. He says that when the Gentiles who have not the law, do by nature the things in the law, they are a law unto themselves, their conscience accusing or excusing them. (See Romans 2.) We can't say just what God is going to do with the honest heathen who is doing the best he can according to his knowledge, (that is God's business, not ours); but he DOES SAY what he is going to do with US who have his law and know it, and yet do not earnestly try to live up to it.

We say the Bible is the Word of God, and yet do not act as if we believed that, for we do not read it one-fifth, perhaps, that we do secular literature. We say that Jesus died for sins, but ignore the statement that we henceforth should not live unto ourselves but unto him who died for us and rose again. We are commanded to pray, but seldom seriously lift our hearts to him, except when we get into trouble; and it can be doubted whether we are really then in earnest. We are commanded to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, but we do practically nothing to save souls. In short, we do as little as we think we can do, and yet get to heaven. Such people need conversion, for if they were converted, they would be trying to do ALL they can for Him who died for them.

You professed Christian, listen: Jesus is speaking to you—"Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:15.)

What an eye-opener the Judgment is going to be to some of us snug "Christians"! when the honest heathen who does the best he knows how, passes into the kingdom (if he does), and we ourselves, the children of the Kingdom are spewn out! But it does not need to be that way. "Awake, thou that sleepest!"

Attend to Your Own Business, Not God's

Two or three weeks ago I heard a denominational preacher over the radio speak on the Millennium, and Christ's reign on earth, etc. When he was through with his talk, one had considerable speculation regarding something people know little about. This is what is called "pre-millennialism".

Then in a few days, I heard a "Church of Christ" preacher over the radio make a talk on "post millennialism", evidently in reply to that speech, and he announced that he would talk several times on Sunday over the radio on that error. He, too, gave considerable speculation, as much as the denominational preacher.

This subject is one which has divided the religious world, and even the "Church of Christ" is divided over it. Some think they must talk on that subject to be scriptural, even though it creates division among the followers of Jesus. They refer to the scripture in Rev. 1:3: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand."

I don't suppose two independent thinkers hold all the teachings of the book of Revelation in the same light. And yet regardless of the diversity of opinions regarding the meaning, one can see that through it all there is a fight going on between the good and the bad, and that the good and God finally prevail. And this is enough to bring great joy, great "blessedness" to the reader and hearer of the book.

The Greek word for "keep" may also be translated "observe, keep, enactments or ordinances, John 14: 15, 21"—"If ye love me, keep my commandments. . . . He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." In the prophecies are many commandments scattered through, and readers are to obey them, as they witness the unfolding of the prophecies.

I doubt very much whether any of us have the correct idea concerning many of the unfulfilled prophecies except in a general way. The greatest prophecy in the Bible is the one, or ones, concerning Christ, and his kingdom, and the Jews had altogether a wrong idea concerning that. I doubt whether we know any more about the millennium than they did about Christ. I doubt whether God intended his people to understand the details of prophecies until they are fulfilled. Yet so many today will tell the hearers all about what is going to happen, even in a detailed way. They remind me of the man who had been in trouble with another man, and finally made this confession before the church, "I confess that I have done wrong, and I am willing also to confess that the other brother has done wrong, too." So, I confess that what I don't know about Revelation will fill a great big book, and I am also willing to "confess" that what many others don't know about it, will fill a great big book, though they think they know very much!!

The individual Christian can obtain much comfort and consolation by reading of the great conflict of the ages, and of the final conquest of the Evil by the Good. Notice that John says, "Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein," but he does not say, Blessed are they that speculate about unfulfilled prophecies and TEACH them, and CREATE DIVISION AMONG THE DISCIPLES thereby.

Millions of disciples have lived and died and obeyed God and gone to glory, and never knew what the word "millennium" meant, if they ever heard it. "The secret things belong unto the Lord, our God, but the things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children." (Deut. 29: 29.)

Much confusion has been brought into the religious world because men and women have not heeded that great truth. There are some things which belong to God and NOT to man. The nature of the trinity, state of the dead, second coming, nature of heaven and hell, and other such things, belong to God. John does not say, Blessed are they who understand all about the state of the dead, the age of Christ, whether he is as old as the Father, just when Christ will come, whether the millennium is now or is past; but the Apostle DOES say, "Blessed are they who DO HIS COMMANDMENTS," that they may have right to the tree of life, and enter through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22: 14.)

Whatever God has for us in the future, he will give to us whether we understand everything or not, but one thing is sure, God will not give blessings to us in the future, if we bring confusion and division among his disciples by trying to teach what belongs to God's business instead of our own which is to "DO HIS COMMANDMENTS."

Are You Bringing Your Child Up? Or Down?

RULES FOR BRINGING DOWN A CHILD

1. Let him have plenty of money to spend as he likes.
2. Permit him to choose his companions without restraint or guidance.
3. Let him spend Sunday hours on the street or with companions with low ideals as to the Lord's day.
4. Allow him to go out at night as he pleases and return when he gets ready.
5. Make no inquiry as to where and with whom he spends his leisure time.
6. Teach him to expect pay for all help at home and for all service to others.
7. Allow him to think that good manners are a good substitute for good morals.
8. Do not trouble to interest him in the Bible or to win him to Christ.
9. Let him see that you think church attendance is not important.
10. Never let him hear you pray, especially not for his salvation.

RULES FOR BRINGING UP A CHILD

1. Make home the brightest and most attractive place you can.
2. Make him responsible for helping in some daily duties at home.
3. Never punish in anger nor to relieve your own feelings, but only in love, and for disobedience.
4. Do not ridicule his ideals; talk frankly on matters in which he is interested.
5. Encourage him to invite friends to your home and table.
6. Impress upon his mind the fact that service and honesty are more important than making money.
7. Love Christ before him so that you will be able to talk of Christ to him.
8. Let him see your enjoyment and profit from Bible reading and prayer.
9. Set an example in faithful church attendance and interest in the work.
10. Be much in prayer for his salvation and spiritual growth.

"Train up a child in the way he should go,
And even when he is old he will not depart from it."
Prov. 22:6.—From Rays of Light.