Spiritual 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

A NON-SECTARIAN CHRISTIAN MONTHLY

Volume 26 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, MAY, 1952 Number 5

GOD'S TWO ATOM BOMBS WILL DO THE WORK

YESTERDAY they exploded in Nevada what they call the greatest bomb yet. Soldiers were placed eight or ten miles from the center, in fox holes, ready for "the charge" against what would be left of the enemy. Photographers and newsmen were further away with their goggles on. There was the greatest man-made flash which the world has ever seen, and minutes afterwards the sound reached seventy-five and a hundred miles. Perhaps the purpose of the expensive affair which cost millions of dollars was war maneuvers, and to impress the Russians with the advancement which had been made here with these destructive instruments. Lookers at the television sets were disappointed—perhaps the next time adjustments will be better.

And then I thought of the two "atom bombs" which God has provided for the world to accomplish His purposes on the mind of man and on his body and the physical world.

I. God's First Atom Bomb Destroys Wickedness In Honest People.

Paul says, "The gospel is the POWER of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth." (Rom. 1:16). The Greek word for "power" is "dynamis" from which we get the word dynamite. So the gospel is God's power, dynamite, atom bomb, to knock the evil out of man and bring him to repentance and salvation. In Isaiah 55, God says through the prophet: "My word shall not return unto Me void, but shall accomplish that which I please, and prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." Remember, reader, that God did not send His word into the world merely to save men—there is another purpose.

Paul speaks of that other purpose in 2 Cor. 2:15, 16—"For we [apostles with the inspired word] are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish. To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life." After His resurrection Jesus said to His apostles, "Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them: and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*" (John 20:21-23.) In other words, the inspired apostles (not Peter only) would receive the Holy Spirit by which they would pronounce the terms of pardon to sinners, and thus whosoever obeyed would have their sins remitted, and whosoever disobeyed their sins would be retained. Thus, the inspired apostles became a sweet savour, or odor, causing the obedient to pass from life here to life hereafter; and an odor of death to the disobedient, causing them to pass from death here to eternal death hereafter.

So, the word of God will not return unto him void, for he sent it into the world not only to save the honest, but to be a witness against the wicked at the Judgment. Jesus said, "The word I have spoken unto you, *the same shall judge you in the last day.*"

Now God has left into the hands of His children the task of placing this 1st Atom Bomb, the gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation. What have we done? What are we doing? "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." When disciples were scattered they "went everywhere preaching the word," leaving an example of God's method of planting the bomb.

Now those who WILL NOT let the evil be blown out of them by God's 1st Bomb, the gospel of Christ, will have to succumb to the 2nd Bomb which God will send to destroy the impenitent.

II. God's 2nd Bomb will Destroy Impentient People in Their Wickedness.

"To you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, *and that OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.*" (2 Thess. 1:7, 8). "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night: in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, [greater than the atom bomb in Nevada] and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."—not simply some sands of the desert. (2 Peter 3.)

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [conduct] and godliness, looking for and hasting [earnestly desiring] the coming of the day of God wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, *wherein dwelleth righteousness.*"

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, *be diligent* that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless." (2 Peter 3.)

We see, reader, that God's 2nd Atom Bomb will be used on all those "who obey not the gospel [power] of our Lord Jesus Christ." And it will take in the whole world of disobedient mankind as well as the physical earth. You MUST

how to Christ sometime, for "Every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." But it will be too late to obtain salvation by it.

"What could your Redeemer do
More than he has done for you?
To procure your peace with God,
Could he more than shed his blood?
After all this flow of love,
All his drawings from above,
Why will you your Lord deny?
Why will you resolve to die?"

—D. A. Sommer

Did Christ Make Peter the Foundation of His Church?

I. A READER WRITES THE EDITOR A LETTER

Dear Sir:

. . . I read your magazine with interest, especially when writing articles that refer to the Catholic Church. It is interesting to know how very little you know about the Catholic religion. You see I am a very humble one, *extremely proud of my faith*. I also do not want to be considered a narrow minded Catholic as I know quite a bit about other religions too. *I like to know both sides of a question*. This makes me love my faith more.

I am sending you the Catholic Digest in answer to your statement *that organized missionaries do not help others*. Please read the last article, "Back Home in Korea." We gladly support our Maryknoll schools that train priests and nuns who are all over the world and doing an almost impossible task of mercy. Sincerely, * * *

II. THE EDITOR EXAMINES "BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION".

Dear Mrs. Blank:

I thank you very much for the literature you have sent me on your "faith". I have not only read the article you mention, but the whole booklet (about one-third the size of Reader's Digest), and the other literature.

I think you have missed my meaning when *you say* I state that "organized missionaries do not help others." I have made no such statement. The missionaries do help others. I was simply showing that in apostolic times they did missionary work, aid work, educational work, far better than it has ever been done since, and they did it all through the born-again individual Christians and the local churches. There was no human, religious organization used by the early Christians. "Unto God be glory in the church, by Jesus Christ, throughout all ages, world without end," (Eph. 3:21).

I have just received two other batches of literature from you, and I shall go over them carefully; for if YOUR "faith" has found anything important in the New Testament which I have not found, I surely wish it. And I feel sure you will do the same with this article, since you have said that you wish to know both sides. I simply ask you to look up every scripture, and verify other quotations; for Jesus says of a responsible hearer, "The word that I have spoken, *the same shall judge him in the last day*," (John 12:48).

With these thoughts in mind, I wish to consider the most important doctrine in your "faith," and ask you to follow me sincerely. That doctrine is—

DID CHRIST MAKE PETER THE FOUNDATION OF HIS CHURCH?

Your "faith" says YES, and quotes Matt. 16:13-19—

"Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? . . . Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjonna; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven."

From this and other scriptures, your "faith" deduces the following doctrine: Christ gave Peter keys, authority to bind and unloose sins; made him "prince of the apostles", etc., Peter became the first bishop of Rome; that authority has been handed down from age to age in the Bishops of Rome; therefore the whole Christian world MUST submit to the Bishop of Rome, to be pleasing to God.

Now a few words about this great man, Peter. He had some wonderful traits and some not so wonderful. He was bold and impetuous at times, and when cornered his heart failed him. When the girl said he was one of Christ's disciples, he denied it and began to curse and swear, but he afterward repented in tears. He meddled once, till Christ told him to attend to his own business, regarding what John should do, (John 21). Christ called him "Satan" for contradicting him, (Matt. 16). He acted the hypocrite, and Paul rebuked him, (Gal. 2). Yet he was a great Christian in that he repented of his blunders and sins, and I expect to meet him in heaven; but not at the gate to let me in! You and I shall get into heaven by doing what inspired Peter and all the other inspired men commanded us to do.

Was Peter the Rock?

I have always hesitated to quote Greek in religious investigation, but sometimes it is necessary. The Greek word translated Peter is "petros", and is in the masculine gender; while the Greek word for rock is "petra", and is in the feminine gender, and the one can not be used for the other. Concerning this the Liddell and Scott Greek lexicon, the greatest there is, says that "petra" means "a rock, ledge or shelf of rock"; while "petros", here translated "Peter", is "a piece of rock, a stone—and thus distinguished from "petra." Then they add: "There is no example in good authors of 'petra' in the significance of 'petros', for a single stone."

The "rock" on which He would build His church was not Peter, a broken-off stone, but a ledge of rock—*the truth in the confession of Peter, that "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God."*

Now, Mrs. Blank, let us continue this investigation, to find a verification of these statements—

What were the "Keys" Given to Peter?

Now keys are for the purpose of opening something so that we can enter it or get our hands into it. Is not that what the keys mentioned here, refer to? Peter was the first one to open the doors of the kingdom of heaven, to both Jews and Gentiles, showing them how to get into it, and into the remission of their sins. Being filled with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached to the people and "when they heard this, they were *pricked in their heart*, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," (Acts 2:37, 38). Here Peter used the keys when he remitted the sins of the people by

telling them to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. The church was established that day, and Peter was instrumental in preaching the first gospel sermon.

Then at the house of Cornelius, Acts 10, he was the first to preach to the Gentiles and tell them what to do. In the last verse it says, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." These words spoken by Peter were for the remission of their sins, for in the next chapter, when rehearsing the matter, the angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter, "who shall tell thee *words*, whereby thou and all thy house shall be *saved*," (Acts 11:14).

So Peter used the keys here, too.

We might say also that Peter used a new key of the kingdom in Acts 8th. After Simon, the sorcerer, was converted and baptized, he sinned, but repented, when Peter gave him, a backslider, the *law of pardon to the erring Christian*—"*Repent* therefore of this thy wickedness, *and pray God* [not the so-called "saints"], if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." (Acts 8:22).

The other apostles, and not Peter alone, had this power to remit or retain sins by the inspired words which God gave them to speak. In the close-shut room where the disciples were gathered together, Jesus "breathed on *them*, and saith unto *them*, Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." (John 2:21-23). So, *all* the apostles had the same power to remit or retain sins, *by the inspired words they spoke*, though Peter was the *first* one to proclaim this. *The only power which any preacher or priest has today in remitting and retaining sins, is in speaking the words of these inspired men.*

Was Peter to Feed the Whole Church?

Your "faith," Mrs. Blank, says YES; and your people cite John 21, where Christ said to Peter, "Feed my lambs * * * feed my sheep." (Read the whole connection carefully.)

Cardinal Gibbons, in his book, "Faith of Our Fathers," chapter on "The Primacy of Peter," says that the "lambs" are "the tender portion of the flock," and "the sheep" are "the pastors themselves." Now the word "pastors" means "shepherds"; and *Cardinal Gibbons makes the "shepherds" and "sheep" the same characters.* The "sheep" are "shepherds"; and the "shepherds" are "sheep"!! If it were not a serious matter, this would be funny. Was not this authority in your "faith" hard pressed, to wrest the scriptures like that, in order to try to make Peter "Prince OVER the Apostles"?

The story goes thus: Christ had called Peter from his occupation of fishing, to become a fisher of men. But after Christ's resurrection Peter said, (in the first part of this chapter), "I go a fishing. They [other apostles] say unto him, we also go with you"; and it was while they were fishing that Jesus appeared unto them and made these statements. *He was rebuking Peter* for leaving his heaven-given work of fishing for men, and going back to his old occupation of fishing for fish. In substance Jesus said, "Peter, do you love me more than you love your fishing nets and fishing boats? If so, then go back to your God-given work of feeding my lambs and sheep, and trust in Me for feeding yourself."

Now, Mrs. Blank, you see how all the scriptures harmonize when we bring them together; and they do not contradict themselves as your "faith" makes them do. As you say you desire to study both sides of a question, I ask you to read again and again the few facts I have presented in this essay; but many more important facts are yet to come, if you and our readers desire them.

—D. A. Sommer

NOTE: We have given about one-third of the scriptures pro and con on the subject, "Did God Make Peter the Foundation of HIS Church?" The editor thinks this a very, very important discussion *at this time*, on which every reader should be posted; and if you are interested, be sure to write us *soon*.—EDITOR.

When "Right" Is Wrong!—II

"There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death"—Prov. 14-12.

In the course of time men arose who saw that the religious world had gone so far in following the opinions and devices of man, that the Church as God had set it up through the apostles had passed out of existence. These men then, with sincere desire to worship God as He had ordained, set about to establish the Church exactly after the pattern of the Church of the New Testament; it would then be the Church of Christ exactly the same church as the one described there and spoken of as the Church of Christ, Church of God, and the Church of the First Born.

After a time men arose from among them, who thought that they could improve on the working of the Church over God's way by adding an organ to improve and make more attractive the singing in the worship, whereas God had left that out and prescribed, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," Eph. 5:19. Not being satisfied with just adding an organ to the worship, they continued to add all of the innovations and human devices of the sects.

Howbeit some came out from among them and separated themselves, determined to remain steadfast and unmovable in the Lord.

Even so some from among these, while they retained the elders and deacons, as God had appointed to rule the local congregations, desired to have a leader over them, they would not call him a "pastor" or "reverend" as that would be like the sects, but would call him the "minister." Then in order to have a "minister" who would appeal to the world they went about and established colleges, calling them "Bible Colleges," in order to train men as "ministers."

They ignored what Paul wrote to the Corinthians. He said, "And I brethren when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God, for I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified—And my speech was not with enticing words of man's wisdom—That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." I Cor. 2:1-5.

The great drawing power of the gospel was Jesus Christ and Him crucified. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This we see was God's way. Man's way is to have a worldly-educated man for a "minister" or leader. Paul was the only apostle who could be spoken of as educated, and he was rude in speech, 2 Cor. 11:6.

When the gospel was first proclaimed on the day of Pentecost, it was said of the apostles, "Are not all these which speak Galileans?" Acts 2:7. And when Peter and John were brought before the high priest and rulers, it was "perceived that they were ignorant and unlearned men," Acts 4:13.

Bible Colleges were never heard of in the Church of the New Testament, but they have been added by man to God's

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.

perfect plan for the salvation of souls. If God had wanted educated and eloquent men to spread the gospel, why did He not choose them for apostles? The fact that He did not, but instead chose ignorant fishermen, should be sufficient evidence that it was not God's way to spread the gospel with, or by the use of, "enticing words of man's wisdom."

In the 14th chapter of 1st Corinthians Paul gives us an outline of how the church should operate when we are all come together. It is summarized in verses 23 to 26. The 26th verse says, "How is it then, Brethren? when ye are come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation." Paul says *everyone*, thus all are to contribute something to the edifying, exhorting, and comforting of the church. In the 31st verse, "For ye may all prophesy, one by one, that all may learn, and all be comforted; and the 37th verse tells us, that these are the commandments of the Lord.

But man's way is for one man, and that a hired man, to do all of the exhorting and edifying. God's way appears to be the hard way, in that it requires that all put forth an effort, while man's way is the easy way, whereby all can take it easy, while the preacher does all of the work.

And so it is today, we have among us those who want trained men for preachers and evangelists to do all of the preaching. Paul stated God's way of training men when he told Timothy that the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Tim. 2:2.

We are all faced at times in our lives with a situation in religious matters that requires us to make a decision that will be far reaching. Before making such decision, let us prove the question by God's Word. If it is God's way, accept it; but if it is of man, or a man's device, reject it. Man's way may appear to be the easiest way, but God's way is *always* the *right* way.

There is a way that appeareth right unto man but the ends thereof are ways of death.—Fred D. Weed.

A Little Less of Me

Let me be a little kinder, let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me; let me praise a little more
Let me be, when I am weary, just a little bit more cheery;
Let me serve a little better those that I am striving for.
Let me be a little braver, when temptation bids me waver;
Let me strive a little harder to be all that I should be.
Let me be a little meeker with the brother that is weaker;
Let me think more of my neighbor and a little less of me.

—Selected.

The World Needs More Tears—of the Right Kind

"OH, NO, NO, NO," you cry, "there are too many tears in the world now; and what the world needs is more laughter, more fun, more frolic, for—

Laugh and the world laughs with you.
Weep and you weep alone."

This is the sentiment of the world, and to know that it is you have but to witness the comic strips in the daily papers, and the foolishness that goes over the radio. What weeping is done in America today is because we have not made as much money as we had hoped, have not had as big crops as anticipated, have held our crops till the market dropped; or because we have become satiated with the pleasures of life till they have no more thrill for us.

The terrible moral condition of the world indicates that this popular philosophy has something wrong with it. As the Bible has brought more happiness and done more good to the world than all other books, let us look into it for a few moments to see what the true philsophy of life is.

Though King David committed a great sin, yet in general he was a very religious man; and he was worried because so many gave little heed to God and his commands. He oven cried about it, so that he wrote: "Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law." (Psalm 119:136.) No doubt this man had much influence on the morals of Israel, and we know that he wrote a prayer book—Psalms—which has been used by Jews through nearly 3000 years, and by Christians through nearly 2000. I wonder how many professed followers of Jesus today are troubled because so many people are neglecting God and their own salvation. Do they ever weep over the desolate condition of Zion? If more rivers of waters were running down eyes of Christians today, there might be more penitent sinners than there are.

Israel in the time of Ezekiel was in a state of apostasy. They had forgotten God and almost all ways that were decent and right, and God decreed that Jerusalem should be overthrown for its sins. But He would save the righteous in it, that were weeping because of these evils. He would put a mark upon them. Even the priests and temple were to be destroyed. Said God to Ezekiel, 9:4-7:

"Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads *of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.*" And to the other he said in mine hearing, "Go ye after them through the city and *smite;* let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity. Slay utterly old and young, both maid, and little children, and women; but *come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.*" Then they began at the ancient men which were BEFORE the house [temple]. And He said unto them, "Defile the house and fill the courts with the slain; go ye forth." And they went forth, and slew in the city.

What a saddening picture! It was written for our learning and admonition today, but we haven't learned. Even in the Church, we find many evil doers like many of those people, and there are so few who lift their voices against the evils, and they weep not nor sigh. But God will, as it were, put a mark upon the foreheads of those today who are concerned about the moral condition of the Church and the world, and who try with all their hearts to make the Church and world better; and God will save such. But suppose we do not have that mark on our foreheads when the great crash of nations and of worlds comes.

When Israel returned after the Babylonian captivity, it was not long before they started in again in the same old way, for they married foreign heathen women of the nations around them, a thing which God had strictly commanded them not to do, at the very beginning of their existence as a nation. And Ezra called them together, chastised them for their sins in that, and called on them to put away their heathen wives. At the offering of the evening sacrifice, he fell upon his knees and spread his hands to heaven, and cried: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to Thee; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests been delivered into the hands of the kings of the land, to the sword, to captivity, and to spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day."

And then Ezra deplored that now when a little respite was given them, they had started in all over again to do the very things for which they had been carried into captivity. Read that whole prayer in Ezra 9:5-15, and it will bring tears to your eyes and warmth to your heart, unless you are among the hardened ones of this day. "Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, *weeping* and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children, for the people *wept* very sore."

Ezra was a priest, a leader of the people, and his humiliation and devotion and sincerity evidently touched the hearts of the people, and they became penitent, with the result that at a time appointed they came together and put away their heathen wives and purified themselves before the Lord. How many Ezras have we leading God's people now? Atheism is making great strides in this so-called Christian land of ours. Materialism is taking almost everything with the Church included. And the preachers are largely to blame.

Not till we Christians today in this age of indifference and immorality have preachers and other leaders who have come into the spirit of Ezra, and see the evils and cry from the depths of our hearts, will the people be aroused to turn back to God. Preachers who see the evils and for money's sake, or popularity's sake, will not lift their voices against such, will have to answer for it in the day of Judgment. God said to Ezekiel: "Son of man I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way; the same wicked man shall die in his wickedness; *but his blood will I require at thine hand.*" (Ezekiel 3:17, 18.)

A dozen or more years after Ezra came up, Nehemiah, a cupbearer of the king of Persia, heard that the walls of Jerusalem had not yet been rebuilt in completeness, the gates were burned with fire, and that the people were in great affliction, and he said, "I sat down and *wept* and *mourned* certain days and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven." He prayed that the way would open up so that he could go back and help his brethren in distress; and God opened that way so that he could leave his comfortable, luxurious post and go back and help his afflicted people. Stop and think! Can you count any Nehemiahs now who are *weeping* and praying because the Church is in a dilapidated condition, and the world in general is sinking down faster and faster into sin? Too many of us leaders are smug in our ease in Zion and will not disturb ourselves till the final trumpet sounds and it will be too late. "Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion . . . and are *not grieved* for the affliction of Joseph." (Amos 6.)

Oh, what awful fate awaits those mumbly-pumbly, cringing, cowering, sycophantic, gold-loving, glory-loving watchmen who are fast asleep on the walls of Zion. The blood of the wicked generation will be required at their hand. There are *no tears* in *their* eyes as there were in the eyes of Ezra, Nehemiah and Ezekiel. All of us preachers need to fall upon our knees and pray God to give us courage to shun not to declare the whole counsel of God lest the blood of this generation be required of us.

And there was Paul who told the Ephesian elders that he had served the Lord with many *tears*, and reminded them that in his stay with them through three years he had not ceased to warn every one night and day *with tears*. (Acts 20). And he wrote the Corinthian brethren in many *tears*. Do you see honest tears trickling down the cheeks of any preachers today? I do not mean how many have studied the art of oratory and tell stories and work on the feelings of the people and try to make them cry. That is hypocrisy, and there is some of that in the Church of Christ. But I refer to those who are sincere in their sadness at the desolation in Zion, and try to repair the breaches in it.

And even Timothy, that faithful young man who seemed to have started out with Paul when he was 12 or 13 years old, had come so much into the spirit of Paul and of the true servant of God that Paul could write to him and say that he was mindful of his "tears". No doubt the other travelers of Paul were in the same spirit; and no wonder that they accomplished more spiritual missionary work than has ever been accomplished for Christ since. We must let the hypocritical world and hypocritical church know that we are SINCERE, and that goes a long ways toward winning men's hearts, especially if we are willing to sacrifice for what we believe.

And Jesus, the world's greatest teacher, showed that what the world needed was *tears*. Said he in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are they that *mourn*, for they shall be comforted." Not blessed are they who mourn because they are not making more money or having greater pleasure or receiving larger glory; but mourning because they are lost sinners and must have a way of escape—mourning because the world is lost in sin, and will not, will not, repent of its sins. Yes, says Jesus, Happy are such people, for they shall be comforted—they shall find that rest which remains for the people of God—find the peace that passes all understanding.

Jesus set us an example against this cold, intellectual stuff in religion, when he *wept* over Jerusalem. He had worked with these people through three or four years; had performed miracles among them and taught them the way of righteousness. But they had rejected Him. He knew what was in store. Perhaps He was standing on the Mount of Olives when He cried, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

Perhaps He then pointed to their temple as he continued, "Behold your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see Me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Until the world has more TEARS of the right kind, the world including the Church will continue to be torn.

It is better to go to the house of *mourning*,
Than go to the house of feasting;
For that is the end of all men,
And the living will lay it to his heart.
Sorrow is better than laughter,
For by the sadness of the countenance
The heart is made better.

—Ecclesiastes 7: 2, 3.

Sentiments of Some That Fear the Lord

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to mother and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name."—Malachi 3:13-18. (Read the whole connection and mark in your Bibles, to have its importance permanent.—Editor.)

AN ELDERLY SISTER who sends from one to three dollars each month to send out the gospel through the Spiritual Call writes: "I am glad to hear you are as well as you are. I hope you will be permitted to carry on your work for a long time yet. I am sending three dollars.—M. A. C."

A SISTER who sends a good sized list each year says: "I pray you will soon be able to resume your very important work." * * * ENCLOSED FIND ONE DOLLAR. Please send the Spiritual Call to ..... beginning with February issue. I am donating the paper to this young man as I am interested in him knowing the truth and the true Church of Christ—An elder. Why not others do the same, beginning with February, with its front page article on the New Testament Church. * * * WE THANK the many brethren for words of appreciation of our work for God. * * * BRETHREN will please excuse us if we have not kept up our correspondence as we once did. Yet, we appreciate as much, or more, than ever, your letters. * * * SONGS OF THE CHURCH are now $1.10 each.

ONLY ONE

"I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do,
And what I ought to do,
by God's grace, I will do."

THE DIVINE PLAN

There lies the Holy Bible
Have you read a verse today?
Or did you close the covers,
And quickly turn away?

What comfort and what promise,
We find upon each page,
If we daily search the Scriptures,
From our youth until old age.

Christ died for every person,
On cross of Calvary;
In his name there is salvation,
This truth shall make you free.

Since the church belongs to Jesus,
He's its head, not any man;
It's His Bride; it's His Body,
But you must the gospel scan.

You must believe the gospel,
By hearing, faith we reach;
From preachers, all must hear it,
From the Bible, they must teach.

When through faith, we turn to Jesus,
We have only just begun,
To become of Christ a member,
Repent of past sins done.

With repentance comes confession,
Made with the mouth before all men,
That you believe Christ, our dear Saviour,
Romans 10 is God's own son.

To repent means "turn away from"
And to never stray again;
To follow each step in its order,
Baptism is required of men.

Repent, be baptized, said Peter,
On the day of Pentecost;
Now this means a full immersion,
Lest a soul's forever lost.

You can't enter Jesus' Kingdom
Unless buried with your Lord,
To arise and walk in new life,
As commanded in His word.

With each step devoutly taken,
And the Church of Christ you know;
You must live for Jesus only,
As you journey here below.

Let the world go madly onward,
Seeking pleasure, lust and wealth,
Avoid appearances of evil;
Death and Judgment come with stealth.

But you cannot live for Jesus,
Be one of His chosen few,
If you fail to search the Scriptures
And His least command to do.

When in Christ you are a member,
From each Step laid down by Him,
Until death has called you onward,
Be ye spotless, flee from sin.

In Corinthians, Paul has written
Of the things God has prepared
For those loving Him and serving
As the saints in past days dared.

When we stand before our Maker,
And when Time shall be no more,
Will "WELL done, thou faithful servant,"
Greet our ears on that far shore?

Dear Lord, I ask your guidance
And your constant help each day,
For the strength to stand unmoving,
Till Heaven and Earth shall pass away.

—Anita Hurry.

I SURE ENJOY what others have to say in the S. C. and am always looking for it to arrive. I am sorry that you have been ill again. The brethren need you and the S. C., and I hope you will be able to carry on for years yet. Only one thing I would like to see better—that is, Jesus Christ the Lord coming in the clouds as was promised when He left this earth. I have tried to be faithful. (This brother sends $50 and has done much in the past to spread the gospel through the S. C.). We thank the many others who have helped. Let us do all the good we can for we know not when Jesus will come.

BRO. C. D. McCAY, 1210 48th, Des Moines, Iowa, is now so situated that he can run out in his car and stay over Lord's Day or a few days with little groups of disciples, encouraging them publicly and privately. He is not after a job nor money, but anxious to do all the good he can. He is sound in the faith of the New Testament, and I am persuaded will do you good.

HUNDREDS receiving the Spiritual Call did not subscribe for it, but some friend who considered you an honest person, did. If you consider the teachings scriptural and helpful, why not you pass the "good news" on. You can renew your subscription with nine other new or donated names for only $5.00 for the ten. Is there an easier way to send the gospel into the homes and, perhaps hearts, of men and women?

I JUST REREAD one of your letters where you mention you are thinking more of making Individual Christians than congregations. Bro. Sommer, that truly has been my sentiment for the past ten years or more. So many people wish to follow men and their teaching regardless of what the bible says. Seems to me one of the reasons is the church wants to be like the sects around them, draw large crowds and make a name for themselves. Oh, for more bible knowledge among the individual disciples! As long as folks are being entertained and have plenty of good times socially, they seem satisfied. Not that I am altogether opposed to sociability, we should be friendly—but to put it foremost to my mind is a mistake. I get to attend Lordsday mornings but distance and conditions prevents my attendance at night. I do the very best I can to read and study aright. You have done and are still doing a wonderful work in teaching the simplicity as it is in Christ. May God spare you to us many years yet to strengthen and encourage us all to lead an humble, christian life.

Your sister in Christ.

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE"

Why must we have sorrow, sickness, pain and death in this old

world below? My brother, just ask the Lord, for He alone doth know. Sorrow comes to one and all, and sickness and pain our bodies molest. And the last of our woes in this world below is banished in the ordeal of death.

Man's body was made of the dust of the earth and is subject to sickness and pain. This will continue, God's word has said, until we return to dust again. Through the sin of Eve in the garden came sorrow, pain and woe. But God promises never to leave or forsake us, if we are faithful to Him here below.

Put on the yoke of the Lord. It will lighten your burden and grief. Live close to the Lord and trust in His word and your soul will find relief. If all things in this world were joy and peace, and sickness and pain we did not know, we would not seek a better home beyond this one here below.

We can bear all things through Him who gives us strength each day. And if God be for us, who can be against us? We'll conquer, come what may. No sorrow, sickness, pain and death only bring us closer to God. If we will trust Him day by day and follow Him in His word, then when the last rugged mountain is crossed the Promised Land will meet our gaze. All the hardships we have had in this world below will vanish in eternal praise. —Alta Catherine Sanderson.

"Act Like a Christian, Smell Like a Christian"

"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Cor. 7:1.)

The second word I heard years ago was consecration, or you might prefer separation. I'm old fashioned; I believe in the separated life. In my early life I heard nothing about it, and so I wasted some of my years. For we're not going to win souls as long as we compromise with the world.

There are some who quit doing anything and they're good, but they're just good for nothing. Separation is not only turning away, it's turning to, as you find in Romans 12:1, 2. If you're going to be given over to the Lord and separated unto His task, then turn away from the world. Look like a Christian. Act like a Christian. Smell like a Christian. Behave like a Christian.

One of my men, a good man, but one who had one of these foul habits went down the street in Chattanooga one day to win a man to Christ.

"I'm interested," the man he had gone to see told him. "I want to be a Christian, but whenever I trust the Lord, I prefer that somebody would talk to me who's not engaging in the same things that I do," and he pointed to a package of cigarettes in the pocket of the man who had approached him.

The member who had been witnessing came to my office crying, "Pastor," he said, "I'm through. I'll never touch another one if it hinders me from winning a soul to Christ."

That very day the man to whom he had witnessed was gloriously saved. He wanted to be a child of God, but he wanted folks to talk to him who were not engaged in the same things he had in his life.

But separation is not only turning away from worldly things, it's also having a hatred for the things of the world. There are some Christian people who don't engage in worldly things, but they still have a little leaning that way. They don't take a stand. They say, "Well, I don't do those things, but it's all right if somebody else wants to do them." They're broad-minded; so broad-minded that they have no convictions whatsoever for anything right and wrong. I believe the child of God needs to take a very definite stand for the things of God against the things which are wrong, to let others know where he stands in these matters.

—Lee Roberson in Moody Monthly

The "Spiritual Call" Is a Work of Faith and Love

For more than twenty years, we have been publishing the Spiritual Call, formerly named Macedonian Call. From the many letters we are receiving we are helping many hundreds of earnest souls along the way.

The reader can see that the publisher is doing his best to present what is in the New Testament that is necessary for our salvation. We have no space for doctrines of men in religion except to show their unscripturalness, for Jesus says they are vain. Nor do we have space for untaught questions which God alone understands.

We plead for the devoted, separated life that the apostolic Christians were commanded to have. The mere mint-anise-cummin Christians are condemned by Jesus, but the justice-mercy-faith Christians are commended. "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world." "The friendship of the world is enmity with God."

All of this is unpopular with the worldly lukewarm, apostate Christians (?) today; and so this journal, which does not pay for itself by a good deal, must depend on the prayers and "offerings" of those who love New Testament doctrine and practice. We need more readers, to do the most good. Stop and think: have you sent the paper to all the apparently honest people whom you know?

Ask yourself this solemn question, How shall I wish I had lived and worked for Christ—when I am lying on my bed for the last time?

"Oh, the good we all may do,
As the days are going by."

—Publisher

Finished the Book but Lost the Boy

A young man stood at the bar of a court of justice to be sentenced for forgery. The judge was stern. He had known the boy from a child, had known his father, the famous legal light whose work on *The Law of Trusts* was the most exhaustive study of the subject in existence.

"Do you remember your father?" the judge asked.

"I remember him well."

Then, seeking to appeal to the boy's conscience, the judge said, "As you stand before me, about to be sentenced to the penitentiary, and think of your wonderful father who was one of the greatest lawyers of the United States, what do you remember most clearly about him?"

The answer surprised the judge. "I remember, sir," the boy replied, "when I went to my father for advice, and as he looked up at me from his book on *The Law of Trusts* he said, 'Run away, boy, I'm busy.' I remember when I went to him for companionship and he turned me away with, 'Run away, boy; this book must be finished.' You remember my father as a successful lawyer and a great author; I remember him as a lost friend."

And the judge muttered to himself, "Ah, yes, finished the book, but lost the boy."

Scores of parents have lost their children—lost their confidence, lost their love. They may sit at the same table with them, join in their conversation, provide for their every need. Yet because they have been too busy to be *real* fathers and mothers they have lost the precious treasures that God has entrusted to their homes. Don't lose your child. Take time to study his disposition, to help him solve life's problems, to be his comrade, to introduce him to Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. "He that winneth souls is wise." Begin today, at home, to find your children.—Evangelical Christian.

Confession of a "Missionary Secretary"

The following is a confession as told by a missionary secretary in her report to the Missionary Review of the World.

"I was helping to get up a big convention, and was full of enthusiasm over making the session a success. On the opening day my aged father, who came as a delegate to the convention, sat with me at luncheon at the hotel. He listened sympathetically to my glowing accounts of the great features that were to be. When I paused for breath, he leaned toward me and said, while his eye followed the stately movements of the head waiter, 'Daughter, I think that big head waiter over there is going to accept Jesus Christ. I've been talking to him about his soul.' I almost gasped. I had been too busy planning for a great missionary convention. I had no time to think of the soul of the head waiter.

"When we went out to my apartment, a negro man was washing the apartment windows. Jim was honest and trustworthy, and had been a most satisfactory helper in my home. Only a few moments passed before I heard my father talking earnestly with Jim about his personal salvation, and a swift accusation went to my heart as I realized that I had known Jim for years and had never said a word to him of salvation.

"A carpenter came in to repair a door. I awaited his going with impatience to sign his work ticket, for my ardent soul longed to be back at my missionary task. Even as I waited I heard my father talking with the man about the door he had just fixed, and then simply and naturally leading the conversation to the only Door into the Kingdom of God.

"A Jew lives across the street. I had thought that possibly I would call on the folks who lived in the neighborhood —some time—but I had my hands so full of my missionary work that the calls had never been made, but, as they met on the street, my father talked with my neighbor of the only Savior of the world.

"A friend took us out to ride. I waited for my father to get into the car, but in a moment he was up beside the chauffeur, and in a few minutes I heard him talking earnestly with the man about the way of salvation. When we reached home, he said, 'You know I was afraid I might never have another chance to speak to him.'

"The wife of a prominent railway man took him out to ride in her elegant limousine. 'I'm glad she asked me to go,' he said, 'for it gave me an opportunity of talking with her about her salvation. I think no one had ever talked with her before.'

"Yet these opportunities had come to me also and had passed by as ships in the night, while I strained my eyes to catch sight of a larger sail on a more distant horizon. I could but question my own heart whether my passion was for souls or for sucess in getting up conventions."

But There is Mrs. Lot

To "remember Lot's wife" is to do a thing the Lord Jesus has told us to do. Mrs. Lot was no missionary to Sodom. She would say that she was never cut out for that. She would never have given consent for her husband to be one (unless a salary in proportion had been in prospect) and as for her children, that they should be missionaries there or anywhere, perish the thought! Her children were there for the polish Sodom's society would certainly afford. Though her husband's righteous soul was vexed from day to day with the fleshly defilements of Sodom, Mrs. Lot had not a soul subject to such vexations. What a wonderful city, the city of their adoption, and how modern! Her husband really made himself an object of pity, especially when his periods of vexation and grief came upon him. No doubt there appeared to come over him forebodings of grief ahead of some retributive nature, and no doubt he was often counted a pessimist. There was one thing concerning her husband for which Mrs. Lot could always be thankful, and that was his true wisdom in making the wise choice when his uncle Abraham made him the generous offer of hill country or plain.

Mrs. Lot was a fortunate woman:

She had a good husband.

She had been associated closely with Abraham and Sarah.

She knew about the covenant of the Promise.

She always lived well.

She was once delivered by divine providence through Abraham from captivity when Sodom once was taken.

She entertained angels in her home.

She was led out of Sodom by holy angels' hands before its doom.

Mrs. Lot was almost saved.

"Likewise even as it came to pass in the days of Lot; they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but in the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all: after the same manner shall it be in the day the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he that shall be on the housetop, and his goods in the house, let him not go down to take them away: and let him that is in the field likewise not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. . . . In that night there shall be two men on one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. There shall be two women grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left." (Luke 17:28-36.)

Yea. "Remember Lot's wife."—Truth Advance.

I Will Not Doubt

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea
Come drifting home with broken masts and sails;
I will believe the hand that never fails
From seeming evil worketh good for me.
And though I weep because those sails are tattered,
Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered;
"I trust in Thee."

I will not doubt, though all my prayers return
Unanswered from the still, white realm above;
I will believe it is an all-wise love
Which has refused these things for which I yearn:
And though at times I cannot keep from grieving,
Yet the pure ardor of my fixed believing,
Undimmed shall burn.

I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain,
And troubles swarm like bees about a hive;
I will believe the heights for which I strive
Are only reached by anguish and by pain;
And though I groan and writhe beneath my crosses,
I yet shall see through my severest losses
The greater gain.

I will not doubt. Well anchored is this faith
Like some staunch ship, my soul braves every gale,
So strong its courage that it will not quail
To breast the mighty unknown sea of death.
O may I cry, though body parts with spirit,
"I do not doubt," so listening worlds may hear it,
With my last breath.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.