

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant

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... is Faithfulness in the Wilderness

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

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C O N T E N T S



3 **A DEFENSE OF PASSION, JOY, AND ZEAL FOR THE THINGS OF GOD**
• by Jonathan Edwards •



5 **FAITH LAUGHS AT IMPOSSIBILITIES**
• by Leonard Ravenhill •



7 **SET THE CAPTIVES FREE**
• from the *Martyrs Mirror* •



10 **MISSION TO THE TELEMARKETER**
• by Roger Hertzler •

17 **"IT'S GOT NO STING!"**

18 **SIDE BY SIDE**



19 **THE CHRISTIAN'S PET SIN**
• by Ronald E. Williams •



22 **The Blessing Corner**
Time of Testing
• by Lee Stauffer •

24 **MY SUBSTITUTE**



25 **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN DILIGENTLY**
• by John Funk •



35 **PRECIOUS LETTERS FROM OUR READERS**

A Defense of **Passion, Joy, and Zeal** for the Things of God

by Jonathan Edwards

It is no sign one way or the other, that religious affections are very great, or raised very high.

Some are ready to condemn all high affections: if persons appear to have their religious affections raised to an extraordinary pitch, they are prejudiced against them, and determine that they are delusions, without further inquiry. But if it be, as has been proved, that true religion lies very much in religious affections, then it follows, that if there be a great deal of true religion, there will be great religious affections; if true religion in the hearts of men be raised to a great height, divine and holy affections will be raised to a great height.

Love is an affection, but will any Christian say, men ought not to love God and Jesus Christ in a high degree? And will any say, we ought not to have a very great hatred of sin, and a very deep sorrow for

it? Or that we ought not to exercise a high degree of gratitude to God for the mercies we receive of him, and the great things he has done for the salvation of fallen

men? Or that we should not have very great and strong desires after God and holiness? Is there any who will profess, that his affections in religion are great enough; and will say, "I have no

cause to be humbled, that I am no more affected with the things of religion than I am; I have no reason to be ashamed, that I have no greater exercises of love to God and sorrow for sin, and gratitude for the mercies which I have received?" Who is there that will bless God that he is affected enough with what he has read and heard of the wonderful love of God to worms and rebels, in giving his only begotten Son to die for them, and of the dying love of Christ; and will pray that he may not be affected

with them in any higher degree, because high affections are improper and very unlovely in Christians, being enthusiastical, and ruinous to true religion?

Our text plainly speaks of great and high affections when it speaks of "rejoicing with joy unspeakable, and full of glory:" here the most superlative expressions are used, which language will afford. And the Scriptures often require us to exercise very high affections: thus in the first and great commandment of the law, there is an accumulation of expressions, as though words were wanting to express the degree in which we ought to love God: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." So the saints are called upon to exercise high degrees of joy: "Rejoice," says Christ to his disciples, "and be exceeding glad," Matt. 5:12. So it is said, Psalm 68:3, "Let the righteous be glad: let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice." So in the book of



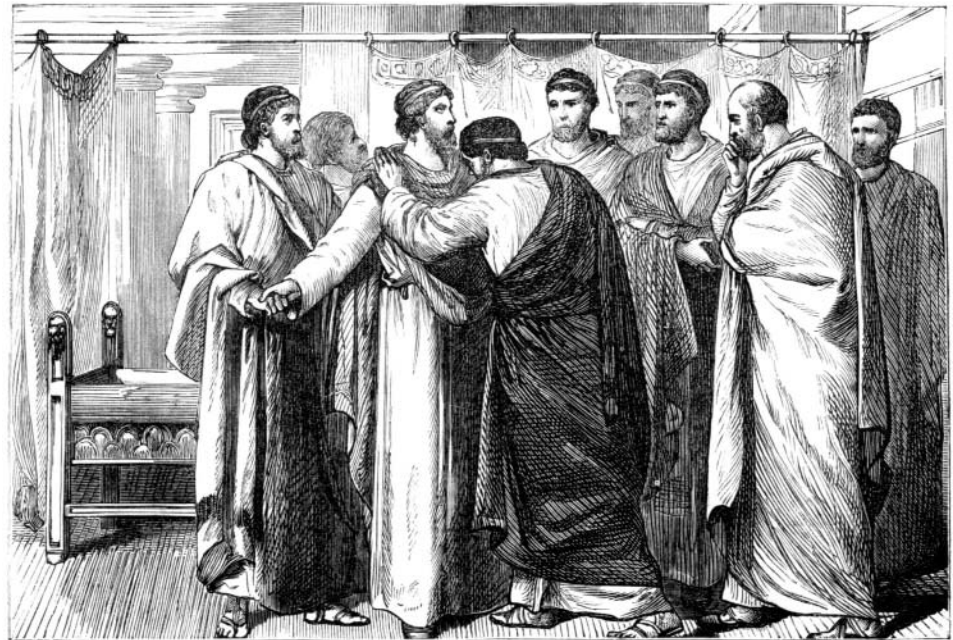
Psalms, the saints are often called upon to shout for joy; and in Luke 6:23, to leap for joy. So they are abundantly called upon to exercise high degrees of gratitude for mercies, to "praise God with all their hearts, with hearts lifted up in the ways of the Lord, and their souls magnifying the Lord, singing his praises, talking of his wondrous works, and declaring his doings."

And we find the most eminent saints in Scripture often professing high affections. Thus the Psalmist speaks of his love, as if it were unspeakable; Ps. 119:97, "O how love I thy law!" So he expresses a great degree of hatred of sin, Ps. 139:21, 29: "Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with them that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred." He also expresses a high degree of sorrow for sin: he speaks of his sins "going over his head as a heavy burden that was too heavy for him: and of his roaring all the day, and his moisture being turned into the drought of summer," and his bones being as it were broken with sorrow. So he often expresses great degrees of spiritual desires, in a multitude of the strongest expressions which can be conceived of; such as "his longing, his soul's thirsting as a dry and thirsty land, where no water is, his panting, his flesh and heart crying out, his soul's breaking for the longing it hath," &c. He

expresses the exercises of great and extreme grief for the sins of others, Ps. 119:136, "Rivers of water run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law." And verse 53, "Horror hath taken hold upon me, because of the wicked that forsake thy law." He expresses high exercises of joy, Ps. 21:1: "The king shall joy in thy strength, and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice." Ps. 71:23 "My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee." Ps. 63:3, 4, 5, 6, 7, "Because thy loving kindness is better than life; my lips shall praise thee, Thus will I bless thee, while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips; when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help; therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice."

The Apostle Paul expresses high exercises of affection. Thus he expresses the exercises of pity and concern for others' good, even to anguish of heart; a great, fervent, and abundant love, and earnest and longing desires, and exceeding joy; and speaks of the exultation and triumphs of his soul, and his earnest expectation and hope, and his abundant tears, and the travails of his soul, in pity, grief, earnest desires, godly jealousy, and fervent zeal, in many places that have been cited already, and which therefore I need not repeat. John the Baptist expressed great joy, John 3:39. Those blessed women that anointed the body of Jesus, are represented as in a very high exercise of religious affection, on occasion of Christ's resurrection, Matt. 28:8: "And they departed from the sepulcher with fear and great joy."

continued on page 9



PAUL PARTING FROM THE DISCIPLES.

Faith Laughs at

IMPOSSIBILITIES

by Leonard Ravenhill

We are too far removed from the actual scene to catch the atmosphere of dismay the Christians of that day felt.

Peter had moved from Pentecost to prison, from jeers to spears. He was guarded by sixteen soldiers. One wonders why such a defenseless man needed such a group to watch him. Could it be that Herod feared the supernatural, seeing he knew that Jesus escaped such a group that guarded Him?

Had Peter been hedged in by sixteen hundred soldiers, the problem would not have been increased nor the escape less sure. Peter was bound not only by two chains, but also by the thick walls of the prison, by the three wards of the prison, and finally by an iron gate.

When Peter is in prison, does the church organize a plan to get him released? No. When Peter is jailed, do the believers offer a plea to Herod or suggest a price to offer the lawmakers for his freedom? No. Peter had released others at the hour of prayer; now others must believe for his release.

Right through the book of Acts, which might be called *The Acts of Prayer*, we find prayer and more prayer. Dig into the book and discover this power that motivated the early church. In the twelfth chapter of Acts we find a group that prayed. Though a host encamped against Peter, in this were these believers confident: there was a God who could and would deliver. The one



Peter in prison! What a jolt!

never-failing rescue operation was prayer. There was no hedging about in the prayers of those who made intercession for Peter. Prayer was made without ceasing by the church unto God for him. They did not seem to be concerned whether Herod should die or not. They did not pray that they might escape Peter's fate. They were not asking that they have another exodus to a more hospitable country. They prayed for one person: Peter. They prayed for

one thing: his release. The answer proves the point: "Whatsoever ye shall ask,... that will I do"

Some shabby interpreters of this story have said that when the pray-ers heard that Peter was at the door, they were unbelieving. I cannot accept this assumption. I am sure that they prayed with expectation. I like to think that they were for the moment staggered by the immediacy of the answer. They could be excused if they raised their eyebrows when Peter said, "I got out quite easily with an angel escort " (Next time you pass through the magic self-opening door at your supermarket, remember that the first door to open of its own accord was operated from above!)

Angel deliverances seem to find no place in our modern theology. Perhaps we would like the Lord to answer our prayers with the least embarrassment to us. After all, who expects that the angelic ranks should be disturbed just to bring deliverance to a praying soul? But supernatural

results came for many of the praying saints of apostolic days. The Lord geared a property-damaging earthquake to get deliverance for an apostle. Prayer is dynamite.

There is no weapon formed against prayer that can neutralize it. Some things can delay answers to prayer, but nothing can stop the full purpose of God. "Though it tarry, wait for it."

The first requirement in prayer is to believe—

- Believe that God is and that "he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
- Believe that God is alive and therefore has power—not only for Peter's deliverance, but for ours.
- Believe that God is love and that He cares for His own.
- Believe that God is power and therefore no power can stand against Him.
- Believe that God is truth and therefore cannot lie.
- Believe that God is kind and that He will never abdicate His throne or fail in His promise.

Reflecting on the story of Peter, I am rebuked, humiliated, chagrined, stung. Why? Because there are some great modern saints, Watchman Nee for one, who for years have suffered and been held captive by communists and others. Many of the saints today are shut up in prison. The same fate has befallen some of God's choice witnesses in Vietnam and in the Congo.

Such perils to other members of the Body demand concern, concentration, and consecration to a committed plan of prayer on their behalf. I fear that prayer has not been made to God without ceasing for these suffering kinsmen.

Mr. Bunyan shows us his Christian held captive by the Giant Despair in Doubting Castle. The key to his deliverance was Promise. We Christians are in captivity on many levels today personal, domestic, church, and missionary enterprise. But fetters break and dungeons fall when prayer is made by the church unto God—

- Prayer without ceasing;
- Prayer that might shatter our status quo;
- Prayer that drains us of every other interest;
- Prayer that excites us by its immense possibilities;
- Prayer that sees God as the One that rules on high, almighty to save;



- Prayer that laughs at impossibilities and cries, "It shall be done";
- Prayer that sees all things beneath His feet;
- Prayer that is motivated with desire for God's glory.

The praying of the believer can become a ritual. The place of prayer is more than a dumping ground for all our anxieties, frets, and fears. The place of prayer is not a place to drop a shopping list before the throne of a God with endless supplies and limitless power.

I believe the place of prayer is not only a place where I lose my burdens, but also a place where I get a burden. He shares my burden and I share His burden. "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." To know that burden, we must hear the voice of the Spirit. To hear that voice, we must be still and know that He is God.

This calamitous hour in the affairs of men demands a church healthier than the one we have. This blatant manifestation of evil in the youth and in the violation of God's commandments throughout the world calls for a faith that will not shrink.

Can we let our prayer swords rust in the scabbards of doubt? Shall our prayer harps hang tuneless on the willows of unbelief—

- If God is a god of matchless power and incredible might,
- If the Bible is the unchangeable Word of the living God,
- If the virtue of Christ is as fresh today as when He first made the offering of Himself to God after His resurrection,
- If He is the one and only mediator today,
- If the Holy Spirit can quicken us as He did our spiritual fathers, Then all things are possible today.

The seas were boiling, the winds were howling, the sails were tearing, the spars were flying, the stars were hiding, Euroclydon was blasting. The people were cringing and crying, sobbing and sighing. One man alone was praising. All were expecting death save Paul. Amidst a scene of hopelessness, if ever there was one, Paul cries, "**Sirs, I believe God**" (Acts 27).

As things seem to fall apart these days, I am going to join Paul. I am going to say in faith, "Sirs, I believe God." Will you join me? □

Set the Captives FREE

*Taken from the Martyrs Mirror
God's hand displayed for Elizabeth and Hadewijk in 1549*

Do you find the Martyr' Mirror to be a bit difficult to read? Old English combined with many horrible and gruesome details of torture that makes us shudder and shrink away from? But don't give up, there are some wonderful stories of deliverance in there too! There is also much doctrine and theology in some of those writings of years ago when the times were hard for those who believed that the Word of God held more authority than the religious leaders of the day. Some of these people were educated priests, others were simple folks, and even some were children who suffered imprisonment, torture and death at the hands of those who were considered the spiritual authorities of the day. They stood firm in their belief and would not compromise in the least no matter how awful and cruel their executioners were. But sometimes they were set free by God's mighty power. One such account follows here that reminded me of the story of Samuel back in Old Testament times because just like Samuel heard God as a child this Godly woman was called by name by God Himself.

It also reminded me of the story of Peter who was imprisoned and was set free by an angel. The story is actually two people who both were led of God; Elizabeth died a martyr while Hadewijk was miraculously released from prison and escaped the hands of her persecutors. -Dean

This Elizabeth was of a noble family, and had in her youth been put by her parents into the convent of Tieng, near Lier near East Friesland. She was to learn various arts, and also the Latin language. There she accidentally, or rather through the direction of God, came into possession of a Latin New Testament. By the constant reading of it and meditating on it she obtained so much knowledge of the will of God, that she became distressed with her way of life.

Because she saw no chance to change her life according to the Bible while staying at the convent, much less under the parental roof, she decided, after much conflict and reflection, secretly to escape from the



convent, trusting to the fatherly providence of Almighty God for help and guidance. To accomplish this, she made an agreement with a milkmaid of the convent, that she should change clothes with her, and thus assist her to escape from the convent early in the morning, in the guise of a milkmaid. After Elizabeth escaped, she first came to Lier, and without her knowing it (by God's divine guidance), to a certain house, in which there lived Anabaptists, who upon learning her circum-

stances and condition, took her in, and instructed her still more fully in the way of God.

After some time, fearing that search might be made for Elizabeth, they brought her to Leeuwarden, and there left her with a pious sister of the Anabaptist church, named Hadewijk, with whom she was afterward apprehended.

Now this Hadewijk was married to a certain drummer of the company quartered at Leeuwarden. Hadewijk's husband, having neither to go marching, nor to mount guard, etc., worked in a certain shop to gain a livelihood for his wife and children. There, working together with him was a very pious Anabaptist brother who at that time was put in bonds and condemned to death for the sake of his religion. His company was ordered to the place of execution when this pious brother was to be offered up. The company was to form a circle around him to prevent an uproar. This drummer conscientiously objected to serve in his capacity as a drummer at that time and under such circumstances. He also spoke of this to his wife Hadewijk, who disagreed with him in this matter, and told him to go do his duty.

This then he decided he must do; but decided he would first get himself partially intoxicated, in order to feel less compassion for the innocently doomed man. But this intoxication, instead of taking away his sense of compassion, only increased it, and he became very bold and his tongue was loosened. He told

the spectators of the piety and virtues of this martyr so well known to him and why he was so maltreated.

He showed how wickedly the authorities, (who were instigated by the clergy), acted in this matter. He boldly proclaimed that it were better to arrest and persecute wicked men, whoremongers, adulterers, unrighteous, and such like, as there were plenty of these in the city; indeed, even among the clergy. Some laughed, others laid it to heart. Some said, "The drummer is drunk;" others, "He is crazy," etc. But when he had become sober and was himself again, he reflected on what he had done and what in all probability he now had to expect.

Because of this, he decided to leave the city of Leeuwarden, his company, and the Roman Catholic Church. He begged his wife to go with him, but she could not approve of it, and after he left, she never knew where he had went.

But Hadewijk began to think over things after some time had passed. So she inquired after the Anabaptists, found opportunity to attend the exhortations, and embraced the faith. She was not only baptized upon her faith, but also allowed herself to be seized together with Elizabeth who had escaped from the convent.



Being confined in a separate cell from Elizabeth, it was announced to her that on the next day she should be examined and have to defend herself in a considerable number of articles, which caused her exceeding great distress and anxiety, especially since she could neither read nor write, and was more pious and willing than experienced.

Consequently, she earnestly pleaded with God, that the exceeding good and loving Father would be pleased to look with compassion upon her, His poor handmaiden. She knew that

God knew best her inability and unfitness and asked him not to try her above her ability, but to deliver and save her by His divine hand.

While she was engaged in prayer, a voice called to her exclaiming, "Hadewijk!" Looking up and around her, and seeing no one, she continued in her fervent prayer. A second time she heard the voice, but again seeing no one, she persevered in her supplications until the same voice said to her the third time, "Hadewijk, I tell thee, come out!" Seeing the door open, she put on her hood, and went out of the prison, but did not know where to hide herself.

She went into the church for the time being, where she

soon heard those who came there say that the gates of the city had been closed because a certain Anabaptist woman had escaped from prison. No one knew how she had escaped, but there was great reason to suspect witchcraft in the matter. Because of this, very diligent search was being made for her everywhere. Just as she left the church she heard the drummer in the street exclaim that whoever could identify her, should receive one hundred guilders, but whoever concealed her should forfeit one hundred and fifty guilders, which frightened her even more.

Afraid to go into her own house, and yet compelled to seek shelter somewhere, she went to the house of her former master and mistress. Before she was married, she had served them very faithfully for some time, and because of this they thought much of her. These people she requested to please

give her shelter in this distress, but they refused to do it. So she went away almost in despair, and came before the priest's house, where lived a certain half-witted fellow who was well-known to her. Because he was standing at the door, she asked him to conceal her. So he did, taking her up into the attic, and provided her with food and drink.

But in the night he came to her, and made indecent advances to her. Here the embarrassment was greater than ever; she had to deal with one who was strong of body and passions, and reasoning had little influence. If she screamed her life was in danger. Because of this she prayed, calling upon God for help in her great distress, and committed herself to her Redeemer.

Then she pleaded with this fellow to abstain from so evil a deed, because it would be adultery and she had a husband; and adulterers and adul-

teresses had to burn forever in hell. After hearing this he left her in peace and went away, saying, "The woman is too wise in the Scriptures; I have no chance with her."

The next day he went to the Zuypmarket, to Hadewijk's brother-in-law, who daily brought buttermilk there for sale. He told him that he had, unknown to anyone, concealed his sister-in-law in the priest's house, and advised him to come with his boat to the back stairs of the priest's house. There he could take her into the boat, and carry her out of the city through the floodgate, which he did. And so it was that this lamb Hadewijk, through the miraculous hand of God, escaped the claws of the ravaging wolves. She fled to Emden, and lived the remainder of her life in the meetinghouses of the Anabaptists, where she fell asleep in the Lord. □

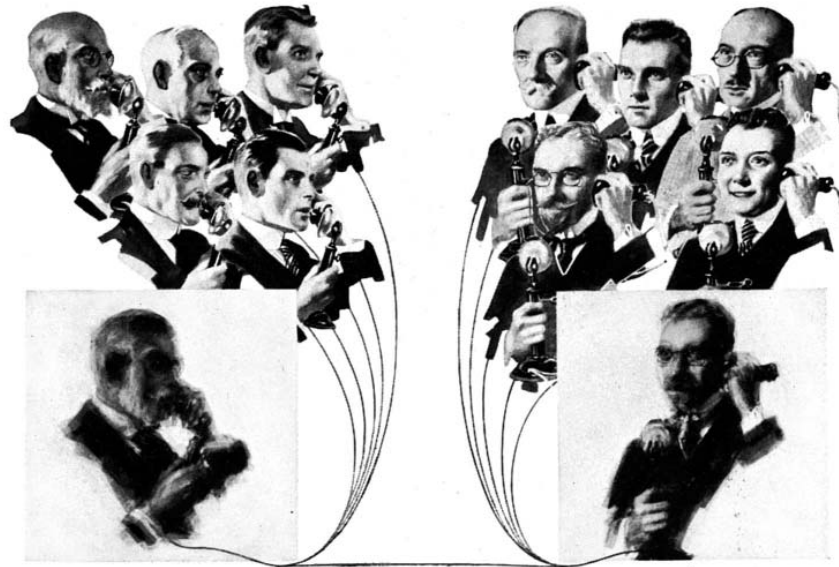
continued from page 4, **A Defense of Passion, Joy, and Zeal for the Things of God** by Jonathan Edwards

It is often foretold of the church of God, in her future happy seasons here on earth, that they shall exceedingly rejoice: Ps. 89:15, 16, "They shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted." Zech. 9:9, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King cometh," &c. The same is represented in innumerable other places. And because high degrees of joy are the proper and genuine fruits of the

gospel of Christ, therefore the angel calls this gospel, "good tidings of great joy, that should be to all people."

The saints and angels in heaven, that have religion in its highest perfection, are exceedingly affected with what they behold and contemplate of God's perfections and works. They are all as a pure heavenly flame of fire in their love and in the greatness and strength of their joy and gratitude: their praises are represented, "as the voice of many waters and as the voice of a great thunder." Now the only reason why their

affections are so much higher than the holy affections of saints on earth, is, they see the things they are affected by, more according to their truth, and have their affections more conformed to the nature of things. And therefore, if religious affections in men here below, are but of the same nature and kind with theirs, the higher they are, and the nearer they are to theirs in degree, the better, because therein they will be so much the more conformed to truth, as theirs are. □



MISSION to the TELEMARKETER

by Roger Hertzler

This article was written by a brother from Valley Christian Fellowship in Halsey Oregon. I was so blessed talking with him on the telephone. He has had a burden for telemarketers for some time and has now finally got some of these thoughts on paper. He said that lately he has noticed strong accents coming from the telemarketers and so he asked the callers where they were calling from; to his amazement he found that many of them were actually calling from India! I apologize that the article is a bit long. I tried to shorten the script portion but I felt the Lord saying no. I think that the script portion could be used as a model to give us a starting place when starting this type of evangelism. A good idea would be to keep this issue under the telephone. The next time someone calls turn to the script portion and pray. May the Lord lift up our eyes to the harvest! ~Dean

We as a group of people are well aware of the importance of witnessing to the lost. We know that Christ's final command to His disciples, and therefore to us, was "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." We know that Ezekiel 33 warns us that we will be

held responsible if we do not warn the wicked of the danger they are in. We also know that our own spiritual life will suffer and even die if we do not allow God's love to flow out of our lives to affect others.

We are aware of the strong relationship between evangelism and revival (both personal

revival and group revival), and have heard testimonies of how evangelism has always been either the cause or else the result of the mighty revivals of the past. We've also heard of the innumerable tragedies of God's people losing their first love and growing lukewarm after they had lost their zeal to

evangelize. We've heard about the power that characterized the Christianity of the early church, of the Anabaptists in the 1500's, of the Moravians in the 1700's, and of the Chinese house churches of today. And we acknowledge the link between the power of these Christians and their zeal for evangelism.

We also know *how* to evangelize. We've listened to an abundance of sermons on the subject, and have read stories about God's people who were active in evangelism. We've studied the doctrine of salvation extensively and have committed to memory all the key verses we will need to present the plan of salvation to others. We've heard the set of tapes on soul-winning by brother Denny (set #2 from Charity), and have memorized some of the effective questions we can ask to begin a conversation about spiritual things. We've learned from Ray Comfort's "Hell's Best Kept Secret" about how to use the Law in evangelizing. And we know the proper motivation for witnessing from Paris Reidhead's "Ten Shekels and a Shirt." (This kind of preparation, by the way, is very important if you plan to put the rest of this article into practice.)

But the truth of the matter is still this: we simply do not evangelize like we know we should. It's not that we do not want to do it. It's just that... well, there are so many hindrances to sharing the gospel here in America. Of course, preaching to the lost would be easy in a place like Haiti or Ghana. You see, over there, the

people are *hungry*, and they *want* to hear the gospel. But here in America, the people are so calloused to the gospel that they probably wouldn't listen to us anyway. Especially all the rich, contented, middle-aged people. They've all chosen their course in life and don't feel any need whatsoever to listen to our views on religion.

Also, it takes up so much of our precious time to do street evangelism and door-to-door tract distribution. We've got so many other things making demands on our time, including family responsibilities, church functions, and our regular work schedules. And by the time the weekend rolls around, we have a list this long of things that really do need to be done around the house.

And finally, even though we don't like to admit it, we are a little frightened at the thought of trying to share the gospel with a perfect stranger. Even after all the tapes we've listened to about *how* to do it and *why* to do it, our flesh still recoils at the very thought of actually *doing* it. What if we seriously mess it up, and don't use the right words in our gospel presentation? The poor soul that we are witnessing to could end up being lost forever, all because we couldn't think of the right thing to say at the right time! Should we really take the risk?

But yes, in spite of all our excuses, we still know that we really do need to do evangelism. The spiritual life (and eternal destiny) of us, of our children, and of those around us depends on it. Whatever it

costs us, we are willing to obey our God in this all-important area. So by God's grace, we purpose to do just that!

There, we have made the difficult decision. But now we are faced with more questions: Where should we begin? What methods shall we use? Where are these sinners that God wants us to start witnessing to?

If we are going to start witnessing to others, what we would really like to have is some sort of training environment where we could practice our witnessing skills under ideal circumstances. (Then, once we are comfortable with this, we could advance into something a little more challenging.) One thing that would be nice, for instance, is if we could share the gospel from the comfort of our own home, rather than out on a cold street somewhere.

Another good thing would be if we could start out by doing evangelism by telephone rather than in person. Just think of all the advantages there would be! **First**, we're not as likely to get punched in the face in the event that we say the wrong thing to the wrong person. **Second**, we wouldn't have to look at the unfriendly expressions on the faces of the witnesser, which can be a real distraction if we're trying to share the gospel for the first time. **Third**, it would be a lot easier to get back to our families after the witnessing time is over. It's a lot easier to simply hang up than, say, to drive all the way home from downtown Los Angeles.

Well then, if evangelization by telephone is really the way to go, maybe we should just go through the local phone book and start dialing numbers! On second thought, however, I wonder how many phone numbers we would have to call before we found someone who is willing to talk? And if he is willing to talk, would he be receptive to the gospel? Chances are, we'd spend all evening talking to those wealthy, contented, middle-aged folks who aren't remotely interested in hearing about what Christ has to offer them.

If only we could somehow get a list of pre-screened telephone numbers which would include only those people who are young, poor, uneducated, and have plenty of time to talk. Wouldn't that make it easier, just the knowledge that the person we are calling is more likely than average to be hungry for truth? Yes, if we could get a hold of a list like that, we would *all* start dialing numbers and witnessing for Christ.

Or would we? You know, now that we think about it, it would still makes us a bit nervous to call these people without any warning whatsoever, even if they are the perfect candidate for salvation. So since we're into fantasizing anyway, why don't we just ask for one more thing. How about if we could get the people on this pre-screened list to call *us*, instead



of us having to call *them!* Now that would truly be a soul-winner's dream!

But let's stop our dreaming. We know that God wants us to sacrifice, to suffer, and to work hard in the spread of His kingdom. Of course we will never experience such perfect opportunities for witnessing as what we have described above.

Or will we? Could it be possible that these perfect opportunities are coming to us on a weekly (or even on a daily) basis, and that we are missing them? Could it be that God so desires that we learn how to witness for Him that He is even sending people our way that we can practice on? Please consider this question as you read the following story.

THE INTERRUPTION

My workday has ended, and I sit up to the table with my wife and has prepared, followed by a relaxing evening. No sooner have I taken the first few bites, however, when the evening's peace is shattered by a ringing telephone. The caller ID tells me only "out of area," and so somewhat gingerly I pick up the phone.

"Hello, this is the Hertzlers."

I hear an all-too-familiar pause before a slightly accented voice at the other end of the line responds, "Hello, may I please

Speak to Mr. Roger Her...Hertzler?"

I flash a quick signal to my wife that this could take a little time, and then disappear into my office.

"Yes, this is Roger."

"Hello, Mr. Hertzler. This is Larry Gordon from Citibank. I am calling to inform you that because of your excellent credit, you have been pre-qualified to receive one of our..."

I listen as politely as possible as the telemarketer reads the pre-typed sales pitch.

"Well, sir, thank you for the offer, but I think I'll pass on it today."

"But sir," the voice continues, "we are just offering this to you on a 30-day trial basis. After that, if you are not totally satisfied, you may cancel at any time and no fees will be charged."

Again as politely as possible, "Thanks, but I still believe I'll pass at this time."

"Okay, sir. But if you ever change your mind and want to give this plan a try, please give me a call at 1-800-987-6543."

"Well thank you sir. But before you hang up, would it be all right if I'd ask you a question?"

"Certainly, sir. What would you like to know?"

"By the way, what's your name again?"

"I'm Larry, Larry Gordon."

"Okay, Larry, well, as I'm sure you know, every one of us is heading toward that point when we cross from this life into the next one. In other words, we are heading toward that time that we call Death. Now my question is this, Larry. If that time would come for you, and you were to die right now, do you know for sure that you'd go to Heaven?"

(Larry laughs nervously.) "Uh... well, yes. I believe I probably would."

"Well, I'm glad to hear that, Larry. But if you don't mind my asking, I'm curious why you think so?"

"Well, uh, sir, I don't know. I mean, I try to try to treat everyone like I'd like to be treated and everything. And well, I've never done anything really, like, bad or anything. I think I've lived a fairly good life so far."

"Yes, I understand. But could I ask you a few questions to see if that is really true?"

"Uh... yeah, I guess."

"Okay, well, first of all, I assume that when you said that you've lived a good life, you were comparing yourself with the people around you that you are acquaint-

ed with. In other words, compared to the rest of the people you know, you've lived a fairly good life, or at least well above average. Is this true?"

"Yes sir, that's right." (Larry sounds a little more confident than before.)



"Well, that's good, Larry. But the only problem with that reasoning is this: the Bible tells us that on judgment day we will not be judged based on the people around us, but rather based on God's law.

Breaking God's law is called sin, and the people who break it are called sinners. God has given us a brief summary of His law in what we call the Ten Commandments. Could we just go through a few of these commandments to see whether you really have kept them?"

"Uh... all right." (The confidence is leaving again.)

"Let's start with the command against lying. Have you ever told a lie, Larry?"

"Well, yes, of course I have. Everybody's told a lie before."

"Well what does that make you? In other words, if you would have broken the command against committing murder, you would be called a murderer. But since instead you've broken the law against lying, what does that make you?"

"Well, if you say it that way, I guess I'm a liar. But I don't tell lies any more."

"Another of God's commands says that we must not steal. Have you ever done that, at any time in your life, regardless of the value of the item?"

"Well, I think I did a few times when I was really young. But I don't do that any more either."

"But doesn't that still make you a thief, even though you haven't done it for a while? You wouldn't say that someone who has committed murder isn't a murderer any more simply because he hasn't killed anyone in the last several years?"

"Well, yes, I guess you're right."

"Another of God's commands tells us not to commit adultery. This means having any kind of a sexual relationship outside of marriage, and Jesus said that even to look on a woman lustfully makes you guilty of adultery. Have you ever done any of those things?"

"Yes sir, I sure have."

"Listen, Larry. We've only gone through 3 of the Ten Commandments, and you've admitted that you've broken all three of them. There's really no point in going through any more of them, because the Bible says that if we've broken one commandment that we are guilty of all of them. So based on this little test, if God were to judge you according to His law,

would you be innocent or guilty?"

"I'd be guilty, I guess."

"The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. That means that the fair penalty for the sins that you've committed is eternal punishment in the lake of fire called Hell. The Bible also says that those who commit adultery, theft, and lying will go to Hell. So tell me Larry, if you were to stand before God on judgment day, and if He would ask you to give Him one reason why He shouldn't cast you into Hell for all eternity, what would you tell Him?"

"Uh, well... I don't know, sir. I've never really looked at it this way before. I - I guess I wouldn't have any reason, and I'd have to go to Hell."

"You are right, Larry, you wouldn't have a reason, not if you'd die in the condition that you are in right now. By your own admission, you are guilty of breaking God's law and deserve to go to Hell. If you would die now, God would have to throw you into Hell, not because He is a bad God, but because He is a holy God and you are a bad person. For Him to remain a holy God, He has to punish sin, and that includes your sin. But Larry, before you give up hope, I have to tell you that there is one possible way of escape. There is one and only one reason that you could give on judgment day that would be a sufficient reason for God not to send you to Hell. Tell me, Larry, would you like to hear about this reason, this only possible way of escape?"

"Yes, sir, I sure would. Please tell me."

Here I tell them how Jesus paid their debt by his sacrificial death on the cross. I give them an example of a man who incurred a large debt by committing a serious crime. I go on to tell them that this man's debt was then paid for by another man whom he did not even know.

"The only possible answer, Larry, is to get someone else to pay the penalty for the sins that you have committed. And the only person who can do that for you is Jesus Christ. Picture it this way. Suppose you had driven your car too fast through a school zone, and had been given a \$1,000 fine as a result. Now you are standing in the courtroom, and the judge asks you if you are guilty of the crime you are being charged with. You admit that you are guilty, and he tells you that the penalty is \$1,000. You reply to the judge that you believe that this is a fair penalty for your crime, but that you don't have \$1,000, nor do you have any way to get the money. The judge then says that he must put you into prison until you can come up with the money (which you know will never happen as long as you are in prison). It's starting to look as though you will never be a free man again.

"Suppose, however, that a rich man in the courtroom sees your predicament, comes up to you, and offers to pay your fine for you. He says that there are no strings attached, that he has the \$1,000 in his

pocket, and that he is willing to pay the fine on the spot if the judge accepts the payment. Would a good judge accept the rich man's offer? Of course he would, as long as the fine gets paid in full. The judge is able in this case to give you your freedom and still remain perfectly just, even though you yourself had no resources to pay the fine.

"It's the same way with Jesus Christ, Larry. He is offering today to pay the penalty for the sins that you have committed. Two thousand years ago he came to this earth as God in the flesh, and allowed Himself to be tortured, killed and buried by evil men. He died not because of His own sin, but because of your sin, Larry. He shed His precious blood to pay the penalty for the sins of any person who is willing to repent of his sin, believe in Jesus Christ, and surrender his life to God's control. It's the only way that God can forgive your sins and still be the perfectly just God that He is.

"If you reject this offer, Larry, it will mean that you will have to pay the penalty for your own sin. And that is a terrible thought, because according to the Bible, that penalty will be eternity in the lake of fire. Is that a penalty that you are willing to pay, Larry?"

"No sir, it sure isn't."

"Then there's only one way of escape, and that is to repent, believe, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Larry, is there anything hindering you from accepting

God's call today, any doubt in your mind about the things I've been sharing with you, any particular sin in your life you are not willing to give up for Jesus?"

"I believe I need to do that, sir; I really need to give my life to Jesus. But this has been an awful lot to consider in such a short period of time, and I'd like to spend some time thinking about the things you've shared with me. I've never had the message of Jesus explained to me in this way before. I want to thank you so much for caring enough to share these things with me, and I promise you that I will spend a lot of time thinking about them after I'm off work. But I really need to go now, because I'm at work and there are some more calls I have to make."

"Yes, Larry, I can understand that. And I would definitely encourage you take the time you need to make this decision. Spend time in prayer, asking God to show you the condition of your own heart just as He sees it. But just remember this, Larry, that you don't have any promise of tomorrow, so don't put off making this decision once you know for sure what you must do."

"Let me just ask you to do two things tonight after you get off work. First of all, call this toll-free number — 1-800-227-7902 (Charity Gospel Tape Ministry) — and ask them for a free cassette tape. The name of the tape is "Salvation, Crystal Clear" and it clearly explains the plan of salvation and what you must do if you want to be saved. You won't have to pay

anything for the tape, nor will you even have to pay the postage to get it to your house. The second thing I'd encourage you to do is this — do you have a Bible, Larry?"

"Yes sir, I have one at home."

"Good. Well go home tonight and read the gospel of John. It's the fourth book in the New Testament. Do it as soon as you get home, all right?"

"Yes sir, I sure will. And I will definitely call that number and order that tape. I want to hear more about the things you've been telling me."

"And I'll be praying for you, Larry. Just remember, this decision is the most important decision you will ever make. What you do with the message you heard in this phone call will determine where you will be a million years from tonight. So turn your face toward God today, and never, ever give up in your pursuit after Him, no matter how much it costs you."

"Okay, sir, and thank you so much."

"And thank you for your time, Larry. God bless you."

After I hang up, I re-join my wife and children, and together we say a prayer for Larry's soul. We pray that God would

draw Larry to Christ, since Jesus said that no man can come to Him except the Father draw him. We pray for protection through Jesus' blood from the devil, who would love to snatch away the seed that has just been planted in Larry's heart. We pray for other laborers to be sent into the harvest field of Larry's life, to cultivate, water, and harvest the seed that we have planted. And finally, we thank God for giving us this opportunity to be laborers with Him in His harvest.

This conversation is just a sampling of dozens of similar ones that I've had with telemarketers over the past several years. (I just wish I had started doing this earlier.) No two conversations are exactly alike; there are many different variations to the version I've given above.

Sometimes the caller is already a Christian (or thinks that he is). In this case I try to ask them a few questions to challenge them in their walk with God, such as, "Are you having victory over sin?" or "Are you bearing fruit for Christ? Jesus said that the Father takes away every branch in Him that doesn't bear fruit." If they seem to have a clear testimony for Christ, I ask them if they have any unsaved friends that they're witnessing to. Usually they say, "Yes, but I don't witness to them as much as I



should." I then say, "Then let me give you an excellent tool that you can use to try to win them to Jesus. Call this toll-free number (1-800-227-7902) and ask for a free tape called 'Salvation, Crystal Clear' and give it to your unsaved friends. Also, please ask for the tape 'Ten Shekels and a Shirt'. This is one that I'd like for *you* to listen to, and then to share with your pastor when you are finished with it." (I usually also tell them to order a catalog of other tapes.)

Sometimes they say that they don't believe in God. They say that they are more into science than religion, and that science disproves the idea of a creator God. I then ask them if they would be open-minded enough to put this theory to the test, and look at some scientific evidence that seems to indicate that evolution really isn't true science at all, but rather a religion. If they agree, I direct them to the website www.drдино.com, or www.answersingenesis.org instead which are websites on creation science.

With every one of these conversations I've become more and more convinced that one of the most open groups of people in America today is our vast population of telemarketers. Here are just a few reasons why this is true.

There is no language barrier. Telemarketers all know at least some English, and if you are reading this article, so do you. (If you have ever tried to preach the gospel in Haiti or Ghana, you will appreciate this fact immensely.)

- They are usually younger people. For many of them, this is just an entry level job until they can find something better. (Which means practically anything other than telemarketing.)
- They are usually not very wealthy, since telemarketers don't tend to get paid particularly well.
- They are generally not highly educated. (If they would be, they'd probably try to find a more enjoyable job.)
- Most of them are very hungry to hear a friendly voice. (They've been getting browbeaten all day long by unfriendly people who don't like having their evening meal interrupted.) Once they do hear a friendly voice, they are more than willing to sit and listen to it for a while. It might be the only one they will hear all day.
- They do not tend to be tempted with too high an opinion of themselves. (See reason #5) One of the biggest hindrances to the gospel message, their pride, has already been either removed or else severely injured.

- Even if they don't like what you're saying, it goes against their training to hang up on you. They expect you to be the one to do that.

There are over 500,000 telemarketers in America right now, with a new one being hired approximately every 41 minutes. (This is over twice the population of Belize, Central America.) If I could somehow share the gospel with one telemarketer every day for the next 137 years (providing that my voice doesn't wear out before then), I will only have reached 10% of the ones that exist right now. Brothers & sisters, it looks like I will need your help.

So the next time you get one of these middle-of-supper-time calls from a young man who can't quite pronounce your name, please don't hang up on him. If you do, you may have just thrown away the most productive witnessing opportunity you've had all week. Instead, consider that it is not just a credit card company on the other end of the line, but rather an eternal soul for whom Christ died. Consider that God has just handed you

continued on page 17



“It’s Got No Sting!”

A crowd had gathered on the seashore, and, as is often usual, attracted others. On nearing it, we made our way through the outer edge, and were able to look over the heads of a number of boys who were intently gazing on a dangerous serpent which the showman had in his hands, and which curled round his arms and neck. A venomous snake, whose bite was of the deadliest; but the man seemed to have charmed it, for though it shot out its forked tongue and touched him, it was quite harmless, and none of the evil effects we read of ensued. Most of the observers were amazed and puzzled, some not a little frightened, and various were the remarks made; but at last one clever onlooker explained the cause of its doing no harm, and cried out, “Oh! it’s got no sting.” That was the solution. The sting, or venom bag, had been extracted, and the reptile rendered harmless.

Why are we afraid to die? Is it not on account of sin? We know assuredly that death is dreadful, and why? Because it has a sting. God says: “The sting of death is sin.” If only we could extract the sting, death would no longer be terrible. Who can extract the deadly poison? We cannot, but the Lord Jesus Christ has removed it already for all who are His. In Him “we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” “His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree.” And so death is swallowed up in victory.

*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?
The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(1 Corinthians 15:55-57)*



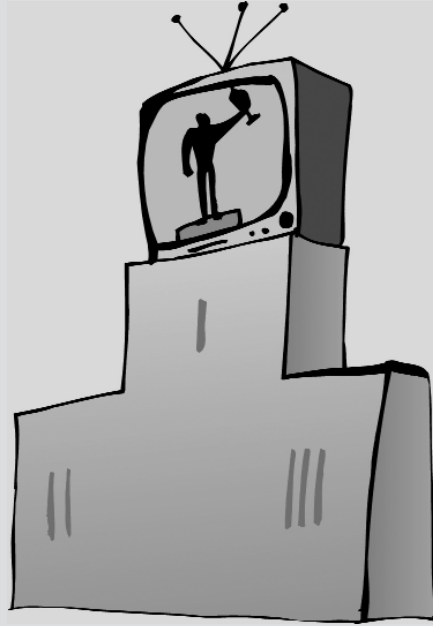
continued from page 16, Mission to the Telemarketer by Roger Hertzler

the opportunity to minister to him without making a trip to India, to New York City, nor even to the house down the street. Consider also that sharing the gospel with him will be an excellent training opportunity for you in case you ever should get called to India, to

New York City, or to the house down the street.

There has recently been legislation passed in Congress for a federal “Do Not Call” list, which would keep telemarketers from calling you if you put your phone number on this list. My dear fellow-Christians,

whatever you do, don’t put your phone numbers on this list! Don’t foolishly throw away your chance to work in one of the ripest harvest fields that still exists in America. Please let these beggars come to your door, and then feed them with the bread of life. □

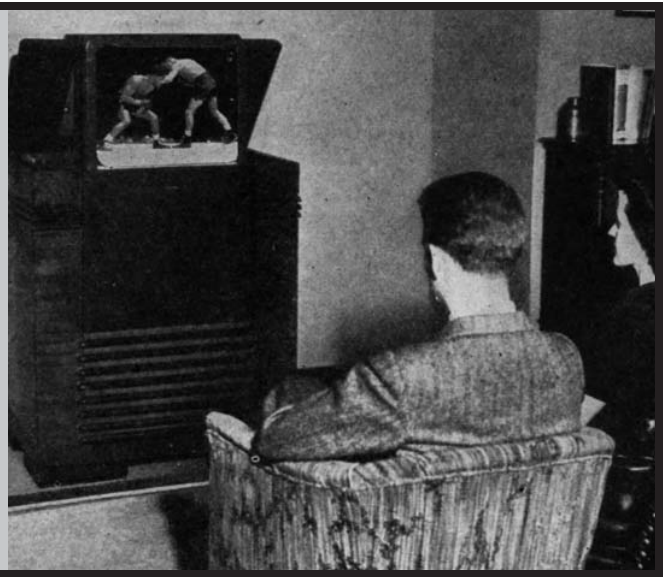


Side By Side

They lie on the table side by side
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
One is well worn and cherished with pride—
Not the Bible, but the TV Guide.
One is used daily to help folks decide.
No, not the Bible, but the TV Guide.
As the pages are turned, what shall they see?
Oh, what does it matter, turn on the TV.
So they open the book in which they confide.
No, not the Bible, but the TV Guide.
The Word of God is seldom read.
Maybe a verse before they fall into bed.
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be.
Not from reading the Bible, from watching TV
So then back to the table side by side,
Lie the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
No time for prayer, no time for the Word,
The plan of Salvation is seldom heard.
But forgiveness of sin, so full and free,
Is found in the Bible, not on TV.

Author unknown
(email forward)

The Christian's PET SIN



What is it? Gambling? Liquor, white-collar crime, or sexual immorality? No. It is the use of television.

What began as a scientific breakthrough in the late 40's with the promise of much good for mankind, has now been used of Satan as an insidious purveyor of filth, obscenity, perversion, violence, and liberal left-wing ideology.

The proliferation of television sets in America has become widespread. Now one could pass by even the poorest of welfare recipients any night of the week, and see the flickering of the TV through the window. He would be undoubtedly watching his favorite filth in living color in the same way as the wealthy. One may do without a telephone or an automobile, but to be without a television would be unthinkable! Many homes have several sets to have more convenient access to their favorite sin.

Time As A Measure

How can it be called a favorite or pet sin? The average television watcher now sits entranced for 7.2 hours per day enjoying his lust, violence, or perversion of all that is right and decent. If one's favorite activity would be measured by what he does voluntarily, by choice, and by length of time involved; watching television is the clear winner.

Distinctives Of Christians

Bible Christianity has distinctives. Bible Christians are commanded by Scripture to not love the world, or the things in the world (I John 2:15), to be uncontaminated by the world around us (II Peter 3:14), to live holy lives (I Peter 1:15), to abstain from fleshly lusts (I Peter 2:11), to abstain from even the **appearance** of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22). Believers are to jealously guard their thought life to ensure it is approved of God (Philippians 4:8), bringing captive every thought into obedience to Christ (II Corinthians 10:5).

Distinctives Of Television

Television also has distinctives, and they are vigorously contrary to the above. Producers and sponsors attempt to out-do competitors shows with profanity, blasphemy, obscenity, violence, loose, low-life living, nudity, perversion and so on. This should not be surprising. As a group, the moguls of the television industry are among the most unbelieving, unchurched, blasphemous, anti-God infidels of professional groups.

However, you and I both know that their life-style and ideas will creep into and become a part of their TV productions. Our Savior has said whatever is in our heart will come out in

our life-style. (Matthew 7:15-20) These actors, producers, directors and sponsors are regularly spewing out filthy productions that are wholly consistent with their evil hearts. To put it another way, we will not get clean, decent, moral, character-building television programming from bad people.

Christians Do This?

Christians do not indulge in Hollywood cesspool movies, rock music, drug parties, wife-swapping, sodomite steam baths, mixed swimming, nude shows, prostitutes, etc. They shun these wicked pleasures of the world, nor would they allow their children to participate in this wickedness. Yet in the privacy of Christian homes all of the above evil practices are on TV in full color, extolled; held up as proper and acceptable behavior and encouraged. Bible Christianity on the other hand is mocked, scorned and made an object of derision. Even the so-called good shows attack Bible values. The news programming has a palpable leftist, liberal slant to the point one could wonder if Moscow sometimes prepares the newscasts. The time-wasting sports keep countless Christians out of church on the Lord's Day and many others from Bible reading, family altar and prayer. One looks in vain to discover redeeming features of this medium of mass media that has become so wicked that it is so thoroughly enjoyed by the world and now has become the pet sin of Christians

Let Us Face Facts

Honestly now, after having watched your favorite TV show, did you rise, stretch and remark, "this has made me a better Christian", or "I am closer to God after having watched that." Have you noticed your children developing more of an interest in the Bible; witnessing and standing alone for Christ after the steady diet of television you have permitted them to watch? What would Christ say if He were to watch TV over your shoulder as you enjoy your favorite broadcasts? What is your son thinking

as he watches naked women? What are you thinking? What Bible values and moral character are being taught and reinforced in your family as you watch? Has it stimulated you to join those who go calling at your church? Honest answers to these questions ought to convince you of the utter failure on your part of controlling and censoring your pet sin!

What Is It Really?

Television is a modern-day river of filth with several tributaries (channels). I look after a home for troubled teen-aged girls. These girls tell me they have formed their values, made life decisions and goals based on this river of filth. Ever wonder about its lasting effects? Our girls do not have access to TV; yet a year later they discuss shows they have seen, as if they saw them yesterday! We would not fill our stomachs from a sewer, yet we are filling our mind, heart and soul from one, and giving our children a hearty appetite for more.

Whose Responsibility?

Dad, all of the terrible moral and spiritual devastation from TV occurring in your life and in your family is your fault! You see, you are God's prophet, priest and king in your home. He will hold you responsible as the head of the family. You are the protector of your family against evil influences; and how in God's name, and based on the Bible, can you say you are protecting them from evil influences when you allow the TV sewer to freely run in your home?

Some men say, "if I get rid of my set, there would be World War III with my wife." I know. Since you have allowed this evil in your home, she is probably hooked on the soaps and other choice tidbits of moral sewage. You will also face a battle with the kids, since they are similarly hooked on the violence-filled, immoral cartoons. This is not to mention your friends and relatives who would believe you to be a weird-o, a kook, and that you would be depriving your family. Why, in order for you to get rid of your set, you would have to be a man!

If you keep the TV sewer in your home, do not expect a pleasant time at the Judgment Seat of Christ (11 Corinthians 5:10). Tolerating this sin and even enjoying it calls into serious question your faithfulness to Christ and stewardship.

Source Of Confusion

You are introducing confusion in the hearts and minds of your children by having TV in your home. TV does not agree with the authority and truth to which a child ought to be exposed in a Bible-believing home. In fact, the basic message of TV is hostile to the truths conveyed by faithful Bible preachers, Sunday school teachers, Christian Day School teachers and which ought to be conveyed by believing parents.

Every teaching model, (TV characters are strong, polished and compelling models) your child in his life ought to be in basic moral agreement on values. To have the home, school and church proclaiming one set of values to the child while your TV set vigorously and effectively teaches another is to cause confusion of the first order. This is not only unwise, it is foolhardy. Ask yourself, do your children emulate and venerate the stars on TV, or their Preacher and Sunday School Teacher? Are they accepting and learning the barnyard morality of TV or the morality of Scripture? Are they praising a sports hero who desecrates the Lord's Day every Sunday he plays, or are they avidly sharing the details of a 19th century missionary about whom they have just read? Who is winning the battle for your child's heart? Why should you even allow this battle for their soul and confusion in their minds by using a TV set?



What Influences?

A parent must never allow influences in the life of his child that do not reinforce and strengthen his Bible-based convictions. In fact, to allow such influences in his own life is presumptuous sin on the part of the parent.

If you are one of the many carnal believers using a TV set in your home, I must warn you about the consequences of your sin. God has told us whatever we sow, we will reap (Galatians 6:7-8). A crop takes time to grow, but reaping time (judgment) will always come. You will pay for your sin in your own life and the life of your children and grandchildren. This is not to mention what you will face at the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10).

PhD In Filth

A PhD candidate may concentrate 2,000 hours to earn his doctorate in a particular field of study. Count up your family's average viewing time to see how long it took you to obtain your PhD in filth. I daresay, many carnal Christians have earned several doctorates in filth!

The Facts Of The Matter

Anyone owning and watching TV is not seriously interested in personal revival. Such an individual, though he be called a Christian is not actively seeking holiness of life. The facts are, he is a dirty compromiser like Lot: wanting to be called a Pilgrim, trying to act like one, yet pitching his tent toward Sodom, and then

continued on page 24

Time of Testing

Testimony by Lee Stauffer

Lord pierce my ear, I am your servant. I will faithfully follow and serve you the rest of my days. A free man I'll never be. Lord I love you. You are my all in all. I surrender all. My life, my love, my all I give to you. Where you lead me I will follow. What you say I will do; where you send I will go. It's all yours Lord, including my own life. Take it Lord, and use it; like Job of old "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

As a single 29-year-old young man, I have prayed these kinds of prayers in commitment to God many, many times. Becoming a Christian at age of 14 and because of my church setting many times I needed to find my way alone. Having to find my way alone in the youth group and finally finding myself on the foreign mission field there were many times that God proved Himself very, very faithful. In my heart I would respond in a deeper commitment to God, yet it wasn't always without a struggle. I would spend hours on my face before God in wrestling with the things before me. I had altar experiences of utter abandonment with God dealing with my stubborn will in my bedroom, out on the mountains, along the

seashore, out in the woods, behind the barn, and yes even at church.

I can testify that a completely surrendered life to God is a blessed life filled with peace and satisfaction and yes God becomes very real and precious.

In the scriptures we are given two well known accounts of people who made tremendous commitments and sacrifices yet God knows the heart of man and our words alone to Him are not enough. Often, He calls us to a trying of our commitments.

Consider with me Hannah in her commitment to God found in 1 Samuel 1:11 "And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me,

and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life..." When God fulfilled her prayer she replied "For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. (27-28)

In Genesis God promised Abraham a son. God was faithful to His promise and gave Abraham a son. But then in chapter 22 God



put Abraham to a test. *“And He [God] said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee to the land of Moriah, and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”* God was pleased with how Abraham responded saying: *“For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thy only son from me.”*

Brothers and Sisters, it is very easy to say the right words and make everything appear yielded and surrendered on the outside but it is only after God has put us to the test and proved us faithful that He accepts the words of commitment we have spoken to Him. God is able to creatively and thoroughly prove our words of commitment to Him, if we allow Him.

-- My Test --

This is where I found myself this past year. On Saturday the 19th of April 2004 I received a certified letter. This letter was a result of having donated blood a few weeks before which I've done many times. The testing lab was letting me know that my blood sample had come back positive for the HIV virus that causes AIDS. They added however, that a secondary confirmatory test had been negative. The letter said that I would have to wait six months to find out whether or not I have the virus. After answering some questions they concluded I very likely don't have it, but could not be certain.

There I sat and it seemed like God was saying *“Well son, what are you going to do? This letter is a test that I have allowed and my grace will be sufficient for you, but you must bow your heart and begin living as if you had the virus.”*

For a few moments there was a great struggle that went on within my heart and my flesh, then in utter brokenness I just bowed my heart and I said *“Yes Lord, I accept this letter, its message and all the consequences it will bring into my life as from You. Oh—the inner strength and peace and grace that flooded my heart and being at that moment and every moment after for the next 8 months.”*

Never once did I have to struggle with the fear of the unknown; I just bowed my heart and

said, *“Yes Lord!”* The following days I spent much time in soul searching. It is amazing what all can go through your heart and mind when you're faced as a young man that your life may be cut short, you may never marry, and your life will begin to slowly just die away. Many things that had seemed so important before now were forgotten; it seemed like my whole future and all my plans, dreams, and goals just simply died! I had a great longing for heaven. The shortness and frailty of life became very real and the reality of a sure eternity was ever before me.

God began to burden my heart in a very deep way of lost souls and how short a time was left for them to be told of the Lord Jesus Christ and His life changing saving power for all men. God began to show me the kingdom of His Son the Lord Jesus in a completely new way.

As I sought the Lord in practical areas of my life, God made it very clear that I should continue doing the things I was currently involved with (work, ministry), but no major decisions or changes in any way could be made. In the area of courtship and marriage God took me to a deeper sense of yieldedness and surrender; even to completely giving up any hope of even having a family or wife of my own.

For the last almost four years of my life I have been working only part time and even that at times became challenging to remain committed to as God just kept gripping my heart with the reality of eternity during this experience. I came to love God in a much deeper way; my daily walk with Him became very real and I just longed to be in His presence forever.

With all these things in my heart I found it easier to pray, fast and intercede on behalf of others needs and struggles. I prayed, *“Lord, You are truly worthy of my whole life, and I will always follow You.”* 8 months later after retesting they have completely cleared me of any possibility that I have the virus.

God is faithful; He calls us unto a life of faithful commitment and full surrender to His sovereign plan to glorify His name and manifest the saving, changing power in the name and blood of Jesus Christ. Truly in humbling me, God has lifted me up and established my goings forever. (James 4:6-10) ◻

My Substitute

When I was a boy, I saw a sight I never can forget—a man tied to a cart, and dragged before the people’s eyes through the streets of my native town, his back torn and bleeding from the lash. It was a shameful punishment. For many offences? No; for ONE offence.

Did any of the townsmen offer to divide the lashes with him? No; he who committed the offence bore the penalty alone.

When I was a student at the University, I saw another sight I can never forget—a man brought out to die. His arms were pinioned, his face was pale as death—thousands of eyes were upon him as he came up from the jail in sight. Did any man ask to die in his place? Did any friend come

and loose the rope, and say, “Put it round my neck, and I will die in his stead?” No; he underwent the sentence of the law. For many offenses? No; for ONE offense.

I saw another sight (it matters not when) myself a sinner, standing on the brink of ruin, deserving naught but hell. For one sin? No; for many. Many sins committed against the unchanging laws of God. But again I looked, and saw JESUS, my Substitute, scourged in my stead, and dying on the cross for me. I looked, and cried. I claimed Him as my Saviour, and was forgiven. I realized that He had taken my place—and thanked God for giving Him to die in my stead.

How simple it all becomes when God opens our eyes! The law demands justice; the Gospel delights in mercy, through satisfied justice. Moses blesses the law-doer; Jesus pardons the law-breaker, the guilty, and saves the lost. □



continued from page 21, The Christian’s Pet Sin

actually moving into town. He has a pet sin and is not willing to give it up!

Remember this, my friend, your controversy is not with me, it is with a Holy God. A thrice-Holy God still calls sin, SIN! While you (through your pet sin of TV), are saying in effect a little bit of sin is OK. We expect the unbelieving world to sit enthralled at the fleshpots of the TV sewer, but for Christians it is especially

wicked and evil. It is not helping you to grow in grace and if you are honest, you will admit it.

I pray some Christians who read this will be willing to give up their pet sin. What will you do? □

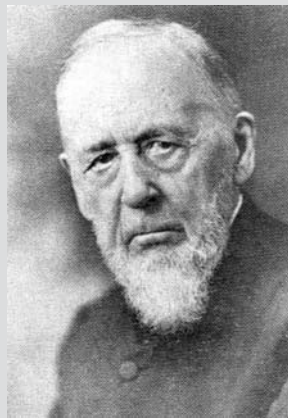
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TEACH YOUR CHILDREN DILIGENTLY

by John Funk 1864

*And these words which I
command thee this day, shall be
in thine heart, and thou shalt
teach them diligently unto thy
children...."*

Deuteronomy 6:6-9



This article was originally published under the title "The Duty of Parents to Themselves and Their Children" in 1864. John Funk was born into an immigrant Mennonite family in Berks County in 1835. At age 23 while working in Chicago John Funk attended a revival meeting conducted by D.L. Moody and was born again. From age 26 to 32 he continued to associate intimately with moody. He eventually settled in Indiana where he became a very influential Mennonite preacher and bishop. Probably his most significant contribution was the publishing of the first Mennonite magazine in English called the Herald of Truth.

Originally, I did not know what to think about John Funk I had heard a lot about him but I had never actually read anything that he wrote. I found his original magazines in the Lancaster Mennonite historical society and I was blessed as I read many of his old articles. After reading his writings I was impressed with his austerity and zeal for holiness. It was refreshing to see throughout the issues common themes about such things as the atoning blood, a holy life and a burden for raising a godly family. His sharp criticism of worldliness in the church written so long ago was very challenging. His warnings to the church of the 19th century should be even proclaimed even louder today. This abridged article was the first actual full-length message that the paper presented. May we take all these words to heart. ~Dean

These words, dear friends, are the words of Moses, the great leader of Israel. Moses, under the guidance of God, led forth the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, through the Red Sea, unto Mount Sinai, to receive the commandments, the statutes and the judgments, which God designed for the government and instruction of his people.

But we cannot now follow the children of Israel, through all their wanderings, during the long journey to the Promised Land. But as God taught, and trained, and tried His people, preparing them for the day when they should enter into the land, Moses continued to be their teacher and governor. He watched over them as a father watcheth over his own children. He received the tables of the law from God's own hand, and "commandments and statutes" from God's own lips. Even as a friend converseth with friend, so came the Infinite Father to hold converse with his servant Moses. Moses embraced them and diligently taught them to the people.

INTERCESSOR

When their enemies were about them, and threatened their destruction, Moses stood between God and the people as their mediator, and God gave them the victory. When disputes and controversies arose between them, Moses heard them, and decided for them in justice. For forty years had Moses been the leader of Israel and had borne with them in



From the first ages of the world to the time of Moses, the education of their children depended wholly upon the parents.

their impatience and hard-heartedness. For forty years had he borne with them, led them, taught them, prayed for them, and seen that they, in all things, were provided for. When he at last brought them to the borders of the promised land, he knew that his long and eventful life was drawing to a close, and that he must prepare to leave them to the guardianship of others, and bid them a final farewell.

LAST WORDS

But before he could take his final departure, he gathers

together all the congregation of this people, and gives to the his last words: like a father gathering his family around his dying-bed to give them his dying counsel, so the aged patriarch recounts once more what God had done for them, and then in a most solemn exhortation, he breaks forth in these words: "Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and

honey." And then, having stated the "sum of all the commandments, and statutes and judgments," which God had given him, in nearly the same words which our Saviour reaffirmed hundreds of years afterwards, he declares unto the people: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord! And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might," and after bringing this whole truth, the sum of all laws, before the people, he brings forth from his blessed lips the words of the text: "And these words which I command thee this

day shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently into thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them, for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes; and thou shalt write them upon the posts of thine house and on thy gates."

In the days when Moses was the leader of the children of Israel, there were no schools, as there are now. The children of these days did not have a long line of studies to go through, which would enable them to read fluently, write rapidly, and figure quickly. From the first ages of the world to the time of Moses, the education of their children depended wholly upon the parents. We can picture in our minds how that the patriarchal fathers sat down in their tents and talked with their children of events which had happened in their own day. For in those days there were few books; and the books that did exist never circulated among the people, but were retained by the priesthood or other learned men. The only mode of obtaining a knowledge of past events in those days was to hear it from the lips of others. We may safely suppose that in those days many long and happy hours were spent in the tent, and in the field, and by the way, in the relation of past events by the fathers, while the children, in silent admiration, listened to the wonderful circumstances which had taken

place, and in which their fathers and grandfathers had been participators and actors.

TEACHING Ö BY THE WAY

We can picture to our minds many an interesting scene, connected with the humble homes of these sojourners in the desert, which was never written in the sacred record. Behold, with what untiring interest the children sit around their aged parents, who had been slaves in Egypt, and seen all the wonderful manifestations of God's love and power, in bringing them up out of the house of bondage, as they relate the story of the judgments and the

glorious promises which He made to them; and then may we not also suppose that the faithful father and the God-fearing mother, would take this same opportunity to teach their little ones the strictest obedience to the sacred law which God had given them.

Thus did God command, and Moses enjoin, upon the children of Israel, that they should observe and obey the commandments of God, and teach them diligently to their children; and through all the years of Jewish history to teach all these things unto their children, and to instruct them in all the ways which God had appointed, that the true worship of God might ever be kept up and sustained among the Jewish people.

and commandments to their children, to their "sons and their sons' sons": and these instructions and admonitions have been handed down to us through the ages of time and are for us today, just as much as they were for the children of Israel. Our hearts are inclined to sin and to evil, as were the hearts of the ancient Israelites; and we have children whom we love—children whom we desire to see walking in God's ways, keeping His commandments and doing His statutes, according to all that the blessed Gospel demands.

WHAT ABOUT US

But here arises the question, are we seeking to understand, and to fulfill these requirements of the Bible? Are we seeking to know our own duties, and implant into the minds, of our children, a true sense of the responsibility, which rests upon us and them, and a true appreciation of their duty towards God, towards their parents towards the Church, and towards all mankind? Are the parents of the present generation faithful to the sacred duties, which God has imposed upon them? I ask you, O father! I ask you, O mother! Are you faithful to the sacred trust? Do you faithfully teach your children to observe all the ordinances of God? Do you point them to Jesus as the Saviour of mankind? Do you teach them the way to heaven?

In answer to these questions let us consider several characteristics which manifest themselves very plainly at the



plagues which God visited upon the Egyptians before Pharaoh would let the people go. Add the story of their own travels—God's mercy and His judgments to them, and the

And now, my Christian friends, we have seen how God taught His commandments to His children—to His own people, and how He commanded them to teach these same laws

present time, not only among our own people but also among all other Christian denominations.

IN NAME ONLY

We sometimes seem to think that if we only bear the Christian name, if we have made a profession of faith, been taken into the communion and fellowship of the Church, and have been baptized, then we have done all that is needed. But this is not enough—this is only a small part of our duty: and without a true motive, a regenerate heart, a sanctified spirit, a hold desire for heaven and a pure love to God, all our outward acts are vain, and will not help us any; yea they will only stand as testimonies against us in the day of judgment. For if we do these things from impure motives, without a true, Christian life,

they are only a mockery in the sight of God! Such mockery is sin, and sin sinks the soul to eternal perdition.

We sometimes see those who have conformed to all these outward requirements, while their conduct with their fellow men plainly shows that that their hearts are still at “enmity with God.” The Saviour says: “Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? (Matt. 7:16.) And thus, as a tree is know by the fruit it bears, so a Christian is known by the evidence he gives through his actions, his conduct and his conversation.

GUISE OF RELIGION

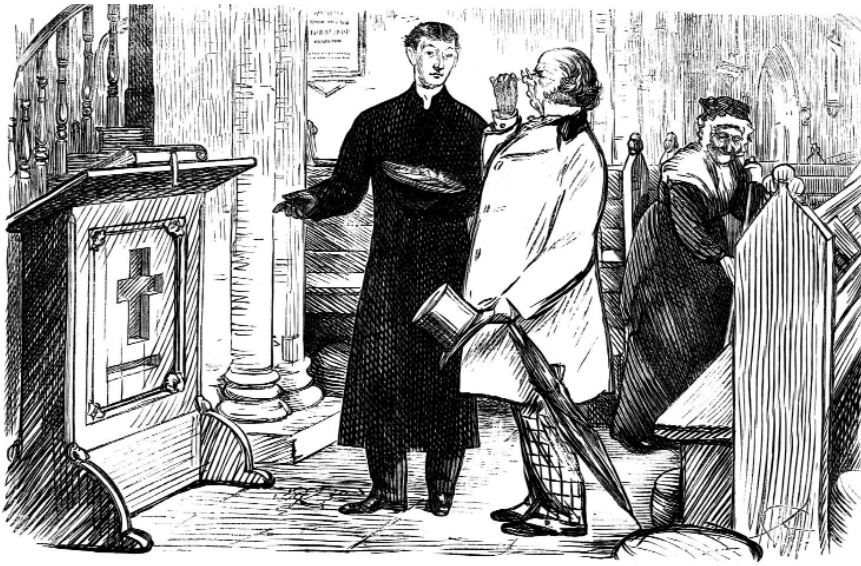
If we then see those who profess to be Christians and join in religious services, and

in the observance of outward forms appear to be bright and shining lights in the Church, and still do not make their whole course of action to match their faith—following closely in the footsteps of Jesus—making him their pattern, and in all things endeavoring to be like him, then what other conclusion can we come to but that, according to the language of the text they have not in their hearts “these things which the Lord our God this day commanded us.”

When we see those who under the cloak of religion and piety are given to the pleasures and enjoyments of the world, desiring to stand high in the estimation of men, with Solomon we are led to exclaim, “Vanity of vanities; all is vanity saith the preacher.” The glory of man shall fade and fall as the flowers of the field wither and die, and with the breath of heaven that fans his heated brow, he may inhale the poisonous pestilence which in a few moments may lay him low, with the lowest of earth. There is no distinction in the grave, all are equal there, and “God is no respecter of persons.” The poor beggar laying, suffering and dying of hunger, at the rich man’s gate, was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom. The rich man, with all his honor, his wealth, his earthly grandeur was cast low, into hell. Jesus was poorer than the fowls of the air or the beasts of the forest, for, says he: “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has not where to lay his head,” and



...as a tree is know by the fruit it bears, so a Christian is known by the evidence he gives through his actions, his conduct and his conversation.



Paul says: "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." Therefore, we should not follow after these worldly things and neglect the words of the great Jehovah: "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart."

OUR ONLY GUIDE

O! My Christian friends, how sad the thought when we consider all these things, and closely observe our own conduct, and the conduct of those around us! When we take the Bible, which is our only guide and our only rule of faith and practice, and measure our actions with its ever-blessed precepts, O! how do we thus live and fall so far short of attaining to a true, a pure and a holy life, without which we cannot enter the bright city above!

Alas! Alas! We have disobeyed our God, who has been very kind to us, who gave His only begotten son to suffer and die for us—to work out a great

salvation for us; yea, we have failed to follow His instructions, given to the ancient Jews, and to us from the Bible: "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart."

WHY IS IT THAT IN MANY PLACES THERE ARE SO FEW YOUNG PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH THE CHURCH?

This is a question which should awaken in our hearts strong concern. Upon this depends the maintenance of the church in future generations. If we teach our children the love of God, and their duty to the church and to themselves, in their early days, they will grow up to be good and pious men and women; then shall we have no fear for the religion and the morals of the people, the integrity of mankind, the extenuation of Christianity and the growth of the church. However, if we neglect this very important

duty, our children will follow vice and corruption and disregard all that is good and holy: and then Alas!

The history of the Jewish nation abundantly shows that whenever the people forgot God and His laws, they became corrupt, the glory of the nation departed and her prosperity declined. While virtue, morality, and religion are the cherished hopes of any people, God will bless them. When they forget and neglect those, God's favor will be withdrawn from them, and Woe! To an ungodly people! "Woe! To the wicked." (Is. 3:11.)

A LOST GENERATION

There can be no thought more painful and more sad than to see our children, the rising generation, those who in a few years will occupy our places—I repeat, there can be no thought more painful than when we see these, our children, our future hopes for this world, forgetting the commandments and the statutes of God, and wandering away into paths of sin and wickedness.

And yet painful as is such a scene, how very often we see even the children of faithful, pious parents, making rapid strides towards the great whirlpool of human degradation and eternal ruin. There are also a great many parents who come short of doing their duty, towards their children. A great many pious parents, too, fail in this, and this is one great reason why, so many times the

children of good Christian parents become so corrupt, as in the case of Eli, and many others. Oh! How his heart must have been weighed down with sadness and with sorrow as he, in his old age heard of his sons' corruption, their sins, their desecration of the Temple and the holy ordinances of God, because he had not restrained his sons from their evil ways!

How different was it with little Samuel? Asked of God, dedicated to the house of the Lord and His service even at his birth—taught from earliest childhood to DELIGHT IN THE LORD and to love His service, he grew up to the faithful prophet of God, an honor to his people, and a bright example to all future ages.

HE LOVED THEM

But again: the children of Israel were God's own peculiar people. He chose them, not because they were great in numbers, but because He loved them (Deut. 7:7-8) and they were a people distinct from every other people on the face of the earth. And to guard them securely against thus being led into sinful and idolatrous ways, by the nations around them, God also spake to them the words of our test: *"And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...."*

God desired that they should become very familiar with His law and commandments, that they should be ever in their hearts so that they

should not neglect them; then there would be less danger of their being led away after other gods, by those around them. And so should we also keep them commandments of the Lord, constantly before our eyes and in our hearts.

A HOLY PEOPLE

Now as God's people were to take possession of the promised land, utterly destroy all its inhabitants, sanctify it and make it a fit place of abode for themselves, so should the Spirit of God take possession of the human heart and destroy all the sinful inhabitants thereof; purge it of every wicked desire, purify it, sanctify it, removed from it all unholiness and thus make it a fit place for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Only then can we have in our hearts these words which the Lord this day commanded us, then also will we seek diligently to teach them unto our children.

In another view; so should the church possess all her inheritance, pure and without sin, that the Lord from

Heaven may descend and dwell among a pure and a holy people, for "the temple of God is holy which temple ye are," (1 Cor. 3:17) "and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you (1 Cor 3:16)." Yes the church must preserve its integrity, its purity, its sanctity that it may be "a house of prayer" unto the Lord and not "a den of thieves," full of corruption, devoted to the devil. The Spirit of the Lord shall be poured out "upon all flesh", and through its life-giving influence the Church shall go



forth, "conquering and to conquer," declaring the truth of God everywhere, preaching the Gospel to all nations; yes, to every creature, even to the uttermost ends of the earth; that "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the

sea (Isa. 11:9)" and the "heaven shall be given him for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession (Ps. 2:8).

Some have felt that we require too much of our children—that the requirements of our Church are too strict. That they could not, yes, that they would not comply with them; it was needless to be so strict; and they went out to unite with other Churches, where, as they were, erroneously, led to believe, they might have a broader road to the royal home above. Reader!



It matters not what name we bear, nor where we belong, nor in what Church connection we stand. The road to heaven is the same for all. It is the only one. "I am the way," saith Jesus, and "there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:13)."

The religion of our people requires of its members just what the Bible requires of a true and sincere child of God; nothing more, nothing less, and if our requirements are strict, the law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul (Psalm 19:7), "and the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12)."

Thou shalt "utterly destroy them, "your sins, your evil desires, your inclinations (after the things of this world,) thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them" — "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength." — "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me:

and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me: and he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." We cannot serve two masters. The Lord demands not a portion of our hearts—not a partial obedience, but our whole hearts.

WE ARE TOO MUCH LIKE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

When they came in the Promised Land and possessed it, and grew and increased, and prospered, and saw how the people about them lived, they grew careless and forgot the judgments of Egypt, and the laws and statutes God had given them, became corrupt, sinned against God and again and again brought his mighty judgments upon them.

Oh, my Christian brethren and sisters! Let us look upon these things in humility of spirit and consider them as before God. Oh, Christian parent! Let me appeal to you in all solemnity and kindness. Let us behold the church of Christ! The church of our fathers! Let us follow it down through the dark ages of the world, when trial and suffering, and persecution and death met the meek and purehearted Christians at every step. Let us look at them as the dark shadows of persecution followed them on every side, until the wild forests of America and the prairies of the West opened to them an asylum of peace, where the cruel terrors of the prison, the sword, the rack and the stake, no longer followed them with its fearful train of blood and death.

Here then in this great land, we have enjoyed liberty of conscience and all the privileges and blessings necessary for earthly comfort and prosperity. Here we sit down at our ease, under own vine and fig

tree, and feel secure. Yet the great destroyer of souls, is still abroad—yea in our very midst. The same subtle enemy, which led Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden and thus brought humanity under the sad penalty of death, still comes to us. He comes most frequently in the cherished forms of pleasure and prosperity, and unsuspectingly we take the wily, sin-crowned serpent into our bosom and clasp him to our fond embrace.

PROSPERITY HAS, IN
ALL AGES OF THE
WORLD, BEEN MAN'S
GREATEST ENEMY

Amid the fires of persecution the soul is purified, and brought near to God. When prosperity comes, his soul goes to sleep, throws off its watchfulness and an enemy comes in unawares, and sows the seeds of dissension, dissatisfaction, and sin, and robs him of eternal life. We forget what we must be. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect," is the injunction of the Saviour. "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children"—"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Let us then observe to keep these things and also teach

them diligently unto our children. We may feel that we have other things to attend to. We have a large farm, abundant crops or other toilsome labors to attend to. It is true that the labors of life demand our attention and require our care; but the diligent man will not be in need of time to worship God and to instruct his own household.

The command is, "Thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." He who asked to be excused because he had bought a farm, or a yoke of oxen, or had taken a wife, lost the privilege and the honor of feasting with the King. So also with us and our children if our business takes too much of our time. What will it profit us if we have gained the whole world, and lose our own soul?

We love our children, they are precious to us, we desire to



see them happy both in this world and in the world to come—we labor and toil for them early and late, that we may make them comfortable in the world—with all a father's

care and all a mother's love, we supply them every temporal want—when they are sick we watch over them very tenderly and pray that God may restore them to health. And if they die, Oh! What would we give to know that they were resting safely in the arms of the good Shepherd!

HAVE WE DONE
OUR DUTY?

Have we been faithful to the sacred trust? Have we so taught them that in their last hour of trial (I now refer to those who have already grown to accountability) they could look to Jesus as their help and their Saviour? It was only yesterday I stood beside the corpse of a young girl of 13 years of age, who had come from the ballroom to her deathbed and gone from there to the grave. The child was so unwilling to die that she screamed and wept bitterly at the very thought of death, and asked every one to pray for her that she might get well again. She also prayed earnestly for herself, and we hope her prayers are not unanswered: but from the ballroom to the grave is a sad commentary on any one's life, and makes death much more sad than it might otherwise be.

But let us try to do our duty faithfully and lead our children up in the narrow way, that they may not pass through such sinful indulgences as the

one given above. But how can we do this? There is only one way. Follow the beautiful example of the pious mother of Samuel, the faithful prophet of the Lord already referred to. Teach the children early to love the Lord. Teach them diligently all the statutes, the commandments of God—instruct them faithfully in the path of duty, and our prayers which we put up for their salvation shall be answered.

When we have a very rare plant or tree, what care are we willing to bestow upon it? We plant it at the proper time, and in the right kind of soil—we cultivate it with much care; we water it, and trim it, and study carefully what it needs. Shall we do less for our children, who have not only a physical form to develop, but a never dying soul to save, and fit it for the rest of God.

T-I-M-E

Let us take the children under our special care. A few flowers less in the garden, a little less grain in the field, an hour less in the workshop, if we are diligent in all our doings, will not be missed at the end of our lives, while they may be an immortal inheritance to our children. Let us then bestow a little less care upon the things of this world, that we may attend to the great interests of our children and plant their young souls into



Let us...walk with our children hand in hand—Zionward; that in their younger years they may give themselves to God....

the good soil of eternal life, and train them up to be pure-hearted and devoted Christians, water their growth with the love of Christ and rear them so that they shall grow in stature, and in favor both with God and man.

Mothers! While you take your infant children in your arms, or rock them in their cradles, you can sing to them the sweet songs of Jesus' love; and as they grow older you can teach them the truths of the Bible—tell them the beautiful story of Jesus—how he came from heaven—how he suffered—how he died and rose, and went to heaven again; and all for us, that we, too, might go and be with him when we come to die.

Fathers! When they are old enough to follow your footsteps to the field and the workshop, then O, father! Put the statutes of God into your own heart, and teach them diligently unto thy children, talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest

by the way, when thou liest down and when thou risest up—gather them around you and instruct them in all the words of life, and commit them to the care of Him without whose notice not even a "sparrow falls to the ground." When the daily toils are over, let us set down with our children, and tell them what God has done for us—what he has commanded us to do—how he desires us to live.

IN CONCLUSION,
LET US THEN ENDEAVOR
TO DO OUR DUTY
FAITHFULLY TO OUR
CHILDREN.

Let us work out own "salvation with fear and trembling," and also walk with our children hand in hand—Zionward; that in their younger years they may give themselves to God—that in their early days they may devote their lives, their energies, and all their powers to promote the interests of the Christian life, and the Redeemer's kingdom. There is much for all to do—let us labor faithfully and earnestly that our work may be done when the night of death comes upon us.

May God give us grace to walk in humility before him, that at last we may sing together around his throne songs of unending praise, through Christ, our Redeemer. Amen. □



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 A Ministry of Charity Christian Fellowship
 and Ephrata Christian Fellowship

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant



October-December 2004 Financial Report and 2004 Year-End Financial Report

Once again we express our sincere thanks for supporting these ministries, whether with much or little, money or prayers. All glory to God and may He continue to be the focus of our lives. May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering. He is worthy! Thanks again!

10/01/04 Beginning Balance	\$2,408.64	01/01/04 Beginning Balance	\$48,924.21
Receipts		Receipts	
Tape Ministry Donations	\$71,689.13	Tape Ministry Donations	\$237,400.14
Remnant Subscription Donations	\$10,745.00	Remnant Subscription Donations	\$25,618.84
Total Receipts	\$82,434.13	Total Receipts	\$263,018.98
Disbursements		Disbursements	
UPS & Postage	\$6,218.27	UPS & Postage	\$26,946.93
Tapes, Albums, CD's & Labels	\$17,263.89	Tapes, Albums, CD's & Labels	\$128,195.33
Equipment & Software Purchases	\$3,994.50	Equipment & Software Purchases	\$7,111.99
Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$639.59	Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$3,152.40
Mailing & Office Supplies	\$2,347.88	Mailing & Office Supplies	\$7,954.10
Rent & Building Improvements	\$2,827.82	Rent & Building Improvements	\$8,527.82
Telephone	\$1,057.58	Telephone	\$4,546.16
Website Development & Maintenance	\$507.62	Website Development & Maintenance	\$1,942.63
Miscellaneous	\$438.92	Miscellaneous	\$2,311.75
Payroll Expense	\$13,400.01	Payroll Expense	\$53,600.04
Books & Catalogs	\$1,642.00	Books & Catalogs	\$6,459.26
Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$5,079.18	Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$31,769.27
Total Disbursements	\$55,417.26	Total Disbursements	\$282,517.68
12/31/04 Ending Balance	\$29,425.51	12/31/04 Ending Balance	\$29,425.51
Difference	\$27,016.87	Difference	-\$19,498.70

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void,
 but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing
 whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*



Precious Letters from Our Readers

We thank God for the many letters of counsel and encouragement we have been receiving. It is the only way we can evaluate our progress. Keep them coming. Our desire is to foster a free flow of edification, inspiration and burden from us to you, and you to us. This way we can pass some of the blessings on to the others who are reading. We would love to hear from you in any of the following ways:

- A meaningful lesson in family devotions that you can pass on to other fathers.
- A testimony for "The Blessing Corner" of God's blessing in some area of obedience.
- A question that can be answered to the edification of all.
- An area of spiritual growth, obtained by one of the exercises suggested in the magazine.
- A word of encouragement or counsel about *The Remnant*, or any section of it.

Waiting to hear... --The Editors

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the good work that you are doing in sending out the words of life. There is much that I can testify about my life as a result of reading your materials and listening to Charity Gospel Tapes.

My heart will be at rest or peace when the work of Charity will start in Kenya. I'm still praying that God will make it possible. What I have read and listened to I would like it to reach many who are in need of the true Word of God

I know there are many missions and churches in Kenya but I can testify that what I have tasted with you, I

can liken it to the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. No other wells could have solved her problem but when she drunk from Jesus' well, all was settled.

God bless you and strengthen you in the work.

Musungu, Kenya

☺☺☺ ☺☺☺

Dear Sir

We would hereby just like to thank you for sending us 'The Heartbeat of the Remnant'.

We have been truly blessed by it. Here in Namibia we have a small Fellowship of believers and have been sharing many of the articles among the brethren. We can only testify that the Spirit of the Lord makes us all part of His body in Christ, because we are of the same mind.

May the Lord bless you as you give so freely that which you have received.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Llewellyn and Roline
Namibia

☺☺☺ ☺☺☺

*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters,
and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come,
buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55:1*

Parents' Prayer

Make them good soldiers of Jesus Christ; let them never turn back in the day of battle. Let them be winners and helpers of souls. Let them live not to be ministered to, but to minister.

Make them loyal; let them set loyalty high above all things. Make them doers, not mere talkers. Let them enjoy hard work and choose hard things rather than easy. Make them trustworthy. Make them wise, for it is written, He hath no pleasure in fools.

Let them pass from dependence on us to dependence on Thee. Let them never come under the dominion of earthly things; keep them free. Let them grow up healthy, happy, friendly, and keen to make others happy. Give them eyes to see the beauty of the world and hearts to worship its Creator.

Let them be gentle to beast and bird; let cruelty be hateful to them. May they walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance.

And for ourselves we ask that we might never weaken. "God is my strong salvation" ...we ask that we might train them to say that word and live that life, and pour themselves out for others unhindered by self.

-Amy Carmichael-

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