



The Apostolic

October 1978

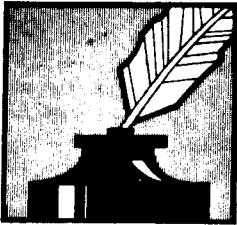
Vol. 25-No. 10

Faith Report

And that, Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Romans 13:11-12



EDITORIAL VOICE

There's been alot of concern in recent months about the educational systems of our country. We've read that many of our young people graduating from high schools are not able to read and write. There's a lot of speculation as to what's wrong. It seems as though the general opinion is that we need to get back to the basics that our educational system was founded upon. It seems so sad that our young people are coming up on the short end of the deal because of someone's mistake. But what about our spiritual education? Are our children able to pass the test when it comes to the teachings of God? Have our young people come up short again because of our lack of concern for them to know the truth of God's word? I wonder if our children know the truths of God that we were so priveleged to hear or if we have taken for granted and have failed to tell them? Do they know, that we need to ask God's forgiveness and when we do that there is a change in our lives. What about restitution? The word isn't used much any more but God's word still expects it of us. Have we warned our young people of the pitfalls of worldly pleasure? Have we told them of the sanctifying blood of Jesus that cleanses us from the sin nature and how the precious Holy Spirit dwells only in clean temples? Do they know of the wonderful healing power of God? We could go on and on with so many wonderful truths that we have enjoyed but to get to the point that I'd like to leave—Mothers - Fathers - Preachers - Sunday School teachers - Evangelists - we have a job ahead of us. Satan is bidding high for our youth. Lets not let them go through this life uneducated in the truths of God. Let's teach them and guide them but more important let's live before them the truths and realities of God. WE won't be sorry if we do.

Karen

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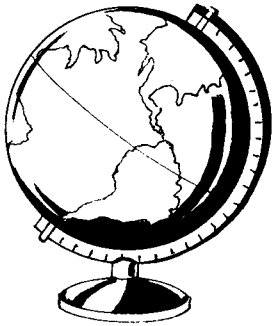
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The Sin Of Worldliness



By Jacob C. Regier

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

The Lord told us in His word, "That in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." II Timothy 3:1-5. I believe we are living in the time of which this scripture speaks and should heed the admonition in the 5th verse, "from such turn away." Again the Lord said, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matt. 24:12. It is sad but true that in this day and time the "follow the leader" and "keep-up with the Joneses" principles of religion have indeed led some of the people of God far from the right way. Moses informed the leader Joshua and the people of God (in Duet. 31:12): "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and the stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it." If we fail to go back to the original pattern of God's Christian precepts, and fail to teach them to ourselves, our children, and even the stranger within our gates; we will eventually be so far away from God we will be lost.

These are terms used in the Bible to describe the sentence to be pronounced upon the unbelieving and disobedient: "Lost," "Damned," "Condemned" and "Second Death." Oh, the enormity of the sentence! It is serious enough to suffer natural loss. It is terrible to experience physical loss in sickness and death in the natural. But think of the LOSS people must suffer because of unbelief and disobedience. Jesus said, "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew, and beat upon that house: and it fell: and great was the fall of it." Matt. 26-27. Again He said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both the soul and body in hell."

Notice, in our first text, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." If we are guilty of

worldliness, (loving the world and the things in the world) we are lost. But some ask, "How can one help but love the things he loves?" "Can a person develop a hatred for the things he loves?" Nicodemus thought it strange when Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." If we partake of the divine nature, a change is so wrought within us that we will love the things of God and not love the things in the world. We read in II Corinthians 5: 17, 18, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ." Becoming a new creature in Christ (through entire consecration and Sanctification) will enable us to "not love the things in the world."

When holiness and full-gospel preaching was marching in power and beauty, yes and in the power and demonstration of the Spirit; there was no shirking from condemning such things as tobacco, strong drink, theaters, card-playing, dancing, ball games, rodeos, divorce and adultery. Along with this, we were divinely instructed to love God and the service of God. We were urged to make a complete surrender to God. God moved upon the human soul to sanctify and cleanse by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. What place does worldliness have in a surrendered, consecrated, sanctified, Spirit-filled life? NONE! Worldliness and Holiness cannot abide in the same vessel. Oh, for more of the inspired preaching that caused people to turn from sin, ungodliness, and dead religion to serve a living God! If I love God and His word enough to carry out the required consecration as designated in Rom. 12th chapter, I will not have to hate the things I love, because a change will have been wrought. "Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" will bring to pass the saying in II Cor. 5:17, "Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

Let us live and teach a plain clean life of holiness; a life free from filthy habits such as cursing, tobacco, strong drink, lying, cheating, and vile tempers. Let us live and recommend a Christian life, separated from worldly amusements like movies, skating rinks, rodeos, ball-games, dances, card-parties and the like. Let us teach our young folk the folly, the shame and the inevitable sorrow that will come to them and us if they fall into the devil's snare of divorce and remarriage. May God help us in these trying times to lift high the banner of a pure Christian Gospel; so pure it took the blood of the spotless Son of God to bring it into effect. Furthermore, let us emphasize the fact that the blood of Jesus will make us complete overcomers, through the work of Sanctification as we learn from I Thess. 4:3-7, "For this is the will of God, even your Sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication; That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God; That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter; because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." Driving a hard bargain or cheating is a sin. The world does it on every side. It is worldly. Gossip and backbiting is as sinful as murder and adultery. The world is full of it, but the saints of God are free from it.

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

Salvation

by the late Gail Schultz

The saving of man from the spiritual consequences of sin. Deliverance through the atonement of Christ. Isa. 53rd, Chp. is a word picture of Christ. Save me, and I shall be saved, are the words of Jeremiah. Jer. 17:14. The followers of Christ were first called Christians at Antioch. Acts 11:26.

THE PROMISE

Gen. 3:15. The first promise—The seed of woman.
Isa. 7:17. A sign from the Lord—A virgin shall conceive.
Isa. 9:6. Unto us a child is given—The Prince of Peace.
Matt. 1:21. Jesus shall save His people from their sins.
Luke 2:11. The Saviour, of city of David, is Christ the Lord.
Rom. 6:23. The gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus.
John 3:16. God so loved the world that He gave His Son.
Heb. 5:8,9. Jesus is the author of eternal salvation.
Heb. 2:9, 10. Jesus is the Captain of our salvation.

THE SOURCE

John 6:68. The Lord has the Words of Eternal life.
Luke 20:17, 18. The rejected stone of salvation is Jesus.
Acts 4:10, 12. There is no other Name for salvation, but Jesus.
Rom. 5:6, 8. Christ died for the ungodly and sinners.
I Cor. 15:3. Christ died for sins, according to Scriptures.
Heb. 9:22, 28. No remission of sins, without Shedding of Blood.
I Pet. 3:18. The Just (Christ) suffered for the unjust.
I Tim. 9:15. Christ came into the world to save sinners.
II Cor. 5:17, 18. We are new creatures in Christ, by reconciliation.
Luke 19:10. Jesus came to seek the lost.

THE CONDITION

Matt. 4:17. Jesus—Repent for the Kingdom is at hand.
Matt. 7:7. Ask—seek—knock—that ye may enter in.
Matt. 11:28. Come unto Jesus, all that labor, for rest.
Mark 1:15. The time is fulfilled, Repent, Believe the Gospel.
John 6:44, 47. To believe upon the Son brings everlasting life.
Acts 2:38. Repent and be baptized for remission of sins.
Acts 8:35, 38. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
Acts 16:30, 33. What must I do to be saved? Believe.
Isa. 55:6. Seek ye the Lord, call upon Him while He is near.
Acts 15:11. We are saved through grace, not works.
Rom. 3:24, 26. We are justified freely by grace and Blood.
Eph. 2:5. We are saved, and quickened (made alive).
Acts 10:43. The prophets witness—Of His saving grace.
II Pet. 3:9. God is willing that all should come to repentance.
Rom. 10:10, 13. Confession is made unto salvation. Rich to all.

SINS AND LAWS

Matt. 26:28. This is my blood, shed for the remission of sins.
Heb. 10:12. Christ offered one sacrifice for sins forever.
I Tim. 5:24. Some men's sins are open, or forgiven.
James 5:20. Save a sinner from death, hide a multitude of sins.
I John 2:2. Propitiation for the whole world for sins.
Matt. 5:23, 24. Be reconciled to fellowmen, to be forgiven of God.
Col. 3:13. Forgive one another, in order to be forgiven.
Rom. 8:2. The law of Spirit of Life made us free.
II Cor. 3:6. The letter kills, the Spirit gives life.
Rom. 2:7. We seek, glory, honor, immortality, eternal life.
I Pet. 4:17, 18. Where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?

ATTRIBUTES OF SALVATION

Psa. 89:26. Christ the rock of our salvation. (Foundation)
II Cor. 6:2. Now is the accepted day and time. (Present)
II Sam. 22:3. God is the horn of salvation. (Strength)
Isa. 61:10. There are garments of salvation. (Covering)
Isa. 59:17. A helmet for the head. (Protection)
Heb. 3:8. The Chariots were salvation. (Transportation)
Isa. 60:18. Walls of salvation, gates of praise. (Dwelling)
Isa. 12:3. Joy from the walls of salvation. (Refreshing)
Psa. 116:13. There is a cup of salvation. (Satisfying)
Psa. 118:15. The voice of salvation. (Instruction)
II Tim. 3:15. Known the scriptures from youth. (Wisdom)
Heb. 1:14. The heirs of salvation. (Inheritors)
I Pet. 1:9. The end in salvation. (Consummation)

Sinner repent, backslider return to your God. Christian remain steadfast. Contending for this common or universal salvation, as requirements are met. Remember we have a soul to save, a Christ to serve, a Judgement to face. When I think of Jesus, and all He has done for me, then I am determined to go on to the end.

Salvation is that act of God that saves or delivers sinful men from sin. Save me and I shall be saved is still the cry of the ages. Jer. 17:14. This work of God deals with the soul, and redeems that which has been destroyed by the Devil as a result of the fall of man in the beginning. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, therefore all must repent. Rom. 3:23. Do not put it off too long, for today is the day of salvation and now is the accepted time. II Cor. 6:2.

Turning thru the paces of life, men are going on toward the grave with little thought of eternity or the worth of their soul. To gain the whole world and lose the soul does not pay. Matt. 16:26. Many live for this life alone, not knowing that

God has chosen the poor of this world, yet rich in faith, to be heirs of His coming kingdom. James 2:5. Even a curse is pronounced upon the rich, whose heart is not right with their God. James 5:1-3. From the wisdom of old times comes this true, and now as then, proverb of warning: "The way of the transgressors is hard." Prov. 13:15. The broken laws of God can be mended only by repentance. Godly sorrow for sin will lead to repentance. Not sorry because sin has been exposed or that another does not approve of the way that sin has led, but because of righteousness, the love of God, and the utter need of something that will satisfy. An urgent call of faith, and seeking, causes the sinner to pour out his heart to God with an humble spirit and a hungry soul. For blessed are they that hunger after righteousness. Matt. 5:6. Privileges and opportunities may come to the men and women of this world, that are without God and lost in this world, yet because there is no hope they live in misery. Sin does not pay. Crime still leaves the mark of grief, and wayward souls still drink of the cup of disappointment. Turn ye, turn now, turn about face, and Christ will give you rest—rest, sweet rest, beautiful rest, rest that flows like a river of peace. Oh the joy that the blood-washed know.

Some do not like to retain God or His commandments in their minds; this class run into the judgments of God. Rom. 1:28-32. For when they are proud, haters of God and of them that do good, backbiters, and without understanding or even natural affection, their trail of sin will lead them to death unless they settle the account with God. Man by nature will worship something. The heathen have their gods of wood, stone, etc., but when the truth of the gospel is established, then the Devil must find another idol. Some worship one another, worship the men of renown, of the theatre world, etc. We are to worship the Creator and not the creature. Rom. 1:25. In the last days there were to be perilous and uncertain times, times when people would be blasphemers, children would disobey parents, haters of those that would do good, and for religion they would have a form but it would be powerless for God was left out, and ever seeking after knowledge they would miss the truth. II Tim. 3:1-7. Sinner, get out of this rut of sin, get off the road of destruction, free yourself from the clutches of sin, thru the atoning blood of Jesus. Cry unto Him, cling unto Him, make straight for God and home and heaven and He will meet you with a kiss of forgiveness, and a robe of righteousness. Blessed be His name forever. To the pleasure lover and seeker I would say: "There is joy in doing the will or pleasure of God." Moses would not be called a son of Pharaoh, but turning down that kind of pleasure, he took his stand with the children of God, in order to gain the true riches. Heb. 11:24-26. She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. I Tim. 5:6. There are some that love pleasure more than they do God; this is not right. II Tim. 3:4. The reward of unrighteousness shall be given to the ones that live for pleasure and riot. II Pet. 2:13.

So let me have my pleasure in God and His laws, for the pride and pomp of this old world will fall and the light of its glory cannot go beyond the grave, but in Christ, by His salvation given to the ones that will meet the condition, there is pleasure, consolation and hope that some day will turn to blessed sight. I love Him, O Prince of Peace, the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Jesus! There is no other name given whereby men may be saved. This stone set aside by the builders has become the

head. Acts. 4:12. There is a constant knowledge that the fashion of this world will pass, only the eternal things will last. The wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23. Doom lies in the path of the sinner and disobedience brings sorrow that weights down the soul. Some say: "I can't stay saved" but by His grace you can, and this salvation will keep you if you will keep it.

God is not mocked, He is not deceived. His ways are best, His ways are right, and no good thing will He withhold from you as you walk uprightly before Him. Gal. 6:7. Psa. 84:11. Let Him fill the longing of your life with the true riches that come to the diligent seeker. O the matchless grace and love that reaches to all men of every rank and file, to one and all without respect of persons He gives salvation—pardon—redemption. Blessed be the name of Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, and the author and finisher of our faith. Heb. 2:10. Heb. 12:2.

Sinner, there is only one open road for you to follow. As a transgressor of the law of God and an alien to the commonwealth of Israel, you must repent. Rom. 4:15. Eph. 2:12. Mark 1:15. The call of God and His Bible is to repent. The warning and advise of the prophet and the preacher is, repent. Let the heart be filled with the knowledge of God and let the witness of the spirit, of your salvation, flood your soul. To the rich and poor, to bond or free, to the man of authority or the servant of all, the law of God still holds true and you as a sinner must repent if now you would enjoy salvation and in the end be saved. Let us not be ashamed of Him here and He will confess us in the ages to come. The child at play or the man in business may be His witness and inherit His blessings.

Many are trying to climb up some other way. By the way of education which is wonderful in its place, but cannot substitute for the blood of Jesus. By the way of moral living which is of high worth, but has its reward here with no future promise. By the way of good works that speak out a good example, but which without faith are dead. No flesh is to glory in His sight. James 2:17-18. I Cor. 1:27-29. By the way of fellowship and organization, but we find that our fellowship must be with the Son, not with the world. Our union must be with Christ and not with the powers of darkness, for sin will ruin and mar and leave in a state of wreck the soul that abides in its grip, in the shadow of the halls of wrong. II Cor. 6:14-18.

Some say, "It is not my fault that I was born in sin." That is true. But it is your fault if you stay in sin. The price has been paid, and you have a right to call on Jesus. He will freely forgive and set you free. Make wrongs right with your fellow man, dig deep, and let your experience rest on that firm foundation, Jesus Christ. The call of the sinner is still heard, prayer answered, faith honored and repentance admired. Turn away from your sin, come out for the right. I do not know what the future might hold for you, but God is in the future. Some day, by faith in Him, we shall anchor our boats in the harbor of rest, and sing the song of blessing and praise to the Holy One of Israel that has redeemed us from our sins by His own precious blood. Do not put off salvation too long or too late, but NOW make your calling and election sure. Praise God for full salvation.

Receive Christ within, then the desire to sin will go out.

Destruction Of The Wicked

The wages of sin are death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6:23.

We will not deal with life through Christ in this subject, as we have dealt with this in another lesson, but we must use this one scripture to show us that outside of Christ there is no life other than this life here, 1 John 5:11-12, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." V. 12 "He that hath the Son hath life; And he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." We cannot teach destruction of the wicked and at the same time teach that man has a never dying soul, so in order to see the light on destruction of the wicked we must first realize that eternal life comes only through Christ. We sing songs and quote scriptures about the never dying soul, but there is no truth in these, and they are actually false teachings. Ezek. 18:4 "Behold all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." I believe that there is a need to discuss some of the words that are used to describe the state of the dead, and to establish just what they mean. Webster's Dictionary gives this definition to the following words: (Destroy) to pull down, overturn, lay waste, render desolate; kill; put an end to; disprove. (Destruction) The act of or process of destroying; subversion; overthrow; ruin; death. (Grave) Webster's complete description of this is too long to print, but says that it is an excavation for dead bodies, interment of the dead, the place of the dead; (Hades). The word destroy is also used to describe a way to consume, or to use up, take a match, you light it and it is consumed as it burns up, when it burns, it is only ashes. Mal. 4:1 "For behold the day cometh, that burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

We would like to give you the following scriptures for your consideration.

Psa. 145:20 "The Lord preserveth all them that love Him but all the wicked will he destroy."

Psa. 92:7 "When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed forever."

Isa. 1:28 "And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed."

Jonah 2:2 "I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me, out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice."

In the new testament there are many scriptures that we would like to use, but we will only be able to use the most important ones because of space. Peter speaking of David:

Acts 2:31 "he seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither did His flesh see corruption."

Many of these scriptures are used by other churches to try to prove eternal torment, but they prove our point that there is no such thing, like the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16:19-31. This is a parable, the rich man, (Jews) was cut off, blindness in part happened to them until the time of the gentiles is fulfilled. The poor man is the gentiles, Matt. 13:39-42. The wicked shall be burned as the tares. Matt. 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matt 25:41-46 V.46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment (no return) but the righteous into life eternal." (life through Christ)

II Pet. 2:4-6 God spared not the angels, nor the old world and turned Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes. Remember that Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison, that they might be tried according to men in the flesh.

I Pet. 3:19 "By which he also went and preached to the spirits in prison."

Rev. 19:20

Rev. 20:14, 15

Jude 7 speaking of the vengeance of eternal fire

Matt. 3:12 of unquenchable fire, no power, nothing can put it out

Heb. 2:14 Jesus is able to destroy the devil who had the power of death.

Matt. 5:29,30 Jesus is or God is able to destroy the whole body, or to cast it into hell.

Now hell was not prepared to torment the wicked, but was prepared for the devil and his angels. Many quote Rev. 20:10 as eternal torment, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever." But there shall be no night there, Rev. 22:5. The teaching of everlasting torment or punishment was instituted by the Catholic Church, and goes all the way back to the dark ages. There is no foundation for any such teaching.

The highest punishment that any nation can give as punishment is the death sentence, the greatest God can give is eternal death.

Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Yours in the Gospel
Rev. Ted Jackson
1524 Galena Ave.
Galena, Kans. 66739

The peace of God cannot be found in the pleasures of the world.

HE KEEPS THE KEY

Is there some problem in your life to solve,
 Some passage seeming full of mystery?
 God knows, Who brings the hidden things to light,
HE KEEPS THE KEY.

Is there some door closed by the Father's hand,
 Which widely opened you had hoped to see?
 Trust God and wait . . . for when He shuts the door,
HE KEEPS THE KEY.

Is there some earnest prayer unanswered yet,
 Or answered NOT as you had tho't 'twould be?
 God will make clear His purpose by and by,
HE KEEPS THE KEY,

Have patience with your God . . . your patient God,
 All-wise, all-knowing; no long tarrier, He.
 And of the door of all thy future life,
HE KEEPS THE KEY.

Unfailing comfort, sweet and blessed rest,
 To know of every door He keeps the key,
 That He at last when just He sees 'tis best,
 Will give it **THEE.**

. . . Unknown

WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE A CHURCH?

A survey taken in order to discover why people choose a certain church over others reveals the following interesting facts:

- 9% because of architectural beauty.
- 18% because of convenience to their homes.
- 14% because of previous church affiliation.
- 3% because of the minister's personal visit.
- 56% because of direct or indirect contact from a lay person.

Yes, over half of the people choose a church because of personal invitation from their friends and neighbors. This again underscores the importance all of our people play in building God's church.

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From:

The Church Around The World

Chapel attendance at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, has been marching steadily downward since 1973, when forced attendance at services was ruled unconstitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court. 10 percent of the last two classes of cadets have listed "no preference" for their religious status. One-fourth of the academy's 4,415 cadets now attend weekend services, and academy Chief of Chaplains James Townsend says, "It's a trend that I don't think is going to stop."



One million unmarried U.S. couples are living together, according to a Census Bureau report. The number of such couples is rising six times faster than ten years ago.



Singer Anita Bryant, whose antihomosexual stand helped crush the gay rights movement in Dade County, Florida, has topped a Good Housekeeping magazine poll as "the most admired woman in the world." In November her \$100,000 a year contract with the Florida citrus industry was renewed through 1979. She was dropped by NBC, however, as the Orange Bowl parade commentator after nine years.



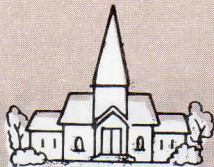
1,036,000 divorces were recorded in the United States in 1975, the first time that the divorce rate has topped one million in a single year. 1.1 million children under 18 were caught in the home break-ups.



Two Danish tourists have been expelled from the Soviet Union for Bible smuggling. Officials confiscated their van with its cargo of 700 Bibles, and bought them one-way tickets to next-door Romania.

Flattery is soft soap and soft soap is 90% lye.

Church



News

Apostolic Faith Westwide Mission Purcell, Missouri

We are still enjoying the good blessings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the services, for which we are thankful. We don't have a large congregation but we are glad the blessings of God aren't confined to large groups. We were glad for the good Youth Rally in Aug. and for the large number that attended. We were very glad to have Bro. & Sis. Carl Pitts one Sunday morning. He brought a real soul searching message, and in the evening service Bro. Lyndel Arnall brought us another wonderful message from the Word of God. We are always so glad to have visitors.

Psalms 62:5-8

My soul, wait thou only upon God: for my expectation is from Him.

He only is my Rock and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Psalms 62:5-8

My soul, wait though only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.

He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge is in God.

Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us. Selah

Psalms 62:10

Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

George Hintergardt - Pastor

Dumas, Texas

The Lord has really blessed us with special services and activities this summer. We were privileged to have Bro. Downs, from Bethel Assembly, sharing his slide presentation of Isreal and Arabia with us. The film Gospel Road produced by Johnny Cash, was also shown in August. Something about seeing the places our Lord actually walked and taught, prayed and arose, makes the soul anxious for His return. July 23rd, the Cupbearers were with us for a special service. Its wonderful how the Lord ministers so effectively through music. We hope to have Bro. David and Bro. Tim to return to be in service with us again.

The young people took a trip to the Bible College over Labor Day weekend. They have been working hard, having slave days and a car wash to raise money for the final payment on the church's organ. We're very fortunate to have young people who are willing to volunteer their free time for the church. We also want to thank the ladies in the church for assisting the youth with the proceeds of their bake sale.

We're anxiously anticipating our revival with Bro. Ronnie Martin to begin Sept. 17. Thank the Lord for revival and His many blessings.

Jim Russell, Pastor
Debbie Fish, Reporter

Spearman, Texas

As a church we are thankful for the blessings of the Lord and his faithfulness to his people.

Bro. Jacob Regier resigned as pastor in June and Bro. E. W. Dickson is filling the pulpit on Sundays. He has been bringing some good messages from the Word of God. Bro. and Sis. Ollie Kinser had the morning service on Aug. 20, 1978. We were blessed with their songs and the message that was brought. Bro. and Sis. Francis Dearing were here for a few services while they were in the area. We are praying for a pastor and trust the Lord will give someone a burden for the work here. We invite everyone to come by for services.

Mrs. Irwin Delk - Reporter

Joplin, Missouri

Cooler weather is on the way and time for animals as well as people to store up for the winter months. However aren't we glad that we don't have to store up on the Lord's blessings, but rather it is a daily job. Even in winter when nothing else is growing we can be growing in the Lord.

The Lord has been blessing in our church. We recently had two more souls come to the Lord.

We are praying for revival and would like for everyone else to pray with us also.

Neil Ragan, Pastor

Centerpoint, Texas

Dear Friends in Christ,

The church would like to thank each and everyone for the prayers that have gone up in our behalf. Being small as we are but believing a big God has given hope so many times when all seemed lost. Prayer truly changes things.

Recently our community has gone through a flood where several lost their lives. But God kept His hand over our lives and little damage was done to our home folks.

We have witnessed some miracles in our church which we know no one but God could perform. We praise Him and thank Him for His mighty help. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Please remember Bro. Simon Polvado in prayer as he is in the rest home at this time. Also remember Bro. George Polvado and Sis. Dibbens as they need the Lord for strength. And please lift God's children up in prayer as we know the day is at hand. May God Bless.

Rev. Frank Arnall

Taneyville, Missouri

"Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord."

The Lord has really been blessing in our services. The Holy Spirit has been moving so tremendously that it seems like we can't sing His praises enough.

We had a revival the week of July 26th through August 2nd held by Brother Lee Inman and the Lord met in a very special way.

We will be having another revival starting September 17th and closing as the Lord leads. This revival will be held by Brother Bill Sparks and we are expecting great results. There will be more about this revival in next month's issue.

I want to be sure and mention the nursery that was started by Sister Grace Beeler. It has really been a project very beneficial to the church as I'm sure every parent of a young child in our church would tell you. We do appreciate Sister Graces' efforts very much.

In closing I feel the need to say pray for us and praise the Lord for His goodness.

Helen Souttee, Reporter
Winston and Alberta Barker, Pastors

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christian greetings from the Buckeye state. We look forward so much to receiving the report each time. We sometimes feel a little isolated from familiar places and people up here and the report really helps to keep us in touch.

We work with a place called "Outreach for Youth." They help people and youth who have problems. Many who come to this place are helped and go on to live productive lives and go on for God. We also help in the church we attend. Max is associate Pastor for the church.

We would like to extend an invitation to any one coming through this part of the country to come by and see us. We would be more than happy to offer you a place to stay and our fellowship. May God bless all of you.

In Christ,
Max and Dorothy Pennington and family

Max Pennington
2805 Fareham Ct.
Columbus, Ohio 43227
Ph. 614-861-2085

Pampa Chapel

We have just finished a wonderful Daily Vacation Bible School conducted by Barbara Myers of Balko, Oklahoma which was enjoyed by young and old alike.

Our attendance in August was not what we would like but now that school has begun we expect a great turnout Sunday.

The Lord has been good to us in every way and we have no complaints at all. Thankful that our sick folks are better and the Rays have returned from Alaska and J. D. came with them and got them settled in comfortably.

We appreciated the Earl Malones filling in for our Pastors while they were on vacation and we enjoyed them very much.

Bro. Keith has been doing some good preaching and his Bible Lessons are very good. We appreciate them.

Keith Barker, Pastor
Anabel Simmons, Reporter



David and Carolyn Lively of Sharon, Oklahoma announce the birth of their daughter, Kami Lynae. She was born August 6, at 5:51 p.m. and weighed 9 lbs. and 2 oz.

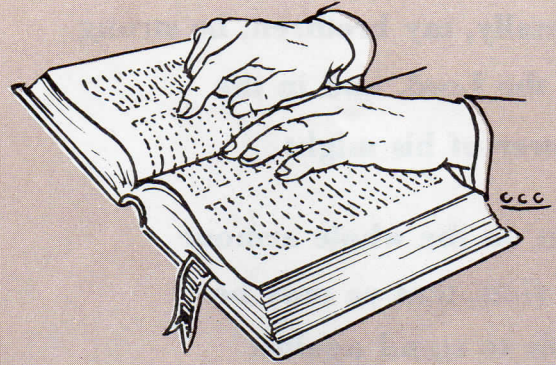
Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Quesenbury of Hardesty, Oklahoma and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Lively of Guymon, Oklahoma.

David and Janice Cass of Lubbock, Texas, are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter, Deana Denice, born June 28, 1978, weighing 8 pounds and 13 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

The proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ed. Cass of Lubbock, and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Orange, Sr. of Bellville, Texas. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Wm. Ed. Cass, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Ray of Odessa, Texas, and Mrs. D. A. Orange of Bellville, and Mrs. Ella Schaare of Hempstead, Texas.

Her older brother, Danny, is 3 years old.

October, 1978



OBITUARIES

Stella Cooper

Funeral services for Mrs. Stella Cooper, Neosho, Mo. were conducted July 30, 1978 at the Union Church, east of Anderson, Mo., and interment was at the Union Cemetery. Rev. Roland Busch, Katy, Texas and Rev. Edwin Waterbury of Granby, Mo., officiated at the services.

Stella was active in the Apostolic Faith Movement for 33 years. She traveled with her husband Rev. Robert Cooper in evangelistic work and also pastoral work.

Survivors include her husband, Rev. Robert Cooper, 210 Hill St. Neosho, Mo. (Pastor-Union Chapel Church, Anderson, Mo.), 2 daughters, Mrs. Minnie Fay Sherman of Pryor, Okla., Mrs. Geraldine Daniels of Joplin, Mo., 1 son, Bob Cooper of Carl Junction, Mo. and 8 grandchildren.

Sis. Stella will be missed by each one that knew her.

Robert [Bob] Tickle

Funeral service for Robert (Bob) R. Tickle, 74, 2501 N. Jefferson, was held in Ladusau - Evans Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. David McCance officiating. Graveside service was at the Beaver Cemetery at Beaver.

He was born Jan. 19, 1904, at Ladonia, Texas and moved to Beaver in 1921. He married the former Maudie Modrick on June 12, 1930, in Beaver. They moved to Enid in 1940 where they have since resided.

Tickle was employed at Groendyke Transport Inc. until his retirement. He was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church.

He is survived by his wife, Maudie, of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Bob (Roberts) Stubblefield, Enid, and Mrs. David (Edna) Stollings, Booker, Texas; one son, John Tickle, Raytown, Mo.; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one step great-grandchild; two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Duvall, Altus, and Mrs. Mittie Halcomb, Quartz Site, Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and two sisters.

If you love Christ, you will live for Him without effort

**Finally, my brethren, be strong
in the Lord, and in the
power of his might**

**Put on the whole armour
of God, that ye may be
able to stand against
the wiles of the devil**

Ephesians 6:10 & 11

GOD'S ARMOUR
By Sis. Greever

There is an armour God has given for you and I to wear
That we may fight against the foe Christ's likeness to bear
Every piece of this armour we must put on by prayer
That we his presence can feel and all his benefits share.

A breast plate of love we wear purchased by Jesus blood
Feet shod that we may carry the news of peace and love
A helmet placed upon our head sealing until the hour
We may lay the armour down that we may mount up higher

This armour God has given protects our lives each day
Though the battle may be raging we'll win in the fray
The sword will make the enemy run it is the word of God
We'll carry it until we're through trodding this earthy sod.

Faith will win the victory so we'll trust in him each day
The captain of this army commands that you and I obey
Go ye forth into all the world as soldiers brave and true
Laying aside weights and sin and I will carry you through.

Creation And Formation

By Rev. Ted Jackson

In beginning this subject let me say that I realize that it is a very controversial subject, but it is a part of God's word, so therefore I believe that we should be diligent to teach all of God's word. But it should not be new to the Apostolic Faith Church, as it has been taught ever since the beginning of the movement. I personally believe that we owe a great deal to Brother Charles F. Parham and to all of his family and also to all of our elder ministers who pioneered this way before us, and suffered much hardship and many times ridicule to bring this gospel to us that we have today.

Genesis, chapter one, we have the account of the creation. This entire chapter is devoted to the creation, but we are concerned with verses 26-29. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" Etc. v27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them." (Plural, more than one). V.28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." V.29 "And God said, Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." Please notice that there was nothing withheld from the created race. This is important.

Now let us see what verse 31 said, "And God saw every thing that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were sixth day." Genesis 2:2,3. "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made." V.3 "And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

So ended the creative week. Why do we say a week? We firmly believe that a day with the Lord is not a 24 hour day, but that it is one thousand years.

So therefore we believe that creation was not six twenty four hour days but six thousand years. II Peter 3:8, "But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." Then Genesis 2:3 God rested a thousand years. It was two thousand years from Adam to the flood, another two thousand years to the end of the prophets, and we are living nearly another two thousand years since Christ was born. So we are looking for the second Sabbath or millennium; meaning one thousand. Now we would like to move on to the formed or Adams race.

First of all some will say that in Genesis 2:7 that the Lord was repeating what he had already said in Genesis 1:27. But I do not believe this. Please note the three most important things said here. First of all he created, from no substance, material, or any other thing that was of material simply spoke into existence man as he had the animals, moon, sun and the earth.

Now let us turn our thoughts to Genesis 2:7 "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." I Cor. 15:40. Paul speaks of bodies both celestial and terrestrial. Some may not have any idea what kind of bodies the created race had. They were not as some might think, just a spirit in the sense we are prone to think of spirits. Think of the two men that were with Lot in the time when they led Lot out of the city, not beings, but Angels. The created people had bodies, but they were not terrestrial. May I say here that they were not preached to or given an opportunity to repent as Adam's race was.

Jude 6. "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." II Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment." I Peter 3:19 "By which also he (Jesus) went and preached unto the spirits in prison." I Peter 4:6 "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the Spirit." This is not a second chance, but the first that they had to hear the gospel. But now to Adams race. A question so many times asked is, where did Cain get his wife? I have heard all kinds of ridiculous answers, and I am sure you have to. Some say he married his sister, others an ape; but think for a moment, at that time Cain did not have a sister. But as he was driven into the land of Nod let us consider these scriptures that deal with this. Genesis 4:16,17 "And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden."

I would like to go back to the different commandments given to the two different peoples, please note these. To the created he withheld nothing, but to the formed he said, Genesis 2:16 "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat;" V.17 "But of the tree of knowledge, good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." I believe that the reason that so many church people misunderstand scripture is because they fail to put scriptures in their proper place. I was listening a few days ago to a minister of television and a remark which he made brought to me just what I had been

thinking. His remark was, "If you take scripture out of context, then it becomes a pretext." Just like most of the church world teaches Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19,31), they fail to see or understand that this was a parable of the Jews and Gentiles. The book of Genesis is not a parable but it is misunderstood by those that cannot see that there is more than one race of people.

Now to close this subject I would like to return to this one thought. I fully realize that there is never room or space to say all that we would like to say of each subject. In Genesis 6:1-7 V.2 "That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took to them wives of all which they chose." V.4 "There were giants in the land in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." Please remember that the book of Genesis covers a long period of time, and all things are not set in chronological order, but are easily set in order when we put them in their place. Much more could be said on this subject, but here are some things to remember as you study these thoughts: the commandments given to the two different peoples, what they were and were not to eat, the different weeks in which they were created and made, that Cain's wife was one of the mixed race of people, that all were destroyed in the flood except Noah and his family, which included all of the mixed race, that the created race as well as Adams race await judgement.

Rev. Ted Jackson
Galena, Kansas 66739

RULES FOR DAILY LIFE

1

BEGIN THE DAY WITH GOD;
Kneel down to Him in prayer;
Life up thy heart to His abode.
And seek His love to share.

4

CONVERSE IN MIND WITH GOD,
Thy spirit heavenward raise:
Acknowledge every good bestowed,
And offer grateful praise.

2

OPEN THE BOOK OF GOD,
And read a portion there;
That it may hallow all thy thoughts,
And sweeten all thy care.

5

CONCLUDE THE DAY WITH GOD,
Thy sins to Him confess;
Trust in the Lord's atoning blood,
And plead His righteousness.

3

GO THROUGH THE DAY WITH GOD,
Whate'er thy work may be;
Where'er thou art—at home, abroad,
He still is near to thee.

6

LIE DOWN AT NIGHT WITH GOD,
Who gives His servants sleep;
And when thou tread'st the vale of death,
He will thee guard and keep.

AFBC

Dorm Reports

NEWS FROM THE BOY'S DORM

The boy's dorm is a busy place this year at AFBC. We have nine young men gathered from all across the country to dedicate these nine months to prayer and study. Satan was quick to try and undermine our fellowship in the dorm with his sly ways. But God is greater, and as we began dedicating our lives and consecrating them to the Almighty, laying all on the altar, Jesus Christ the Lord is still the Victor.

We appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Beydler as our dorm parents. They are a constant help to us as we endeavor to search out the scriptures and gain an understanding of God's will in our lives. We ask you readers to join with us as we pray for our dorm parents and our school. We feel like this will be an exceptional school year and God is going to bless us as we seek to know Him better.

God has already been blessing as some of the boys have prayed through to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. God has blessed the dorm. The boys are staying in a prayerful attitude, sharing and bearing one another's burdens.

We ask all of you to pray for Brother Howard and all the faculty. God has blessed us with a very special faculty this year. We appreciate them and especially for their availability, they are always ready to counsel and encourage, no matter the time day or night.

We thank God for a man like Savoy Grimmer, as he shares and spends much time in intercessory prayer for the spiritual needs of others. "Hang in there Savoy, God is goin' bless!"

AFBC received a special blessing when Brother Jack Cornell came and shared with us for a week of revival. Morning lessons were on "Taming the Tongue." He spoke to many of us as we realized this was an area all of us need to ask God to guide our thoughts and our mouths.

Evening worship has been very inspiring with Brother Jack, it's great to see a man so dedicated to God. Brother Jack felt the burden to come to AFBC and left needs of his own church to come and share with us what God had placed on his heart. We need more men like Brother Jack who are willing to set aside his own needs and desires to hearken to the call of God. We all pray that we can come to a point in our lives that we can totally yield ourselves to God in order that He can use us. God bless you Jack.

PERSONAL NOTE: On Sept. 7 under the ministry of Brother Jack I prayed through and God blessed. Now I can sing the song "Joy unspeakable and full of Glory." Andy

ON THE GO!

Let's all get on the GO for GOD!
Don't lay around all day, but get up and put a song in your heart and
Get up and GO!
When you get on the GO for GOD, people are going to GO for our GOD.
You can't spell GOD without GO
You Can't spell GOOD without GO

You can't spell GOSPEL without GO
You take the GO out of Gospel and all you got is a SPELL,
and thats the
Problem with most people today. They're spell-bound
instead of Heaven
Bound. Let's all be Heaven bound. Let's get up and Get on
the GO!

JUST FOR LAUGHS. . . .

". . . . a time to laugh" Ecclesiastes 3:4

Oh, the quiet peace after the raging storm, to feel the blessed quietness and the deepening slumber creeping in on all edges of your mind. . . just to rest in the stillness, enjoying the sweet peace. . . "WAKE UP WAKE UP!!! The electricity went off, the clock is wrong, its 7:30, Breakfast is ready, HURRY. . . HURRY. Yes, I'm up!! HURRY, HURRY, get showered, get shaved, get dressed, I'm hurrying, "What? The Beydlers are still asleep?" "Yes," I say half dazed, as sleep has its tight grip on my mind and eyes, "I will wake them." Down the hall I stumble half careening like a dazed man, stubbing my toe, hitting my head, "I'll wake them, its my duty, yes I'll wake them." Bam. . . Bam. . . Bam. "Wake up in there, HURRY, its late."

What's that? Hold it. Why all 8 of those faces down the hall laughing till they cry? Why are they bending over in ecstasy? Why the laughter and the running back and forth in merriment? . . . "Hey Andy," they hollar, "It only 5:30, why are you bothering our dear dorm parents?" Yes, I wondered why am I?

By Andy Perry
AFBC
Baxter Springs, Kansas

REPORT FROM THE GIRLS DORM

We have gotten off to a good start for this first semester of the nine month term of Bible School. I have 11 girls in the dorm. There are many talented girls, and never a dull moment. We have all had fun in the first month. It has really been a pleasure to work in the Bible School. I feel that each girl has come to Bible School to further her knowledge of the Bible and for a closer walk with the Lord. Some of the girls have felt a desire for a deeper walk and have been searching and seeking the scriptures. I praise the Lord that He has been working through the dorm. We feel his presence with us every day.

We have been having an exciting week this past week. Bro. Jack Cornell from Hardesty, Okla. came to hold our special services.

The Lord really worked throughout the campus. He has done many wonderful works. And many of the students deepened their lives in the Lord. Just because the services are over, doesn't mean we are going to quit. Because the Lord is still blessing and he will continue to bless if we will stay by his side.

We ask you to remember the students, faculty and the school in your prayers and that the Lord would help each of us to listen to Him and to do His will.

Love in Christ,
Tony Bartel
Dean of Women

CRUSADERS FOR CHRIST
12 Inch Answers

Question

WHY IS IT WRONG TO DANCE?

ANSWER: I am going to ask a counter question, "Why is it right to dance?"

As you search for the answer, consider these points. Does dancing tend to make one feel closer to the Lord? Does the music, either modern dance tunes or the old-fashioned waltz, fill the heart with a warm glow of worship and adoration for the Master, or send wild excitement coursing thru the veins? Is it something you would like to be doing when Jesus comes? In the midst of the dance, do you witness for the Lord? Have you asked the sinner what he thinks of the Christian who dances?

These and many other questions could be asked concerning the dance, but the all important one is, "Do you have a desire to dance?"

If the desire to dance burns within your heart, refraining from the act is a hollow victory. It is good to resist desire when one knows it is wrong, though it is far better to kill the desire.

What would you think of an adult who sought pleasure in playing dolls or cowboys and Indians? Yes, you would think, and rightly so, that something was wrong. Just so, a Christian who seeks the satisfying portion in the "garlic and onions" of the world must face the fact that something is wrong.

The person whose life is hid with Christ in God and is seeking those things which are above has no time nor desire for the pleasures of this world. Read Col. 3:1-3. "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." 1 Tim. 5:6.

You may ask, "What can we do for recreation?" If you follow the Lord you will find all you need for the lighter moments as well as the more serious ones. God has jam-packed the world with intriguing and mysterious surprises for you to discover and enjoy. What is more exhilarating to body and soul than a bracing hike or a bicycle party where you ride out into God's wonderland for a picnic? Organize a literary society and debate whether debates are profitable. Use that old gray matter and learn what real fun is. There is a satisfying portion. "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles." Psa. 103:5. "But Godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 Tim. 6:6.

Begin with the heart and the Bible as a guide and you will not be as a mischievous child, seeing how far you can go in the wrong direction without being chastened.

DEADLINE!!

Copy must be in by the 15th of the month to be in the next month's issue.



Quesenbury - Walker

Glowanda Quesenbury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Quesenbury of Hardesty, Oklahoma and Bobby Walker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Walker of Dumas, Texas were united in marriage June 3, 1978 at the Apostolic Faith Church of Hardesty.

Reverend Mike Pate, pastor of New Life Fellowship Church in Dumas, performed the ceremony with Rev. Jack Cornell of Hardesty leading in prayer. The couple has made their home in Dumas, Texas.

King - Methvin

Miss Marlese King and Mr. Duane Methvin were united in marriage Aug. 4, 1978 at the First Baptist Church, Goodwell, Okla. Rev. M. D. Methvin performed the ceremony. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred King of Goodwell, Okla., and Rev. and Mrs. M. D. Methvin of Follett, Texas. Duane and Marlese will be living at Cedar Hill, Texas.

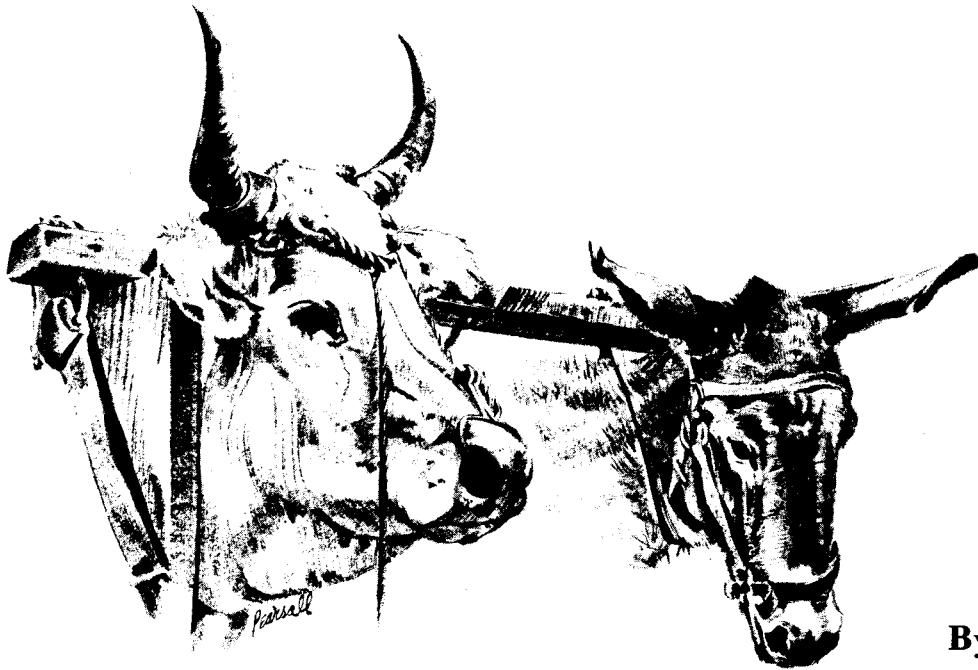
Nordberg - Wilson

Marriage vows were exchanged between Miss Carla Nordberg and Mr. Dwight Wilson on Sept. 23, 1978 at the Original Apostolic Faith Church, Joplin, Mo. Rev. Ollie Kinser of Arnett, Okla. performed the double ring ceremony. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Dennie Oakes of Joplin, Mo. and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Wilson of Ava, Mo. Carla and Dwight are making their home at Ava, Mo.

~~~~~  
A friend of Jesus, oh what bliss that one so weak as I,  
Should ever have a Friend like this, to lead him to the sky.  
Friendship with Jesus, Fellowship Divine,  
Oh what blessed sweet communion, Jesus is a Friend of mine.  
~~~~~

The complete Bible has been published in 262 languages, the New Testament in another 402, and at least one complete book of the bible in 1,603 languages.

God's word and the world, will never agree.



The Unequal Yoke

By Kenneth D. Barney

They live in two different worlds. This was the pastor's answer to my question about a young married couple attending the revival I was conducting.

The husband entered into every service with unusual enjoyment and much enthusiasm. If he did not sit on the front row, he was always close to it.

His wife, however, showed no response. Although she came to the meetings, she did not seem to comprehend what was going on.

Two different worlds. It is sad for married people to have such divergent interests in the area that counts most.

The Scriptures say: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14).

Paul undoubtedly had in mind the divine law of Deuteronomy 22:10: "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together." The ox and donkey performed their tasks well when they worked with their own kind. But to yoke them together to a plow or cart would be cruel to the animals and devastating to the task.

The Apostle recognized that God had more in mind than kindness to animals when He laid down this law. The sight of two dissimilar beasts struggling against each other under a yoke is pitiful. But far more tragic is the spectacle of a Christian attempting to function in a vital union with an unbeliever. And none is more vital than marriage.

There is no closer human relationship than that of husband and wife. It is cited by Paul as a picture of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33). How beautiful when both partners are pulling in the same direction. But how deplorable when one is dragging the whole load spiritually. Even if the other is not actively hindering, his or her lack of concern makes the believer's burden heavy.

Christians put their pastor in an uncomfortable position by requesting him to join them in marriage to the unsaved.

They are calling on him to ask God's blessing on a union He has forbidden in His Word. They have no right to be offended by his refusal.

Believers who disobey this Scripture usually have several excuses to hide behind. They may know of a case where the unbeliever became a Christian after the marriage. They may even tell of a happy marriage between a Christian and an unbeliever while singling out a Christian marriage that has fared poorly.

However impressive these arguments seem, they do not nullify the plain command of God: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

There is another plea with which we sympathize, yet it does not change the Scripture. It comes from some Christian girls who emphasize the shortage of available Christian men.

It is unwise to try to comfort these young ladies by suggesting it may be God's will for them to remain single. Their desire for marriage is normal. I believe they have a right to pray that God will bring the right companion to them. Many can testify that He has done just that for them when they had the patience and dedication to wait for His time.

But sympathy does not erase the truth that it is a violation of God's Word for a Christian to become yoked in marriage with an unsaved individual. There are countless examples of heartache that has wracked God's children who were unwilling to commit the matter of marriage to Him and wait for His choice of mates for them.

Sooner or later they will recognize the consequences of their disobedience. Some of them will go tearfully to pastors and Christian friends for help. Unfortunately there is little these counselors can do except pray with them and encourage them to keep living for the Lord and try to win their companions to Him. Incompatibility and unhappiness are not scriptural grounds for divorce.

God declared that a man and his wife are one flesh. The

beauty of this relationship is marred when one belongs to Christ and the other to the world. The "one flesh" picture then becomes a monstrosity.

Christians in the unequal yoke will have difficulty maintaining their spiritual strength.

They may find themselves missing many church services. It is likely that the unsaved partner will have other places to go on Sundays. The Christian is then faced with the choice of a lonely weekend or forsaking God's house. If the decision is made in favor of church, the unbeliever will probably be irritated and increasingly dissatisfied.

There may be occasions when the Christian has the option of staying home alone or accompanying the unsaved partner to places where a child of God should not go. If the latter course is taken, conscience cries out. Guilt feelings multiply. The early glamour of the marriage dims.

When the husband or wife is an unbeliever, it is highly possible that he or she has a non-Christian family background. This means that associations with in-laws are unlikely to be spiritually uplifting.

The Christian in the unequal marriage has no spiritual support at home in times of trial. If sickness, death, or other tragedies strike, he or she must seek consolation from others. What a lamentable situation when husband and wife cannot kneel together before the Lord and seek His strength during life's pressure times.

When death finally takes one of the partners in a Christian marriage, the other has the comfort of a coming reunion in heaven. How said it must be for the bereaved Christian to know there will be no such meeting in eternity with the unsaved loved one who has died.

The Christian partner nearly always encounters difficulty in the matter of tithing. Unsaved people usually do not react favorably to the thought of giving one-tenth of their income to the word of the Lord.

Children born to such marriages are pulled both ways spiritually. Unfortunately they often follow the example of the unsaved parent when they grow older. What heartache this causes the Christian mother or father.

In some instances the unbelieving marriage partner may insist on filling the house with tobacco smoke and keeping beer or liquor on hand. Unsavory literature may also lie on desks and tables around the house. The Christian's only choice is to accept this unpleasantness or have constant arguments.

Perhaps the unbeliever acquired these habits after the marriage. Or they may have been concealed during courtship. In either case the outcome does not contribute to marital happiness.

The Christian married to an unbeliever may be forced to tolerate vulgar TV programs and offensive music in the home. Dirty jokes and cursing may be added to the scene.

Pastoral calls often become embarrassing or even unwelcome under such conditions. Christian friends who visit may be increasingly resented.

The Christian who knows he or she is marrying an unbeliever has no right to scold or preach at the other continually after the wedding. This will not win the unsaved person to Christ and only creates tension and disgust.

Of course, Christians do not marry the unsaved without dating them. The pitfalls of such companionship are often ignored. The excitement of a large, beautiful wedding seems to make some Christians forget what God teaches about the

unequal yoke. Infatuation is often mistaken for love in this day of abounding pressures to go steady.

Faithful pastors who admonish their young people about the dangers of the unequal yoke sometimes find them stubborn and determined. At such a time the Bible means little to them. They have been hypnotized by the glamour—which unfortunately cannot compensate for the heartache and difficulties waiting down the road.

Worst of all, Christian parents do not always support their minister when he counsels their children against marrying an unbeliever. They may even criticize him and encourage the unscriptural marriage.

In some instances the unbeliever comes from a Christian family. This does not make the unequal yoke any less a violation of God's Word. A marriage is between individuals. An unsaved person who comes from a Christian background may be even more rebellious than one who does not.

God established marriage and the home. There is nothing more beautiful than the relationship of two children of God united in those holy bonds. How wonderful to approach the marriage altar knowing that the yoke is about to be taken by a man and woman who first of all love Christ with all their hearts.

The beauty of Christian marriage makes the unequal yoke all the more bitter and cruel.

Reprinted From The Pentecostal Evangel

Pearls Of Promise

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Peter 1:4

Page Sermons By: Gail Shultz
Typed from original handwritten articles
Sermon 6

FAITH

Did you ever lose faith? Did you ever lose your directions? What a predicament and involvement. A crisis has thus risen and it becomes necessary to get back on the beam. The light of faith is our radar, our focus point. Without faith I cannot please Him. By faith, Paul innumerate many of the pleasing victories for God. Faith denounces doubt, fear and anxiety. Strong Christians read their Bibles some more, some less, but His prophets and servants become our witnesses, plus the road map of life from the cradle to the grave. Faith has brought the hardest love one to the fold. Faith has it present reward and a reward hereafter. By faith I see a mileage. By faith I know Jesus is coming soon again to this earth. Faith promises me a new earth, a new city and eternal life. Faith is a yard stick of success in God. Faith has the undeniable answer.

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"TOMORROW"

He was going to be all that he wanted to be
TOMORROW.
None would be kinder or braver than he
TOMORROW.
A friend who was troubled and weary he knew,
Who'd be glad of a lift, and who needed it too
On him he would call and see what he could do
TOMORROW.

Each morning he stacked up letters he'd write
TOMORROW.
And thought of the folks he'd fill with delight
TOMORROW.
And hadn't one minute to stop on his way,
"More time I will give to others," he'd say,
"TOMORROW".

The greatest of workers this man would have been . . .
TOMORROW.
The world would have hailed him had ever he seen
TOMORROW.
But in fact, he passed on and he faded from view,
And all that he left here when living was through
Was a mountain of things he intended to do . . .
TOMORROW!

—Contributed by Henrietta Holdeman