

OUR BIBLE LESSON

Many good, honest, and sincere people have conceived the idea that, "It does not make any difference what one believes religiously, just so he is sincere in his belief." Many have reached this conclusion without investigating what the Bible-God's complete, and final revelation to man-says on the subject. Listen to the wise man of old, Prov. 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." We should be very careful not to array our wisdom against God's. (Isa.55:8,9; 1 Cor.1:25-29)

Many people have been, and are today, taught that it is God's plan for an alien sinner to "pray through to pardon." These lessons on the Mourner's Bench system of salvation are designed to expose the errors in this doctrine. By means of review, we have listed these objections to this system of salvation: (1) "God, in his word, does not tell the alien sinner to "pray through to pardon," (Prov.28:9; Jno.9:31; 1 Pet.3:12) We must ask according to His will if He will hear us. (1 Jno.5:14) It is His will that one: believes that Jesus is the Son of God; (Acts 8:37) repents of his sins; (Lk.13:3) confesses Christ before men; (Matt.10:32,33; Acts 8:37) be buried in baptism, for the remission of sins. (Rom.6:4; Acts 2:38-Eph.4:5) I do not say that from the time that the alien sinner is "pricked" in his heart by the sword of the Spirit-the word of God (Eph.6:17), to the time that he rises to "walk in newness of life," (Rom.6:4) where he is "in" Christ, (Gal.3:27) he will not be praying-he should. But, God has not promised salvation by prayer, but by faith, repentance, confession of Christ before men, and baptism. (2) Such a system of salvation places all the responsibility on God, if one does not "get through. (Many have experienced this.) Many times mourners have gone away from the alter mourning, seeking have gone away seeking, BUT, never has one gone away disappointed when they did what gospel preachers told them to do. (See Acts 2:37-41; Acts 8:35-39) God is not respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34; Titus 2:11; 11 Pet.3:9) (3) This system of salvation makes the work of the preacher twice as hard. I am not interested just here how hard a preacher works, but, in getting the truth before you. Many times preachers have spent 40 or 50 minutes trying to persuade people to come to the alter and "pray through to glory," and, after success, the preacher, as well as most of the congregation assembled, will start persuading the Lord to come down with the "Pentecostal power" and save the sinner. Why not tell the sinner what Ananias told Saul in Acts 22:16? NOTE: "Now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

We now continue with our objections: (4) This system of salvation contradicts Paul's statement when he said, "NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation." (11 Cor.6:2) At the Mourner's Bench NOW is not always the accepted time. Some seekers have to prolong their seeking for days, months, yea! some never "get through." This system does not make God available to the sinner NOW!! (5) It teaches that one can be saved without "obeying from the heart" a "form of doctrine." Notice what Paul says, Rom.6:17,18 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." When are we made free from sin? When we "obey from the heart" a "form of doctrine." NOT BEFORE THEN!

(We continue at this point in the next issue, if the Lord wills.)

The Gospel Messenger

Romans 1:16
The gospel is
God's power to
save.

* Acts 15:9 *
* Matt. 11:10 *

Romans 10:10
"The churches
of Christ
salute
you."

ELDERS:

Floyd Harris
L. E. Spain
Lester Smartt
J. R. Cantrell

Bybee Branch church of Christ
Smithville Road at City Limits
William H. Lewis-Minister
Telephone-82-L
McMinnville, Tennessee

DEACONS:

A. O. Glenn
Oliver Warren
Shelie Mullican
J. C. Slatton Jr.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jno.8:32)

Volume I

December 17, 1950

Number 5

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (Lk.2:1-12)

(Did you know: (1) That the church of Christ does not observe Xmas as a religious holiday? (2) That it cannot be certain that Christ was born on December 25th? (3) That Xmas is not a time to loose one's religion?)

Be sure to listen to your radio: Our church calander for the week:

Monday-Friday-9:00 A.M.-W.M.M.T. Sunday-11:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
(Bro. Lem ons-Smithville) Bible study-----10:00 A.M.
Monday-Friday-6:45 P.M.-W.M.M.T. Wednesday Bible study 7:30 P.M.
(Bro. Chaffin-East End)

OUR DINNER APPOINTMENTS: The Lewises have had dinner with the "Thad" Reeses, and the W. L. Husseys since the last issue. We certainly did enjoy our visit to both of these places.

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A SINCERE THANKS COMES FROM THE LEWISES for every manifestation of interest shown them in Sister Lewise's illness. (See is about well now.) We will try to list some of those good things done for us. Those who brought meals already prepared were: The "Jim" Cantrells, Lester Smarts, and the J. C. Slattons. Sister "Red" Glenn (She is the wife of the fellow that has that pair of new shoes that you heard about on the radio last Wednesday evening.) sent a delicious apple pie. Thanks to Brother and Sister J. C. Slatton for a pretty pot of flowers. Then there were Husseys that brought over a package. And too, Sister W. L. Cooper proved herself to be a grand "baby-stttr." Well, we knew that we would leave out someone, but we tried not to, anyway. So, THANKS TO ALL FOR EVERYTHING !

OUR "SHUT-INS" WILL BE REMEMBERED WITH A "SUNSHINE BASKET" THIS XMAS. Thanks to all who will have a part in this good work.

WORDS CAN'T EXPRESS how Bro. Lewis feels about the fine Xmas gift you people are to give him. (It is a \$76.50, tailor-made suit.) The reason he had to know about it before Xmas was that it had to be ordered. (Two days after the order was placed, Cook's store received a letter saying that all orders for suits were to be stopped. Boy, that was too close, wasn't it ?) THANKS TO ALL WHO HAD A PART IN THIS !

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WHAT BROTHER DAVID LISCOMB SAID ABOUT OBSERVING XMAS: (1) About the only thing certain about the time of the Savior's birth is that he was not born at Christmas time. This is regarded as certain. (2) The Bible never authorized any celebration of the birth of Christ. To engage in worship not ordained by God is sin. This we regard as beyond dispute. (3) We do not believe there is any harm in a social gathering and the interchange of presents and kindly offices among members of the church; but I would never make the impression it was done on the birthday of the Savior nor as a religious service. (4) There is nothing sacred about a meetinghouse. It is built for the congregation, the comfort and use of the people. The people who obey constitute the church of God. Anything the church or its members may do may be done in the house they built for their convenience. ("Questions Answered," by Lipscomb and Sewell, edited by M. C. Lurfrees, p. 107)

STOP ! LOOK !! LISTEN !!! Hey, boys and girls ! Monday evening at 7:00 is the time. The home of Brother Lewis, 918 Smithville Road, is the place. There will be plenty of eats, (we hope) games, and fun for all. Be sure to come. There will be no charge ! Just bring a gift, (suited for either boy or girl) the price of which is not to exceed 50%. (These will be distributed during the party.) (Bro. Lewis again expresses his appreciation for the good behavior on our last get-to-gether. He believes that such will continue.)

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Sister "Tom" Walker will enertain her little people with a Xmas party on either Friday or Saturday before Xmas at her home from 2:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M. (Definite plans will be announced in time. This uncertainty is due to the fact that we do not know if the schools will be out in time on Friday.) There is a great time in store for those little fellows at that time. (We are fortunate in having one so capable of teaching young people as is Sister Walker. How about telling her about it sometime ? It will do her good.) Let us help her in every way possible ! YOU may be called on to use your car for transportation.

CORRECTION ! Wayne Myers' name was overlooked in our last report on our Y.P.T.C. as being among those who made 100 on test. We are sorry about this oversight. We will try to do better next time.

Among our young people: Bro. Lewis expresses his appreciation to Joyce Cantrell for helping him work on the church file.---Only those who are members of the church will be called on to take part in our regular services.---Billy Newby made a fine talk in class on Wednesday evening, November 27th. in the Old Testament.---We are proud of the way that these young fellows who are willing to try to learn how to work for the Lord. Maybe it would be well for all to read Matt.25:31, before they refuse to take part in the Lord's work.---Brother Lewis starts a "Beatitude Honor Roll" for the Y. P. T. C. for those that have committed to memory the Beatitudes. This list is started with

- 1. Evelyn Hale
- 2.

Watch this list grow from time to time ! How about it boys, don't let the girls get ahead.

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CONGRATULATION TO SUE SMITH: What do you know ? Sue has done went and done it." Not only that, she didn't tell us anything about it. Yes, she was married back in August to Bobby Ayers, of Crestview, Tennessee. (Their address is Route # 2, Crestview, Tennessee.) We wish them the very best of luck, and long and happy married life.

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BROTHER CHAFFIN will be preaching over the radio each Lord's Day this month from the East End church of Christ from 11:00 A. M. to 12:00

OUR BIBLE LESSON

It is hard to understand why people, in general, will want to be as sure as they can about temporal things, and accept almost anything that some men have attached to Christianity as God's Plan of Salvation. This journey is made but once, and the condition of the soul at the time of its departure from the physical body will determine where that soul will spend eternity. (See Jno. 5:28,28; Rom. 12; 11 Cor. 5:10) No sin will enter heaven. (Rev. 21:27) God has given man the means of being made "free from sin." That is only by the blood of Christ, (1 Jno. 1:7; Rev. 1:5) which is contacted when the alien sinner "obeys from the heart that form of doctrine." (Rom. 6:17, 6:1-4)

These Bible lessons are designed to teach people who have more respect for God's word than they do the opinion of man, that it is not God's plan for the alien sinner to "pray through to pardon" at the altar. We realize that it is hard for people to accept God's plan of salvation when they have been born, reared, and taught the Mourner's Bench system of salvation. We ask that you do as did the Bereans in Acts 17:11, who "searched the scripture daily, whether these things were so," as we will be judged by the word of God in the last day. (Jno. 12:48)

We here list another objection to the Mourner's Bench System of Salvation: IT MAKES THE GREAT COMMISSION VOID!

Mk. 16:15, 16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

NOTE: (1) A certain "he" is under consideration. (2) That certain "he" is promised salvation. (3) The salvation that is promised that certain "he" is the "remission of sins." (See Luke's account of the Great Commission. Lk. 24:47) (4) Is that certain "he" promised salvation when he "believes only?" No! (See Jas. 2:17-26; Heb. 5:8, 9. Also read Hebrews 11:4, 7, 8, 30 etc., and see when the people of God were saved "by faith." It was not until their faith moved them in obedience to God's command. The same is true today.) (5) Lord, did you say, "He that is baptized shall be saved?" No!! (6) Just who is that certain "he" that is promised salvation by the Lord himself just before He went back to heaven? It is the "he that believeth AND is baptized," that is promised salvation.

Man has taken it upon himself to promise salvation to those that "believes and prays through to pardon." It would be well for the preacher that teaches the Mourner's Bench system of salvation to read again Deut. 18:20, which says,

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die."

Dear friends, we plead with you that if you have been deceived with the doctrine that teaches the Mourner's Bench system of salvation, or, belong to an organization that teaches such, will you not "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM," and do what you are told to do in Acts 2:37-41?

The Gospel Messenger

Romans 1:16
The gospel is
God's power to
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* Acts 15:9 *
* Matt. 11:10 *

Romans 16:16
"The churches
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Volume I

December 3, 1950

Number 4

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1950

Cash on hand beginning November \$ 641.83

Disbursements:

W.M.M.T. (Radio station)	\$ 15.00
File cabinet	41.03
House rent	45.00
Road signs	33.70
Kerosene	.85
Flowers	15.00
Ervin Myers (Bus)	50.00
Douglas Patton	15.00
40 pencils	1.00
Light bill	2.15
Salaries	320.00
Total disbursements.....	\$ 538.79

Contributions

Nov. 5th	\$ 142.17
" 12th	140.48
" 19th	143.80
" 26th	128.40
Total contributions.....	\$ 554.91

Cash on hand beginning November \$ 641.83
 Total contributions for November 554.91
 Total cash on hand \$1,196.74
 Total disbursements 538.79
 Total cash on hand beginning December 1, 1950 \$ 657.95

A.O. Glenn --Treasurer

(What could be better for our front page than our financial report? We only gained \$16.12 this month. Did you know that we plan to start building a preacher's home in the Spring? Can YOU give a little more?)

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(Bro. Chaffin-East End)

MORE ABOUT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE: Recently a test was given in our class on Wednesday evening on what we have studied so far. Those that made 100% were: Billy Newby, Joe, Kenneth, and Joyce Cantrell, Lowell Warren, Georgia Harremore, Barbara and Frances Jones, Sue Smith, Mary Lois Foster, Doris Bennett, Doyle and Cleburn Boren, Carmine Alexander, Douglas Patton, Richard Walker, Joe Bryan Glenn, Ann Woodlee, Evelyn Hale. A number missed only one, but that was too many to make the sheet. You see, only perfect is good enough for our class record. However, we are proud of all of them. We have 39 on roll now. HOW ABOUT HELPING US MAKE IT 50 ?

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AN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION from the J. P. Mullican family was received by Brother Lewis to the Bybee Branch church of Christ for "expressions of sympathy" shown them in the passing of Mr. Mullican, father of Sister Herbert Foster. We again extend our sympathy to this family, and only hope that this will bring all the family closer to the Lord.

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THE LEWISES have recently had dinner with the: Shelis Mullicans, J. C. Slattons Sr., J. R. Cantrells, and W. E. Neals. Thanks a lot to all of you. (This, no doubt, is the reason that Brother Lewis will yet be a "big" preacher. That is alright, just keep up the good work.)

ONE WAS BAPTIZED ! If Brother Lewis can't baptize any at Bybee Branch, he can go away from home and do it. The Lewises were in Hillsboro, Tennessee, for Thanksgiving and preached there that night. One was baptized. While the Lewises were away the cold weather came and froze their water pipes. However, after a little heat everything was alright. But the moral of this story is they are grateful for the interest that many had in their welfare, and particularly to Bro. "Jim" Cantrell who was at their home just a few minutes after they arrived wanting to know if he could help do anything. Such manifestation of interest of the preacher and family makes them enjoy their stay all the more, and encourages them to try a little harder in His work. Thanks a lot !

IF YOU have any announcements that you want made at our services, PLEASE give them to Bro. Walker. Your cooperation will be appreciated along this line.

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"Soft soap" in the pulpit will not cleanse sinners in the pew.--Selected

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(Recently there was a visitor in our class of young people on Wednesday night, and he was simply amazed at what had been learned in the short time the class had been in progress. Well, he had a right to be ! On Wednesday, November 22, Joe Cantrell gave about a fifteen minute talk, and did a good job of it. Others will come later. As the girls do not make "talks" in this class, some write stories on some Bible subject. We are glad to print the following as a good sample of what is being done in this class.)

THE LIFE OF SARAH

by

Evelyn Hale

"Sarai was a beautiful woman. She married a very righteous man, Abram, who tried his best to do the will of God. When the Lord told Abram to go to the land of Canaan, he left the land of Ur of the Chaldees immediately and dwelt in the land of Haran until the death of his father, Terah. The Lord told Abram to leave that country and his kindred and he obeyed at once. Abram was seventy-five years of age when he left the land of Haran.

In the land of Sichern, the Lord appeared unto Abram and told him that He would give all that land to Abram and to his seed. Abram built an altar and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and then journeyed southward... He and his company came into the land of Egypt, and there the Egyptians beheld that Sarai was very fair, and when the Prince saw her he took her into his house and was very generous to them because he had Sarai to be Abram's sister. He gave Abram many sheep, oxen, camels, asses, and servants.

Then Pharoah found out that Sarai was indeed Abram's wife. He called Abram to him and asked him why he called her his sister, and did he want him to take her for his wife? Pharoah then told Abram to go away and take Sarai with him.

He left Egypt taking all that Pharoah had given him and his family. At a place between Bethel and Hai a misunderstanding arose between the servants of Abram and Lot. Abram and Lot thought it best to part. So, Lot took the good land toward Sodom, and Abram dwelted in the land of Canaan.

Sarai had borne Abram no children, as she was barren, and she suggested that Hagar, their handmaid, bear children of him. Abram did as he was told by Sarai, and Hagar concieved, and Sarai despised her. Because of the hatred that arose between these two women, Hagar had to leave home. While out in the wilderness an angel of the Lord came unto Hagar telling her to go back to her mistress, that she would bear a son, and he would be a wild man against other men and others against him. She was to name the child Ishmael. Abram was eighty six years of age when Ishmael was born."

This is all the room that we have for this story. Thanks a lot, Evelyn. We will be looking for another story from other girls of this class. WHY NOT SEE THAT YOUR BOY OR GIRL IS AT PRAYER MEETING ON WEDNESDAY EVENING TO TAKE PART IN THIS GOOD WORK ????????