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PARKER MAXEY'S EDITORIALS -- (1968)

Editorials from The Missionary Revivalist
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

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January, 1968 Editorial
IS IT TOO LATE TO PRAY?

Every spiritual failure is primarily a prayer failure. No doubt one of the greatest and most astonishing revelations of the judgment day will be the prayer life, or should I say, lack of prayer life of the professed Christians. It will be an awful day in the final judgment scene of this world when the recording angel opens up the prayer record book -- and let us not forget, our prayer record will be revealed. The greatest lack today among us is the dynamic of the Holy Spirit, and the outstanding reason for this lack is the failure of the church in prayer.

In Isaiah 59:16 we read these words (how modern they sound), "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor." In the previous chapter (58:3) the people complained that God did not respond to their appeals as they supposed He should. They were selfish and demanding in their prayer. But in this sixteenth verse of the fifty-ninth chapter God, with much more reason, complained that they did nothing for themselves, intimating how ready He would have been to do them good if He had found among them the least motion of real interest and true intercession.

Another startling passage of Scripture which has to do with intercession is found in Ezekiel the twenty-second chapter. In verses thirty-one and thirty-two we read: "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath,; their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God."

God seeks intercessors but seldom finds them. The Holy Spirit is seeking hearts upon which He can lay burdens. He has nobody through which He can suffer and work, except the hearts

and bodies of those who are His dwelling place. Through them He does His intercessory work on earth and they become intercessors because of The Intercessor within them. Through this means the Spirit gains His ends of pouring out abundant grace for every need.

Someone may ask, is it necessary to intercede? Is our intercession necessary so far as God is concerned, and the work He would have accomplished in this our day? The Scripture we have under consideration certainly tells us that it /s necessary. It is impossible for God to bring the true church forward to its goal without the aid of human beings. It is very evident that God has' Voluntarily made .Him dependent upon our prayers. The greatest thing we can do for God or man is to pray. It is not the only thing, but the chief thing. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray; not those who just say prayers, or talk about praying, nor who merely believe in prayer, but those who take time to pray. No, you will not have time to pray. There is never time for everything to be done. Something will have to be left undone, something important, but it will be less important than prayer. The few who are putting prayer first do the most for God and souls in the long run and it is the long run that we are on.

But let us look deeper into this necessity of intercessory praying. There are three elements in well rounded praying: Communion, Petition and Intercession. Intercessory prayer is mainly objective, a prayer for others. Jesus Christ is the greatest of intercessors and He is our example to teach us the true meaning of intercessory prayer. His whole life in the flesh on earth was a life of intercession. His life was entirely objective and redemptive. He came not for Himself but for lost humanity. His suffering and death were intercessory as well as redemptive. Christ's intercession began at the incarnation and continues on until the present time and will continue on. Charles Wesley bears out the glorious fact of Christ's intercession in the song, "Arise, My Soul Arise." In the third stanza we read:

"Five bleeding wounds He bears,
Received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers,
They strongly plead for me."

Again, in the second and fourth stanzas we read:

"He ever lives above,
For me to intercede
The Father hears Him pray,
His dear anointed One:
He cannot turn away
The Presence of His son.

His Spirit answers to the Blood
And tells me I am born of God."

It is through Christ's intercession and shed blood that we will one day be able to stand uncondemned in His glorious presence.

Whether we can fully comprehend it or not, while Christ is presently seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven making intercession for us to the Father, the Holy Spirit is on earth seeking to make intercession for lost humanity and through this intercession bringing mankind the benefits of the atoning work of Christ. The Spirit's intercession, however, is made through human instrumentality and if God ever gets through to humanity to bring them the benefits of grace it will be through the channel of human intercession.

S. D. Gordon has stated that there are five outlets of power, but the power released through intercessory prayer is the greatest. The five outlets of power are, first, through life, what we are. Here we exert a twofold influence, a conscious and an unconscious influence. The second avenue for manifesting power is through our lips. What a power a Spirit-filled testimony can be. Another channel through which the power of God is manifest is through our service we render, or what we do. Another way to manifest the power of our love to God is through our money. The greatest outlet of power, however, is through intercessory prayer. This prayer power is tremendous and world embracing. It is the highest form of service. It is through this avenue God works to bring His blessings down upon us as a people and make us effective in Kingdom work. It is for this reason God seeks for intercessors. We note in this 22nd Chapter of Ezekiel that God sought for an intercessor. He wanted to open up a channel through which He could move to save and help His people. They had sinned until they had called God's judgments down upon them and yet God would have been merciful could He have found someone to intercede. What a parallel there is between Ezekiel's day and ours.

In that day God sought for an intercessor among the prophets, priests, princes and people, but how dreadful that among this crowd He could not find even one. God sought for an intercessor among the preachers (note verses 25, 28). Here we note that the preacher (prophets in those days) devoured (instead of edified) souls, took the real treasure and precious things away and made many "widows in the midst thereof" (preachers making backslidders of their flock). Where are the preachers and their congregations today that are mightily moved on by the Holy Ghost (a precious treasure indeed), but instead they have as their possession a backslidden church? If this is not so, then why all the repeats at the altar in almost every revival? The reason for this condition is laid at the door of the preachers -- they are not intercessors! In the temper of every backsliding church, pride is a reigning corruption and instead of preachers and faithful pastors humbly crying out to God in intercession and deep confession of the true condition (like Nehemiah did when in captivity he learned of the condition in Jerusalem), they cry out in defense of the condition that exists, and like Israel of old, persuade themselves that peculiar privileges could not be forfeited nor an everlasting possession alienated and transferred. The "come-outers" have come out to contend for the "old paths," but where are the intercessors in their midst?

God also sought for an intercessor among the praying people (note verse 26), the ones (priests) whose particular duty it was to intercede. Instead, He found them to be profane and to have profaned God Himself. That is, they had turned from their deep soul interest in the sacred and spiritual to the secular and baser things of life. They secularized God and in so doing, lost the spiritual vision. They had put the energies of true intercession to base and improper use. What a picture of this day. Schisms, factions, divisions, blighting rumors and even the pride of denominationalism have so wrought havoc among God's holiness people until their interests, time, energies and prayers have been spent on defending, overcoming and triumphing in their particular

cause or branch until the real issues of life and the true object of intercession have been lost sight of.

God did not stop in His search for an intercessor with the preachers and supposed pray-ers, but He sought also among the leaders (princes, verse 27), the board members and the elected ones chosen to carry the responsibilities of an organization; but here also, He found no intercessor. Dishonest gain took possession of this group, resulting in shed blood and destroyed souls. How glaringly true is it that the spirit of selfishness can nullify any desire or ability to be a true intercessor and leave that individual with blood on his hands -- the blood of those who might have made it had these entered the closet of intercession instead of the market of gain, whether it be the gain of money, reputation or pride of Churchism.

The final appeal for an intercessor was made among the common people, the church membership roll. Here God found oppressors, robbers, and vexers, but in all His search He found no true intercessor. What a sad picture; people, professors of religion, void of the Holy Spirit. There was nothing left for them but God's vindictive judgments.

Beloved, the hour is late. God's judgment hangs heavy over the world today! What hope have we if we longer remain outside the closet of intercession? Do we honestly and earnestly want to experience in our midst the abundance of the convicting, regenerating, sanctifying, keeping power of God's grace? Let us humble ourselves before God, seek His face and offer ourselves to God for the ministry of intercession lest we come under condemnation by failing our generation.

No, it is not too late to pray!

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February, 1968 Editorial
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

We read in I John 1:3 "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his son Jesus Christ." Multitudes have been disappointed, disillusioned, become cynical and hardened against genuine, heartfelt salvation and the doctrine and experience of second blessing holiness because they have not understood the difference between Christian fellowship and church association. Others have become church tramps in their search to find a religious group or denomination that measured up to their mental conception of what should constitute Christian fellowship.

The benefits and superiority of organized holiness over independency have been proven over and over again in the pages of history. For the truth of this we could cite John Wesley and his continued influence throughout Methodism, even beyond his lifetime, in contrast to George Whitefield. One historian in summing up Whitefield's life put it this way: "Whitefield was, indeed, a voice. In learning he did not excel; in business he would have been a failure; in' theology he was not a master; no printed page holds the substance of his wonderful discourses. Now that the voice

is passed there remains almost nothing of all his thinking or his doing. He was 'a voice' and his history is an echo." Nothing wrong with his life and work, but it all died with him.

Where people by choice and mutual agreement associate themselves together for the purpose of furthering Bible Holiness throughout the world, much can be accomplished that otherwise would not be possible.

Christian fellowship should be, and for the most part will be found, in and among an association of people bound together with common feelings, purposes, aims and motives concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ and its furtherance among men. However, the basis of Christian fellowship does not originate in the association of professed holiness people within a church organization. It is entirely possible to be associated together in a particular body of organized holiness and yet be strangers to Christian fellowship. The failure to realize this has caused many a young Christian, especially, to be deeply disappointed, disillusioned and shaken in their faith as to the reality of true holiness.

Again let us read in I John 1:57: "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." In these verses we can readily see that the basis of Christian fellowship is to be found in right relationship to God and light. John sets forth the basic elements in this first epistle as life, light and love. It embraces openness of heart and moral purity in life. The holy, eternal life of the Son of God was communicated to the apostles through faith, and they were thus able to fellowship God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. They wanted all to share in these glorious privileges and this happiness. They were zealous of this communion; first, to retain and hold fast the faith that was the means of bringing them into such a communion, and secondly, that they might manifest their love to others in assisting them to the same communion with themselves. They indicate (verse 3) where this is and what it consists of it is with the Father and with the Son of the Father, who are light, i.e., purity, wisdom, holiness, glory, perfection.

Thus we see that there is a common fellowship or communion that runs through the whole church of God. There may be personal distinctions and peculiarities, but there is a communion (common participation in privileges and dignity) belonging to all saints, from the highest apostle to the lowest believer -- the same precious faith, the same precious promises dignifying and crowning that faith, the same precious blessings and glories enriching and filling those promises.

Now, there may be those who pretend to great attainments and enjoyments in religion; they may profess to have communion with God; and yet their lives may be irreligious, carnal, immoral and impure. The subtlety and damage come when Pharisaically they conform outwardly but lack the true element of fellowship within their inmost being. Of such the apostle states: "They lie, and do not truth." They belie God, for He holds no heavenly fellowship or intercourse with unholy souls. What communion hath light with darkness? They belie themselves, or lie concerning themselves, for they have no such communion with God nor access to Him. There is no truth in their profession or in their practice; or their practice gives their profession and pretenses the lie and demonstrates the folly and falsehood of them.

Organized holiness with all of its blessings and benefits in promoting the cause of Christian fellowship among men on earth has its weaknesses and pitfalls. To ignore them is folly; to endeavor to avoid them is wisdom.

The first pitfall to be aware of is the danger of misplaced emphasis -- the loss of the true goal for which we should continually strive. Through faith the early apostles were brought into fellowship with God. They wanted all to share in this fellowship. They were zealous to retain this precious possession and to communicate it to others. They were careful lest they get involved in things that would sidetrack them from this (See Acts 6:4). Our great danger is getting too involved in buying song books, building buildings, maintaining property, raising money, developing organizations, running churches, preaching sermons, writing books, being leaders, until we lose sight of this one main purpose -- that of retaining and communicating this "like precious faith." Too often have men sold out the true eternal riches of the communion of saints with God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son for the expedencies of time, allowing themselves to get bogged down in church machinery. It is no wonder that Jude exhorted the "Beloved" that they should "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." It would behoove us to be careful what we contend for.

Another pitfall to avoid is the failure to differentiate between the church visible (the militant church) and the church invisible. The invisible is contained within the body of the visible churches of various denominations. Genuine Christian communion is not confined within denominational boundaries. It knows no bounds. It exists in the hearts of all who by faith have been made partakers of the Divine nature. The church visible on earth, in every organized relationship it has assumed down through the ages, has been beset by carnal people. Carnally minded individuals are strangers to the communion of saints in light, yet they associate themselves with the visible church. Their presence within the body of the visible church is the cause of schisms, divisions, envy, strife, confusion and every evil work. They are enemies to Christian fellowship. When carnal men gain places of leadership in any organized body, confusion reigns and true Christian fellowship wanes. Organization becomes more important than communication of spiritual life and the human and the carnal are exalted. Church kitchens, social gatherings, television, worldly attire and all the evils of carnal people are allowed in the name of religion. True Christianity and Christian fellowship are put on the sidelines, ignored and soon openly derided. This does not come to pass suddenly, but roots back in the waning of true Christian fellowship, with the trend toward a misplaced emphasis by men who are in an association, but not in true fellowship. When the evil becomes so great that it can only be submitted to by the sacrifice of a good conscience, withdrawal from a corrupt and apostate church is the only recourse. God spare us as Bible Missionary people from such a catastrophe.

Another pitfall to avoid is the loss of fellowship among the saints through the subtle attack of the enemy. James states (3.17), "the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." Within the body of Christ there exists a reciprocal confidence. Satan and his emissaries are constantly at work to upset this. He ,will hinder fellowship and keep Christians at a distance from one another if possible and, being weak in our humanity, he is too often successful. He accomplishes this through prejudice, suspicion, misunderstandings. Our greatest weapon

against this is to maintain the Christian grace of "approachableness." Holiness is "easy to be entreated." God help us to gain and then retain Christian fellowship.

In conclusion we would remind ourselves that in the visible church -- that would certainly include the Bible Missionary Church -- there will always be those who are not included in the communion of the saints. These cause suffering within the body. It is not our task to tear up the body of Christ in an effort to rid the church of these. In the 13th chapter of Matthew Jesus made this plain in the parable of the wheat and tares. The similarity between tares and wheat in the early stages is close; it is hard to tell them apart. The true Christians, however, are not only possessed of life and light, but also love, and here it is that the ruling principle of love comes into play. Love will produce longsuffering and all the other needed graces to keep one in true fellowship, whatever the circumstances one is called upon to face. The devil has always sought to infiltrate the church, and has been more or less successful in every age. In these last days he will succeed in forming a world-wide association of churches (the W. C. C.). Our only safety lies in maintaining a true personal Christian fellowship with God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the true Church, which consists of all blood-bought souls, and by avoiding any connection or association with all organizations that are not founded on the basic principles of Christian fellowship.

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March, 1968 Editorial
SATANIC LIMITATIONS

The Psalmist of old sets forth a question that is on the lips of sober, troubled men and women of this day, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Today the righteous are in the midst of crumbling foundations -- the foundations of fallen humanity.

Eric Sauer in his book, *The Dawn of World Redemption*, pages 50, 51, states that man is in continual rebellion against God and every dispensation is designed to set forth from different angles the bankruptcy of the "natural man" and thus is doomed to collapse. Paradise ended in expulsion from the Garden; the dispensation of conscience ended with the flood; the new start under Noah, with Babel; the period of the Law, with the scattering of Israel; the dispensation of grace is ending and will be concluded in great tribulation under Anti-christ. God will allow men to exhaust every conceivable possibility of carnal ingenuity and after "the world kingdom has used up all its forces, the kingdom of God will appear triumphantly (Rev. 11:15), and in the new heaven and on the new earth will righteousness dwell eternally (2 Peter 3:13)." All moral powers of the individual and through the dispensations of time will be finally proved to be sufficient and "God's plan of salvation in Christ will be seen to be not merely the only plan, but as the essential, the only possible plan." God will in the end be justified in the eyes of all moral beings in that He has ordained this way of salvation and no other. Paul states in Romans 3:4 that God will be justified when sentence is passed and stand forth as victor at the end of every dispute.

Thus, living as we are, in the very closing hours of a dispensation, it should not surprise us nor shake our faith in God to witness collapse on every hand -- yea, even to behold evil in triumph and righteousness suffering in its wake.

God is letting this dispensation bankrupt itself just as He has every dispensation. The Scriptures teach us this. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come . . . evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (II Tim. 3:1, 13) Facts all about us witness to this truth. Observe, if you will, that the days of sweeping revivals are past. We are now in the gleanings times. Governments are corrupt to the core. When an international conspiracy can successfully plan and execute the assassination of a president of a country like America, the foundation of peaceful government is in bad decay. The church is corrupt. Led by Rome, the NCC and WCC are fast bringing organized Christendom into one world church which will be the harlot church, dominated and controlled by Anti-christ. The only safety is to come out of her. Many holiness denominations are listed as "NCC Co-operating Denominations." There is no denying that this makes them fellow-travelers with not only the NCC, but also Communism and apostate Romanism. When holiness groups participate as cooperating groups in purchasing the NCC Sunday school outlines, use the RSV Bibles, etc., they are "paying the fare thereof" to apostasy. When this is the case, they should look well to their own crumbling foundations. Men are Corrupt. This age of enlightenment has opened up doors through which men have debased themselves below the level of the beast. Just recently a picture was released in which a Roman Catholic priest was shown marrying two men, homosexuals. Grosses of sins right now are carried on with the sanction of the church. America has corrupted itself and is due for a blood bath. The common order of the day is rebellion in the home, the church, the government. Riots, blackouts, drunkenness, immorality, drug addiction, murder are on the increase, with the common people powerless to combat it; news stands loaded with pornographic literature; wars raging which we cannot win or terminate; America openly being bled to death on battle fields half a world away, while at home immorality and Godless Communism have a strangle hold on the nation, with a published date in which they expect America to fall into their hands like a ripened apple falls from a tree. All this in the face of a nation robbed of her defense mechanism, her constitution riddled by fifth columnists and her enemies aided and abetted by her Supreme Court. It is no wonder the question is being raised, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

This is not a day for God's sanctified to panic. The Sanctified Ones are not left in this hour without chart or compass. The hope of the Church is in the leadership of the Holy Spirit, through the written Word. Clear directions are at the disposal of those who will pay the price to stay spiritually alert. The promised Paraclete led the early church unerringly through the labyrinth of worldliness and satanic onslaughts and He will do the same for the Church today.

In Acts the fourth chapter is pictured the position and relationship the Church has taken and should continue to take until the Rapture.

They kept uppermost and foremost in their minds The Sovereignty of God. (Verses 24-28) God knows what is going on. He is working out His eternal purposes. He is SOVEREIGN. Evil has the seeds of destruction within itself and God is letting evil destroy itself. To finite beings, earth and time bound, this is often lost sight of and good men often rise up to stay off this destruction and get involved in efforts of reformation. Some have gone off to promote the cause of British Israel; others have spent their efforts fighting Communism, etc. God is not trying to save world systems. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." In this present system God permits His redeemed ones to suffer at the hands of

wicked, Satan-inspired and led men. Multitudes have been tortured and martyred with no Divine intervention. But God has set bounds and restraints (v. 28) beyond which Satan and evil cannot pass and He will triumph in the end. (Rev. 11:15)

Not only did the apostles keep in focus the sovereignty of God, but also the sufficiency of grace (v. 29). The sufficiency of grace is closely related to purity of heart and obedience to divine leadership. God's anointed ones have always been able to rejoice in the midst of tribulation, suffering and death, while nominal Christians have recanted in the face of reproach, suffering and threats, and in the end have been found in the camp of an apostate Christendom (I John 2:18, 19). God's great sifter has torn away the veneer of professed Christendom, revealed the counterfeit and blinded the eyes of those who turn aside from the love of the truth, but has revealed genuineness where it existed. Whatever may be the lot of the sanctified in this dispensation, God's promise is, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9) Even today, behind the "Iron Curtain" many of God's saints are imprisoned, tortured and put to death for their faith, yet in the midst of this word gets to us that Divine Grace is giving them power to rejoice in the midst of it all. Hath not God promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that, we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Heb. 13:5, 6)

The apostles never lost sight of The Success of Christianity. (vv. 29-31) Down across the ages God's kingdom has been slowly but surely gaining. The efforts, time, talents, strength and interests of the apostles were concentrated on building this eternal, triumphant kingdom. We miss it when we are not constantly in an all-out effort for souls. We can truly sing, "There's more with us than be with them," even in the midst of decaying foundations. Christianity is not a failure; it is gloriously triumphing. It gains at the new birth of every soul and is wonderfully strengthened when Pentecost comes to that individual. The success of Christianity is in getting people to God. Wherever and whenever the principles of Christianity are applied, it works. Glory! Jesus never fails! The efforts of the sanctified should not be exhausted in reformation, but in the ministry of transformation, getting souls saved and sanctified. This is the pattern laid down in the New Testament, and especially in the Acts of the Apostles.

The Surety of Final Triumph is not in the hands of Satan. He and all that pertain to him are on their way to the lake of fire. The closer the day of his destruction, the more fierce will be his efforts to destroy mankind. John the Revelator warns, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Rev. 12:12) On the other hand, as this hour approaches and as hell breaks loose on earth, the saints are exhorted, "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28) The Apostle Paul warns us in I Cor. 7:29, "The time is short." The initial victory of every sanctified heart is soon to be turned to final triumph in that day when Christ comes to "make all things new." (Rev. 21:5)

Praise God for the prospects of the Sanctified!

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April, 1968 Editorial

PENETRATING NERO'S HOUSEHOLD

Saints in Nero's household! What a tribute to the penetrating power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The commitment which was given to the church by Christ (Mark 16:15), purchased with His blood and made possible through the power of the Spirit's indwelling (Acts 1:8), was gloriously carried out by the early church.

A true, Spirit-baptized church is measured by its power to penetrate palaces of power and fashion and mammon, as well as strongholds of savage cruelty, with the live-giving witness of the Gospel of Christ.

It is possible to be a Christian anywhere. Barricading one's self in strongholds of monastery isolationism in this world in order to preserve a purity and an integrity and a standard of holy living was never God's method. Jesus prayed the Father, "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." (John 17:18 and 15) Christianity is not a thing of locality, but of character. Obadiah kept his conscience clear in the house of Ahab, Daniel his in the court of Babylon, Nehemiah his in the Persian palace. What is true of places is true of occupations. Unless a man's business is sinful, he may serve God in any profession. The Roman army was a very poor school of morals, yet all the centurions mentioned in the New Testament were good men. The sailor is proverbially rough, yet some of the best Christians have been sailors. We ought not to excuse ourselves for our lack of Christianity by pleading the force of circumstances. It is never necessary to do wrong. Sin is a voluntary thing, and no external force can constrain a man to commit it. It is possible to be a Christian in spite of the strong influence of people (friends, enemies, relatives, compromising leaders), luring temptations to extravagance, trying circumstances, or geographical location. The gospel of Christ is a gospel of power. The power of the gospel in Paul's heart made him bold for God. He boldly proclaimed, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1: 16)

Our task is to be witnesses. Let us keep to this main line. Our task as holy people and as holiness people is to penetrate the strongholds of Satan with a witness. God meant this 'witness to be a Spirit-filled life. In Acts 1:8 read, ". . . and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . ." Spirit-filled individuals, through the lives they live out in the world, are the witnesses; martyrs for the truth, if you please, before a carnal, God-rejecting world.

This takes courage, the courage that bears wrong, but will not commit it; that springs from an unspotted conscience, with an uprightness not to be bent whether threatened or sneered at or tempted by attractive bait. A courage that is satisfied to stand on God's side, listening to the encouragements of the Beatitudes, holding to the breastplate of righteousness. A courage that will be holy and live holy before the enemies of holiness.

It also takes modesty, i.e., freedom from vanity, being possessed with Christian humility. Saints in Caesar's household were not boastful in their religion; there was too much solemn sincerity in it. They did not lurk or loiter about the place of worship to mock or slander or surmise. They knew the joy of their communion with Jesus and cared more for that than for the admiration of

others. They never got mixed up in the politics of churchanity. They did not think highly of themselves, but were careful to exemplify their Christ, in word, in thought, in daily living. They remained efficient disciples because they shrank from public notice. Their modesty consisted in their exaltation of Christ and the humbling of themselves.

They successfully blended modesty and courage with a third quality, that of independence, that is, freedom to obey truth, regardless of what others may think, say or do. When once the question of duty is settled, especially in the realm of holy living, all gates but that which leads to acting it out must be shut. Beyond that point, all arguments from custom, from general expectation, from popular acclaim, from public or private gratification, must be rejected. These saints were living in the center of the world's energy and splendor and at the very focus of its intelligence and power. Independence was a virtue quite indispensable to them, but not bit more so than to us. Every day providence pushes us into some crisis of moral peril: where, if we do not act simply from our own God-given conscience, taking our direction first hand from the faithful leadership of the Spirit, our integrity itself is gone.

The crowning quality of a faithful witness that will penetrate the strongholds of Satan is constancy. There must have been many days when it would have been easy and convenient for these saints to have slipped around into the old comfortable heathenism. Inducements were not wanting; for the ignorant and faint-hearted there was personal safety; for the cultivated, Seneca was alive, but they held fast. They might, in the place of their worship, be hunted out. Their spiritual teachers might be slaughtered, but they gathered again the next evening and there they would find others willing to be mangled by the same martyrdom, who would faithfully break to them the Bread of Life. The Emperor might send them out to build their baths, but they raised no civil rebellion, but while they bent to their slavery they knelt and prayed to their Heavenly Father. Arrows might pierce their bodies, but they believed the Lord Jesus would receive their spirits. God is asking constancy of us. Our Nero is self-love. The senses are the Caesars of all ages. Fashion is Rome that commissions its legions and spreads its silent empire to the far reaches of man's habitation. The reigning temper of the world is the imperishable persecutor and tyrant of the faithful soul. Thus we see that in every home, on the streets, in the places of industry, education, business establishments, wherever men are in high position or low, amidst poverty or wealth, there are chances for the reappearing of saints in Caesar's household. Our main task is to keep the victory and be witnesses wherever the providences of God find us. If the Lord tarries and wickedness increases until our church privileges would be denied us, we can still be God's true witnesses to Caesar's households of today.

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May, 1968 Editorial

MAGNIFYING CHRIST OR CRUMBS

A ten cent piece held close enough to the eye will eclipse the sun, but who would be foolish enough to swap the light of the sun for a dime? A good job, a good education, a good car a comfortable home, marriage (desire for sex), a decent standard of living -- these are the things that vie for priority in the minds and lives of professed Christendom. We list them as "necessary," but in comparison to our need of Christ they are only the "crumbs" of life -- Christ is essential.

The unvarnished truth is that the great per cent of our youth today are crumb seekers and Christ rejecters. I do not say that as "Christ rejecters" they do not give lip service to God, but when lips say one thing and lives another it is lives that reveal the true heart condition. But the youth of today are the products of our homes, churches and educational institutions. We reap in our youth the seed the home, church and schools plant. We are reaping a materialistic and secular-minded generation of young people, adrift in life with neither chart nor compass. Many of these young people have been taught the language of the church and give personal testimonies of God's grace in their hearts, but their lives are void of spiritual reality, purpose and aim. Contrasted with this are the words of the great Apostle Paul in the book of Philippians, chapter one, verse twenty, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that.. Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." Then follows the great words of the twenty-first verse, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Paul had, if you please, an experience and hope in life that was central, binding and all-consuming. There was real purpose in his life. This purpose was born in him on the road to Damascus when he experienced radical, instantaneous conversion. The seed that produced this radical conversion to Christ and real purpose, no doubt, was sown at least in part, in his heart at the time he was an eyewitness to the stoning of Stephen. He was eyewitness to one who was fulfilling in his life the purpose for which God created him. It was the implantation of this seed that the Holy Spirit was later able to bring to fruition in Paul's life.

One of the most glaring needs we have today is for the manifestation of real purpose that becomes an obsession in the lives of professed Christian people, whether it is revealed in a call to the ministry, mission field or the simple Spirit-filled life of a devoted layman. The lack of the manifestation of real Christian purpose in life is a condemning indictment against the Christian homes and churches of today. Because people, especially parents, have been too taken up with the materialistic aspect of life (money, cars, houses, furniture, the struggle to make ends meet, etc.) the emphasis in a Spirit filled and directed life has been neglected (the lips have spoken one thing and the life another) until the seed of a real spiritual purpose in life has not been planted in the hearts of our youth.

Let's face it! Our own Bible Missionary young people are the products of our homes, our churches and the educational institutions of this day and we are having fewer and fewer each year called-of-God young people. Why is this? Can we not stem the awful tide of materialistic drift into oblivion? Could it be that the aimlessness of the home, the worldliness of the church and the materialism of today's schools has resulted in our young people turning their attention to gathering in big wages and living comfortably, while relegating God and spirituality to a secondary place, if not out of the picture altogether. A look at the average Christian home reveals the fact that, for all practical purposes, it is secular in all its activities and values, with a thin overlay of religion for use at certain stated intervals. It is no wonder that those brought up in this kind of atmosphere will emerge without any clear idea of purpose or commitment to Christian responsibility. The emphasis in our homes must be changed if we are to expect better results in the youth of today. We need families that are Bible-centered and committed to spirituality rather than materiality. We need heads of homes who will stand up and say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," and then put it into practice. Children must be trained to think in right terms concerning God and life. The seeds of deep spirituality must be sown in the heart before they can be brought to fruition by

the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Our young people are not responding to the call to Christian service because of the awful neglect and, sad to say, opposition of the home, opposition by subtle, silent influence. Children need to learn in the home both by precept and example that doing the will of God and seeking the salvation of souls are the most important values in life. God's command to ancient Israel is found in Deuteronomy 6, where, beginning with the fourth verse we read these words, "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 these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto 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 frontiers between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." Dear ones, is not this God's clearly stated plan for parents to plant within the hearts of their offspring the seeds of real purpose and direction in life? Isn't the lack of this reflected in the fact that such a small percentage of our own youth have any definite call or purpose in life?

When a Christian family meets around an altar of prayer daily and reads the Word and talks about God and spiritual things, the importance of a life rightly lived before God, our responsibility to humanity all around, the purpose for which we are here in this life and the shortness of life in comparison to an eternal existence, where material things are not the goal, but are servants to aid us in life to live wholly for God, the seed is sown in the hearts of children as God intended. Under this emphasis and with a God-anointed family altar, do you not suppose that more of our young people would turn their attention toward God and His service and a total commitment to the Lord and His divine will? And would not this develop in their minds a fixed purpose in life? Our dearth of God-called young people reflects itself back upon homes that are missing the mark with their children.

Let us look at the church and its mission and responsibility. Certainly, a church cannot help young people to achieve real purpose in life if the purpose of the church is not clear. A church that becomes more interested in its own growth than it is in the growth of individuals has already missed the mark. A church that constantly is placing emphasis on the reaching of lost humanity, both in home and foreign mission efforts, whose program is vitalized by sacrificing, praying, paying people who live lives separated from this world, emphasizing the fact that they are seeking "a city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God," will be able to present to its young people a challenge and purpose in spiritual life that will grip their hearts. We need to realize that holy enthusiasm for God and His work will produce remarkable results in the lives of those who observe, just as discouragement produces its followers in gloom.

In our Christian schools we need to work on generating holy enthusiasm for the will of God. It is true that people who get excited about the Word of God and the will of God are the people who change the world.

We could sum it all up by saying that our real need in this hour is a genuine spiritual awakening, a Holy Ghost, heaven-sent revival that will raise the level of our expectation in life from the fleeting things of time and earth to the steadfast hope that Christ shall be magnified in our bodies whether by life or death.

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June, 1968 Editorial PENTECOST

Historically June is the month we celebrate the memorable Jerusalem Pentecost, The Inauguration Day of the Holy Spirit.

The Jerusalem Pentecost was a time of great revival. A revival similar to this is the one greatest need of today. We are living in a sick world, a sick nation and a sick church. In a recent Associated Press news item Governor Maddox of Georgia made this statement: "Satanic conspiracy threatens the United States with insanity, slavery and liquidation." He prescribes for our day "an old fashioned, heaven-sent, repentance producing, heart-cleansing Holy Ghost revival." He further stated that this revival would restore what he termed states rights, property rights, free enterprise and liberty. "American society is sick with sin," he said. "It is a society sick with the virus of wickedness, infected with a disease of destruction."

Certainly we are living in perilous times. It would be the utmost folly to deny this or close our eyes to this fact. It would be denying the plain word of God. These times are perilous because of the awful conditions now existing in the world as described in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. They are perilous because of the sleepy condition of the church as described in Matthew 25:1-5, and the lukewarm condition of the church (and this speaks primarily of the holiness churches) as described in Rev. 3:14-20. These times are perilous because of the shortness of time left to Us in this dispensation (see Matthew 24:32-39). In a current article written by Ray W. Johnson, he states that "for many years the Communists have let us know, by various means, that they expect to have world dominion by the year 1973. They now have let it be known that they consider themselves five years ahead of schedule." Startling! Yes. Many feel that a communist take-over in America could happen this summer and if so, we could very well lose our liberty of worship as we now know it and many of us end up in prison camps or martyrs for the cause by the time another fall season arrives. The hour is frightfully late!

Regardless of these facts, despondency, gloom and despair are never the attitude or atmosphere of the church of Jesus Christ. The possibility of revival still of the true church of Jesus Christ. exists in spite of the true facts stated above. Robb French in the foreword of his book THE REVIVAL SECRET, speaking of end time conditions, says "There is one star of hope that still beams brightly. It is the promise, 'I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.' We are still living in the Holy Ghost dispensation and this promise certainly spans the entire dispensation." Two strong Scriptural exhortations directed to the true church stand out in regards to the position the church should take in the final days before the Rapture. In Luke 21:28 we read, "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." The attitude of the church should be one of hope, expectancy, lifted up heads, the upward look -- certainly the opposite of gloom, despondency and despair. The second Scriptural exhortation that stands out is found in these words "Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13). Certainly, within these four words that fell from the lips of the Master lie the possibility, the promise and the command to expect and experience Holy Ghost revivals up to the very hour of the Rapture. How else could a

church expect to occupy till He came? To "occupy" means to carry on the work of the Kingdom. Impossible without Pentecostal revivals!

What are the prospects of seeing and experiencing a mighty Pentecostal revival in our midst? The Holy Ghost is the author of revivals and revivals are possible to the extent He is given right of way!

"In all the instructions of God's Word regarding revivals, quite the same pattern is followed" (Robb French). "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; Then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14).

The primary need of this hour is for a spiritual awakening and humbling of God's people. Can we not pray and believe God for this to take place in our midst? The Holy Ghost is the author of revivals: "He is the channel of reality. He gives eyesight to the spiritually blind. Vague, shadowy and unreal are spiritual truths to the carnal heart. The Holy Spirit leads us up to that mount of vision where we see things with God's eyes, where the world's reals become the believer's unrels, and the things unreal to blind unbelief become real to open-eyed faith" (Daniel Steele). The Holy Spirit will come and work where He is invited and where He is honored. This is the "sleepy age" for the church (Matt. 25) Can we not believe God for an awakening in our midst? Isaiah reminds us that God is not unwilling; "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." The trouble is that "None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth."

A genuine Holy Ghost awakening would certainly bring a humbling of God's people and a desire for TRUTH, for then we would be willing and able to see ourselves as we really are. "Truth is conformity to fact or reality. Eternal happiness is in building on the granite of reality and laying every hewn stone by the plum line of truth" (Daniel Steele) Do we really want to face truth? What are the real facts? What is the truth about us as a holiness people, as a Bible Missionary Church? To face up to reality is the first step toward Pentecost. Holiness movements prior to us have gone down by failing at this point until they have become invested with a delusion of a false success. Are we eternity-conscious or "church success" conscious? Do we live every moment of every day under the eye of God and in the light of the Judgment seat? Are we looking at what we are doing and complimenting ourselves about these things, but failing to see what we lack? Are we trying to preserve a reputation at the price of truth? Revival tarries many times because men steal the glory that belongs to God (John 5:4). We parade the flesh in our gatherings when it is only by His grace any of us are what we are. We sell men publicly for more than they are worth in private life, and to that extent violate the plumline of truth.

There is an invisible power working through the entire extent of God's creation that we call gravity. What would happen to the splendor and orderliness of the universe without this invisible force? The Holy Spirit is the invisible power of the sanctified church. When this power is operating sin, salvation; heaven, hell, conviction, genuine repentance, Holy Ghost praying are put in their true light. When this power is lacking (look at church history) or has been lost, holiness churches have become invested with a delusion of a false success, while within their own ranks bitterness, strife, division, gossip, backbiting and covered sin form an undercurrent that smothers

Holy Ghost revival power. They have fallen prey to shallow altar work and have covered up subtly and perhaps without realizing it, the loss of glory with an all out humanized effort to build their particular Zion. To say we are not in the grip of this danger is to already admit our delusion and to fail in the first step that leads to a genuine revival -- that of awakening and humbling which comes when individuals and groups give honor and precedence due the Blessed Holy Spirit. Oh God! Awaken us and humble us!

Pentecost not only has in it the elements of awakening and humbling, but there also must be an urgency in prayer. "If my people . . . shall humble themselves and pray." Read these words penned by a burdened heart: "The biggest single factor contributing to delayed Holy Ghost revival is the omission of soul travail in pulpit and pew. We are substituting propaganda for propagation. We have not yet resisted Unto blood in prayer. Nay, we do not even get a sweat on our souls, as Luther put it. We pray with a "take it or leave it" attitude. We pray chance prayers. We offer that which costs us nothing! We have not an 'even strong desire' but our very prayers are fitful, moody and cold. The only power that God yields to is that of prayer. We will write about it but not fight in it. Over the doors of our (holiness) churches (how about our camp grounds?) can be written: 'We wrestle Not!' We display our gifts, natural or spiritual; we air our views, political or spiritual. We preach a sermon or write a book to correct a brother in doctrine. But who will storm Hell's stronghold? Who can say the Devil nay? But who can deny himself good food or good company or good rest that hell may gaze upon him wrestling with hell's captives, depopulating hell, and leaving in answer to his travail a stream of bloodwashed souls?"

The final step to the realization of an opened heaven and an outpoured Spirit is the removal of the difficulties that grieve the Spirit. "... and turn from our wicked ways." The Holy Ghost is the author of revivals. The difficulty is, He being infinitely pure, must have a clean channel through which to send out His divine rivers. The disciples were all with one accord in the upper room. That must mean there was no bitterness, no strife, no division, no gossip, no backbiting, no covered sin and no immorality among them. The channel was clean and clear. To the extent we can attain to that, just to that extent can we experience the out-pouring of Pentecostal revival in our day.

Yes, to the extent we can attain to that! In the finality; however, it comes down to the individual. In an article written by Leonard Ravenhill he states "Some declare that Patrick Henry did more to pave the way for freedom and liberty in America, than any other man in its history. Hear him, fired with passionate devotion for his people, as he speaks at the Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775: "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery: Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

"If communism should conquer the world, terrible and unimaginable as that might be, there is a greater horror to the true child of God, -- that of eternity in an endless hell for the unrepentant."

Oh God! We must have Pentecost -- give us Holy Ghost revivals and keep them burning until Jesus comes!

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July, 1968 Editorial
INDISPENSABLES

The events, pressures, atmosphere and anti-Christ spirit of the last days of this dispensation are on us NOW. We read in Matthew 24:37 "But as the days of Noe were, so also shall the coming of the Son of man be." I read somewhere that six things marked the days of Noah prior to the flood. These are glaring realities in this day that let us know the time is short. (1) Rapid advance of all mechanical arts. This marked the characteristic of the Cainite age, no doubt basically prompted by an attempt to compensate for a lost Paradise. The heart of humanity is a void without God, but the unregenerate heart is darkened and so endeavors to regain Paradise by means that are artificial. In the past few decades witness the feverish, almost unbelievable advance in sciences and arts. (2) Great increase in population. In the Cainite age "men began to multiply." Today the "population explosion" is threatening humanity with, the problem of survival. (3) Disregard of the divine law of marriage, Sexual immorality has reached an all time debasing level both inside and outside the marriage vows. "The God who made us is characterized by a basic attribute of holiness, which is another name for morality. It therefore follows that it is more important to be good than to be great. It is more important to be honest than to be wealthy. It is of far greater value to be true than to be famous. Our modern society rejects every one of these statements with the greatest contempt. As a result we will surely come under the judgment of Almighty God, inexorably soon. The word of that everlasting God states a sure and absolute principle in announcing that 'The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God.' America today is precisely in the place where it comes under the indictment of that deadly and announced judgment." (The Conference Messenger) (4) Rejection of the call to penitence and faith. The Sethites gradually also were overcome by the spirit of the age and God witnessed to that apostate world with a warning cry to repent. But no one paid attention. Today, even in the best of holiness circles, repentance is the need of the hour, but true Bible repentance is virtually paid no heed to in this day. Holiness people of this day are too proud to repent. (5) The union of the professing people of God with the world. (6) Self-glorification of mankind. The history of the Cainites begins with a murder and ends with the praise of murder. (Gen. 4:23, 24) Human life is cheap today and there are many ways to murder people.

In spite of all this, it is our conviction that God's revival may be held when we will and where we wilt. C. G. Finney believed that any body of Christian people, provided they whole-heartedly and unreservedly carried out God's will, could have revival. Jonathan Goforth in his book BY MY SPIRIT sets forth the indispensable factors in revival. He points out that God's Word makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is willing and ready NOW to give revival. Where there is a lack of revival it is due to man's lack of faith and obedience. If the Holy Spirit is not glorifying Jesus Christ as He did at Pentecost, we are to blame. It is the sin of unyieldedness that keeps Pentecostal revival fires from burning in our midst.

The first indispensable factor in revival is prayer. History reveals that every great awakening started with prayer. Revival comes in answer to prayer! Pentecost came as a result of a ten day prayer meeting. The Day of Pentecost is a revelation of what had taken place in that prayer meeting. The Reformation under Luther came as a result of prayer. It is said that in 1727 through prayer the Spirit was able to fuse the discordant elements among the Moravians until in that day

they became the mightiest evangelizing force in the world. The leaders of the Wesleyan movement laid emphasis on prayer and their great leaders spent hours a day in mighty prevailing prayer. Finney laid his success in revivals to the prayers of fathers Nash and Clary more than to his power of logic in preaching. In that oft quoted passage found in 2 Chron. 7:14 we read, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray." We wilt and falter at the cost! We would rather do anything else than pray. It is easier to preach, write, build churches, run schools, run denominations, than to engage in the kind of praying that sparks revivals. Can we not hear and heed the call of the Spirit to the place of prayer in this our day? It is indispensable to real Holy Ghost outpouring. The second indispensable factor is a back-to-the-Bible movement.

Effectual prayer is based on Christian men and women thoroughly believing in and pleading the promises of God.: The Bible to us must be in very truth the Word of God or our prayers can have no basis in reality. The Word of God is The Sword of The Lord. It is like a sharp two-edged sword, like fire, like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. The holiness people of today are marked by their lack of knowledge of the Word of God. It has not its proper place in their mind, their time, or their interest. To ignore, or give a minor place to the Book which alone testifies of the Lord Jesus is a grief to the heart of God. To read and heed the searching word of God, along with prayer, is indispensable to spiritual victory and blessing.

The third indispensable factor is the exalting of Jesus Christ in our hearts as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is past time to move out every personal, ecclesiastical, organizational idol and exalt Christ to His rightful place and let Him be the one and only exalted being in our midst. This was the secret of success in the life of the Apostle Paul from the time of his conversion until God called him home. He testified, "I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (I Cor. 2"2) We need a heart contact with the unsearchable riches of Christ. We must make room only for Him. Every idol must be smashed. Isaacs must be laid on the altar; the urge of self must be denied until He becomes all in all

God grant to the Bible Missionary people the indispensable ingredients that will make them an instrument of Holy Ghost outpouring in these final days of this dispensation.

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August, 1968 Editorial BLOCKADES AND COUNTERFEITS

In the time of war when a crisis or emergency arises where America's great battleships are involved an alarm is given. The Gong! Gong! of this "General Quarters" call is clearly .sounded out and every man aboard ship knows that without fail he must man his station within two minutes. No excuses are tolerated in the time of crisis. Failure to respond to such a call could amount to Willful betrayal of our country, which carries with it the possibility of punishment by death.

Likewise, in the spiritual realm in times of crisis an alarm is sounded out and God expects those who are enlisted in His army to man their stations. We read in part in Joel 2:12-17; "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the children... Let the.., ministers of the Lord weep between--the porch and the altar, and let them say, spare Thy people, O Lord,

and give not Thine heritage to reproach that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, where is their God?" The saint's main battle station in this holy war is the place of importunate prayer.

Sad, indeed, to contemplate that in the time of national and world crisis, such an hour finds professed Christendom in spiritual apathy and the church in general in apostasy. With our avowed enemy boasting openly that they will soon (not later than 1973 and now sooner, they boast) rule the world, is not the cause of God openly being reproached by the kingdom of darkness? Sad, I say, when the battle cry has been sounded out, to find the professed church languishing in ease and self-gratifying pursuits and not manning their God-appointed stations. Where are the saints who are weeping "between the porch and the altar"? Where are the churches that are consistently engaged in nights of agonizing prayer with fastings? What is hindering the work of God in our midst? We cannot blame God (Isaiah 59:1); we will not blame ourselves; we make "the times we live in" the scapegoat and rock along in our prayerless, ease.

The Church, now in its greatest crisis time, suffers from blockades within. Alexander Whyte, D. D., in an article entitled "No Answer," which appeared in the April issue of The Convention Herald, states: "Nobody would believe, but those of us who have come through it, the little trivial things that will stop God's ear, and shut His mouth and make Him our enemy. Somewhat too much money spent on ourselves, and somewhat too little spent on the Church of Christ and His poor will do it. Too little time and strength Spent in closet and intercessory prayer will do it. A prejudice nursed and not surrendered in time will do it. A grudge kept up will do it. An apology not made will do it. A too long and too free tongue will do it . . . A second sleep in the morning more than is necessary will do it. A knuckle of too-savoury mutton will sometimes do it, as Dr. Jowett was wont to say. No one could tell, no one who has not himself come through it all could imagine or could believe if it were told them, the triviality, and the absolute immateriality, of the things that will in some men's cases do it. God has kept up a life-long controversy with some of His saints about little things. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. You have it all there. It is as much as to say, the very God of peace turn a deaf ear to your most importunate and agonizing prayers, as long as there is a single speck of sin secretly staining any part of your soul. The very God of peace crucify every remaining affection in your spirit, and every remaining thought and feeling, and passion, in your soul, till you are absolutely blameless in His consumingly holy sight. The very God of peace empty you from vessel to vessel, and prune you to the quivering quick, and keep you in a seven-fold fire, till the coming of the Great Refiner in the glory of His Father. And, in like manner, the very God of peace demands of you also every moment of your time, and every mite of your money and every word of your mouth, and every beat of your heart. And not till He gets all that from you will He answer you one word; no, not for all your prayers,, and all your sweat, and all your tears." Does not this explain, in part at least, Why individuals composing the church are not qualifying to man the station of prevailing prayer during this "last hour" crisis time of this dispensation too many blockades that are keeping the Spirit from accomplishing His work of intercession in and through His church?

Not only is the Church of Jesus Christ plagued with inner soul blockades but this is a day of counterfeits, as pictured in the third chapter of Revelation. Here is pictured a church with a profession of genuineness knowing not their wretchedness, misery, poverty and nakedness. The

mature judgment of John Wesley was that it is a greater thing to retain than to gain sanctification; and his personal observation led him to state that hardly one person in three retain the grace of holiness. To continue in the true manifestation of a sanctified life demands continual progress, a going on from less to more, an unceasing transformation from glory to glory into a fuller likeness of the Son of 'God, through the inward ministry of the Spirit of the Lord. This spiritual advancement requires the constant abiding of the believer in the True Vine; and also, because he is a sentient being and not a material "branch," it requires the devoted and understanding co-operation of the will, through continuance in prayer and in the study of the divine Word. It is natural that there should be many counterfeits of the working of genuine grace. It was so in the times of the Old Testament; and there has been, through the intervening age, an unending succession of the cult of the Pharisaical, the religious professors who claim to possess what they have never experienced, and seek to imitate by outward acting the graces and gifts which can exist only when they are the outcome of the Spirit-filled life.

There is, however, in the spiritually mature child of God an inward discernment that sooner or later detects the unreal, and senses and rejects what is hypocritical. And so a set of terms has been formulated which aptly describe the difference between the true and the false. The first of these is sanctimoniousness, as distinguished from real sanctity. It defines the outward manner which apes the sweet refinement that springs from the work of the Holy Ghost in the life. It is like a veneer that has been put on over an inferior wood, and it often betrays itself by peeling off in places.

Another term is unctuousness in the place of spiritual unction. The latter cannot be imitated, springing as it does from an inward anointing; but there is an oiliness of manner in the unctuous person that deceives many. Unction frequently is manifested in public speech, when the urge of the Spirit gives a liberty of diction that touches the lips with unusual eloquence.

It would certainly be untrue to say that the Church of Jesus Christ in these last days is utterly void of genuineness. Thank God for the "remnant" of Spirit-filled saints in these last days. It is to these that the trumpet call is sounding out to "stand in the gap" and to man the station of a true intercessor.

May God stir up the Bible Missionary people to remove the blockades that hinder the Spirit from doing His work through them and to have discernment to detect and wisdom to rightly deal with counterfeits that sap the spiritual life from the true body.

Oh God! get us to the place where the cleansing, sanctifying power of The Spirit can qualify us to man the stations of intercessory prevailing prayer in "this our day."

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September, 1968 Editorial
MODESTY

We read in I Timothy 2:9, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel..."

We are being told today that "modesty" is a flexible word, that it is adaptable to the age in which we live, that ideals of modesty change with the times. However, the dictionary speaks of modesty as "decency," and the scriptures add to this that feminine dress should be with "shamefacedness and sobriety." I Tim. 2:9

Many, we fear, have fallen victim to a subtle, satanic brainwashing process until they have been at ease in accepting a less than Biblical, scriptural standard of dress and decency.

Brainwashing is a satanic technique as old as the human race. Satan is a past master in its art. He used it successfully on the first pair, bringing to them expulsion from the Garden of Eden. In this modern age it is used by him to liberalize the thinking of the church, to lower the bars, to remove old landmarks and tear down long-cherished ideals.

The substance of the brainwashing technique is to bring about in the individual mind or in public opinion a gradual change thought desirable. It begins by "injecting an idea" (Satan's approach in the Garden). When the "injection" process weathers the first shock, recruits favorable to the new idea are sought. It is surprising how Satan can succeed in getting influential, professed Christian people (many times even people who profess to be sanctified holy) to swallow his bait. Many will recall that a few years ago the wife of an internationally known evangelist injected the idea that it was perfectly permissible to wear "make up," "ear bobs," etc., if the wearing of these things was in the cause of winning the unsaved to Christ. The idea was advanced that conformity in appearance with the unsaved would lessen the strangeness of the person seeking to win the sinner to the narrow way. The idea caught fire at once and followers were quick to put the same into practice; a veritable "rash" of outward adorning was the result. Professed Christians accepted the thought as coming from one who was noted for her "spirituality." I am afraid that even holiness folks, many of them, at least professed holiness folks, fell for it. As a result, the battle against immodesty and worldly apparel has increased in intensity in our midst.

The next step in brainwashing: is to "belittle opinions that oppose," and this belittling soon gives way to open persecution. In the meantime, the new practice or idea is heralded far and wide as the only sane and sensible course to be followed.

Countless numbers of Biblical doctrines come under satanic brainwashing tactics. All it seems to take is someone to inject the idea of doubt for it to take root in the hearts and minds of the people.

Our Manual clearly states that "our women are to wear modest length dresses that come well below the knees at all times." It is because of this satanic brainwashing process that many of our women and young ladies and girls have belittled in word and in dress this standards of modesty. In an article entitled "Satanic Brainwashing," (to which we are indebted for many thoughts in this article), by J. Maxey Walton, he states: "The process of liberalizing the thinking of the holiness movement as to Biblical standards, especially the standards of dress and our attitude toward worldliness, is satanic and has been brought about by a gradual conditioning of the people to the point where they now accept standards which they once would have utterly abhorred. We

have been satanically conditioned to it until we now, without a blush, consider it the norm of things. This loss has not taken place in a day, but over a number of years.

"We are amazed, shocked and grieved at what we are beholding. We would not have believed that it would ever be true in holiness circles. We have been brainwashed to accept a new concept of 'modesty,' unknown formerly in holiness ranks. Its definition has become hazy and practically meaningless."

In old-fashioned holiness ranks where Bible standards were upheld and holy women moved in fear of grieving God, there was a definite "moral tone" in the matter of modesty. It carried with it the opposite of anything "suggestive;" suggestive clothing of all kinds was ruled out. The Bible standard of modesty is to beget clean thinking rather than sordid imaginations. Although styles change, the principles of modesty are changeless and have been from the beginning of time. Modesty is not a flexible word, adaptable to the age in which we live. The ideals of modesty do not change with the times.

Through subtle, satanic brainwashing many have let go of the true standard of scriptural modesty and have been persuaded that it meant "mere extravagance," or the "absence of extremism." We fear that holiness women are asleep to the fact that modern styles beget lust and evil thinking. No woman, whether she realizes it or not, can expose her person and not be party to an evil influence. Many of our women would be shamefully embarrassed if they know how many times holy men have been forced to bow their heads to save themselves from beholding the form-fitting, knee-showing garments of "holiness" women. God alone knows the temptation that these women present to members of the opposite sex. Christian young men are hard put at times to retain clean minds and still have to look at what they are forced by circumstances to look at in congregations and on platforms. Women certainly cannot plead ignorance, for ignorance of the law is no excuse and ignorance of the evils of modern dressing or undressing does not excuse from the effects of one's influence. God have mercy on our knee-showing, immodestly dressed women in our churches.

Many, we fear, have fallen into the fallacy of "comparative modesty." For example, a Mini-dress alongside the stark nakedness of a South African savage might appear modest by comparison, but a Mini-dress certainly cannot be considered modest in the true sense of the word. Likewise, comparatively speaking, knee-showing modern styles which appear in holiness ranks and among holiness people, may rate as "more modest" than a Mini-dress, but this fact does not stamp modern styles as truly modest. Comparative modesty is nothing but a subtle brainwashing process of the devil in an effort to put holiness women at ease, while allowing them to be immodest in their appearance. May God awaken our women to what true modesty is, that they may not follow a multitude to do evil or compare themselves among themselves, but to look to the Word of God for the standard that the Spirit has set forth for holy women.

"Oh, how cunningly brainwashing works; Someone yields to Satan's suggestion to question Biblical precepts, to go contrary to scriptural standards of modesty, to adopt outlandish and evil-provoking styles of dress. People are shocked at first; then they doubt the propriety of holding to old standards in view of modern fashions, the expense incurred and the worry entailed in trying to dress differently. The conscience becomes 'blunted' with the brainwashing; modern fashions are

'winked at' or at least condoned; imperceptibly the change is taking place. They are no longer shocked at the things that they allow. And then, almost inevitably, they espouse that which they once condemned and come to think of all of those who do not follow the tide as being out of class, fogies, almost nitwits." -- J. Maxey Walton.

Have we arrived at the sad pass that it is either "bow or burn" in the furnace of public opinion unless we acquiesce immediately to the new concept, which is to avoid near extremism or a comparative modesty? What the future holds for those who refuse to be brainwashed remains to be seen. Our Manual, with its standards of dress and modesty, was written by holy men and women who felt that this was the Bible standard for people who profess to be sanctified holy. Recently I received a letter from a friend of mine who is now a General Superintendent Emeritus of a small holiness group. He wrote as follows: "I have often thought that if I were giving you and your church counsel I would say this: Whatever are your standards along this or that line, TV, jewelry, (dress,) or what it may be, keep hammering away at it or you won't have those standards long. The theory that 'if you get them sanctified the Spirit will talk to them about those things' just hasn't worked out in the practice of other holiness churches. Whatever your principles and standards, stand by them and hammer away. It will bring reproach, but it will help to keep your church clean."

May God help us as Bible Missionary people not to capitulate in this late hour. We are depending on our holy women not to let us down in this awful hour of falling away.

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October, 1968 Editorial
ACCEPTING THE MARK OF THE BEAST

We read in Revelation 13:16, 17 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Then again in the fourteenth chapter, verse nine through eleven: "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of: his name."

It is plain from the above scripture that the day is coming when all on earth, including men, women, boys and girls, will be required to accept THE MARK of the beast in their right hands or in their foreheads. To refuse will mean violence and death and to accept will mean eternal damnation. Multitudes of professed Christian people draw back in horror from the thought of ever yielding to the point of accepting THE MARK and declare they "will never be guilty of that." But, I am not so sure!

Satan is a subtle, clever enemy. He knows just how to soften and condition the human mind and heart and make them a fertile seed bed in which to plant his nefarious seeds that will fructify in eternal damnation. He patterns and works after the designs of an infinite God, except that he works toward his own diabolical ends. The great events of history have had fore-runners, advance agents to prepare the way and make ready the minds and hearts of the people. John the Baptist came as the fore-runner for Christ and His Gospel. In like manner and for decades, and even centuries, Satan has been subtly at work preparing the world for the coming and the acceptance of Anti-Christ. We have only to note, for example, the inroad that evolution, communism, etc., have made upon this world. First there was the utter abhorrence, then toleration, then acceptance of these ideologies. We should ever be mindful that the Devil does not come at first like a roaring lion and with hoofs and horns but in a sly, deceitful, cunning way. His greatest device is deception. He has worked long and hard to gain an acceptance in the human mind; the softening process has been going on for years, until that fatal day will arrive when the multitudes will, without resistance, accept his mark that will forever put them beyond redemption. Included in this lot will be the bulk of the professed holiness people. But how, you ask, could this ever be brought to pass?

His method has ever been the same from the beginning. When Satan succeeds in getting people, through reasonings, to accept anything less than God's will as revealed in His Holy Word, be it heartfelt salvation or standards of holy living and conduct, he has broken through the main barrier that will keep people from accepting THE MARK of the Beast. This was his tactics that worked successfully on the first pair in the Garden of Eden. No wonder God exhorts us in His word (2 Cor. 10:4, 5) to cast down "imagination (reasonings), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

If you think I am going too far to say that the bulk of the professed holiness people will, without hesitation, accept THE MARK of the beast, then I will remind you that they have already gone a long way in that direction and to this hour have been and are accepting his bait.

Through "carnal reasonings" Satan has deluded multitudes of professed holiness people into willingly allowing the whiskey industry, the beer industry, the tobacco industry to bring their advertisements in the most alluring way right into their front rooms. They have allowed the greatest crime breeder in America and the greatest hindrance to education and church attendance a place in their homes and lives. They have done this through condoning the "devil captivated device" of television. People who pray through to real victory give up this "device of Satan," While multitudes accept this fore-runner of the mark of the beast.

The line of demarcation and association has been broken down between the church and the world. Through the gateway of intercollegiate sports, Kiwanis Clubs, extra-curricular activities in public schools, etc., vital holiness groups have, across the years, accepted ungodly associations. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" Thus, gradually, are old line holiness groups coming to accept or endorse the present order of Socialism, Communism, Catholicism, one-world government, one-world church, as advocated by the National Council of Churches and to do so to accept the program of the BEAST to the present time. Many of the present

holiness groups are members or associate members of these godless associations. "Blessed is the man (or group) that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly."

They accept the ungodly "easy believe-ism" of this day, along with its liberalism and popular evangelism that does not require eradication of the sin principle holiness in name, but not in the reality of a personal, inner heart experience. Thus the deluded seekers are left in a heart condition that makes them an easy prey to the subtle inroads of evil.

They accept the ungodly literature that is flooding the markets of this world. One "holiness" preacher acknowledged that he relaxes after strenuous preaching services by reading the sensual pornographic literature that can be purchased off the magazine stands today, violating the direct command of the Scriptures that we should bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

They accept the ungodly standards of modern dress. The repulsive, sickening, shameful and soul-damning fashions of our day did not appear over night. They have swept this ungodly world until one wonders where it will stop. But these modern fashions have influenced the dress styles even in our beloved Zion, until we fear that in this regard, the program of the Beast has been accepted, even in our own ranks.

Awake! Awake! is our cry. Satan and his satellites have schemed for a long, long time to make his AntiChrist system acceptable to humanity at large. Comparatively few people any more are prepared to take their stand against the world's spirit -- popularity, salary, success are at stake. How far have we gone? What have we already accepted? Let us beware that we are not deceived and eternally damned.

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated, needs but to be seen;
But seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

Just how many steps do you suppose we are away from embracing "The Mark of The Beast"?

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November, 1968 Editorial

THE GLORY OF THE LORD OR ICHABOD -- WHICH?

We read in Exodus 40:33,34: "So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."

THE GLORY OF THE LORD! What is it? The peculiar, divine seal of God's approval and the sign of His presence (not necessarily outward demonstration). One of the identifying marks of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah tells us concerning Christ in chapter forty, verse five, "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Again, in Heb. 1:3 we read concerning Christ, "Who being the brightness

of his (God's) glory..." It is that which made Andrew cry out, "We have found the Messiah." Yet Matthew tells us (12:5) "He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets." An outstanding supernatural fact that sets the religion of the true and living God apart from false religions. (No wonder Dr. Bresee strove to "keep the glory down.") That which differentiates between a truly spiritual and vital Christianity and that which is formal, stilted and powerless. (The presence of God is sure to be accompanied by His glory.) That which cannot be counterfeited and which humbles, convinces and convicts. That life-giving power which is not accidentally nor arbitrarily revealed. That manifestation of the Supernatural which this sordid, sinful, hopeless, cynical world needs to see. That indefinable, supernatural seal of God's approval for which there is no substitute, nor for the lack of which zeal, activity, numbers and the like cannot compensate.

The glory of the Lord! How can it be obtained? It comes only when human beings meet the divine conditions. These conditions represent the "path to glory." There first must come the knowledge of the will of God. It was God's will for Israel that His glory should dwell in their midst, that they should be set apart as His peculiar treasure. God revealed to Moses how this could be made possible. "Let them make me a sanctuary.., according to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle." (Ex. 25:8, 9) Moses took time to seek to know God's will. We must welcome God's will if it is to be revealed to us. Many fear to seek His will. I wonder why? The revelation of God's will comes through communion with God. No one has ever fathomed the possibilities of personal communion with God. We cannot hope to know the divine will of God if we will not pay the price for constant contact with God. Far above mere activity or orthodoxy, God values communion. We, are sadly missing the mark and thus missing the glory by being busy, busy, busy with our human ways of carrying on the work of God, which in eternity will cause us embarrassment, remorse and undoing. It takes time and communion in which to "build a sanctuary" wherein the glory of God will dwell. When Moses descended from the mount of communion he had the pattern that would bring the glory of God into the midst of the camp.

In the second place, there must be obedience to the revealed will of God if we are to obtain the glory. "Thus did Moses: according to all that the Lord commanded him, so did he." (Ex. 40:16) There was the brazen altar, the place of blood shedding. We need the blood to cover our sins. We need the blood to cleanse our hearts. It is the application of the blood that will bring the Spirit's witness, start the joy flowing and cause the glory to be manifest. John's revelation is that God is light. If light reveals something in me I must say what God says about it (confess), then I can also see the blood to be the blood. "The old-fashioned holiness people need to leave the altar, go to one another -- not to criticize -- but to eat humble pie. Let God break our haughty, self-willed spirits

There has been enough slander and defamation to damn this entire generation. How far will we go in this deception, for God cannot and will not bless the ministry of a man who is carrying a grudge in his heart. Have we not preached confession to the laity? We are hypocrites if we are found guilty and yet refuse to take the humble place." (Convention Herald) God help us to avail ourselves of the blood through brokenness and contriteness, that the Spirit might witness and the glory might fall.

There was the laver of washing. Here the priests were ordered to "wash with water that they die not." (Ex. 30:20) This was certainly an emblematic washing signifying the need of the

continual process of cleansing which calls for a continual spirit of brokenness and contriteness. Is the glory withheld from us because of a failure to keep humble? "What happens in the ecclesiastical world when a man is invested with power over his fellows? Does it make him humble or arrogant? Do men change when they become superintendents or bishops over holiness pastors? . . . 'Can the strong be bold and take advantage of the weakness of the weak? Do Bible teachers and evangelists whom the Lord has lifted from obscurity retain their humility?... Does power corrupt spirituality? . . . The holy man is holy in the way he uses his power over his fellows, over his employees, over his family, and over the weak.'" (Convention Herald) God help us to keep humble, keep in the light, so the blood can keep cleansing.

There were the golden candlesticks -- the purpose to walk in the light. Men are not lost because of sins, but light. "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19) There must be that heart purpose to walk in light with our family, with our church, with our own heart and conscience. Light must be obeyed or there is darkness. Satan is ever active and we are subject to inroads of unbelief, fear, worry, depression, hardness toward a brother, dislike, self-pity, pride, coldness of heart, impatience, criticism, unkind thoughts, sharp words, jealousy, envy, partiality, hypocrisy. The bright light of God's abiding presence will keep us from being contaminated with these "seeds of Satan" and will keep the way open for the glory of God to abide. The humbleness of spirit and readiness to confess faults when the light of God reveals them keeps the blood cleansing and the Spirit witnessing.

There was the table of shewbread -- giving the Word of God its rightful place. Unless the Bible is to us in very truth the Word of God, our prayers can be naught but sheer mockery. Oh, the curse that is on this generation because of their willful, diabolical tampering with the Word of God. (Rev. 22:18, 19) The Author of the Bible is being greatly dishonored these days by the doubt cast upon His Word. But how about the multitudes of professed Christians who daily neglect the Word or through practical atheism deny the teaching of the Word in their lives? The Bible has a good deal to say about how and what we are to think, speak, dress, walk, keep the Sabbath Day, settle problems and differences. Could it be that our neglectful or sinful handling of the Word of Life is keeping the glory from our midst? Are we following the Word of God or the trends of the day? God is being dishonored through His Word. It is pathetic how many who profess to know the Lord Jesus Christ know so little of His Word. Where it has been accepted for what it claims to be, the Word of God has always been like a sharp two-edged sword, like fire, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. Oh, for a genuine back-to-the-Bible movement that will bring the glory in our midst!

There was the altar of incense -- giving prayer its rightful place. The history of revival shows plainly that all movements of the Spirit have started in prayer. The mighty spiritual upheavals in Reformation times came largely as the result of prayer. Without doubt the most striking aspect of the Wesleyan movement was the emphasis its leaders laid on prayer. "Was there ever in the whole of Church history," writes Bishop Hasse, "such an astonishing prayermeeting as that which, beginning (at Herrnhut) in 1727, went on one hundred years? It was known as the 'Hourly Intercession,' and it meant that by relays of brethren and sisters, prayer without ceasing was made to God for all the works and wants of His Church." Prayer of that kind always leads to action; it led to the beginning of modern foreign missions. Is there any reason, reader, why we

should not enter into that kind of prayer today? May God help us to put "the altar of incense" where it belongs.

There was the Holy of Holies the broken law over which was placed the mercy seat upon which the blood was sprinkled, and above it all, between the cherubims, the glory appeared and dwelt. There must be that willingness and determination to enter the Holy of Holies of a sanctified life. It was in the Holy of Holies that the glory appeared and dwelt, and it is at the end of self, when a full consecration is laid at the Master's feet, that a soul is enabled to enter the Holy of Holies and experience the glory of God abiding on him and in him.

Moses never lost the pattern given him on the mount. "So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and THE GLORY OF THE LORD filled the tabernacle:" While Moses was following the pattern others became idolatrous. Oh, the multitudes who have stepped aside from true holiness, have gotten busy building denominations and institutions and running church machinery. With the feverish rush of "human efforts" have come clash of personalities, hard feelings, ill will and a grieved atmosphere. But the glory does not stay with those who forsake the pattern, and with the Holy Spirit gone everything can (and eventually does) come in. Pleasure seeking, dancing, reveling, singing but not the type of song that comes from Spirit-anointed people, (The questionable type of music that is creeping into our midst is a dead give-away.) Moses saw that the people were naked -- the glory had departed, they had lost the pattern. It is possible to lose the pattern.

God help us, dear ones. It is tragic to be without the glory. The pattern for obtaining and retaining the glory is laid out in God's word. The command is "tarry ye ... until." "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." (Ps. 51:17) God grant to us as holiness people that we may possess the factors necessary to possess THE 'GLORY OF GOD!

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December, 1968 Editorial
CHRIST IN THE COW BARN

Barns are built for animals. People raise animals for the purpose of gain. At His birth Christ was abandoned to the stable and still today people are using Christ for gain and not for grace. The Yule season is buried in the greed of gain. In 1965 eight and a half billion dollars were spent in America for presents; one hundred and fifty million for wrappings; one hundred million for trees!

No, the world does not want Christ. He stands diametrically in their way of worldly ambition. They have dethroned Him and used Him for material gain. What a gold mine! This God-inspired virtue of "giving" has made millions for the greedy!

The Judases betray Him (Luke 22:47, 48). They have feigned their love to Christ with a "kiss." He has been delivered over into the hands of crucifiers and out of this the Judases have gained their "thirty pieces of silver." Their avariciousness must be satisfied at any cost (Matt.

26:14-16). Self must have what it wants! If the "five barley loaves, and two small fishes" are providentially withheld or are not in amount what the neighbors are enjoying they will have it at the cost of desecrating the Lord's day with unnecessary labor; hold down two jobs at the cost of health, both spiritual and physical, the family altar and faithfulness to the means of grace; Mere will go out and get a job and let the family shift (into sin) for themselves. SELF must be satisfied. We MUST have the "thirty pieces of silver." Let Christ be crucified! When Jesus laid out His demands of spirituality His "disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (John 6:66). These words of Jesus, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15), do not penetrate their carnal minds.

The Herods (there are many) fear Him! He is after their throne. Jesus Christ is King Immanuel. He was born a King to reign supreme in the souls of men. He is THE Eternal King! He will reign without a rival Or not at all. He is the King of our heart by every right. He does not insist on being King, but reigns only where He is invited. Did He not say, "Ye call me Lord and Master and so I am." Yes, He is! He does not insist on being, but where He is invited He is found to be very Lord and very Master --the Saviour of the soul both in time and in eternity. Where carnal self reigns death and damnation are the result.

Fear drove Herod to plot the murder of this Christ. This carnal self must live at any price. Herod through hypocrisy and deceit feigned to be a worshipper of this Christ Child. He wanted Christ dead. He must maintain his own throne. When self sits on the throne it demands obeisance be paid it. When this is denied pride, jealousy, envy, hatred, anger, murder strike out in an effort to make sure the throne is secure. Confusion, strife, war, every evil work known and suffered by mankind are the result.

This desire to be king -- to set my throne above the throne of God -- is at the heart of man's trouble. This is why people choose a church of their choice -- because they want a gospel of their choice and have a God of their choice. They want to be king themselves.

The "chief priests" and "elders" envy Him (Matt. 27:18). They delivered Him up to be crucified. His principles, His teachings, His laws of righteousness demanded an end to their self-contained ways. This Holy Christ, this King of Righteousness, threatened their usurped authority over men. This is why carnal men in leadership are a curse to any church or organization. Their actions, their decisions, their "how will this affect me?" attitude, their "having respect of persons" tendency, their bowing to personalities, are efforts to maintain their standing among men. Their position must be retained. Self must reign at any cost. "Position" must not be forfeited! All this clamors for HIS crucifixion.

The Peters deny Him (John 13: 36-38; 18:26-27). "Self" must be accepted. If the demands of this Christ, His virtue, His holiness, His honesty and truthfulness, His purity, His uprightness, His absence of deceitfulness and pride make me unacceptable to the "crowd," away with Him. I will silence my testimony (John 12: 42; 18:21), compromise my appearance, pollute my speech (Matt. 26:72-74), if only "I" can be accepted by the "crowd" and have that sense of "belonging" -- SELF must be spared. Where carnal self has not been slain fear drives its victim to rid itself of this Christ. Why? This world will not have Him. Make up your mind, reader -- it is either death to this

carnal, cringing, Christ-denying self or eternal death. What "crowd" do you want to "belong" to in ETERNITY? Better suffer death now than death eternal.

His "chosen twelve" forsook Him (Matt. 26:56). This was prior to Pentecost. When one passes through death he can die no more -- death holds no fear for him. "Perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (John 4:18). Where "Self" exists men will crucify this Holy Christ, they will shun, criticize and crucify "carnality" preachers who demand death to this self. His twelve forsook Him because they were filled with place-seeking fear, unbelief, lethargy, pride. Their champion was being rejected and, for them, that would mean the end of SELF. They forsook Him to save self!

Reader, are you using Christ for gain? Are you choosing Barabbas instead of Christ? You can live for self and the world and die forever, or die to self and the world and live forever with this Christ!

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THE END