

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication  
Copyright 2000 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and  
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with  
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this CD.

**ARTICLES BY PERRY E. THOMAS**  
**With a Memoir of Him**  
**Following His Homegoing**

**Compiled by Duane V. Maxey**

\* \* \* \* \*

Digital Edition 09/08/2000  
By Holiness Data Ministry

\* \* \* \* \*

**INTRODUCTION**

There are 14 divisions in this publication -- 13 articles by Perry Thomas and a Memoir of him following his triumphant Homegoing. All of the material in this publication comes from The Missionary Revivalist, and I have arranged the articles according to the chronological sequence of their publication. -- DVM

\* \* \* \* \*

**01 -- MEDITATION**

From the March, 1966 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

Today I sat in a funeral parlor. A lovely place with water-fall, growing plants and soft lighting. The whole theme of decoration spoke of life. Nonetheless, in the midst of this "theme of life", death was present. The beautiful casket with its lifelike, yet lifeless occupant; the sorrowing family and the quiet, sober congregation brought out the fact too plainly that "man goeth to his long home."

I pause a moment to think and my mind automatically voices the question of James "What is your life?" It seems to me I can hear the Bible echoing back the answer ; let us listen to what it says Your life is "a tale that is told", "a pilgrimage", "a swift post", "a weaver's shuttle", "a swift ship", "a hand breadth", "as a shepherd's tent removed", "as a weaver's thread cut", "a dream", "a sleep", "a vapor", "a shadow", "a flower", "water spilt on the ground", "grass", "wind". Man is in

a quest for permanence in this life, yet God says he is so pitifully frail, like grass that withers, wind that passes by and a vapor that rises.

Yes, I sat in that funeral parlor and my heart was sad. As the speaker droned on it seemed I could hear the sibilant hiss of the serpent. The words were smooth and soft spoken. He even read some scripture, but it seemed to be in a detached sort of way. Then it was all capped off by reading chosen passages from Science and Health, written by that apostle of darkness, Mary Baker Eddy. It was a Christian Science funeral. This "Wisdom" cult has nothing to offer when death reaches up to shake hands. How Sad! No Jesus to offer. No one to say, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." No Christ to take the hand when one must step into the murky waters of death. No one to be a light in the valley of the shadow of death. How different it is with the Christian religion! How wonderful it is to have Jesus! No wonder John Wesley could truthfully say "Our people die well."

\* \* \* \* \*

## 02 -- THE MARKS OF A BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN

From the July, 1966 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

A Christian is one who has entered into a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ. This is not simply a reformation but regeneration. In reformation there is no source of power outside the human to perform the good resolutions. New Year's resolutions break down at this very point not because of insincerity, but because of a lack of power to carry out the good proposed. In regeneration there is plenty of power to live as we should. A new Personality with all power is infused into our lives. "Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9 In this experience we are born again, not of physical or natural generation, but of the spirit. It is an actual birth into the spiritual realm. Read St. John 1:12,13; and 3:3-8. By the New Birth we are adopted into the family of God, and being members of God's household, we naturally inherit privileges belonging to the family.

The born-again Christian lives in a distinctly new realm from where he formerly resided. He no longer lives in the state of sin and death, but has been transported into the spiritual country of life and peace. "And you hath he quickened (made alive) who were dead in trespasses and sins. (Eph. 2:1) The Christian has changed his citizenship. He now belongs to the Kingdom of God. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." (Eph. 2:19) In truth, he has become a pilgrim and a stranger and his sentiments are the same as those of the poet who wrote, "This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through; my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue." Because of this change the Christian radiates a completely different atmosphere. He no more commits sin. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (John 3:9) "Sin is a WILLFUL transgression of a known law." If the Christian knowingly commits sin he forfeits his Christian experience and becomes a backslider.

However, sinful desires have been left behind and in their place have sprung up spiritual desires. You will find the born-again man at church on the days of worship. When revivals are in progress he will be there praying, testifying and boosting in every way possible. Why? Simply because he is a real Christian. He who formerly desired the pleasures of the world now desires the things of God. If you think this is placing Christianity on too high a plane, listen to the words of Paul, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (I Cor. 5:17) We notice the foregoing scripture says "ALL THINGS are become new," which certainly takes in our desires and the old way of life. From this truth we can easily see why a real Christian shuns evil. He has no appetite for it. When smutty stories are told he will walk away or, if necessary to remain, will turn a deaf ear. A Christian is interested in the clean and wholesome, whether in life, reading or conversation. He is honest and will not knowingly cheat or take advantage. He is truthful in all things and one can depend on what he says being the truth as far as he personally knows.

The true Christian has a new set of values. He lives by divine laws and principles. Implicit faith in Jesus Christ and in the Bible is the law of his life. The Bible is the end of all controversy to the Christian. He never thinks of changing or explaining away the plain meaning of scripture, but his one desire is to live according to its teaching. This wonderful faith in Christ as his Saviour brings peace and rest to the soul. The blind hymn writer, Fanny Crosby, expressed it in this way, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; oh, what a foretaste of glory divine: heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His spirit, washed in His blood."

As we study about the marks that distinguish a true Christian we must remember this is not reformation, church joining, baptism or any of the forms. We are speaking of regeneration, being born again. It would be impossible to make such a change in our own strength, but when we are "born again" our strength comes from the Lord and this becomes our natural way of living.

In Matt. 5:13-16 the Lord told His disciples they were to be the "salt of the earth" and also the "light of the world." From this we gather some more outstanding marks of the Christian. He is to live in the midst of this world which is rotting with sin and corruption, yet he is not to be tainted nor weakened by that contact, but by his righteous living he is to repress wickedness and help lift the moral plane of society around him. Thus he can show that Christianity is real. He also is to be a light in this world of darkness and is to point men and women to salvation through Christ. This is to be done by the way he lives as well as by his testimony. Christ expects our life and testimony to be as lights, witnessing to the truth of our Christian profession.

The outstanding characteristic of a truly Christian life is love. Love for God and man becomes the guiding principle in the life of a Christian, replacing hatred and greed which formerly ruled his life. The Bible states that "God is love." Read I John 4:7-21. From this passage we see that love, love manifested, is necessary if one is to be a Christian.

One has said that a Christian is simply a Christ-controlled character: in faith he is a believer; in knowledge -- a disciple; in character -- a saint; in influence -- a light; in conflict m a soldier; in communion -- a friend; in progress -- a pilgrim; in relationship -- a child; in expectation -- an heir; in love -- a brother; in service a slave.

We may summarize the marks of a born-again Christian this way: He has experienced the new birth and has the assurance of sins forgiven. He now lives his life in the realm of the spiritual rather than the worldly. He belongs to the family of God and his citizenship is in heaven. Love is one of the manifest traits of his life. He believes and lives according to the Bible. He testifies to his experience both by word and deed, does not commit sin, has peace and joy, is morally upright, truthful and honest and has a good spiritual appetite. "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

\* \* \* \* \*

### 03 -- ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

From the January, 1967 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God." Psalms 9:17.

The truth contained in the above quoted scripture has fallen into disrepute. Atheists, agnostics, modernists, and false cults are going to all lengths to try to disprove the doctrine of eternal punishment for the finally unrepentant. The fires of hell have burned out, say they, and the ashes have grown cold. To them the doctrine went out with the horse and buggy. It was only a threatening club used by the early "hell-fire" preachers to frighten simple minded people into turning to the Lord.

In order to find the truth let Us turn to the Bible; it is the end of all controversy concerning things spiritual. Jesus spoke of the awful place over fifty times. This is many more times than He spoke concerning heaven. The words used concerning hell are so explicit that no honest person can mistake their meaning. Let us read a few of the many passages found in the New Testament:

"The Son of Man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 13:41-42. "Ye serpents, ye vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Matt. 23:33. "These shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 24:46. "Where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched." Mark 9:46. The quotations along this line could be multiplied but these will suffice to prove this is a scriptural doctrine.

Hell is a necessary place. It is the prison house of the universe. Sin, which is rebellion against God, makes hell an absolute necessity. Some years ago while in a revival meeting at Jefferson City I was shown through the Missouri state prison by the Sunday School Superintendent who was also personnel director of prisons. In one building my attention was drawn to a steel cat-walk running around the wall near the top of the building. To my inquiry our guide explained this was the place they kept the incorrigibles, those who will not come under discipline. Those men, he continued, if allowed freedom within the prison would stir up rebellion and create a riot, so they are never allowed out of those little cells. Immediately I saw the analogy. Unrepentant

sinner have rebellion in their hearts and if left free would create trouble and riots in heaven. There must house for incorrigible sinners in order for there to be a heaven where peace reigns.

Hell must be eternal in order that heaven may be eternal. The words "eternal" and "everlasting" punishment must have the same thought as far as time is concerned for they are both translated from the same Greek word. What a barren place it must be for people carry their lusts there but find no means to satisfy them. Were we asked, "What is Hell?" a simple answer could be given: "Separated from God, accursed of God, condemned to punishment, and that forever." However, for the multitudes, hell is a truth seen too late.

How sad that so many are reluctant to listen to this truth preached, for because of hearing we make preparation to escape that terrible place. Jesus spoke so clearly in His story of Lazarus and the Rich Man that no one need wonder what he was talking about. We are told this is a parable, yet it certainly doesn't read like one, and even if it is, a parable always represents a truth and it is easy to see He was speaking of future punishment for the sinner. Turn in your Bible to St. Luke 16:19-31, carefully and prayerfully read this account. My Friends, don't you think that is plain enough to cause you and me to make careful preparation to go to heaven? How strange that any would take a chance of missing heaven and going to hell.

This awful place will be void of mercy. Here in this life we take mercy for granted. On many lines we show mercy to others as a matter of course and expect to receive the same, but in that dismal region the dove of mercy will have spread her lily white wings and flown away forever. The little enjoyments that most everyone enjoys in this life will be gone. There will be no happy, carefree companions there; instead the Bible says there will be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.

These are a language all their own; they speak of sadness; hopelessness, despair, helpless and impenitent rage. Light will be gone forever. In this life we expect the lovely orb of the sun to peek over the horizon every morning, but hell is spoken of as a place of outer darkness. How great that darkness is I don't know. If you have ever been in a place of absolute darkness such as a deep cave you know just a little bit about it. There is something very depressing about darkness. It is used in prisons to break the will of rebellious inmates.

Eternal punishment will mean banishment from the presence of Christ and all that is good. Think of a place with no Bible, no love and no Christ. Along with what we have mentioned there will be actual pain. The Rich Man said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

My dear Friend! There is a way of escape. There is a highway that leads straight through to the gates of heaven. It is called the highway of holiness. Listen to the voice of Jesus, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." The last chapter in the Bible echoes the call, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

\* \* \* \* \*

## 04 -- RELIGIOUS CANNIBALS

From the June, 1967 Missionary Revivalists

\* \* \*

According to the Apostle Paul all cannibals are not outside the pale of the church organization. He warned the Galatians: "But if ye bite and devour one another take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." James, speaking in the same vein of thought, tells us the tongue is a fire; a world of iniquity; defiles the whole body; is full of deadly poison; an unruly evil and can be tamed by no man. Observation proves him correct.

It is a mystery indeed how certain ones seem to derive enjoyment from using the tongue to "bite and devour". Folk do not seem to realize that running the other fellow down is a very cheap, and often obvious, way to brag on themselves! These people use the timeworn excuse that they are naturally outspoken, and just say what they think. This can be a virtue and in certain cases is absolutely necessary, but more often it is a nasty little vice. The book of Proverbs tells us the fool does the same -- he speaks all his mind. Frequently this is nothing more than a sadistic desire to get even or "tell the other fellow off."

Why are folk so ready to pounce upon a fallen comrade like a pack of hungry wolves? If a brother has fallen or gone from us, let us say as much good and as little evil about him as conscience will allow. We should use more of the wisdom and compassion of David. When Jonathan and Saul were slain by the Philistines David took up this lament "The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! TELL IT NOT IN GATH, PUBLISH IT NOT IN THE STREETS OF ASHKELON; LEST THE DAUGHTERS OF THE PHILISTINES REJOICE, LEST THE DAUGHTERS OF THE UNCIRCUMCISED TRIUMPH." A failure at this point gives the world and the devil plenty of ammunition against the church.

It has been said that great minds discuss ideas, mediocre minds discuss events, while small minds discuss people. This would seem to place some in the category of the Lilliputians that Gulliver found in his travels -- they were "little fellows."

I am fully aware of the fact it is sometimes necessary to discuss people. It is also necessary to take a stand where sin and compromise are involved; still too much is said by too many people, and this often with the wrong motive. In this business of talking, the golden rule should be practiced -- do unto others as you would have them do unto you. A preacher was once accused of undue familiarity with a young lady. A brother preacher would not accept his explanation and talked much to others about the incident. A few years later the talking brother had about the same accusation placed against him. Needless to say, he felt terrible that any of the Christian people should question his integrity. As the old saying goes "Chickens usually come home to roost," so be careful what you hand out.

My soul has been stirred by the way loose talk travels in Christian circles. The speedy manner in which news reaches from coast to coast makes one wonder just what means of communication was used. It seems to completely outdistance the telephone. However it is not too

reliable, for the message is usually garbled and has grown to such an extent it is hardly recognizable. Nevertheless, here is some good news for all: while traveling across country a few years back I discovered a sure cure for this dread disease. These words were written on a church bulletin board "When tempted to gossip breathe through your nose."

The tongue can be used to soothe, bless and encourage; or it can be used to blast, blight and devour. Surely no one wants to be known as a religious cannibal -- use your tongue wisely.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 05 -- THE BIBLE -- First Article

From the November, 1969 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

Much is being done and said in the present age to discredit the Bible and make it as any other book. Not the least has been the great number of versions (or perversions) that have been foisted off on a gullible Christian community. These serve little purpose for the ordinary layman and are often a definite hindrance. These different versions discourage the memorization of scripture which is a vital necessity to all who would be spiritual. The question would immediately present itself, which version shall I memorize? And, of course, the rank and file would end up memorizing none. A word injected here in behalf of the King James Bible will be helpful. The beauty, purity and rhythm of its language lends itself wonderfully to memorization.

Another problem that is faced with all the new versions being placed on the market is the reliability and trustworthiness of the King James. If there are so many mistakes in the King James that it is necessary to write all these new versions how do we know that any are good enough to follow? It soon begins to create doubts in the mind about the Bible being the Word of God. As we see men tampering with the Holy Oracles there is a real danger of classing the Bible with man-made books and not what it actually is, the divinely inspired word of God. The Bible speaks for itself, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Without doubt the King James is the best to be had.

The Bible is God's word to mankind and there is absolutely no substitute for it. By reading the Bible man learns about heaven and the preparation necessary to go there. Voices on every side are pointing to an easier way but the Bible outlines the only SAFE WAY. This book is not a compromise with our desires but it is an ultimatum -- this is the way, walk in it -- or else!

The Bible is more than a book, it is a library; sixty-six books under one binding. It contains history, biography, poetry, prophecy and much personal testimony. Its aim is to teach man the way of salvation, to point him to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Its teachings are true and binding upon every one. Man cannot just take what he wants and leave the rest but the whole Bible is the gospel for the whole world.

The Bible contains the good moral teaching found in all other books combined. One great poet expressed it this way, "We search the world for truth; we cull the good, the pure, the beautiful; from graven stone and written scroll . . . from all old flower fields of the soul; and, weary seekers of the best, we come back laden from our quest, to find that all the sages said is in the book our mothers read." In truth, the Bible is our road map in the journey through life. Man is forever speculating about himself but the Bible gives definite information. It tells who he is; where he came from; what his destination will be and the preparation necessary to reach his desired haven. Man is not a product of evolution, he was created in the likeness of God. He is not a creature which emerged from the dim, dark past to hang from tree limbs by his tail but God made him in the same likeness he carries today; and He made him to be an intelligent worshiper of the God who created him.

If all other books were lost the Bible would be sufficient for man's happiness and well being here on earth and then would lead him safely home to an eternal heaven. One has well written, "The Bible is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter." Study this book to be wise unto salvation; live by its teachings to be holy. The Apostle Paul rightly says "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15).

To sum up the facts, the Bible will either be "man's meat or his poison." If he accepts it and lives by its teaching he will find satisfaction, happiness, holiness and heaven in the end, but if he rejects the Bible his problems will increase until in the end hell will be his portion.

The fact that man has sought to discredit the Bible and has left it out of his life accounts to a great extent for the dilemma he is in. Little wonder there is a spirit of lawlessness and lack of respect for property and human dignity. Men look to the material side of life to find the reason for race riots, divorce, sex-perversion, law breaking, etc., but they are looking in the wrong direction. Man is more than a material creature, he is also spiritual, and the spirit directs his morals and sense of right and wrong. Bible students recognize the turmoil as the spirit of antiChrist. The Apostle Paul said the mystery of iniquity (spirit of anti-christ or lawlessness) was already working in his day, however it is turned loose full force in our nation today. Nations are groping in the dark for some way out of the terrible situation they find themselves in, yet they have cut loose from the very anchor that could hold them steady in this time of storm. That anchor is the Bible, God's holy word. What irony, at a time when we need guidance most, our own dear nation has cast out prayer and Bible reading. George Washington, the father of our country, spoke words to this effect in his farewell address: our only safeguard of morals, both public and private is in religion. Honesty and common decency will not long survive in an atheistic climate. Real salvation and the presence of religious principles are the only safeguard to society as we know it. The Psalmist spoke eternal truth in these words "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

\* \* \* \* \*

06 -- THE BIBLE -- Second Article

From the December, 1969 Missionary Revivalist



\* \* \*

The Bible, which is the GOOD NEWS of God's love to man, has revolutionized the world. It enters the mind, affects the emotions and then captures the very citadel of "man-soul" . . . the will. That which deals with man's volition tampers with his eternal destiny. The Bible does just that. It brings him face to face with eternity. Without doubt the Bible is authentic.

The question may be fairly asked, "How do we know the Bible is God's word to man?" In answering we make the following unqualified statement, "The Bible can be proven to be the divine word of God in any unbiased court of law." This is speaking of the 66 books found in the Protestant Bible. Other writings have been added to the Catholic versions but they sink out of sight under their own weight. These writings lack intrinsic value -- the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and these have no real spiritual taste. It is significant that God put three warnings in the Bible against adding to His word. one by, Moses (Deut. 4:2), one by Solomon (Prov. 30:6), and one by John (Rev. 22:18, 19).

Now turning to evidence that will stand up in court:

(1). There is an inexplicable unity of the 66 books in subject matter, purpose and structure. These books were written over a period of 1600 years, by forty human authors and for the most part they were unknown to each other. The answer to this mystery is simple, "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21.

(2). How the scriptures have survived under adverse conditions. This Holy Book has survived nations and languages long since dead. There have been well organized, national attempts to destroy it. It has often been completely neglected by its friends. It has survived every chance to be lost, destroyed, or perverted. It has outlasted every new civilization with its added light and educational advantages; added to these facts, it is 500 to 1,000 years older than other famous writings.

(3). Its standard of character went far beyond those of any other age. From whence could these high ideals come? How would it be possible for the unaided human mind to conceive of such high standards of truth and morality? Only a Holy God would be capable of this.

(4). Another evidence is the effect of the scriptures on human lives. Where would you find writings that so completely probe the motives of the heart? That reach and fulfill the innermost desires? No other writings have so "great a cloud of witnesses" to testify to their transforming power. From ordinary folk like you and me to the greatest men the world has known -- skillful doctors who have dedicated their talents to the healing of the body in order that they might also heal the soul; missionary explorers such as David Livingstone who literally wear out their bodies and give up their lives for the sake of bringing men to the light of salvation; lawyers who have dedicated their wisdom toward making our great country a better place to live by giving us just laws based on the Bible; scientists, educators and preachers, who down through the years have been shining lights for God. These worthies by their deeds and testimonies continue to tell what the Bible has done for them.

We offer but a few examples of what great men have said about this greatest of all books: "The Bible is the best book in the world. It contains more of my little philosophy than all the libraries I have seen." John Adams, former President of the United States. William Wilberforce, the great statesman, when he was dying, uttered these words: "Read the Bible, read the Bible." These words from Gregory the Great, "A stream alike where the elephant may swim and the lamb may wade." "I gratefully receive and rejoice in the light of revelation, which has set me at rest in many things, the manner whereof my poor reason can by no means make out to me." John Locke, a philosopher. Famous words by Sir Walter Scott: "There is but one book -- the Bible!" These have been voices from the past. However, many of the greatest men of this present day could give the same kind of testimony.

(5). Minutely made and fulfilled prophecies. Thousands of prophecies have been fulfilled to the letter, and with many of these there were centuries between the utterance of the prophecy and the fulfillment of it. Note the life of Jesus Christ and the history of the Jews for only two examples. It is an education within itself to follow God's dealings with the Jewish people. If, along with this, one will carefully analyze the current news he will find the hands of God's prophetic clock are coming close to the hour of midnight.

The Bible, especially the Old Testament, contains numerous deeds and statements that have to do with secular history. If it can be proved these were not correct it would be proof the writers were not inspired. Let us look at geology . . . notwithstanding all the rash statements that have been made, geology simply confirms the order of creation given by Moses. As the geologist studies the rock strata, if he is honest and will weigh all the facts, he must admit there is no contradiction to the Genesis account. The Bible is not primarily a book of science, but of salvation; therefore it does not go into detail on these subjects, but there is enough recorded to give a general outline and prove that creation is the truth.

Now let us call archaeology to the stand. The dictionary defines this word as "the scientific study of the material remains of past human life and activities; the remains of the culture of a people." Here again, if the archaeologist's spade could prove the Bible wrong it would be proof against inspiration; but what are the facts? Of the THOUSANDS of discoveries NOT ONE has been found that contradicts the statements of scripture; yet as MULTITUDE of facts have been found VERIFYING the truth of the Bible as to the history, the people, and the geography of the countries spoken about.

Bible critics denied the existence of the cities of Nineveh, Ur of the Chaldees, etc. They said there was no such people as the Hittites and that men such as King Sargon and Sennacherib did not exist. Thanks to archaeology there is now indisputable evidence that all of them existed. To name one incident, the capital city of the Hittites was found, showing a great people and an advanced civilization.

There are numbers more but one example will suffice. Critics claimed St. Luke made a mistake in dating the birth of Christ. They said that Augustus was not ruler at the time of the great census taking (taxing). Again they were proven wrong. An inscription was found on a pillar of an old Roman Empire temple completely agreeing with Luke's statement.

In closing this study concerning the Bible we are reminded of the old Huguenot monument left to this great Book. Chiseled on the stone were these words. "Hammer away ye hostile hands, your hammer breaks, God's anvil stands!"

\* \* \* \* \*

## 07 -- THE BIBLE -- Third Article

From the January, 1970 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

The Bible is the most unusual and outstanding book in the world. Down through the ages multitudes have perused its pages and studied its teachings. As honey attracts flies and a magnet attracts steel, so the Bible attracts people. Different writings have captured the public fancy and for a time seemed headed for the immortal list but most have been cast aside and relegated to the "forgotten shelf," while the Bible stands forth today as a shining light and is a bulwark to our society against the encroachment of sin, immorality, and unbelief. Granted, many read it for arguments sake and to pick flaws, nevertheless it is read and will have its effect -- at least in a measure. Isaiah spoke these words: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Lew Wallace, a skeptic and also a brilliant writer, was challenged by his colleague, also an unbeliever, to write a book refuting the Bible. Wallace accepted the challenge and began a program of extensive research. The more he studied the more convinced he became of the truth of the Bible. He ended up writing the novel *Ben Hur*, a book aimed at proving the Bible and the divinity of Jesus Christ.

An atheist was once asked why he did not leave the Bible alone if he didn't believe it to be the word of God. His answer throws light on the reason so many folk are set on destroying this great Book -- "Because," said he, "that Book won't leave me alone!"

To read the Bible is to know it is divinely inspired. No place else within the compass of literature can you find a statement like the opening verse of the Bible. It is profoundly simple yet simply profound. "In the beginning God!" Other religious systems stumble and fall over this statement. They go to great lengths to prove their gods. The Bible does not need to, it is God's revealed word to man -- it is truth! "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Here is the creation story in a nut shell. It scraps Darwin's theory of evolution and casts it aside as a broken toy. The Bible doesn't need some one to prove it or defend it, just turn it loose and the Bible will defend itself. Man defending the Bible reminds me of the story of the circus train which was wrecked near a country village and a cage containing a huge African lion was thrown into the ditch. The people all came to view the wreckage bringing their dogs with them. The dogs scenting the lion set up a deafening noise with their baying. An old farmer became excited and cried "defend the lion, defend the lion." A circus man spoke up in disgust, "just turn the lion loose and he

will defend himself." The Grand Old Book needs no defense; just read it, it is its own best defense!

"What a treasure we have in this wonderful Book  
'Tis the word of the Lord to my soul,  
So secure that no critic can mine it away,  
While the years of eternity roll."

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, had this to say about the inspiration of the Bible. "I beg leave .to give a short, clear and strong argument for the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible must be the invention of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

(a) It could not be the invention of good men or angels for they would not write a book and tell lies all the time of writing, saying, 'Thus saith the Lord' when it was their own invention.

(b) It could not be the invention of bad men or devils for they could not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their soul to hell for eternity.

(c) I, therefore, drew the conclusion that the Bible must be of Divine inspiration."

The Bible is a book primarily setting forth how man can be saved from sin. Its leading character is a man (God-man) by the name of Jesus Christ. He is the theme, the heart and soul of this great Book. This is set forth admirably in the wonderful sermon "Christ and the Bible" by Dr. J. B. Chapman, from which we will take the liberty to quote at length: "In Genesis Jesus is the 'Seed of the woman' that bruises the serpent's head. In Exodus He is the Paschal Lamb whose blood upon the lintels and the door posts caused the destroying angel to 'Pass over.' In Leviticus He is the Great High Priest whose intercessions are accepted for all who believe. In Numbers He is the guiding Pillar of Cloud and Fire on the way to our promised land. In Deuteronomy He is the 'Prophet like unto Moses' who shall teach His people and guide them unerringly. In Joshua He is 'the man with the drawn sword' come to command the hosts of the Lord to lead them on to victory. He is the Judge, just and supreme, in the book of Judges. He is the model husband (the Ishi of the Church) in the Book of Ruth. He is the unerring seer in the Books of Samuel, the faultless King in the Books of Kings, the unfailing Sovereign in the Books of Chronicles, the Pattern Preacher in Ezra, the Restorer of waste places in Nehemiah, and the Deliverer of the Nations in the Book of Esther. In Job He is the Lord of the Resurrection and the Daysman or Umpire who will give us consideration in the game of life. In the Psalms He is the Good Shepherd, the Shield and Buckler, the Fortress and Strong Tower. He is the personification of Wisdom in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, and the Ideal Lover in the Song of Solomon. In Isaiah He is the Child born, the Son given, the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor, and the Suffering Saviour. He is the Balm of Gilead and the Great Physician of Jeremiah, the Only Hope of Lamentations, the Reviver of the dry bones in the valley in Ezekiel, and the Stone cut out of the mountain without hands which shall destroy all kingdoms of the earth and itself fill all the earth in the Book of Daniel . . . the opener of the Cleansing Fountain in Zechariah, and the Purifier of the Sons of Levi in Malachi. In the New Testament Jesus breaks forth as the Messiah of the Jews in Matthew. . . In Revelation Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega."

The Bible is my most priceless possession; worth infinitely more than a clear title to the richest diamond mine in Africa. By reading and obeying this Book I learn how to possess my title to a mansion in the sky -- a mansion that will never wear out nor need repair; it is an eternal mansion.

There is but one Book! It is the Bible! Give me that Book! I have it; here is wealth enough for me!

\* \* \* \* \*

## 08 -- SIN... THE MONSTER

From the August, 1971 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

A little three letter word spelled S-I-N is overflowing with trouble and heartbreak. Any way we look at sin it is the undoing of mankind and a deliberate slap in the face of Almighty God. Folks fail to recognize the true nature of sin before it is too late.. We might say that sin is two-faced -- it looks one way when being committed, but entirely different after the act is completed. The writer of Proverbs gives us a good picture of this. Although speaking especially about intoxicating liquor it is just as true of sin in any of its forms: "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Proverbs 23:21-31). The things that looked like so much fun the night before take on their true form the "morning after." It becomes shabby, low, mean, and sordid. That which was laughed about while the deed was being performed causes the individual to hang his head in shame after the full import hits him. There is certainly nothing gay or sporting in sin -- it is no laughing matter. What is funny about the multiplied thousands who are killed on the highway in traffic accidents? We are informed that fully 60 to 65 per cent of these are related to the drinking of intoxicating beverages. What is funny about the sinful riots that are sweeping our nation?

How can we smile at the terrible homosexual practice that is becoming so wide spread. God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for this very sin yet England's Parliament has voted it a license and our own Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, opposing an effort to deport homosexual immigrants on grounds that they are not of good moral character, wrote: "It is common knowledge that in this century homosexuals have risen high in our own public service both in Congress and the executive branch and have served with distinction." (Quoted from the book "The Death of a Nation" by John A. Stormer.) "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). Make no mistake, sin is sin and it will place man in the eternal fires of Hell irregardless of what the Supreme Court, preachers, or any one else has to say. Sin is no laughing matter nor is it a pretty thing. It will blight, destroy and damn. It fills the divorce courts, and tears weeping little children from the arms of mothers and dads. It fills the jails and helps to boost the population of mental institutions. Sin is a terrible monster that is after every one.

"Sin is a monster of such frightful mien  
That to be hated needs only to be seen,  
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Sin usually has a small beginning but soon grows to its full size. Everyone has observed weeds in a garden; they grow so much faster than the good plants That first cigarette smoked in order to be "one of the gang" soon develops into an expensive habit that cannot be shaken, a habit that will eventually ruin the health. That first drink taken just to be sociable soon grows to the proportion of alcoholism. There is certainly nothing amusing or romantic about the poor old bum staggering around on Skid-Row begging for enough money to buy another drink of cheap wine. The poor fellow stinks so bad you can hardly stand near him, but he is some mother's son and he started out with that first social drink.

Yes, sin grows all out of proportion and will eventually destroy. The story is told of a British army officer in India years ago. He made a pet of a tiger cub and played with it until it was tame as a kitten. Time passed swiftly and the cub was soon full grown. Everything went along smoothly until one day the cat playfully scratched the officer and blood began to flow from his hand. There was an immediate change in the tiger. His wild nature came to the surface and his eyes began to blaze. He pounced upon his former master and soon mauled him to death. Sin will destroy in this life and also in the life to come. Sin will register on your life as the miles register on your car.

Sin has a finished product. This product is not as the Devil pictures it in modern advertising and on billboards over the country. Sin does not make one more healthy and handsome but the exact opposite. It will certainly not make you any more popular with the right crowd. The scripture states: "the wages of sin is death" -- it is spiritual death, and if not repented of and placed under the blood will mean eternal death. There is the finished product of sin. The only hope for the sinner is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

\*Moderator Missouri-East Kansas District

\* \* \* \* \*

## 09 -- REDEMPTION THROUGH THE BLOOD

From the January, 1972 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

In the inner consciousness of man is a realization that something is drastically wrong. That something is sin. Sin has separated man from his God and left a humanly impassable gulf between them. The Bible tells us that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." In another place it states: "The soul that sinneth it shall die." The clear meaning is that anyone who sins, dies spiritually -- and, since everyone has sinned it follows that all are dead spiritually. The Apostle tells us, "You hath he quickened (made alive) who were dead in trespasses and sins." Because of

sin every man is spiritually dead and is in need of a Saviour. That Saviour is to be found in the person of Jesus Christ. He came specifically to redeem mankind from sin and make him a fit subject for Heaven.

Jesus was the only one who could redeem the sinner. God said that the soul who sinned would die; all have sinned, therefore all men are under the sentence of death and cannot redeem themselves. There must be one to make an atonement for man who himself had never sinned. Also there must be one who could be a mediator between God and man -- one who could take hold of the hand of God and man and be a go-between for them. All this was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He was both God and man and there was no sin in Him. How wonderful that one was found to pay the ransom for man's soul and to buy it back from the devil and perdition. The story is told of a slave who was being sold at auction. The bidding was lively for he was a powerfully built man and looked as if he could do much work. Finally a man standing nearby made the highest bid and received the title papers to the slave. He stepped up and taking the poor man by the arm said: "I have bought you and you are mine -- but I bought you in order to set you free. You are now a free man; here is the deed to your freedom! We can only guess at the joy and gratitude that flooded the heart of the poor enslaved man. Yet this is exactly what Christ has done for us. He ransomed us to set us free from the slavery of sin and evil habits. We also get a deed with our freedom; John 8:36 says: "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

One thing man is prone to forget, we are redeemed through the "precious blood" of Christ. In other words, Christ gave His life as a ransom to pay the redemption price for our souls. Our good works can never save us! We will never be saved by following Christ's good example and seeking to live by His teachings alone! It will take more than church joining and baptism to deliver us from sin!. God has provided the remedy. Listen! "Ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18-19). "In whom we have redemption through His Blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:14). "This man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God" (Heb. 10:12). "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" (I John 1:7).

What does all this mean? It simply means that Jesus Christ willingly laid down His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the entire world and His resurrection from the grave on the third day is proof of it all. There is no merit in anything we can do; Jesus alone paid the price to set us free from sin. Our part is to prepare our hearts to receive the free, wonderful gift of God. We do this by a complete repentance and a determination to quit all things sinful. Salvation through faith in the atoning death of Christ takes all the praise from man and rightfully leaves it with God. We are saved by grace (the unmerited favor of God) through faith in the atoning death of Jesus.

We may sum it all up in these words. The need of redemption springs from the fact that man is "dead in trespasses and sin." The moving cause is the love of God, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16), The procuring cause is the substitutional death of Jesus Christ -- "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3). "In due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6).

A final question: Have you taken advantage of this wonderful redemption that is in Christ Jesus?

\* \* \* \* \*

## 10 -- THE SABBATH QUESTION -- ARTICLE 1

From the June, 1973 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

If you are a Christian it is likely you have been visited by the Sabbatarians who tried hard to convert you to their way of thinking about the Sabbath day. If you are a conscientious Christian and have never spent much time studying this question you were probably left somewhat confused and wondering exactly wherein lay the truth. These misguided folk make Sunday worship a sign of the mark of the beast and point to this as showing the apostasy of the modern church. Their rallying cry is "Babylon is fallen .... Come out of her my people." Of course, their aim is to draw good Christian people into their cult and saddle them with the yoke of bondage of legalism which they themselves are wearing.. It is useless to argue with folk of this persuasion. They profess to be seeking light, but those whom I have had contact with had a closed mind and a single aim -- to convert to their way of thinking. This article is not a harangue against people who are often sincere and really believe this doctrine, but the aim is to shed light upon truth. Is the seventh day spoken of by God at creation and then written in tables of stone at Mr. Sinai the same as the seventh day (Saturday) on our Gregorian calendar? Are we as Christians morally bound to keep Saturday as our Sabbath? When did the Christian Church begin the practice of keeping the first day of the week, which is also known as Sunday and the Lord's day?

I believe there are clear answers to these and other questions which should set every honest hearted Christian completely at ease about the Sabbath question.

The primary meaning of the word sabbath is "cessation," "to rest," "to cease to do." Although the word Sabbath is closely connected with the word seven, yet its primary meaning is still a rest, or a sacred time, and not just a certain day of the week. In the beginning of creation God instituted this day and established a meaning for it. Note the word sabbath does not occur in this passage, yet this is what God was teaching, and God blessed, the seventh day and sanctified it; because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." Gen. 2:3.

We see here a universal principle laid down: six days of labor and one day of rest. Neither here nor in the decalogue does it mention, or even intimate a certain day of the week. It is six days of work and one day of rest. This is all God intended to teach. He said exactly what He meant. God appointed a day of rest at the close of Creation. He did not rest because He was tired, but as an example to mankind. He set one day aside and blessed it, thus signifying it was to be a day of rest for man and one to be used for religious purposes. By keeping one day in seven sacred, men every where and for all time show they are worshippers of the God who made the heavens and the earth.



What does the Bible teach concerning the Sabbath? It teaches the Sabbath is a day of rest after six days of labor and that it is morally binding upon all men. This principle is plainly given in God's declaration at creation, Gen. 2:2, 3; and the 4th commandment is based upon this Genesis scripture, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is, and rested the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it." However it absolutely does not specify a certain day of the week. The Sabbath principle was adapted to Israel in the form of a memorial. It was to be observed in remembrance of their deliverance from Egypt; "Remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm; therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day." (Deut. 5:15.) This memorial was also in remembrance of Israel's relationship to God and His rulership over them, Ex. 31:13-15; and the perpetual covenant between God and the Jews, Ex. 31:16, 17. Without a doubt the sabbath is a universal principle and is binding upon all people; but as adapted to Israel as a memorial, a symbol of their covenant with God, it was not of universal application; E.G. They were not to kindle a fire on the Sabbath. This definitely would not be workable in colder climates, also they were only supposed to travel a short distance on the Sabbath, which would be a hard command in this day of mobility and travel. From this, it is plain to see the seventh day Sabbath as given to Israel in the Old Testament was: definitely a memorial Sabbath based on the sabbath principle stated at Creation and was for the Jewish people only, "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever: . . . " Ex. 31:17a. Along with this 7th day memorial Sabbath God instituted numerous other specific laws and ceremonies which were definitely not universal in nature; so far from it some of these would be decidedly impractical for other people in different sections of the world.

God instituted the Jewish memorial Sabbath so that it fell on the 7th day. The institution of a Sabbath with a different memorial, a different people; and a different day would do no violence to the sabbath principle whatsoever.

It is impossible to prove whether :the present Sabbath would fall on Saturday or some other day of the week. The question may be asked, do the Jews observe the seventh day of our week, Saturday, as their Sabbath? The answer is yes. The Jews use the seventh day of our week as their Sabbath, but they have adjusted their religious year to our present calendar and it seems the other Sabbatarians have followed suit. We read in the Jewish Encyclopedia, "The modern Jewish calendar seems to have been inaugurated in 363 A.D. and Rabbi Hillel appears to have modified it by introducing some innovations."

It seems the institution of the Jewish memorial Sabbath did not come to Israel in connection with the Passover, but was instituted at the giving of the Manna. Read Exodus 16; note how carefully Moses instructed them about keeping the Sabbath. Why? They were ignorant of the day and how to keep it. There is no mention that Israel ever kept the Sabbath in Egypt nor in the wilderness up to this time. We conclude that it is impossible to prove that the seventh day observed by the Israelites in the O. T. is the same as Saturday on our Gregorian calendar, and therefore Saturday is not binding upon the Christian to be observed as a Holy day.

To reiterate: The Lord established a universal sabbath principle at creation and restated it in the Ten Commandments, namely: Six days of labor followed by a sacred day of rest. God

adapted this universal principle to Israel in the form of a memorial Sabbath to be observed on the seventh day. This was in remembrance of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage; their relationship to God and His rulership over them and to remind them it was a perpetual covenant between God and themselves. The Sabbath principle is binding upon all people, but as adapted to the Jews in the form of a memorial was binding on the Israelites alone.

(Editor's note: This is one in a series of three articles on the Christian Sabbath. We have had a number of requests in the past to print some articles dealing with this question. Brother Perry Thomas consented to prepare these articles and I am sure they will be helpful and enlightening to our people.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## 11 -- THE SABBATH DAY -- ARTICLE 2

From the July, 1973 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

In the first article we found that God established a sabbath principle at Creation and restated it in the Ten Commandments. That principle was six days of labor followed by a seventh day of sacred rest. God did not bless the seventh day of the week but He blessed the seventh day after six days of labor regardless of when the cycle was begun. God took this sabbath principle and adapted it to Israel in the form of a memorial Sabbath. It does no violence whatever to this principle to adapt it to the Christian Church using an altogether different cycle. This was done in changing the day from the seventh to the first day. This is fitting and proper because it was a change of covenants, from the old one between God and Israel to the new one between Christ and the Christians (spiritual Israel). A change from the dispensation of law to the dispensation of grace, from bondage to freedom. Jesus possessed the authority to do this, for He is "Lord also of the sabbath." He came to fulfill the law. This He did by giving a new spiritual import to the moral law of commandments and He fulfilled the ceremonial laws by replacing them with fact. The shadow became a reality.

The new wine of the Kingdom could not be poured out into the old wine skins of Judaism. This included the memorial Sabbath of the Jews. A new Sabbath was necessary -- one which was expressive of, and a memorial to, the resurrection of Jesus, one which speaks of the power and presence of the Holy Ghost in the lives of Christians. Here is seen the work of Christ in the New Creation just as the work of God was seen in the first Creation. The first day Sabbath or the Christian Sabbath, as it is often called, is representative of all this to the Christ. The Jewish memorial Sabbath was a shadow of things to come and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It was a part of the ordinances that were nailed to the cross.

Did Jesus keep the Jewish seventh day Sabbath? Yes! Jesus lived as a Jew and not under the Christian dispensation. As a Jew He kept the regular Jewish Memorial Sabbath.

The statement is made by Sabbatarians that the Pope changed the Sabbath, but this is far from the truth. This statement naturally brings to mind the question: "When did the Church begin to keep Sunday as the Christian's Sabbath?" The first day of the week has been observed since the morning Jesus was raised from the dead. The first Christian service with Jesus in the midst was held on this day. The ascension from Mt. Olivet was on Sunday; the Holy Spirit was outpoured at Pentecost on this day." That the early Church soon began worshipping regularly on this day is a fact too well known to deny. Read Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1 and Rev. 1:10. They evidently observed this day because they believed it to be the new Sabbath of the Christian Church. Although there is no direct command from scripture to change the day, yet holy men who walked and talked with the Lord and were taught by Him began and perpetuated the practice. It stands to reason then, just as we have received other things (the scripture Canon, for example), holy men guided by the Holy Spirit have effected the change. Also it is very possible that one of the things Jesus taught His disciples after the Resurrection was the change from the Jewish memorial Sabbath to the Christian Sabbath and the significance of this new day.

From the time of the apostles there is an unbroken line of testimony by the Church Fathers concerning the change from the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sabbath, or Lord's day. These were men of learning, integrity and highly respected in church circles. Some of these were Clement of Rome, who had seen the apostles and heard them preach; Ignatius of Antioch, said by Eusebius to have been an apostle of John the beloved; Polycarp, also an apostle of John; Justin Martyr; Theoplis, Bishop of Antioch in the 2nd century, etc.

Following are quotes from some of these Church Fathers: Barnabas is quoted as saying, "We observe the eighth day with gladness, in which Jesus rose from the dead ...." Ignatius wrote around A. D. 101 "Let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's day as a festival, the resurrection day, the Queen and Chief and of all days . . . not longer sabbatizing, but living in the observance of the Lord's day, on which our life sprang forth." Clement of Alexandria wrote in A. D. 192, "A Christian according to the command of the gospel observes the Lord's day, thereby glorifying the resurrection of the Lord. The eighth day is the Lord's," also "The old seventh day has become nothing more than a working day."

Origen, A.D. 225 "It is one of the marks of the perfect Christian to keep the Lord's Day: as for the sabbath, it has passed away as a matter of obligation (as everything else purely Jewish has passed away) ."

Tertullian, A.D. 200, a highly educated pagan who was converted and then left the Romish Church because of its laxity, would have been sure to oppose this step if it had been instituted by Rome. This is a quote from his writings, "Sundays we give to joy, we observe the day of the Lord's resurrection ...." Also "The Lord's Day is the holy day of the Christian Church. We have nothing to do with the Sabbath. The Lord's Day is the Christian's solemnity."

Many more could be added but those recorded should be sufficient to explode the myth of the Sabbatarians that the Pope changed the Sabbath and that Sunday worship is a sign of the mark of the beast. It is claimed that Constantine in an edict dated A.D. 321 changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. What he actually did was to recognize this as the prevailing custom of the Christian Church, practiced since the time of the Apostles and by an edict made Sunday the Civil

Sabbath of his domain. If history can be relied upon at all it teaches us that the "Christian Sabbath" has been in effect since Jesus Christ established His Church in this new dispensation.

The fourth commandment has not been broken by evangelical Christianity. That command teaches a universal Sabbath principle, namely six days of work and one of rest. We whole-heartedly endorse this principle. We do not accept the seventh day memorial Sabbath of the Jews with its emphasis on feasts and ceremonies, but the first day Sabbath which is a memorial to the resurrection of Jesus and a symbol of the New Covenant between the Lord and His true followers.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 12 -- THE SABBATH QUESTION -- ARTICLE 3

From the August, 1973 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

As we have noted in another article the seventh day memorial sabbath was FULFILLED in Christ (not destroyed) and has ceased to be binding on us today. In the place of its legalism there is the freedom of the Christian Sabbath. The change from law to grace is glorious.

In this article we will notice some blessings derived from the Lord's day and also the manner in which it is to be kept.

While on earth Jesus infused new meaning into the Sabbath. He showed that it was not a fetish to be worshipped in a superstitious manner, nor a day to be kept in a legalistic, slavish way; but declared that the sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath. It was made to benefit man and not enslave him. It was not to place man in a strait jacket, afraid to do anything lest he desecrate the day, but it was to be a distinct blessing to him. It was to be for his benefit physically, mentally and spiritually.

Jesus by His example and teaching showed that we are to do good to the souls and bodies of men on the Sabbath day, He healed their sicknesses, but His approval on preparing meals and preached in their Synagogues. The Sabbath was made for man and its requirements were based upon his needs. Man's physical and spiritual energies are restored by a day of rest and worship. The Sabbath is for the benefit of man and the honor of God. Man has profited socially, intellectually and eternally from this wonderful, God-given institution. Psychologically the Sabbath day is necessary. Just looking forward to work with no day of rest tends to grind down the morale and produce a poor attitude which makes a person less productive.

Ancient Egyptians and Chaldeans accepted the seven day cycle; six of labor and one of rest. The Romans had to change from an eight to a seven day cycle because the first would not work. The ancient culture found in Peru had a seven day cycle. During France's Age of Reason the social planners set up a ten day cycle but discovered it would not work and resorted to a seven

day one. Man is to be freed from work on the Sabbath so he can gain spiritual and physical strength.

Although we conclude that Christians are not under obligation to keep the seventh day Sabbath, yet man is morally bound to keep a Sabbath. It is of great worth in preserving the knowledge and worship of God. Neglect of the Sabbath and irreligion go hand in hand. Attendance at worship tends to produce a spiritual state of mind. Stated days of worship are a great boon to the Christian.

The Christian Sabbath is not a day for unnecessary work. Its primary meaning is a day of rest. Entirely too many professed Christians excuse themselves for working on the Lord's Day. The common excuses are: My boss requires it; I would lose my job; this is necessary work; and, Brother So and So works on Sunday and he is a good Christian. It is with grateful heart I testify that God has supplied every need from the time of my conversion until now -- without working on Sunday at secular labor.

The Manual of the Bible Missionary Church states our personal position on keeping the Sabbath and does so in a plain, concise manner. It tells us we are to avoid evil of every kind including, "Profaning the Christian Sabbath, either by unnecessary labor, business, the reading or patronizing of secular papers, holiday diversions, or by vacation or pleasure travel on Sundays." (General Rules -- page 16, art. 29).

An unknown poet had this to say:

"A Sabbath day well spent,  
Brings a week of content  
And strength for the toil tomorrow;  
But a Sabbath profaned  
Whate'er may be gained,  
Is sure a forerunner of sorrow."

Another little jingle might well be entered here:

"I know a thousand things to do when Sunday rolls around,  
But most of them will interfere with worship, I have found;  
If I use the day for pleasure I have conscience in the lurch,  
For Sunday isn't Sunday unless I go to church.

"A man may tinker with his car, or take his shotgun out,  
Or he may grab a rod and reel and try to catch a trout;  
A woman has her household tasks, like mending socks and shirts,  
But Sunday isn't Sunday to those neglecting church.

"We can follow inclination and just loaf around all day,  
We can eat and sleep and eat some more, but take no time to pray;  
The habit of indifference will any soul besmirch,

For Sunday's never Sunday unless we go to church."

--Unknown

Allow me to share with you an outline concerning the Sabbath picked up somewhere in my reading :

- "1. It is not a burden h Matt. 12:1-8
2. It is for our good -- Mk. 2:23-28
3. It is for worship -- Lu. 4:16-20
4. It is for religious teaching m Lu. 4:21-32
5. It is for rest m Ex. 23:10-13
6. It is for works of mercy Matt. 12:9-13
7. It is to bring happiness -- Lu. 13:10-17."

The truth presented here is also applicable to the Christian Sabbath.

The person who breaks the Lord's Day by unnecessary labor, holiday diversion, etc., is saying the other nine commandments do not mean very much either. Sabbath breaking weakens the whole structure of society.

To conclude, we note that the first day sabbath, or sabbath of the Christian, is to be kept with joy and gladness. It is not a doctrinal noose to hang man in legalism, but is a great benefit to man's temporal, spiritual and eternal welfare. It should be the day of the week we look forward to with anticipation. Just as God meant it to be, we are to use the day for REST, DOING GOOD, RELIGIOUS TEACHING, WORKS OF MERCY, and WORSHIP. We can say with the great church father Ignatius: it is "The queen and chief of all days."

\* \* \* \* \*

13 -- THE LORD'S RETURN  
By the late Rev. Perry Thomas

(I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

From the September, 1990 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

Every sign points to the soon return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Immediately when this glorious doctrine is mentioned, people begin to say, "I've heard that preached and taught all my life, but things go on just as they always have." That, my friends, is just another proof that our Lord shall soon return. Let us read I Peter 3:1-4, "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation:" (Read all of this chapter.)

Someone else may cry, "Fanatic" and call us a "date-setter" however, we are not setting dates but stating FACTS. We believe that all the present signs of the times point to the near return of Jesus Christ.

First we want to notice that this is a scriptural truth. Man has always had a desire for immortality. He wants to live forever, and he expects to do this through his relationship with God. In the Old Testament, Job has this to say, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God" {Job 19:25-26}. Now let us turn to the New Testament and hear the words of Jesus as found in John 14:2-3. "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." In Acts 1:11 we find another witness, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." We could multiply these references time and again, but this is enough to show you it is a Bible truth.

Another strong proof of Jesus' soon return is seen in the spirit of the age in which we now live. II Timothy 3:1-5 gives a good description of the awful moral conditions of our times. Please read this passage in your Bibles.

Isn't it easy to see with all the agitation for one world government and one church {Protestant, Catholic, and Jew} that the antiChrist could easily step in, make all these things a reality and the Great Tribulation would be on! Remember friends, it is in these times that our Lord will return.

When Christ comes again there will be nothing outstanding to announce it, but it will come quietly as a thief-when people least expect it. There will be business going on as usual. Listen to the words of Jesus in Luke 17:26-27, "And as it was in the days of Nee, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."

Have you ever stopped to think how it will affect you when the Lord returns? Certainly this will be a time of heartbreaking separation. It will separate the true Christians from the rest of the world. What anguish when husband and wife are parted asunder. Children will be taken on to be

with Jesus and parents left behind. The mockers will quit mocking then. Those who have laughed and made fun will begin to cry and tremble. The Bible uses graphic language picturing this event, "Then shall two be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill, the one shall be taken and the other left. Watch there fore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matthew 24:40-42).

Dear friends, we do not write an article like this just to inform you of this great event, but our purpose is to encourage you to prepare to meet God. Those who are left behind will have to go through the terrible Tribulation spoken of in the Book of the Revelation; but the worst is yet to come Think of spending ETERNITY without God--a Christless eternity in the awful place called HELL. Oh, my friend are you ready for the Lord's coming?. If He should come while you are reading this paper, would you be ready?

If you are not saved why not drop on your knees right now, repent of your sins and ask Jesus to save you? He has told us in the Bible, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" {I John 1:9}.

What will you do with Jesus and the fact that He may return to take His Bride (true Christians) at any time?

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 14 -- REV. PERRY THOMAS -- A TRIUMPHANT SOLDIER OF THE CROSS

From the January, 1989 Missionary Revivalist

\* \* \*

Rev. Perry Elbert Thomas, age 63, of Caldwell, Idaho, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Oct. 21, 1988, at a Boise hospital after a long bout with cancer. Brother Thomas was born July 6, 1925, at Vanzent, Missouri, a son of John and Edna Cearly Thomas. The family moved to Idaho in 1935. He married Edith Laird in 1948 and they had three children. Rev. and Mrs. Thomas began their ministry at Trenton, Missouri, Church of God (Holiness) in 1953, after spending four years in college at Kansas City. They pastored at Trenton for five years. They then went to Kennewick, Washington, where they labored until 1969. In 1970 they moved to Ava, Missouri, and Brother Thomas served as District Moderator of the Missouri-East Kansas District of the Bible Missionary Church. In April 1977, he moved to Boise, Idaho, where he pastored the First Bible Missionary Church for ten years. On July 1, 1987, Rev. Thomas retired from active ministry and moved to Caldwell, where he resided at the time of his death. Rev. Thomas loved God and served him faithfully for nearly forty years.

Brother Thomas was, as was said of Barnabas in the Scriptures, "a good man." He was a Christian in the fullest meaning of that word. He was self-giving and sacrificial, He was deeply concerned for others. He was a faithful pastor/shepherd loving and caring for his flocks. He was a fair man. He stood for right as he perceived right without partiality and yet he had a tender and tolerant spirit toward those who disagreed. He was a friend to young preachers, often going



beyond his duty in assisting them in their studies and training. He loved Christ deeply and spoke often of Him and his desire to exalt Him above all other things in his ministry. He was ready to go and be with his Lord. We have no doubts as to where he is today.

Survivors include his wife, Edith of Caldwell; two sons, Dan of Kansas City, Missouri, and Jeff of Eagle, Idaho; a daughter, Diane of Middleton, Idaho; his mother, Leora Thomas of Parma, Idaho; a sister, Edna Hurley of Middleton, Idaho; four grandchildren; and numerous friends. His father preceded him in death.

"Of this bad world the loveliest and best  
Has smiled and said, 'Good night,' and  
gone to rest."

\* \* \*

### A BLESSED MAN OF GOD

Rev. 14:13 "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Stephen was a man full of the Holy Ghost. The scripture goes on to say he was full of wisdom, faith, grace, and power. Brother Perry Thomas, a good soldier of Jesus Christ, lived a "full" holy life. First, he was full of the Holy Ghost. This was felt in all areas of his life. Second, he was full of wisdom. Brother Thomas was a man many Christians sought wisdom from. He knew his Bible. He was a great Bible expositor, a champion of the Word of God. Third, he was full of faith. G. D. Watson said, "Faith can never be genuine that is locked up in the heart; faith always comes out." Perry Thomas' faith kept him steadfast and sure through the storms of life. Fourth, he was full of grace. He found pardoning and purifying grace as a young man. God's preserving grace kept him true through many dangers, toils, and snares. When he crossed the river into heaven he found God's presenting grace. Fifth, he was full of power. Brother Thomas lived for others. The power of his influence was felt far and wide. His preaching and prayers were full of power. Brother Perry Thomas has passed from this life into a better world His life lives on, Death to this man of God was the end of a full earthly life, the door entering into Heaven. Death was a change of address. We will miss Brother Perry Thomas from our midst, but we expect to see him again one of these days "just inside the eastern gate." -- J. Paul Dodd, Pastor Midway Bible Missionary Church

\* \* \*

### TRIBUTES TO BROTHER PERRY THOMAS

Brother Perry Thomas was a man of sterling character, a loving husband, a caring father and a brother beloved. He was a great Bible expositor, a preacher with a Compassion for souls. We have suffered a great loss in the passing of Brother Perry Thomas. He was a personal friend of mine. I loved him dearly; he has made it home to Heaven; his sufferings are past. His influence lives on and beckons us to the Glory World.

My wife and I extend our sincere sympathy to Sister Thomas and all the family. -- Spencer Johnson, General Moderator, Bible Missionary Church

\* \* \*

I have just received the news that Brother Perry Thomas had gone home to Heaven. Our hearts are grieving today with his family, because we have suffered a great loss. Yet at the same time we find ourselves rejoicing with the assurance that Brother Thomas has made a triumphant arrival in the Great City of God. When I spoke with him the other day on the phone, he talked of his desire to do a few more things for the Lord. It seems to be that even in death, his influence indeed is still having an impact upon those who knew him. I sincerely hope that God will permit the mantle to fall on many others; the mantle of that sweet spirit which Brother Thomas always portrayed.

We want Sister Thomas and children to know that we are praying for them; and asking God to fill their hours of loneliness with great love and care. We will not forget them. -- Rev. and Mrs. Roger L. Moyer, General Moderator, Bible Missionary Church

\* \* \*

In memory of my very special and dear friend Brother Perry Thomas. We were ordained together and we have been close friends for many years. I appreciate so much his stand and his spirit in spite of all the suffering he has gone through. Truly he was a godly man and I expect to meet him very soon on those streets of gold where we'll rejoice with Him who died for us forever more.

My sympathy is with Sister Thomas and the family, that God's grace may prove sufficient in these hours of sorrow. Let's plan to meet Brother Thomas on the other side. I am praying for you today and will continue to hold you up before the throne of grace. -- Don Bowman General Foreign Missions Sec., Bible Missionary Church

\* \* \* \* \*

THE END