SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The Christian Informer

VOL. 3

BALTIMORE, MD. NOVEMBER 1946

No: 1

"THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU."

(Romans 16:16)

The Third Mid-Year National Christian Preaching Conventiof of Churches of Christ will be held with the 92nd Street Church of Christ, Los Angeles, California, February 11 to 16, 1947. Elder C. W. Arnold, Minister; Elder A. G. Nelson, President.

Preaching will be done by the following ministers: A. G. Nelson, Mo.; A. C. Chichon, Ill.; R. F. Hayes, Ark.; J. S. Johnson, Mich.; Baltimore Taylor, Md.; D. W. Bradley, Tenn.; Silver Trumpet Sercy, Ill.; H. C. Poston, Pa.; A. R. McDuff, Kans.; J. A. Johnson, Ky.; Back to the Book Peters, N. C.; J. B. Dabney, Ky.; and others. For information and reservation write C. W. Arnold, 2119 Fifth Blvd., Los Angeles (2), Calif.

"PREACH THE WORD"



92nd St. Church of Christ Los Angeles, Calif.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO THE CHURCHES AND BRETHREN EVERYWHERE:

When all the world is blessed with Christmas good cheer, we are happy in the memory of all your kindness and the evidence of your generous thoughtfulness to us. We are thankful that God's great Gift to man brought the only Saviour to our souls.

And so amidst inspiring memories we send you this Message of Christmas Greeting and Goodwill; lift you to the throne of Christ; and earnestly wish you: "God's Blessing." May this blessed Yuletide come to you to sweeten past disappointments, cheer you in the midst of miscarried plans, bind up the bruised spirits and make you stronger and braver for life's struggles. May there come a great dominant incentive for a higher and holier experience, and may the Holy Christ, the Almighty God-Man of Bethlehem and Calvary, call you to a life of service and tender ministry.

Sincerely,

YOUR EDITOR.

No. 3

A Monthly Publication Devoted to the Restoration of Primitive Christianity, Its Doctrine, Its Ordinances And Its Fruits

Ye should earnestly contend for the faith.—Jude, verse 3. Terms of subscription: One year in advance, 75c. Single copy, 10c. All orders for bundles must be placed before the 25th of each month, accompanied by cash.

Address all communications, manuscripts, ads, money and donations for the Informer to: The Christian Informer, W. H. (Baltimore) Taylor, Editor. Office, Emmanuel Building, 1702 Madison Ave., Baltimore-17, Md. R. L. Sercy, Circulation Editor. Phone, Madison 9871-W.

If you saw it in the Christian Informer it must be true. We print the truth unbridled.

All news must be in by the 25th of each month.

A NATIONAL JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS DAYS OF MY CHILDHOOD

There are many things in the life of Christ which carry with them a thought of sadness-His sacrifice, His pain, His death. But on the day of His birth, we think only of the little Child in His mother's arms, and our hearts are filled with gladness. We feel that there is in every child something of the divine spirit of that other Child. We like to believe that these little ones are as guiltless and as

And we like to remember the Christmas Days of our own childhood. How we looked forward for weeks to this day of rejoicing. It wasn't because of gift-giving, or the bounteous dinners, or the gaily decorated tree, or the stockings mysteriously filled hanging by the chimney. All these helped, of course, but it was the spirit, the very essence of Christmas, that possessed every heart, shone in every

. Telucular

In this modern time, a good many unwise things are done in the name of Christmas, but for all that no other day in the year compares with it. It brings thoughts of peace and good will, gifts and the love of giving. It is a real blessing to those who feel its true spirit.

THE SECOND MILESTONE

The Christian Informer has reached its Second Milestone. Our faith and zeal are in place. Our ministers and members have supported us. Our churches have sent donations and subscriptions. Our friends have been kind. Our prayers have been answered. Our mistakes have been forgiven. Our Lord and Master has watched over and guided us. We are determined, now, more than ever to fight the good

We are "persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us (The Christian Informer) from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord "

As we face the New Year with added responsibility; with the high cost of paper and printing, we know that you and your church will remember the Christian Informer with your prayers, donations and subscriptions.

I THINK IT WAS MEANT FOR THE EDITOR

Quote "Being contentious about little things, is not the same thing as earnestly contending for the Faith." Knowing that the Editor of the Christian Informer is very contentious about some, so called "little things," and little letters, I am of the opinion that the above statement sent to the editor's desk, by a friend, was meant for him. The story is told about some boys who were throwing stones into a frog pond. One of the frogs asked the boys: "Why do you throw stones in our pond, where we live?" The boys answered: "We are just having a little fun." The frog replied: "I live in this pond, and what you boys call a little fun means death to me."

Open-membership as known in the Christian Church may be a "little thing" to some ministers and congregations, but to the New Testament it means disobedience to the teachings of Christ.

To make the color of a man's skin a test of fellowship or membership in a Christian Church or Christian School, may be a "little thing" to some folk. But to the editor of the Informer, it is not "earnestly contending for the Faith" and Doctrine of the New Testament

Jim Crowism, discrimination and lynching may be a "Little fun" and "little things" to some folk; but to the editor of the Informer. it is UN-CHRISTIAN, UN-AMERICAN. It is contrary to the teachings of Christ, and the Constitution of these United States. Remember: "The little foxes that spoil the vines."



THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN PREACHING CONVEN-TION OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST TO THE LOYAL CHRISTIAN MINISTERS

GREETINGS:

I am happy to acknowledge your fellowship in the National Christian Preaching Convention composed of Christian ministers who have united in the fellowship to restore the New Testament Church; its doctrine and ordinances of Christ to its rightful place; also do defend the gospel of Christ as it was once delivered unto the

We urge you to remain steadfast and unmovable. preach the gospel with boldness until death. We are going forward in Christ this year with a great spiritual revival, because of our loyalty to Christ's commands.

I suggest you guard the literature taught to your children. Some of the literature offered, if absorbed, will produce atheists and heathens, not christians. Some literature offered absolutely deny the authenticity of the word of God and the Virgin birth of Christ. Please save Christ's future church in the making. Encourage reading true to the New Testament literature and publications, such as the Christian Informer, Christian Standard, The Voice of Evangelism, R. F. D. 3, Centerville, Iowa, Restoration Herald, Peoples Bank Building, Cincinnatti, Ohio, Also write Elder Orlin L. Mankamyer. 702 Peoples Bank Building, Cincinnatti, Ohio. He has some fine true to the book tracts. Send sixty cents (60c) and he will send a sample of them for inspection. Make your church a missionary fire in your community spreading the gospel.

Write to me for a directory that we are compiling. Five more loyal ministers have come to our fellowship. Many more are coming to help us. We hope you can have two revivals a year or at least one a year.

Start a new church, spread the gospel of Christ. Start now to kindle the fire of the gospel in your community. Send the name of some one who wants to prepare for the ministry. We will write them. Start a fund for a scholarship in your church for a minister. Write me for information. There is a scholarship available now for some one. The new church in Pittsburgh, Pa., is growing fine, Elder H. C. Poston in charge, Plan to go to Los Angeles, Calif., in February to the Minister's Fel-

Yours in Christ.

Elder A. G. Nelson, Sr., President.

PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS



By ELDER A. C. CHICHON, Illinois

OPEN MEMBERSHIP—WHAT IS IT?

It is an innivation within the Christian Church, practiced by some would-be popular minister; supported by some Elders of the Christian Church (ignorant of their duties, and unqualified).

Open membership has alienated many who once were united in one fellowship.

What is open-membership?

It is receiving people into the fellowship of the Christian Church who have been sprinkled and poured upon by some denomination minister, contrary to the usage of the Christian Church or New Testament Church.

The Christian Church does not accept "sprinkling" and "pouring" as valid baptism. The Christian Church or Church of Christ from time immemorial have always recognized immersion as the proper mode of baptism. The Holy Scripture bears our contention for our conviction for the mode, as practiced by the apostles and early church from the beginning of the Christian Era. Quotations: John 3:23, Acts 8:36-39, Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:3-5. John 3:5.

Christ honored baptism by immersion when he left Galilee and went to the Jordan and was baptized by John. Matthew 3:15. And God was well pleased with His beloved Son, Matthew 3:17.

On the day of Pentecost the apostles, when the Jews, after hearing the Apostles, preached the Reseurrection of Christ. Acts 2:37-38.

The Eunuch after hearing Philip preach about Jesus. Acts 8:36-39. We note again Acts 10:47-48, Acts 22:16, Acts 16-15, Acts 16:33, Acts 19:5, Acts 18:18, Romans 6:3, Galatians 3:27, 1st Peter 3:21. All the evidences quoted point to water, burial and resurrection.

Sprinkling and pouring does not require much water, nor does sprinkling and pouring represent a burial and

Greek scholars of any note, translate Baptizo to mean dip or immerse. So, away with innovation and practice the only mode of baptism. Galatians 3:27. Ephesians 4:4-5. The Churches of Christ need qualified Elders to put a stop to perverted ministers.

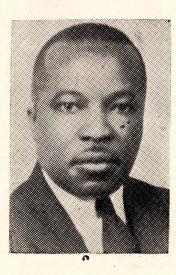
Open membership must stop in the Christian Church.

D. D.

Can one find any one qualified to be given the title D. D.? Webster defined "D. D." as one who can rightly divide the word of God. Who can divide the word of God? Who can divide the Word of God rightly, and where is He? Read Psalms 111:9, Luke 1:49. Why will our schools offer the degree D. D.? Let the deans of our schools consult the dictionaries before conferring degrees.

"THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS"

By W. H. (BALTIMORE) TAYLOR, Maryland



Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13.

Even their enemies recognized in their words and actions that Peter and John had been disciples of Christ. These two men had been arrested and brought before a court of justice. The charge against them was that they were teaching a new doctrine, and that they had caused a stir among the people by healing a man who had been crippled all his life.

This crippled man was well known. For years he had been placed every morning at the beautiful gate of the Temple, and there he had begged pennies from those who passed.

One day two men had come along at the hour of prayer. They had no money, but they stopped in response to the crippled man's plea, and one of them said: Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

The poor man felt new life coursing through his withered limbs. With the help of these strangers he got to his feet, and when he found that he was able to stand erect he felt that he must try his new and wonderful power.

He walked a few steps, and then beside himself with joy he started to leap and shout and praise God at the top of his voice.

A large crowd soon gathered. The priest came with the captain of the temple guard to see what caused the excitement, and they decided that the best thing would be to lock up the two men until regular inquiry could be made.

The Courage of Faith

The next morning they were brought before the court of the Sanhedrin. When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, they were astonished. There was no cringing on the part of these men. They were not frightened by that court nor its judges.

Peter, who once had been frightened by the question of a maidservant, now boldly addressed the Sanhedrin: "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we are being cross-examined today as to the benefit rendered to a crippled man, and as to how he was healed, you and all

the people of Israel must know that he stands before you strong and well, thanks to the name of Jesus Christ whom ye crucified, and who God then raised from the dead."

I would to God that we had such bold testimony among preachers and church members in the Christian Church today.

The secret of this boldness we find in the eighth verse: "Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit." It was the Spirit of God in the Apostle Peter that made him bold.

A man filled with God can be no other than bold. It is as natural for him to be bold as it was for others to be craven; as natural for him to be decisive as it is for others to be limp.

I fear that we are creating limp Christians today, lacking the apostolic backbone. We are filled with the world, which crowds out the Holy Spirit.

Christian men and women of today do not sit down to good, square Biblical meals, such as preached by Preston Taylor, B. C. Calvert, J. R. Louderback, Stafford Campbell and many others.

Today, sermons must be short and Scripture reading fragmentary. Church attendance is occasional, when convenient. How can we expect to bring up robust Christians on such a piece-meal diet?

Peter and John had the boldness of full assurance of faith. They were commanded by the council "not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus." I know some who have been commanded not to preach nor teach the Doctrine of Christ as found in the New Testament, and preached by the Apostles and pioneers of the Restoration Movement.

But Peter answered: "Whether it be right in the sight of God to harken unto you more than unto God, judge ye, for we can not but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Let us think for a moment about the value of open confession.

That is the sort of challenge which makes the world listen. Many people ask, "Can not I be a Christian without making a statement of it and uniting with the church? Remember that Jesus put great emphasis on the value of an open confession of faith.

The next thing that we observe is this, there is no mistaking one who has been with Jesus. "When they saw the boldness of Peter and John they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." That does not mean that it dawned on the council then that they had been in Jesus' company.

It means that when they heard the bold words as they came from Peter's mouth, they recognized the spirit of Jesus Christ. It was Christ who spoke through the two prisoners.

There is no mistanking one who has been with Jesus. The world has an instinct for the Master's presence, and can tell when a man has truly been with Christ.

They took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. When a man has been with Jesus, that man will want to live the Jesus way. When a man has been with Jesus, he will preach the preaching that Jesus bids him preach. When a man had been with Jesus, bids man will preach, that man will preach one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all. When a man had been with Jesus, that man will preach one Church. When a man had been with Jesus, that man will preach one Name of the Church, and the one way to God is through that one church His Son, Jesus Christ, established on the Day of Pentecost, in the city of Jerusalem.

DICKERSON'S PARODY FROM THE HILLS OF OLE VIRGINIA



By ELDER C. H. DICKERSON, N. Tazewell, Virginia

We're many men of many minds Of many kinds and features A dozen other folk we find Reachers, if not Preachers.

Among the first ones you would name Are Stately Lordly Preachers And over at the Baseball game You find a bunch of Bleachers.

The nice folk used to get the show Where makers put in features The Gentile record of the Jews Was being "Over Reachers."

When you give all the boys a chance From alphabet to teachers From ditch diggers to presidents, Janitors to preachers.

Remember all folk have some sense 'Bout one thing or another; You may be on this side the fence, The other is your brother.

If you don't want to pick a "fuss" Mind what you talk about They'll out kick any mule at us Laying all the menfolk out,

There's that Good Sister with her dress Stopping above her knees; Just why so short you can not guess They're doin' as they please.

They say: "If you don't like our style Just look the other way."
You'll turn your eyes back after while With something good to say.

We'll have our own way anyhow All you can do is "let us"; Just tip your hat polite and bow, Don't criticize and "fret us."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State Training School for Boys Mrs. Bertha Hazel, Asst. Supt. Boley, Oklahoma

Elder A. C. Chichon, Carbondale, Ill. Dear Brother in Christ:

Many thanks for the Christian Informer. I enjoy reading it, and your life in the Christian Ministery is beautiful. You have fought a good fight, for the church and may you continue to keep the Faith; and go on and on. I am enclosing you a donation. Yours in the faith.

Mrs. Wm. Hazel, Boley, Okla.

Brother Taylor:

Through your paper permit me to commend to the Churches of Christ, ministers and students attending our schools the following books or tracts. The New Testament Church, by Herbert Monninger. Concerning the Disciples by P. H. Welsheimer. Two of the most valuable tracts I have ever read. Yours for the Church of Christ.

A. C. Chichon, Carbondale, Ill.

Enclosed you will find money order for the Christian Informer.—Mrs. Letitia Poston, Wynne, Ark.

Another donation for the Christian Informer.—Second Christian Church, Hagerstown, Md.

Another donation for the Christian Informer.—R. L. Peters, President, Christian Institute, Winston Salem, N. C.

Another donation for the Christian Informer.—Tibbs Maxey, President, College of the Scriptures, Louisville, Ky.

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My monthly donation for the Christian Informer.—Mrs. E. E. Foard, Baltimore, Md.

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Another donation for the Christian Informer.—Emmanuel Christian Church, Baltimore, Md.

COLLEGE NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF THE SCRIPTURES

Louisville, Kentucky

Announces New Features

The College of the Scriptures announces the following new features: Complete Ministerial Training, Extension Courses, Correspondence Bible Training, Night School, Short Term On-the-campus Courses for Church Workers, Four Years of Academy and Four Years of Seminary

Fall Lectures on Matrimony

Now we announce fall lectures on matrimony by Henry Webb, Pastor of Clifton Christian Church, Louisville, and graduate student at Southern Baptist:

October 31—"Bible Background on Marriage."
November 7—"Preparation for Marriage."
November 21—"The Christian Home."
December 5—"Perils to the Home."
December 12—"Overcoming These Perils."

Winter Lectures on the Minor Prophets

By Henry Webb. Dates to be announced.

Spring Lectures on Brotherhood Problems

By the Faculty. We also are proud to present the first of its kind, LOUISVILLE LECTURES ON THE MINISTRY. To our knowledge no brotherhood Seminary of any kind offers anything similar.

General topic for 1946-1947, "An Efficient New Testament Ministry." Dean Campbell, in sponsoring this permanent feature, says, "These lectures and addresses are to deal with all phases of the ministers' work in a constructive way in his relations with the church, the community and the state. The moral and spiritual leadership of the minister in these relationships are to be especially emphasized in this first series."

Fall Series November 19-22

By M. M. Prater, First Christian Church, Washington, Indiana: "Moral Leadership of the Ministry in the Community, Dealing Especialy with his Conduct and Character." (Four addresses.)

Winter Series January 20-24

By Max W. Randall, Church of Christ, Redwood Falls, Minn.: "The Spiritual Leadership of the Minister; in Relationship with the Church; in Preparation for Leadership." (Four addresses.)

Spring Series March 11-14

By Dr. Peyton Canary, Trafalgar, Ind., well-known educator of our people: "An Efficient Ministry; According to the New Testament Scriptures." (Four addresses.)

We are also happy to point to an increased student body and a larger faculty. The new students are: Cornelius Daniels, Millersburg, Ky.; Walter Blacklocke, Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. Christine Holland, Louisville, Ky.; Leonard Scrues, Detroit, Mich.; and John H. Thomas, Louisville. Four students are back from last year: James Dabney, Lockland, Ohio; Alton Sasser, Jefferson, Texas; David Cole, Little Rock, Arkansas, and James A. Johnson, Germantown, Ky. The latter two are acting as Academy instructors in English and Mathmatics.

College faculty: Dr. G. C. Campbell, A. B., A. M., B. D., Ph. B.; Tibbs Maxey, A. B., B. D.; Olin W. Hay, A. B., A. M., Pastor of one of the largest Christian Churches in Kentucky; Roy Blackmore, A. B., A.M., Minister to Crescent Hill Christian, Louisville, Ky.; William Odor, A. B., recently Chaplain, now Pastor at Bennett Ave., Louisville, Ky.

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE

Winston Salem, N. C.

School progressing fine. Thirty-nine students. Faculty: dean, four teachers, business manager and president. One student from Mound Bayou, Miss.

* * *

NORTH SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Danville, Illinois

R. L. SERCY, Pastor-Evangelist

We are trying to keep house for the Lord; we had six additions the first two Lord's Days in October, five of them were for baptism. Our prospect list is still growing and it won't be long before we can point to a thriving church in Danville. Our church is just two and one-half months old; we have 21 members; none of them had ever been a member of the Christian or Church of Christ before. Our Bible School enrollment is 39.

This work was made possible through our white brethren of this County. Our meeting was sponsored at a cost of \$730.45. We had Brother T. E. Brooks to come as our song Evangelist for three and one-half weeks; for his service we gave him \$200.00, one-way fare, his keeps while here and a love offering. Since that time the Vermilion County Association of Churches of Christ have been giving \$200.00 per month plus overhead expense to our work. They are doing this not because they feel that we are their responsibility, but because of their belief in the great ccommission: "Make disciples of all the Nations."

We have an option on a house for a church; at a cost of \$3,500.00, one hundred and fifty dollars have been paid with a contract to pay cash for the property within 90 days. Should there be those who feel that this is a worthy concern, we would appreciate a contribution; what ever you send will be paid on the purchase of this property for the North Side Church. Send your gift to Carl Moorhouse, Treasurer, Danville, Ill., R. R. 5.

For your benefit I might say that this work is in no way associated with the UCMS, neither with the NCMC. It is just a free church of Christ accepting the Bible as its faith, rule and practice.

R. L. Sercy was the guest speaker at Lincoln Bible Institute, Thursday, November 7.

THE LANGUAGE OF ASHDOD



PROF. TIBBS MAXEY

Someone has said that the "laymen" are the men who take over temporarily while the old hens are on vacation. Another thinks that the term "laymen" originated when Nehemiah built the walls of Jerusalem. The men laid bricks with one hand while with the other they laid out the enemy with the sword. Perhaps this is half-wit at the expense of wisdom. Certainly it is true that any explanation will sound far-fetched to ears accustomed to a solid "thus saith the Lord" for each term and teaching used in the church.

The plain fact is that the church in its perverse manner has unscriptually segregated Israel into two camps, the "clergy" and the "laity." From "laity" is derived "layman," the term under discussion.

The term "laity" comes from the Greek "laikos" through Latin "laicus" to English. In I Chonicles 16:30, one reads, "All the laity said Amen and praised the Lord." (See also II Kings 23:2-3, Neh. 8:11; Isa. 24:2, and Hos. 4:9.) The term means "the people." In Judaism of course a distinction was made between the tribe of Levi, with its priestly functions, and the rest of the "people." There is no such distinction in the New Testament.

Clintock and Strong assure us that "in the New Testament Scriptures, this distinction seems to have been ignored by Christ and His apostles. . . . One of the best authorities on Christian antiquities holds that in the early stages of Christianity 'all were accustomed to teach and to baptize,' a practice to which Tertullion (born A. D. 160) soon objected.

"The introduction of the episcopal office, however, first definitely settled the position of the laymen in the

church. As early as A. D. 182 we find Clement of Rome pointing to the laity as a distinct class. 'The layman is bound by the laws which belong to the laymen' (Ad Corinth 140). . . . In 502 a synod held at Rome under Symmachus finally deprived the laymen of all activity

in the management of any of the affairs of the church." (Bible Encyclopedia, J. McC. and J. S., pp. 197-198.)

Here is briefly outlined the departure from the New Testament norm from the high original plane on which matters of church business were administered by the church members under the leadership of elders and deacons, down to the level of the Catholic "clergy," that is the priests.

The New Covenant avers that all Christians are priests. "Unto him that loveth us and loosed us from our sins by his blood and he made us to become a Kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father." (Rev. 1:5-7). Christ is our high priest and go-between (Heb. 6:20, 8:5), "a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, not man."

Brethren, let us hark back and hanker for the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man, where Christ is the high priest and each of us is a priest unto God Most High. In the parable of the "Unmerciful Servant" (Mt. 18) we note that there were the Lord and the "servants." The servants were, in fact, "slaves." There were no super-slaves above slaves who in turn had under them sub-slaves. They were all slaves, equally. For they were not their own; they had been bought with a price.

Let us forego the Language of Ashdod . . . "laity," "laymen," clergy," "priests." Judah had been assigned the task of wiping out the chief coastal Philistine city of Ashdod. Instead she intermarried with the children of Ashdod. "And their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod and could not speak the Jews language." (Neh. 13:23-24.)

Our fathers started out to call Bible things by Bible names. They spurned the Language of Ashdod. But we have brought a mongrel dialect into use, so that we organize "Laymen's Leagues" and grant high titles to some of the "clergy," i.e., "Executive Secretary of The International Convention of Disciples of Christ," Gaines M. Cook, former "state secretary" of Ohio. We liberally use the term "reverend" in setting apart this "clergy" from the "laity."

What's the danger? Psychologists tell us that the initial step toward adultery is the use by the man of endearing terms of love to the strange woman, terms of love and intimacy hitherto reserved for the beloved. The initial step toward the observance of "lent" is the use of that term for the period preceding the day our Lord returned alive. The initial step toward the enslavery of the church by the "clergy" is the very admission that there is such a classification in the church as the "laymen." "Now ye are the body of Christ and severally members one of another."

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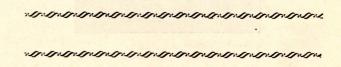
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TO CONTROL OF CONTROL