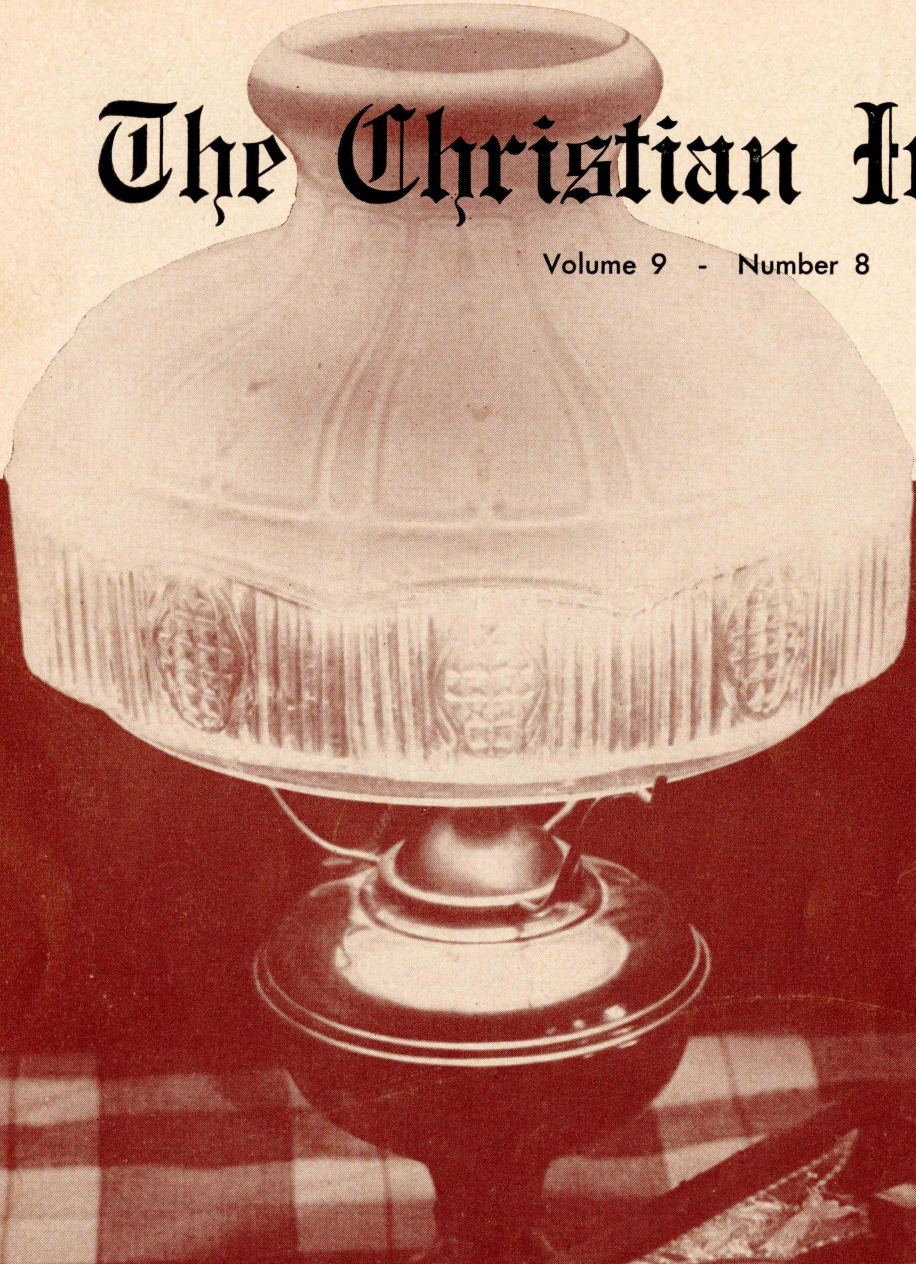


*Gertrude M. (Mrs J.H.) Fuller*

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# The Christian Informer

Volume 9 - Number 8



# THE CHANGELESS CHRIST

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."—Heb. 13:8

WE LIVE in a world of change, a world in which there seems at times to be no stability. "Change and decay is all around I see" we sing. It may sound mournful, but it is true. There is one unchanging fact that the writer of the Hebrews sets before us, and it is that Jesus Christ is the same in His eternal being. It is a good text with which to go forward into the New Year.

It is good, as we face the future, to realize that in this changing scene, and in all the fluctuating hopes and fears that beset these little lives of ours, that Jesus Christ is the same towards us today as He was yesterday when He washed away our sins and received us into the family of God. He will be the same tomorrow, no matter what the circumstances may bring, no matter how dark the clouds that overshadow us, no matter how uphill and steep the road may be. With perfect assurance we can say, "When other helpers fail and comforts flee, O Thou, who changest not, abide with me". As another has said: "Let the fleeting proclaim to you the permanent; let the world with its revolutions lead you up to the thought of Him who is the same for ever. For that is the only thought on which a man can build, and building, be at rest."

Think what the Lord has done through all our yesterdays and through all the yesterdays of all His people in the world. Think of the wisdom, the love, the care, the goodness that has been lavished upon us, and then remember, in times when tempted to doubt, that He is still the same today. He is the same, His promises are the same, His power remains the same. As He sweetened the bitter cup of sorrow and pain in the past He will sweeten it today and will distill a double portion of sweetness for you and me tomorrow. We may change, our love grow cold,

## ONE MOMENT, PLEASE

HAVING adjusted the earphones on her head and securely hooked the strap that holds the mouthpiece, the telephone operator was ready for all emergencies and calls of the day. There was a continuous flow of calls, both incoming and outgoing, long distance and local.

The operator came in contact with many and various people during the period she attended the switchboard. Repeatedly she said, "I'm sorry, that line is busy, would you hold the line, please?" "Yes, I will." "Yes, sir." "I'll be glad to." "Thank you." "One moment, please." These routine answers were in reply to telephoned queries.

"One moment, please" is very significant. It is a very small division of time. Someone has said: "Eternity is time without end," but moment by moment eternity is made, the present lived and the future unveiled.

In one moment an idea has become the impetus for mighty exploration. In a moment use-

our hearts wander and our allegiance waver, but He forever abideth faithful. He cannot deny Himself.

What the Lord Jesus Christ was yesterday and today He will be always in the vast forever towards which the stream of time is hastening us all. What a comfort in this as we face the New Year and whatever years there are to be before these frail lives of ours are launched upon the vast sea of eternity. Little by little the sands run out, one by one our friends are carried over the last long mile, one by one they cross the river that has no bridge and enter in through the gates into the city whose walls are jasper and whose streets are gold, there to be forever with the Lord, who will be the same then as He is now. There and then we shall be like Him, the Unchanging One whose Presence alone makes heaven home.

We live in a day of changing opinions. Fashions in politics and life change and decay but the great fundamental verities of the Christian faith that are rooted in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word will remain through the years. It is as true today as it was when He spoke on the hillside of Galilee that whosoever hears His sayings and doeth them is a wise man who builds on the Rock. There are many blatant voices shouting in the world that would wean us from this old-fashioned faith we profess. So plausible and alluring are they at times that if it were possible they would deceive the very elect. But to all their siren voices let us turn a deaf ear. Let us remember that we are strangers and pilgrims whose citizenship is in heaven, and whose whole allegiance is pledged to the unchanging One who was crucified for our offenses and raised again for our justification and is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

ful inventions have been completed. In a moment a man may become famous. Terrible tragedies have occurred almost instantaneously. Yes, moment by moment time passes, never to be regained. Moments make history.

Almost every person wants all life has to offer. It is only human nature to desire the best of life. Christians estimate the importance of time and endeavor to convince others that the best in life is found by living for the Lord. The Christian way of living, quoting the Scriptures, brings us "peace... not as the world giveth."

Christians realize that there is much to be done for the Lord; and as the laborers are few, they count it a privilege to spread the Gospel. Earnest followers of the Lord must trust God at all times. It is an unspeakable blessing to be connected on the royal line and to know that Someone is listening.

Take one moment, please. Listen to God.



### About Money

The Church sees behind the physical fact of money something deeper—the toil, the effort, the loyalty, and devotion of her people. Those who object to hearing money mentioned in Church should read the Gospels where our Lord mentions it many times. He noticed the widow's mite, He told the story of a lost coin, He provided the tax for Caesar. In the Book of Acts we read that the early Christians sold their land and "brought their money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."

All through the Scriptures we find that the offering of money is considered a vital part of religious dedication. Money in itself is only a medium of exchange, but it represents the toil and sweat of men plus the natural gifts of our gracious God. Thus understood, it can become a holy thing through which a man offers himself, for in the making of money we grow old and our lives are spent. Through the magical medium of money we can consecrate our daily work to the glory of God. It is no accident that the offertory has a central place in every service.

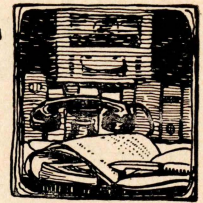
Laymen now and then ask how they can use their talents for the Church. There are many ways, and I think we ought to explore more of them together. But here is one ready made. You know how to make money, and your gifts to the Church actually represent a vital part of your life given to the Lord. Rededicate your life to the Lord.

### Sacrifice

If Christians had been as ready to sacrifice life and property for their cause as the Communists have been for their radical and atheistic enterprise, we could have lifted the world off its hinges.

By their missionary giving shall ye know them.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### Unhappy People

When someone is mean, apparently vicious, and unkind to us, our tendency is to reply in the same mood. We take it as something directed at us, personally, whereas in actual fact the unkind person is reacting to himself. He is an unhappy, distressed, confused person who simply projects this unhappiness and confusion at the objects around him. It could be directed at anyone other than you, or even at an inanimate object, and the same purpose would be achieved. There is seldom anything "personal" in such unkind acts. They are not done toward you because you are you; they are done because the person who does them is the confused and unhappy person that he is.

If we could keep this thought in mind we would have a great deal more understanding and we would be less apt to respond to unkindness with bitterness, resentment, or further unkindness on our part.

Come to Church.



### Not Worth the Candle

Many years ago when candles were the usual means of illumination, if a family wished to play any kind of game in the evening, it cost the price of one candle, which they used for light. Out of this grew the saying which has come down to this day: "The game is not worth the candle."

Life has many responsibilities and makes heavy demands. Many persons feel depressed and cynical, and for them life is not worth the candle. They turn to many so-called remedies to try to get away from this feeling of depression—drinking, to try to escape from responsibility; constant movie-going to find a dream world; and a mad rush after pleasure. Again and again they find themselves disappointed.

But there is another way. Jesus pointed it out long ago. It is the way of purposeful living and loving service. This brings into life the consciousness of the Divine Presence, and the discovery of what it means to live an abundant life.

### The Forgiving Habit

The harder forgiveness is the more tremendous is its reaction for good upon the one who forgives.

He who is forgiven is benefited. But the greater benefit comes to the one who pardons.

That is why Christ urged His disciples to forgive seventy times seven.

You must stand before your enemy to forgive him. You cannot forgive from below. You must get above hatred and revenge—you must come closer to God.

The habit of forgiving means a constant climbing upward to higher ground.

Any man is what he is when he is not being watched.

# The Christian Informer

Volume 9

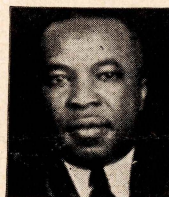
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## THE CHRISTIAN INFORMER

Baltimore, Maryland

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*Ye should earnestly contend for the faith - Jude verse 3.*

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A NATIONAL JOURNAL  
Official Organ of the National Christian  
Preaching Convention

If you saw it in the Christian Informer it must be true.

## Editorial . . . .

### Little One and Big One

A lady's little watch about the size of a dime can keep time as accurate as the big clock on the city hall building. The little watch does not make the noise and the outside show, doing its work like the big clock; but it ticks every second like the big clock. The big clock must stay where they put it, but the little watch is free, it can go wherever you go. What we have said about the little watch and the big clock, can be said about the little National Convention and about the big National Convention. The big clock is fastened to the iron beams of city hall building. The big National Convention is fastened to the back gate of a certain open membership society.

The little watch is fastened to life, the arm, or in the pocket. The little National Convention is fastened to Christ and His doctrine.

### Let's Keep the Records Straight

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus announced to Peter that He would build His Church. The Rock upon which it was to be built is the Christ Himself. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ". I Cor. 3:11.

That church was brought into existence on the first Pentecost after His resurrection from the

dead, when the disciples, obeying His command, returned to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit, which was to guide them into all truth. On that never-to-be-forgotten day Peter the man to whom the keys of the kingdom had been promised, stood up with the other apostles and preached the gospel of our Lord, and announced the terms of admission into the Church of Christ. Acts 2.

## UNITY

In His prayer on the night of His betrayal He asked the Father that His followers might be united. Through the years the apostles preached against disunion and division. To the Corinthians Paul wrote, "Let there be no divisions among you." He preached against sectarianism, denominationalism and open membership. To the Galatians, Paul wrote, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Jude wrote, urging the brethren to "contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints." This faith originated in heaven and through the agency of the Holy Spirit transmitted to chosen men upon this earth.

## The Affairs Of the Church

The affairs of the Church of Christ or Christian Church are to be managed according to the New Testament Scriptures. We are directed to the New Testament as the Scripture, given by the inspiration of God, "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 Tim. 3:16.

## I Am Not Ashamed

I am not ashamed of the little National Christian Preaching Convention of Churches of Christ, as some of the brethren would have you believe. Neither am I ashamed of the Christian Informer. The little National Christian Preaching Convention and the Christian Informer are devoted to the Restoration of Primitive Christianity, its Doctrine, its Ordinances and its Fruits. I am ashamed of those who only see Christ in a large crowd and in a large amount of money collected.

## Life's Endeavor

I expect to pass through this world but once, any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow-being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

## THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS

"THE secret of happiness is adaptation," says the modern philosopher; and the reasoning by which he arrives at this conclusion is something like this: "I am forced to recognize my environment. There are certain things which I know are beneficial, and others which I know are not. But I find that in my make-up are desires for some of the harmful things. If I follow my desires in this respect, I suffer unhappiness. On the other hand, to desire a thing and not to get it certainly precludes satisfaction. Then there is only one thing left to do: I must annihilate my desires for harmful things; I must adapt my desires to my environment."

And thus he struggles to do away with what he calls "desires for harmful things."

By way of contrast, witness the words of Paul: "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 12:2; 8:6.

Paul has discovered a different remedy. He speaks of a change, a transformation; and his life tells the whole story. He started out for Damascus "breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples." Near Damascus he said, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" Something had happened that enabled him to later say, "So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God." Romans 7:25.

What happened is recorded in the ninth chapter of Acts. Paul's life was completely reversed. He no longer tried to guide his life by his own mind, unaided. He became subject to a higher power—God. When the power of Christ came into his life, he, through that power, achieved perfect adaptation—freedom from conflicting and harmful desires. Such an end can be achieved in no other way.

Through Christ we, like Paul, can find happiness in obedience; and the only requisite is a willing heart.

## WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

The world will be evangelized, not by winning those who are farthest from us, but by winning those next to us. It costs less to "go" to your next door neighbor, "the butcher, the baker, the candle-stick maker," that is, to those who bring to your home the provisions of life and those who render community service, than it does to "go" or "send" to the "roof of the world." "Win the one next to you," is an irksome but necessary slogan. We may rest assured that there is something wrong with our brand of Christianity if we cannot or will not win those who are around us. In judgment you will face the nations, but you will face your lost loved ones, your friends who are not redeemed, your neighbor who will say in that hour, "Nobody told me of Jesus." The humblest church member can win another to Christ.

New times demand new measures and new men; the world advances, and in time outgrows the laws that in our father's day were blest; and doubtless, after us, some purer scheme will be shaped out by wiser ones than we, made wiser by the steady growth of truth.—Lowell.

Personal resources are more than material substance; test yourself with aloneness if you would know what mastery you have over yourself.

## The Church Needs Promoting It Has a Tremendous Responsibility:

**M**ORE than four million farm children on the American continent are virtually pagans—children without knowledge of God, and are developing tendencies which we, from the supposed tower of our superiority, have decried in other lands and less enlightened times."

It took a churchman to find that out.

Only those who attend church are alive to the service the church is rendering to humanity. Why? Because the church has been too busy serving to talk about it!

Do your share by attending church regularly at least once a week.

## THE IRREGULAR GIVER.

Such an individual often thinks he is giving more than is actually the case. He is sometimes honestly impressed by his generosity because it seems to him he is a liberal contributor. But let me cite an actual case to show what is usually true of the irregular giver. A church had a treasurer who kept careful account of the denominations of all pieces of money that came in from irregular givers as well as in the loose collections. Such a plan has some decided advantages. In the case of which I am speaking one of the members was accustomed to put his cash in a blank envelope and drop it in the collection plate. During a conference on church finance this man felt called upon to defend his method, and in his remarks said: "Why, when I do give, I always put in a five dollar bill." The treasurer heard the statement, procured his books, and found that in the past two years three five dollar pieces of money had come in from those not subscribers of record. Later on we confronted the brother with the evidence, and unable to doubt the records of the treasurer, he said: "Why, really, is that all I have paid? Well, it seemed much more than that to me." And I am sure he was honest in his last remark. But the incident led to a change in his giving life, and he became a regular and proportionate giver.

## TESTING OUR RELIGION.

There are fewer tests of religion than the life at home. In the everyday world our business interests may sway us; in society we may do as Mrs. Grundy dictates; but in the home the real self comes to the surface. The man who is kind to the folks at home will usually be kind elsewhere. If we cannot get along with our own flesh and blood, how can we hope to get along with strangers?

The home is a wonderful revealer of human nature. A man may pass in society as a fine fellow and a delightful companion; but in the home it is often different. What he says, goes. What he likes, is secured. What he wishes, is done. Such a man is simply selfish.

Christianity shines brightest in the domestic circle, and if it does not shine there it is of doubtful value.

# Christ's Healing Power

"Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."



ONE of our great human problems is that of sickness and suffering. On the basis of my experience in being called upon to deal with a multitude of cases of every manner and kind of sickness, I offer it as my judgment that if America needs any one thing today, it desperately needs the cooling balm and the healing grace of Jesus Christ. We need to have our nerves quieted if our bodies and minds are to be healed and if health is to characterize our life today. It ought to be obvious that our salvation as a people cannot be achieved wholly by scientific planning, however well conceived. Fundamentally our salvation lies where it has always reposed, in coming into the waters of God and drinking our fill to the end that we may find peace and rest unto our souls, and with it that calm and poise without which we can never be strong and effective.

Many are finding in religious faith today a power to help the sick. Jesus Christ frequently referred to Himself as a physician and often in the New Testament we are told "He healed many." We can see Him with a vast throng of people surrounding Him. There He stands, tall, strong, vigorous, with the electric power of mighty physical, mental and moral health emanating from His personality. His voice, clear as a bell and vibrant with truth, rings out over the multitude. The people listen as in the hush of a great awe. They are in the presence of immortal power and they know it. Here is a Man through whom the tides of the Infinite were flowing, and the people were conscious of that power. The Bible tells us that when He had finished speaking, the crowd rushed upon Him and "sought to touch Him, and there went power out of Him that healed them all."

Is it not possible that the same healing power is available today no less than in the long ago, to those who completely put their lives, mind, soul and body under the influence of Jesus Christ? Is He not called with great merit the Great Physician? If this power is still operative—and we see no reason for assuming that it is not—it would mean that any man today who completely opens himself to the influence of the spiritual Christ would straightaway clear a channel within himself through which this divine power might flow.

There are broken bodies and broken homes, a broken Church and a broken world. Our Lord is working in the broad human field to make broken things whole. The miracle of healing the broken happens whenever through faith and the sharing of God's plan, the energies of divine life are liberated.

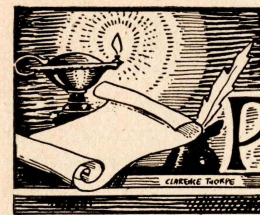
He who waves away the healing power of Christ as belonging only to early New Testament times is not preaching the whole Gospel. God is not the last resort in sickness. He is the first.

What we need to realize is that not our physical but our spiritual nature is the dominant part of us. It is the monarch that holds sway over the rest of us.

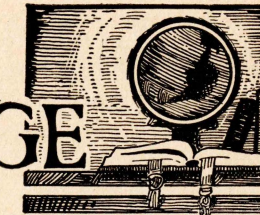
Frequently the question is asked of those who believe in and practice spiritual healing, does it really work? Do you actually heal people?

Physical healing is often manifested through such spiritual ministrations. Successes have been notable and of many types. Space will permit of but one incident from my personal experience.

Late one night a physician telephoned and asked me to come to an address where he had a patient suffering from a nervous and physical breakdown. The doctor said, "I think this man needs some of your kind of medicine. Our patient needs a deep peace and a power beyond himself to which he may cling for the strength which he does not have in himself." I will confess I scarcely knew what to do, but I did not need to know, for when one wants with all his heart to have God's help, he gets it, and I found myself quoting various passages of Scripture such as the 23rd Psalm. Presently the man turned to me, with his haunting, desperate eyes, seeming to search the depths of my soul. I never had anybody look into my inmost mind as he did, as he said, "Can Jesus Christ do anything for a man like me, or is it all just religious talk and bunk?" I replied, "If you trust Him like a little child, relaxing and resting upon Him, He will give peace and healing to your mind and body." He said as simply as a child, "Help me, Christ," as he lay back upon the bed, where almost before I knew it he went off to sleep like a baby. He continued that trust in God, and he had a wise and skillful medical man who helped him. That was five years ago. Today he is the efficient head of an important educational institution. Ask a man like that if there is healing power in religious faith. He knows. The secret is in sincere faith and surrender of will, to put your life with all of its problems in God's hands. That will give a superb all-rightness to your life, endowing you with that calm philosophy by which men know truly that "all things work together for good to those who love God."—Selected.



# THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE



DO YOU get the most out of your Church? So often people miss many opportunities and advantages right at hand in their lives. That is very true about the many advantages which the Church offers its parishioners. Some people are lonely and wish they had more friends.

They would readily make more friends if they would become active in some church group. One of the best ways to get to feel at home in a Church or a community is to do some real work in it. Helping wash dishes at a church dinner is a fine way for a woman to get acquainted.

Many people these days are carrying heavy burdens and they need the inner strength with which to carry them. The Church provides the Holy Communion, and other services. There is immeasurable help to be had from Church attendance, but often the people who need help the most are there so seldom.

Occasionally a church member does not realize what his Church offers in the way of worship, study, fellowship, and service. He may even say "Why doesn't the Church do thus and so?" when the Church is already doing just that, but the parishioner hasn't found it out!

There are people who need a constructive outlet for their energies and a chance to work off their frustrations. Church work would help them take their minds off of themselves, and that would be to the good.

It is safe to say that the majority of church people do not get the most out of their Church, because they pass up so many fine opportunities which the Church offers them in the normal functioning of its work.

Are you using your Church by being at Holy Communion often; by worshipping God every Sunday in church; by working in some church group; by making Christian friends; by using the educational facilities which the Church offers?

Basically - inexorably - inescapably - the world problem of today is a religious problem, for religion is both the science and the art of human relationships. The basic aim of religion is to inspire men to live together as sons of God in a God-created and God-governed human society. Lacking this motive and purpose in life—man will always be involved in conflicts with himself and with his environment.

This country would not amount to as much as it does if the young men of fifty years ago had been afraid that they might earn more than they were paid for.

WHEN we like something very much we are apt to tell other people about it. If we see a picture which impresses us we tell our friends about it, sometimes at great length. If we have a favorite radio program we are apt to tell our friends about it and urge them to listen to it too.

Now we ought to tell people about our Church. Some of us do, and we all should. The Church means much in our lives. It would be hard for us to imagine what life would be like without the Church.

Suppose you had never heard of Jesus; that you had never seen the symbol of the cross; that you had never heard any of the carols and hymns of the Church; that you had never in your life said a prayer. We are inclined, sometimes, to take the advantages of the Church for granted without stopping to think about how much they really mean to us.

But when we do think about the joys that are associated with our Church, it makes us want to tell other people about the Church. Our Lord sent people out to tell others the good news of the Christian religion. We can tell people about our religion and the Church.

We send missionaries to other countries and that is fine, but there are people right in our own neighborhoods who do not go to Church. They do not appreciate what the Church can really mean in their lives. They need the Church as much as some people in distant lands. You can be a missionary, in a way, by inviting them to go to Church with you. Why not do that?

No two of us are exactly alike. Every person is a distinct individual. There is no one else in the world like you in every respect. As Christians and church people, every one of us has certain obligations and privileges. There are some things which we have to do ourselves, and if we don't do them, they simply are not done. One of these is attending church service. No one can take the place in church service of another person. He may sit in another's pew, or do another's assigned task, but he cannot completely take another's place. You can take your own place in church, and only your own. If you are not there, no one else can really be a substitute for you, because one person can count for only one. If some one else could take your place, who would take his place? You see, every person counts one — no more and no less. If you are not there to be counted as one, your absence decreases the total count by one. That is simple arithmetic, isn't it?



# Is The Bible Hard to Understand?

**T**HE Bible itself tells us that there are some things in it which are "hard to be understood." 2 Pet. 3:16. Just so, godly and learned men have often acknowledged that there are passages in the Bible which they did not understand. St. Augustine, one of the most intelligent and godly Bible students, confesses this, and Luther, than whom few men, if any, ever knew the Bible better, testifies more than once that he is not sure of having grasped the meaning of this or that passage exactly. Indeed, among all the most learned and the most godly scholars of Holy Scripture we cannot recall one who insisted that he understood everything in the Scriptures.

Every Christian can from his own experience join David in stating: "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Ps. 119:130.

The very men who confess that there are some things hard to be understood in the Scriptures acknowledge that the Bible as a whole is the clearest book on this earth. St. Augustine, who acknowledged that he did not understand everything in the Scriptures, tells us that he is sure that anything in the more difficult passages of the Scriptures is in perfect agreement with that which is revealed in the plain parts of Holy Writ. Luther teaches us the same truth. Both of these men were bewildered and in darkness till the light of the Bible illumined the despair, the misery, and the confusion of their hearts—they were as sheep going astray till the light of God's Word guided them aright. And thereafter they both confessed: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Ps. 119:105.

It is with the Bible as it is with all nature and creation. There are still many mysteries in creation, many things that we do not understand. But, after all, there are so many things so plain and simple to everyone that, in spite of all the mysteries and hidden things concerning nature, this world has been, and still is, a delightful dwelling place for millions upon millions of children and very simple, uneducated people. Just so the Bible, although there are in it some few things that men do not well understand, is so full of delicious, plain, precious truths, which even children and simple, uneducated Christians really learn, that millions of children of God rejoice in its light, learn from it the most valuable truths, and are able by these plain, unmistakable words to defend their faith against false teachers and unbelievers.

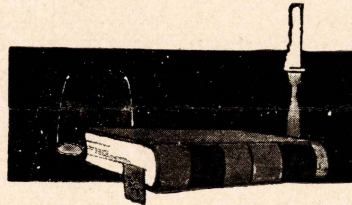
Let us, for example, take the very first passage of Scripture: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Every child and the simplest Christian knows what is said there, namely, that God made this earth and all creatures. How God made all these things out of nothing no one understands. The most learned theologian knows just as little about that as the child who learns these words for the first time. And again, when the Bible tells us: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me," every Christian knows what is said. Even our

children know that his is an invitation to prayer and a promise that God will hear our prayer. But how God, although He foreknows all things, can still hear prayer, that the most learned theologian understands just as little as the simplest child or Christian.

When we begin to study arithmetic, do we begin with compound fractions? Do we not begin with simple numbers and their addition and subtraction? When we learn to read, we certainly do not begin to read some difficult book, such as Milton's "Paradise Lost" or Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," but we begin with a few letters in the primer and learn the most simple words. Just so God wants us to begin with the simple, plain statements of Holy Writ and then go on to learn more and more and add to our spiritual knowledge and understanding, so that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

It is just on this account that some people never do understand Scripture properly. In the folly and pride of their hearts they have at once delved into the most difficult parts and have despised the fundamental, simple truths which the Bible teaches. Much of the error and misunderstanding which we find among those who are led by false teachers and anti-christian deceivers is due to the fact that these poor people have never been taught the first principles of the oracles of God. It is for this reason that godly men in the church have collected the simplest truths of the Bible into that small book called the Catechism. In the Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther, for instance, this godly man has not given to us teachings of his own, but has simply collected from the Bible the plainest and most important statements of God's holy Word and has offered them to the babes in Christ as the milk upon which they are to feed till they are ready for the strong meat. The commandments of the Catechism are not the commandments of Luther; they are, word for word, the commandments of Holy Writ, wherein God has told us His will concerning our life. The Apostolic Creed is nothing more than a repetition, in the form of a confession, of what the Bible teaches on the most important truths concerning our God, our Creator, Savior, and Sanctifier. The Lord's prayer which we find in our Catechism is, word for word, the very Lord's prayer which Jesus Himself taught us. And just so it is with the words quoted from the Bible on the Sacrament of Baptism and on the Sacrament of the Altar. Luther has not invented new words concerning these things, but has quoted the words of the Scripture and has added a few questions to call attention to the plain meaning of these words.

"I am by no means of the opinion cherished by some fantastically spiritual persons, that all arts ought to be struck down and renounced in homage to the gospel. On the contrary, I would gladly behold all the arts, and most of all the art of music, occupying a place in the service of Him from whom they have drawn their origin, and who has bestowed them on us as a gift."—Martin Luther.



## Results of the COLLEGE OF SCRIPTURES Founded in 1945 by George Calvin Campbell and Tibbs Maxey Louisville, Kentucky

- 83 Men and women have earned college or high school credit here during the last seven years!
- 6 Have earned the Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) degree in this time!
- 3 Have earned the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) degree in this time!
- 10 States and the District of Columbia have sent students here: Texas, Ohio, Arkansas, Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Virginia, and Kentucky!
- 20 Churches are served by present or former students of the College of the Scriptures in the following states: North Carolina, Kentucky, Texas, Illinois, and Ohio.
- 5 That received degrees in 1952 are ministering to ten (10) churches!
- 1 Mission Church has been started in Louisville by students while in school.
- 101 Have been enrolled in four (4) Institutes held in three (3) cities through the close of the 1952 school year.

### No Harm To Ask Questions

Why did Preston Taylor and others organize the National Christian Missionary Convention of Disciples of Christ?

How have the churches of the National Christian Missionary Convention fared under the United Christian Missionary Society's protectorate?

How many colleges does the National Missionary Convention have for the training of ministers?

How many homes for old folks and orphans does the National Convention have, that the U. C. M. S. helped them to build?

Where is the "Beautiful Sun-Set", the "Ida Taylor Home," and the "Preston Taylor College" located, that the U. C. M. S. helped the National Convention to build?

We heard that the United Christian Missionary Society has lots of churches in Africa.

Did the United Christian Missionary Society help the National Christian Missionary Convention to establish churches in large cities in the United States, like Pittsburgh, New York City, Atlanta, Richmond, Va., Thenton, N. J., Boston, Mass., Raleigh, N. C., New Orleans, Seattle, Wash., and in other large cities?

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**T**HE world gives its admiration, not to those who do what nobody else attempts, but to those who do best what multitudes do well. . . . .



## When You Pray

**I**F EVER there was a time when people needed to pray earnest, sincere prayers, it is now. If you are disappointed and feel that God does not hear you, find out what keeps Him from granting your requests.

Our Lord says, "The prayer of the upright is His delight," and that "He heareth the prayer of the righteous." But of the wicked He declares, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Proverbs 15:8, 29; 28:9.

God will hear the sinner when he decides to turn from his evil ways and call upon Him for salvation. Jesus declares, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:7.

God always hears and answers the prayer of a truly repentant sinner; but when a person defies the law of God, he cannot expect the Father to hear his prayer while he is in open disobedience.

When we put away our sins and turn to the Lord, He promises, "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am." Isaiah 58:9. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:1, 2.

You cannot ask in His name, and not keep His commandments. They are in His heart, part of Him. You will not ask for anything that He would not ask for.

Jesus, whom we are to represent in this world, stands back of His precious promises. When we make a request of the Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, we pray in His stead, and for Him. "If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it. If ye love Me, keep My commandments." John 14:14, 15.

God wants you to pray. Pray earnestly, fervently; and be certain to expect God to answer your prayers, for He declares, "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin." 2 Chronicles 7:14.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers." 1 Peter 3:12.

## Good Thoughts

There are thoughts that inspire to lofty action, that put iron into the will, that expand the heart and mind. Our lives are going to be largely determined by our choice from all these thoughts. Every good thought we think lifts us up into its own world. Forceful, vigorous thoughts put tone and precision into the whole life. And yet, the life will rise no higher than the character of the thoughts we think.

There is no substitute for integrity.

## A Christian Will

Develop such standards and ideals as will lead persons to value material things, especially money, not for their sake, but for the spiritual goods of life they make possible.

Develop a recognition and understanding of money as a form of power, the Christian administration of which is a sacred trust and obligation.

Foster the development of such an attitude toward life as will determine habits of earning, spending, saving and giving solely on the principle of the sacredness of human personality.

Develop a disposition to acquire money, and an understanding of methods by which it may be procured, in ways that do not harm but positively enrich the lives of one's fellows.

Foster in persons the disposition to spend money for the development of Christian personality in one's self, in those for whom one is immediately responsible through filial ties and in all members of God's family.

Develop the disposition to share in the building of a Christian social order through the support of such institutions and causes as have this for their purposes.

Foster an appreciation of the wisdom and importance of setting apart for specific religious purposes a stated portion of income, to do it systematically, and administer it intelligently.

Develop a growing understanding and appreciation of what constitutes an adequate Christian motive in giving.



An old adage, indeed, that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

The "kids" on the farm are models of youthful efficiency. But they go a-fishin' whenever they can.

The business men, the housewives, the school-children—they need their fishin' too!

But there is another way in which the old adage is true: All working and no praying leaves man a dull soul!

Yes, prayer is necessary!

The God who created us never intended us to be able to get along without Him.

Our hands may sow seed, but they can't make it grow. Our minds may work out problems, but they can't solve the world's chaos. All of our efficiency hasn't brought us lasting happiness or firm hope.

But when we turn to our Christian faith, and seek its power through regular worship in our Churches—then we find the things we need and want most!



## You Are Invited

To all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need friendship, to all who are homeless and need sheltering love, to all who pray and to all who do not, but should, to all who sin and need a Saviour: this Church opens wide its doors and makes free a place, and in the Name of Jesus, the Lord, says, Welcome.

## Come to Church Next Sunday

# The Wonderful Temple of Christianity

(From a Sermon Preached by the late Billy Sunday)

**T**WENTY-TWO years ago, with the Holy Spirit as my guide, I entered this temple, called Christianity. I entered at the portico of Genesis, walked down through the Old Testament art gallery where the pictures of Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel hang on the wall. I passed into the music room of Psalms, where the spirit swept the keyboard of nature and brought forth the dirge-like wail of the weeping prophet Jeremiah to the grand impassioned strain of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and pipe in God's great organ of nature responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the chapel of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard and into the conservatory of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley's sweet scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business office of Proverbs, then into the observatory room of the prophets where I saw telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far-off events; but all concentrated upon the bright and morning star, which was to rise above the moonlit hills of Judea for our salvation. I entered the audience room of the King of Kings, and caught a vision of His glory from the standpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; passed into the Acts of the Apostles, where the Holy Spirit was doing his office work in the formation of the infant church. Then into the correspondence room where sat Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and John, penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where all towered into glittering peaks, and I got a vision of the King sitting upon His throne in all His glory, and I cried:

*"All hail the power of Jesus' name,  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him Lord of all!"*

