

The Christian Informer

VOL. 4

BALTIMORE, MD. FEBRUARY - MARCH 1948

NO. 4-5

Good Friday

The Suffering Saviour



Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him: he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted; yet he opened not his mouth:

He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

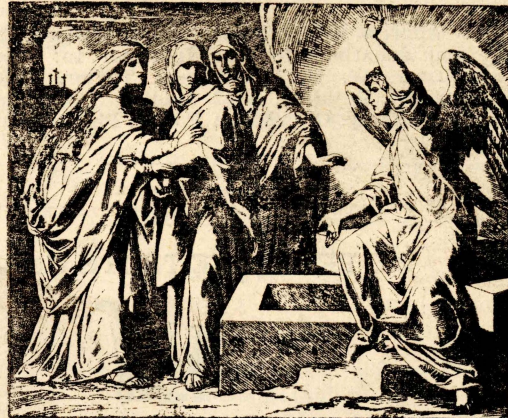
Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death:

And he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

—Isaiah 53:1-7, 10-12.

Easter

The Risen Lord.



In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

His countenance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow:

And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified.

He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

And they departed quickly from the sepulchre, with fear and great joy, and did run to bring his disciples word.

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Then said Jesus unto them, be not afraid: go tell my brethren, that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

—Matthew 28:1-10.

THE CHRISTIAN INFORMER

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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. Serey, 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

EDITORIAL

PICNIC FOR CONVENTION OFFICERS

The more we read the 1947 minutes of the Women's Department, of the Ohio State Convention, when Elder F. T. Barnett was general President; the more we are convinced that they should take down the sign "Christian Church Convention" and put up the sign "Picnic for Convention officers".

We quote from page 12, 1947 minutes. "The budget committee made the follow-report:" we, the Budget Committee, beg leave to make the following report, asking that the budget be for \$400.00 to cover rising costs of registration, travel, etc., \$125.00 of which is given by the Ohio Council of Christian Women, with the following allowances for officers expenses, minutes, programs, national representation fee, guest speakers and convention secretary: President..... \$150.00 First Vice President..... \$30.00 Second Vice President..... \$20.00 Secretary..... \$60.00 Assistant Secretary..... \$20.00 Treasurer..... \$30.00 Third District President of Institute..... \$30.00 Printing of Programs..... \$5.00 Printing of Minutes..... \$30.00

National Representation Fee \$10.00 Guest Speaker \$10.00 Convention Secretary \$5.00 Total \$400.00

All of the \$400.00 they are to raise will go to the officers, except \$45.00. For preaching of the Gospel . . . Nothing.

For helping churches in distress . . . Nothing. We did read on page 12 quote. "A hat was sent to Hazel Green School."

* * *

LEAVING THE OLD LAND—MARK

The Ohio State Convention of Christian Churches, under the administration of Elder F. T. Barnett, left the old land—mark. We quote recommendation number 3, page 7, minutes of 1947. "That a Committee of Ministers be appointed to draw up a pamphlet of information and instruction to be used as: a. A guide to the members of the Church on the duties and responsibilities of officers, members and ministers. b. That the State Convention appropriate fifty (\$50.00) dollars for this purpose. End quote. Every since the days of the apostles, the church of Christ (Christian Church)

has been satisfied with the New Testament for its rule of faith and practice. The New Testament has served the church of Christ, through the ages, as the source of "information and instructions to be used as a guide to members of the church; on the duties and responsibilities of officers, members and ministers." Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. 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, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The man of God wants the New Testament for instruction in righteousness. Have the Ohio Brethren forgotten, that the church of Christ (Christian Church) is the New Testament Church, Governed by the New Testament; not by man made "pamphlets", discipline "manuals," and creeds of men.

The Children of Isreal were not satisfied with God as their King. They wanted an earthly king like other nations. I am thinking that the Ohio Brethren are dissatisfied with the New Testament, and they want a pamphlet of "information and instructions" on how to get to heaven, drawn up no doubt, by L. L. Dickerson, E. W. Wilbert, S. C. Divine and F. T. Barnett.

"That the State Convention appropriate fifty (\$50.00) dollars for this purpose! End quote. We suggest that the State Convention purchase \$50.00 worth of New Testaments, from the Standard Publishing Company of Cincinnati Ohio; and that these Testaments be given to the members of the Convention for "information and instructions". Christ knew what was best for officers, members and ministers, therefore, He said "search the Scriptures."

Remove not the ancient land—mark, which thy fathers have set. Proverbs 22:28

A SHOT FROM THE OPEN

MEMBERSHIP CAMP

We received a letter the other day from a certain brother of the open-membership camp, defending open-membership. Naming certain men of the Restoration Movement as open-membership men. The Christian Informer is not concerned with what certain men did, or did not do. The Christian Informer is concerned with what Christ and his Apostles did, or did not do. Christ did not defend open-membership. He said in John 3:5 Except a man be born water and of Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Paul did not defend open-membership. He said in Galatians 3:27. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. James did not defend open-membership. He said in James

1:22. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own-selves. If my open-membership brother, discard baptism, he should discard the entire plan of Salvation; because we find these words in James 2:10-11. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, "Do not commit adultery," said also, "Do not kill." Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

UNDRESSING IN THE FRONT YARD

It looks like the National Staff of the National Disciple's Convention and the Editor of the Christian Plea, are undressing themselves in the front yard and hanging their clothes on the front gate where the public can see, what they have been wearing.

We quote from the front page of December 1947 Christian Plea.

To answer the demands of the Brotherhood, Eppse submits a report from the records submitted at the National Convention, August 19-24, 1947, at Cincinnati, Ohio. Total income for 1946-47:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Balance in Treasury | \$ 3,747.81 |
| Income | 19,771.95 |
| Total Money to Use | \$23,519.76 |
| Money Spent | What Brotherhood Got |
| Dr. E. J. Dickson: | No members |
| Salary | \$2908.33 No churches |
| Travel | 1400.00 No itinerary |
| total | \$4308.33 No reports |
| Dr. C. L. Parks: | No itinery |
| Salary | \$2708.33 No members |
| Travel | 1175.00 No churches |
| Total | \$3883.33 No reports |
| L. Ruth Patterson: | No members |
| Salary | \$1575.00 No churches |
| Travel | 490.00 No itinerary |
| Total | \$2065.00 No reports |
| Dr. Lorenzo J. Evans: | No members |
| Salary | \$458.30 No churches |
| Travel | 350.00 No itinerary |
| Total | \$808.30 No itinerary |
| Miss Majorie Chenault: | |
| Salary | \$1508.33 No reports |
| <hr/> | |
| Total for salaries | \$ 9,158.32 |
| Total for travel | 3,415.00 |
| Total for phone | 159.03 |
| Total for Insurance: | |
| For Dickson, Paarks and Lorenzo Evans..... | 501.44 |
| Total for office supplies and rent | 2,967.15 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total disbursement | \$20,336.50 |
| Total spent on office and staff | \$16,200.94 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total left to help Brotherhood | \$ 3,183.26 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL RECEIVED: | No reports |
| | No churches |
| | No itineraries |
| | No members |

"OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT"

We received a letter from the National Disciples Convention top-heavy with the title "REVEREND". Presenting "REVEREND L. L. DICKERSON, elected editor of the Christian Plea." "They now have a new Editor, whom the letter say, "He has a zeal for evangelism, missions, and education." What did the other Editors have? I always thought that the other Editors of the Christian Plea, had a "zeal of God, according to knowledge;" for evangelism, mission and education. I am thinking of P. A. Gray, the late C. H. Dickerson, and Prof. Merl R. Eppse, head of the Social Science Department of A. & I State College, Nashville, Tenn., and Author of many books on Negro History.

End quote. Is the above the kind of "intelligent and competent leadership" that the Youth Fellowship, and their Advisors wanted and got at the Lexington, Ky., National Convention?

When will the eyes of the churches come open? \$16,200.94 is a lot of money for struggling churches to give away; and get no report, no churches, no itineraries, no members.

\$16,200.94 spent wisely, could have started 16 churches in 16 states, where we have no church. I know a man who started a church in a certain state, and he did not have 16 cents; but he had faith in God and in himself.

THINKING A-LOUD

We have been thinking, how can the Secretary of the National Disciples Convention preach such strong doctrinal sermons like he preached in Baltimore a few weeks ago; and at the same time support the U. C. M. S. Is he preaching one thing and practicing another?

Thinking of the address of the Treasurer of the National Disciples Convention. Quote. "Any Negro who could successfully administer a two million dollar institution for years merited a place on the trustee board of the United Christian Missionary Society where he could cooperatively assist in the administration of a million dollar concern." End Quote. I am thinking that the Treasurer is asking for a place on the trustee board of the U. C. M. S. It was in the mind of Baltimore Taylor to make the National Convention a "million dollar concern"; so that the Treasurer could be on his own "trustee board," and stop begging the U. C. M. S. for a place on their board. The way the Treasurer led the Lexington National Convention, I thought that the U. C. M. S., would have put him on their trustee board, before "Sun Set" the day on which I was "kicked out of office."

I am thinking that they are still saying that "the time is not ripe."

We do not think it was anger that caused the Ambassador of Good-will, of the National Disciples Convention to throw down the twenty five dollars (twenty five pieces of silver) given her at the Cincinnati Convention. We are thinking that the amount was too small.

LIKE A LAMB

Down through the years we have seen Christian Plea Editors come in "like a Lamb, and go out like Gang-Buster." Old Timers know what we are talking about. We are waiting to see how the new Editor will "go out."



Elder A. G. Nelson, Minister of the East Side Church of Christ 2539 Benton Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri. Who led his members into their new building a few weeks ago. The 92nd Street Church, Los Angeles, Calif., and the 3rd Church of Warren, Ohio sent them gifts. Other churches should do likewise.

Mr. W. H. Taylor
1702 Madison Ave.
Baltimore, Md.

In the fairness of truth let it be known that the Cincinnati Preaching Rally referred to in the last issue of the Informer by Brother Everett has been going on for a dozen years and there has been no racial lines drawn. Both races have been attending, both at the annual rally and the annual banquet for the five years that I have known. If there were only a handful of colored folks it was not because they were not welcome, but because they failed to accept the invitation.

Next year let us put some effort into getting a crowd there. Let us let the brethren know what is going on and urge their attendance. Let them see themselves that there is fellowship for all at the Conference for Evangelism in Cincinnati.

Tibbs Maxey

Editor's note: I have never attended the "Conference for Evangelism." I do not know their stand on the race question.

WHY SOME CHRISTIAN CHURCHES FAIL

In the Christian Church the New Testament is its "Rule of Faith and Practice." But not complying with the teachings of the New Testament, when selecting and ordaining preachers, elders and deacons have caused strife and churches have failed. In some congregations, very little, if any attention is given to the following Scriptures when selecting and ordaining preachers, elders and the deacons.

ACTS CHAPTER 6

2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Phillip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicholas a proselyte of Antioch;

6 Whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

FIRST TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3.

This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Likewise must the deacons be grave,

not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:::

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

ACTS CHAPTER 14.

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch.

22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

TITUS CHAPTER 1.

4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

10 For there are many unruly and vain

talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision;

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn the from the truth.

15 Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

WE NEED ONLY THE WILL

In his message to Congress, Mr. Truman restated the American faith with beautiful simplicity:

We believe that all men are created equal and they have the right to equal justice under law.

We believe that all men have the right to freedom of thought and of expression and the right to worship as they please.

We believe that all men are entitled to equal opportunities for jobs, for homes, for good health, and for education.

We believe that all men should have a voice in their government and that government should protect, not usurp, the rights of the people.

These are the basic civil rights which are the source and the support of our democracy.

Today the American people enjoy more freedom and opportunity than ever before. Never in our history has there been better reason to hope for the complete realization of the ideals of liberty and equality.

We shall not, however, finally achieve the ideals for which this nation was founded so long as any American suffers discrimination as a result of his race, or religion, or color, or the land of origin of his forefathers.

He then closed his message with this Lincolnian language to which no further comment could be added:

We know the way. We need only the will.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tuesday Night I preached to about 350 at River Michigan, in our Fellowship Meeting, which meets once a month. Enclosed donation for the Informer.

J. Salvador Johnson, Detroit, Mich.

Another donation for the Christian Informer.

Fred H. Shaver, Cedar Rapid, Iowa.

* * *

Hoping you much success in your work. Please do not mention those whom you take to be your enemies, over come evil with good. Leave the U. C. M. S. out of the columns of the Informer as it is beginning to create strife. Readers are beginning to decline on the account of it. Let the Lord reward those whom you count your enemies. Another donation. G. W. Walls, Indianola, Miss.

Editors Note: "If publishing the truth is going to create strife, then we will have more strife. Our subscription list shows that the readers are increasing. Christ mentioned his enemies and their work. He said in Matthews 10:34-35. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be those of his own household.

The Christian Informer was born to turn the minds of Christians against open-membership and other evils in the church of Christ."

* * *

"Please send me six copies of the January Informer, with front page dedicated to Bro. C. H. Dickerson. Thanks for the many nice things in your paper concerning Bro. Cloyd. We really appreciate it." Mrs. Mary L. Dickerson, N. Tazewell, Va.

* * *

I am sending to you for the Christian Informer another donation. I would have sent it before now, but I have been sick. I was sick all last year, but I thank the Lord, I am better, but still going to the doctor."

Yours for the good work.

C. L. Johnson, Covington, Ky.

Editor's note: We ask the churches to pray for Brother Johnson.

Another donation for the Christian Informer.

Mrs. Mamie E. Queen, Hagerstown, Md.

* * *

"I have just been looking over the January Informer, which I think is one of the best issues of the paper, not because my mug was in it, or any thing I might have said, but the history that it carries with it. Send me ten more copies of them. I want to put them into the hands of some of my friends." T. R. Everett, Midway, Ky.

More subscriptions for the Christian Informer.

Mrs. R. C. Sneed, Mound Bayou, Miss.

* * *

I have the promise of several more subscriptions in a few days; was over to Akron last night in a meeting. I was guest speaker for the Summit County Association of Elders and Deacons; The meeting was held with the Kenmore Church of Christ.

* * *

"Elder Claud R. Johnson is doing a great work; His attendance is growing larger each Lord's day you might look for some news from us in a few days since I did not get to send it in on time."

R. L. Sercy, Warren, Ohio

Another donation for the Christian Informer.

Elder James F. Irvin, Los Angeles, Calif.

We miss you so much. When you were here you seem like one of the family. Enclosed money and subscriptions for the Christian Informer.

Mrs. M. F. Langs, Greenwood, Miss.

HERE AND THERE

The East Side Church of Christ, Kansas City, Mo., under the leadership of Elder A. G. Nelson; moved into their new church building recently. They are going forward in a fine way. Brother Nelson is president of the National Christian Preaching Convention.

Silver Trumpet Sercy, of Warren, Ohio, conducted a great revival at the Second Christian Church of Hagerstown, Md. Bro. Sercy is a great preacher.

RENEW YOUR CHRISTIAN INFORMER SUBSCRIPTION TODAY.

Let's Do Our Duty And At The Same Time Contend For Our Rights.

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

BEGAN **When** A. D. 30, Pentecost. **Where** Jerusalem, Acts 2.

STRUCTURE

FOUNDER Matt. 16:16-18 **Christ, Head of the Corner**, 1Pet. 2:6,7, 8.

FOUNDATION **Apostles and Prophets**, Eph. 2:20-22.

LIVING BUILDING STONES I Pet. 2:5-8a, **Baptized-believers**.

BUILDERS I Cor. 3:10-11. **Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers**, Eph. 4:11. **Elders, Deacons**, I Tim. 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-9. **Deaconesses**, Rom. 16:1

NAMES OF CONGREGATION

CHURCH Acts 2:27; 8:1; 14:26-27.

CHURCH OF GOD I Cor. 1:2

BODY OF CHRIST I Cor. 12:27.

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD I Tim. 3:14-15.

CHURCH OF CHRIST Rom. 16:16.

PREAHING THE GOSPEL Mark 16:15.

NAMES OF MEMBERS

DISCIPLES Acts 6:1 and 7, **Learners**

SAINTS Eph. 2:19, Acts 9:13, as to character.

SONS OR CHILDREN OF GOD I John 3:1-2

BRETHREN Acts 6:3; 15:23, as to relationship.

CHRISTIANS Acts 11:26, Followers.

CREED

CHRIST JESUS Matt. 16:16; II Tim. 1:12.

ORDINANCES

BAPTISM **Who**, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12. **Why**, Rom. 6:3; Acts 2:38. **How**, Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

THE LORD'S SUPPER I Cor. 10:16-17.

MEMORIAL I Cor. 11:23-26, Explanation.

PREAHING THE GOSPEL I Cor. 10:16-17.

MISSION

TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.

MAKE DISCIPLES Matt. 28:19; Acts 6:1 and 7. Matt. 28:20.

COMMIT TO FAITHFUL MEN II Tim. 2:2.

Compliments of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. R. Fuller

DYNAMIC

The Christian-Evangelist and various Disciples State organs have been referring to the "dynamic" addresses of the "outstanding" leaders at Buffalo. But the Christian Plea, "official organ of the Negro Disciples of Christ," really turns loose the dynamite in its photo issue of August 1947. Practically the whole number is given to pictures of the "dynamic" colored brether and sister. For example:

Dr. J. E. Walker, Treasurer, Most Dynamic force in the (Cincinnati) Convention; Elder and Mrs. C. H. Dickerson, Former Editor and Dynamic Missionary; Mrs. A. E. Martin Dynamic worker; Mrs. S. F. Bosdick, Dynamic missionary; Mrs. Elbie Titus, Dynamic missionary leader; Mrs. Osceola Dawson, Dynamic church leader; Elder John Thompson, dynamic minister; Dr. W. Kappen Fox, dynamic young religious education leader." The final picture is the Greenwood Cemetery at Nashville, Tenn.



The Restoration Herald, February 1948

MY TRIP TO MARYLAND

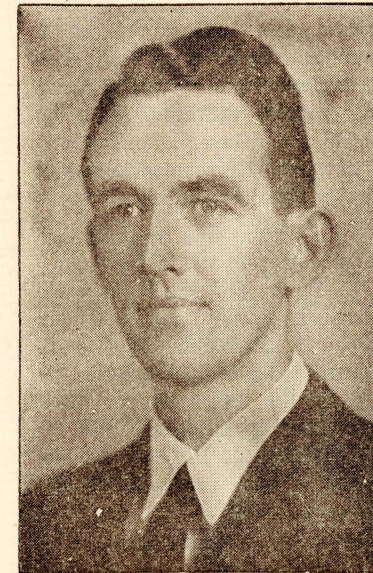
It was my good privilege to visit with the Second Christian Church of Hagerstown, Md. in a few nights meeting for Elder W. H. Taylor. We had a grand time; The Spirit ran high. They have two No. one good choirs each one would render the music every other night and did they sing? Any man should be able to preach with choirs like those in Hagerstown.

We resided in the home of Brother and Sister Queen. The hospitality shown us while there was great and shall ever be treasured. Elder Taylor has a good church. the Bible, and they are not willing to bow their knees to Baal, let us hope that more of our churches like Hagerstown, think and reason for themselves.

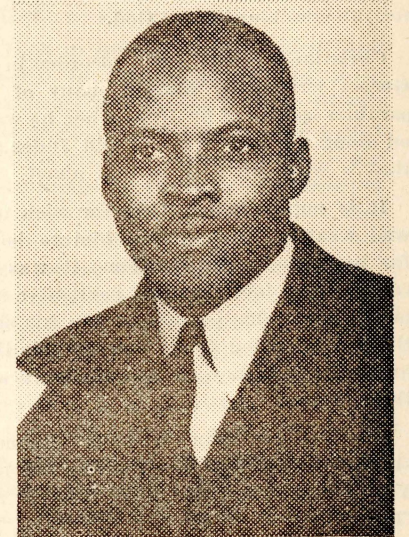
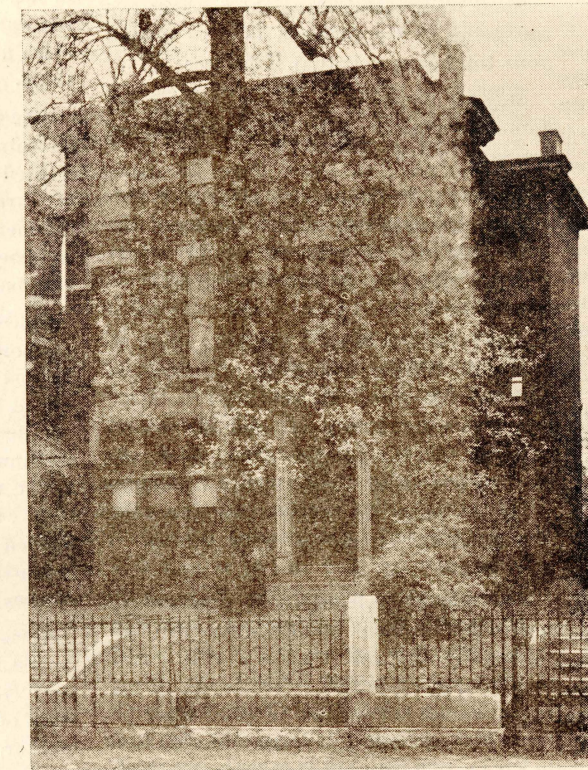
R. L. Sercy

THE HOME OF THE COLLEGE OF THE SCRIPTURES
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Some of our Trustees.



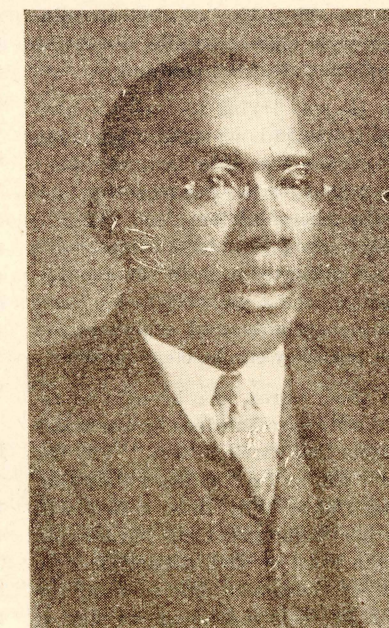
Tibbs Maxey



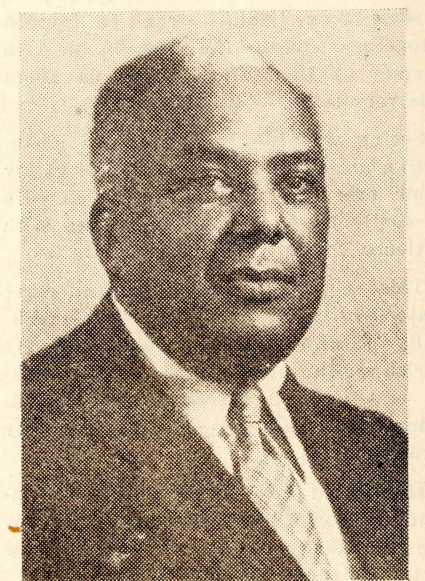
R. L. Sercy



G. C. Campbell



T. R. Everett



James A. Johnson

UNLOAD AND STOOP A LITTLE

by Elder James F. Irvin

Pastor of

Pasadena Christian Church

Pasadena, Calif.

Scripture Reading Luke 18:18-27

Text Luke 18:25

For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye; than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Christian Friends, Luke recorded in the Gospel written by himself many of the parables spoken of by Jesus when he walked along the path ways of Old Judea, and that is what we wish to talk about.

It is not so much, that the rich man was wealthy, that caused him to be so far away from the kingdom; it was because of the fact that this particular rich man idolized his possession. In his sigh, they were taking God's place in his life, and therefore they were a hinderance to the rich man.

In Business you consider financial standing along two lines; profit and loss. You possess what is called "assets" and "liabilities."

Some liabilities are necessary and some are not; and they use a term "Top heavy" sometime in business. That means a product that keeps money tied up, without a proper turn-over. When business isn't so good, and inventory is taken, to see if some of the liabilities can't be turned in to "Assets."

In our Christian progress, we have Assets and liabilities also; and when we begin to drift to far away from the spiritual life we should take inventory and see if some of our liabilities can't be dropped altogether. We have a verse in the 12th chapter of Hebrews advising us about this very thing. Heb. 12:1

Seeing we are also, compassed about, with a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weigh, and sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience, the race that is set before us.

This rich man's wealth, was an asset materially, but it was a liability, spiritually. Material things shall one day perish, with all the rest of this wicked old world; therefore, this particular rich man was holding unto the wrong assets.

He should have been willing to unload the top heavy material things, for the gratefulness of all assets is the access to the Universal Kingdom of God.

Another thought brought out in Hebrew 12:1 about the great cloud of witnesses. Friends, whether you want to believe it or not, some one is watching you. That is the sad part about life outside of Christ.

It is the fact that, as a rule, they are helping some one else stay out, too.

This man was wealthy, a success in life; he was probably able to influence other men round about; so he wasn't only along ways off, but it is my presumption that he was keeping others a long way off also.

So as we progress along the message, we are going to try to teach how to unload your top heavy spiritual liabilities:

May be, you have heard this before, but I must repeat it again, to emphasize my message to you:—

As you know, the needle's eye, in this portion, of the scripture, refers to one of the gates that open into the city of Jerusalem. It is a large gate with a smaller gate in the large gate.

I have been told by a minister, that he and some friends, have been to Jerusalem and seen this gate. He said that the large gate is closed at 3:00 p. m.; and any camels entering there, after that time, must unload their burdens and stoop low enough to go through this smaller gate; and the merchandise has to be carried through a smaller gate.

You see, my friends, it is possible for men to get his camel and his wares through the needles eye; but it takes a great effort to accomplish this feat. That is one of the thoughts, my master had in mind when he spoke this parable. It is possible for God to save a rich man but it takes so much effort, for God to get him to unload his top heavy wealth and give God his proper place in his heart; but it isn't always wealth that stands in our way; there can be many things:—

So as Jesus left this little Jewel in the form of a parable. He intended for ministers to preach, once in awhile, about the "top heavy liabilities" we hold unto.

Just as He was trying to open the eyes of this man, about his weights. I am going to try to reveal a few, this day; and don't think this is just for the Congregation; because it fits the minister also. We all, more or less, need to unload some of the things, I am going to speak to you about:— First of all, we must realize why we must unload these weights and whether you know it or not, they can be come burdens.

Just as these wares, men brought to Jerusalem to sell, were Burdens on the backs of the camels that carried them. Why the Holy Spirit can so fix it when a Christian isn't living right. Why these things will be a very heavy and greivous burden and truth of the word of God, getting back to the minds of those who fail to heed the the reason for this unloading we find it back in the (20) twentieth chapters of Exodus 20:5.

For I am the Lord Thy God, I am a jealous God. That is the reason, then to be

sure they understood what He meant. These words proceed this statement:—

"I am the Lord Thy God, which brought thee out of the house of Bondage; Thou shalt have no other Gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make unto thyself any graven image; or any likeness of any thing in heaven in heaven, or earth, or beneath the earth, or in waters of the earth, or skies above; friends, this takes in everything.

Our God, is a great God; He created all the things found in the universe, they were created by His hands; and for his pleasure We are only humble servants, living on the mercy of his great love and on borrowed time; at that and He require us to pay Him back in the time He so desires.

Since God is a jealous God, and since we are powerless to prevent wrath form come against us, that is prophesied in the word why it behooves us to obey; so that is why we must unload these weights and stoop to the humbleness of Christ, in order that he might exalt us like His Father exalted Him. Christ gave up His glory and intrusted in the hands of His Father, His immortality to be born of lowly circumstances here on earth.

Christ, unload the Glory of heaven, denied, Himself the fellowship of His Father; God Himself, stooped to a humble state of being reincarnated in the woman creator, in order that you and I might be saved. Stooped to the lowest of all forms of dwelling places. Not even delivered in a house. Our Christ was brought forth in a Manger. (a place prepared for the lower animals).

He who gave the Divine oracles to Moses. He who spoke the words to Moses revealing the pattern of the Tabernacle, He who led the armies of Israel, who conquered all the wealth that built and furnished the great Jewish Temple, He who reveal unto Solomon the Wisdom it takes to build such a building as a temple. Stooped to be questioned by man in the temple.

He, who was beside God when the world was void and great mass of mixture of earth and water and God spoke and the earth came together forming the earth and the water flowed into the great Caverns forming the lakes, the rivers, seas and oceans.

He who it was that said yes when man fell from the grace of God, in the garden of Eden, and God needed a redeemer for the fast state of man. He who claimed to be the only forgotten Son of God, stooped to the death on the cross; that you and I, and all unborn generations through an eternity might one day share with Him the blessing of a great and mighty God.

Beloved, if Christ, our mighty Maker, our Lord and Saviour, could unload His heavenly glory, His unlimited power, His

authority as the Son of God, and stoop to the humble habitation of man, and the death of the cross. Why surely we should be able to unload our earthly weights and give to Christ a life of service.

After revealing the purpose let us start unloading:—

Let us unload the cares of life:— You know when we are christians, we aren't any longer just earthly inhabitants but we have citizenship in heaven. Jesus said, "In My Father's are many mansions, and I go to prepare a place for you." and in another verse it says, "we are sealed by the Spirit."

My friends, our citizenship is already established in heaven, if we are christians.

Therefore, we are to place our utmost trust in Christ. The material things of this life are to become secondary. Christ must become all important, first and foremost, we must for sake all and follow Him.

As you turn these thoughts over in your minds, you think the cares of this life never interfere with you and your Saviour so right here I want to remind you of a few examples:

Have you ever knelt to pray; and you were praying, because your heart was heavy with the cares of this life and you wanted the comfort found only in Christ. You express a few troubles in thoughts, before the throne of Grace and then you find your mind off of the comforting blessing of God right back on the cares of this life; you were taking to the Lord in prayer.

My friends, I know what I am talking about the cares of this life can be an awful burden; sometime, you can bow in prayer and forget you are supposed to be praying and your thoughts drift off on the cares of this life. We may not all be troubled by the same thing, but if you are trying to serve God, that old devil, is going to trouble you with some of the cares of this life.

If you don't have a hard time securing the necessities of life; you will have domestic trouble; if it isn't this, it maybe sickness or it will be some wayward child or relative. The Devil will find some way to trouble you, with the cares of this life.

In some of the things we need to unload, the Devil doesn't have to enter the picture at all. Most all of us have too much pride, and we need to unload some of our pride. Some people say that Christians have nothing to boast about, are to be proud of this wrong; there are a few things we can be proud of:—

First of all I'm proud, I am a christian. Second, I'm proud, that Christ has given me a mind to serve Him. Third I am proud because of the fellowship I have with Christ. I can't speak for any one else, but, myself; I know Jesus is a personal Saviour; I know He stays close by all the time. I know, He will come to you and

comfort you in time of trouble. I know these things; therefore, I can be proud of Christ.

These points are all spiritual assets and we can be proud of them and not only can we boast about them; but it is our duty to tell everyone we meet that we are proud of a Christ that did so much for us and expect so little in return.

Our personal pride can also be a liability. That is one of my problems. I know that is one of the reasons I have been through so much here; it is because of pride. I have too much, and when I speak in the present, I mean the present. The purging I have received at the hand of God. I have lost some of my pride; but I still have too much for my own good. The Lord and I both are having a great battle along that line. The Lord is winning. He has wipped me to a frazz; and yet I still have some pride.

Dear friends, we must unload our pride; the material things of this life. We must lose all the attraction. So many things that we "set up" as a "must" has become naught and it is this fact that makes it hard for a worldly-person to understand a christian. Many times, when asked this question, "Do you do, so and so?" and you say, "no" the worldly-person thinks right away you consider that thing a sin.

This may not always be the case. The point is that, this thing has lost it's value to you and you have other matters pertaining to the Kingdom of God. They are more worthier of your time; and you just don't have time for this thing, that's all.

Sometime a fine edifice can be a stumbling block. The contention and strife caused sometime in raising the money for a new church; or there might be remodeling of the old one does more harm then discomfort of the old building.

We should unload our ambitions, especially our women folk. I think to many women in the world today are too ambitious. They are seeking the positions of men too much in the world. The purpose and plans of God doesn't alter as time goes on. God has fixed the habitation of woman in the home and that is where they belong in each generation. Right where God so ordained they dwell.

I am not argueing the point about whether or not they are as efficient as men. That is not my business; my business is to tell what is in God's eternal word; and in His word He says that a woman's place is in the home; submissive to her husband teaching the children. No wonder the world is full of child delinquency. The teacher is out of the home, filling the shoes of men and the children are suffering the consequences of the presence and the future of the world paying the price.

Let us discard so much of wistful thinking, and friolity; there is a verse in the

bible, that says "All foolishness is sin." Friends, when we look at God's word, with a microcopic eye and we find it narrows down to a very narrow path, and the standard is so high that only a few of us can reach it, and only then in a limited way. One verse in Timothy speaks against smutty jokes; another Idol thoughts. Oh; yes, beloved the Bible lays down a very narrow path, and if we aren't very careful we will slip by the wayside.

We need to unload our high ideas and condescend to the things of lowstated. Just as Jesus gave up his home in Glory; for this earthly habitation to save a lost world from sin; we likewise, have to unload somethings for the benefit of those yet out of Christ. Some of you think that, just because we are christians now, we are better than anyone else; but this is not so.

There is nothing good in the flesh; all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and it is only by the grace of God that we are what we are. Jesus said, "A well man doesn't need a physician." And my friend a christian doesn't need to be saved. So we must unload these big and lofty ideals and condescend to the people of low estates. The drunkard in the gutter needs Christ badly. When one's system is saturated by the germs and weakness of alcohol and the habit possessed one for a number of years, there isn't any other cure for a perpetual drunkard but Christ. Therefore, my friends, if we set ourselves up as some self righteous judge; and care not for this poor wretch how is he going to be able to receive his only means of help.

Friends, we must unload our lofty ideas and our exalted state and stoop to the same lowly and humble state of Christ; as He walked on this earth. We aren't any better than He is and we must stoop to things in life that He would.

He never came to the rich and highly educated. He came to the meek, poor and needy. We must be that way too. Just as the great love at Christ bust down Hebrew possession of the Divine oracles of God and the veil in the temple was destroyed and from that time, Jesus became the intercessor between God and man. So likewise must all racial and social barriers to be broken down and God's word preached to all races and classes of people through the whole universe.

Unless, this comes to pass, the world cannot end; because Jesus says, "when My gospel has been preached unto every nation and kindred, then shall you see the Son of man coming.."

I could go on and speak about various other things; but time will not permit. I think you will agree with me and you will admit, that we need to unload some of our top heavy liabilities and serve our Lord in a more earnest manner:—doing all that is in our power to see that His "word" is spread abroad.

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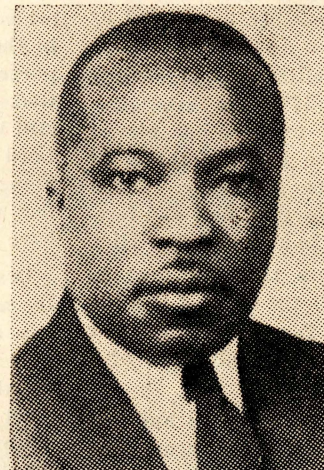
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