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The Christian Informer



NO BARGAINING WITH GOD

THERE are some Oriental and near-Oriental countries noted for the tendency on the part of the natives to bargain. There are those who greatly enjoy this practice, and even tourists to these regions enter into the spirit of bargaining as though it were a game.

The wife of one missionary good-naturedly complained that the habit had become so fixed in her husband that frequently he embarrassed her after their return to the homeland by his desire to bargain for every purchase. In fact she said the only time she could feel at ease while shopping with him was when he purchased stamps at the post office.

The spirit of barter is often found in religious life. Especially among the heathen can be seen the desire to placate a god or to buy his good pleasure. Expensive offerings are set out to appease the evil spirits supposed to be lying in wait to pounce upon the stingy worshiper.

As a consequence the religion of the heathen is a religion of fear—fear that he may not have done enough, fear that the gods may demand more, fear that the evil spirits might disregard his offering.

True religion, the worship of the true God, Christianity is based on the sure promises of God, promises of loving care for His children. Man knows that he cannot provide for himself, and he is assured that the Creator of the heavens and the earth, He who upholds the worlds by His power, is interested in his case. Divine love casts out fear. In childlike faith there is no room for superstition.

The child of God does not offer to do something in case God will keep His word. He knows that God is waiting and anxious to do His part. How out of place to offer to comply with some phase of God's program provided God will manifest His love toward the suppliant!

The Prayer Of Prayers

THE most famous prayer in the world is recorded in St. Matthew, the sixth chapter, and St. Luke, the eleventh chapter. This simple and profound prayer is used in the four hundred different languages of the earth. It is heard every day from the rising to the setting of the sun and binds all Christian believers into spiritual unity.

Familiarly known as "The Lord's Prayer," it has also been called "The Model Prayer." A Christian scholar says that here we have the Ten Commandments turned into prayer. A recent writer names this prayer "the creed of Christ," and in his little book on the subject he refers to these precious words as "a ladder of perfection." Personally, I like to think of this widely used Scripture as "The Prayer of Prayers"—for such it is.

This prayer of Jesus appears to have been given by Him to His disciples on two different occasions, the first in connection with the Sermon

Our Father does not invite us to come to Him and bargain. He says: "Come now, and let us reason together." His worship is reasonable. The universe, the starry hosts of heaven, this planet and all its inhabitants, are controlled and cared for by the omnipotent, omniscient Lord of lords. In love He has created all, and in love He will sustain them.

Though He constantly receives the adoration of unnumbered hosts of heavenly beings, yet the Christian knows he can come boldly with his requests, and the Lord will hear and answer each petition of faith. How futile to attempt to bargain with the Supreme Majesty of the universe!

Let no prayer ascend promising compliance to God's will if and when God has bowed to the will of a mere human in some particular. Let us rather allow Him to work out in us those characteristics that will make us more peculiarly His, that will permit Him to bestow, on those who are willing to assume the obedient likeness of His Son, the fullness and richness of His love.

God is not interested in bargains. He paid the highest price, the richest treasure of heaven, for man's redemption. This He was willing to do if but one lost soul might be reclaimed.

God is interested in reasonable service. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1.

Thus the Christian keeps uppermost in his mind and in his experience the salient fact that the favor of God cannot be bought, but that His love constantly envelopes, keeps, sustains, and protects. Lost in wonder as he contemplates the boundless love of his Creator and his Redeemer, he can rest secure from every fear.

If in any transaction only one side shall gain, the thing is not of God.

on the Mount, and the second some years later when His intimates asked Him to teach them to pray. We are not enjoined always to pray in these words, but to pray "after this manner"—a thing worth noting.

Look for a minute at the implications of this prayer: "Our Father," indicates a filial spirit; "Thy kingdom come," an expectant spirit; "Thy will be done," an obedient spirit; "give us this day our daily bread," a dependent spirit; "forgive us our trespasses," a contrite spirit; "as we forgive those who trespass against us," an expression of a forgiving spirit; "lead us not into temptation," a watchful spirit; "Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory," an adoring spirit.

Pray this prayer daily, slowly, thoughtfully, and it will appear that "The whole round world is in every way bound by gold chains to the feet of God."—Edgar De Witt Jones.

TREASURES

Money Cannot Buy

Children, Happy Homes, Character, Self-respect, Kindness, Generosity, Peace and Love—These are Treasures Money Cannot Buy



ALL THE DOLLARS in the United States Treasury taken together could not buy the dedication and devotion of people to the principles of freedom.

Money cannot buy patriotism, progress, or security. These are primarily spiritual things that live in the hearts of a people and cannot accrue to a government because of money or any material objects it gathers around it.

The price of our heritage was not money, but the ceaseless toil and prodigious efforts of those courageous pioneers who settled this land, tilled the soil, blazed the trails, extracted the minerals from the bounteous earth, and pushed the frontiers from the Atlantic to the far reaches of the Pacific. Then in their great generosity they bequeathed to the generation that followed, to us, the freedom that they purchased so dearly, the precious liberty which money could not buy.

Our American way is more than a treasure, indeed it is a treasure chest of treasures, for in truth it is composed of not one, but a multitude of related rights and freedoms, the right to worship God according to the dictates of one's conscience, the freedom to experiment, to change, to seek knowledge wherever research leads.

By spiritual standards it is an even greater success, surpassing any philosophy of government ever put into practice. The spiritual power of our way of life is derived from the Bible. Faith in God's wisdom and in our own abilities to work out our problems with divine help are deeply embedded in the great American tradition.

Belief in God gives an inner peace and contentment that is beyond the power of money to buy. Faith in the precepts and commands of God nurtures faith in man and leads to fair

dealing, integrity, honesty, and understanding among all. Understanding lays the groundwork of confidence and cooperation, and encourages a striving to help those less fortunate. It gives us the humility to learn from others, and stamina and strength to make our own decisions. It teaches us patience in the face of obstacles and encourages us to be generous enough to share our good wealth with others. It enables us to turn a smiling face to cares, to preserve a buoyant, hopeful, youthful spirit, to abide by rules of virtue, to shun folly and keep uppermost in our thoughts the eternal things of life.

Money cannot buy education or character for growing youngsters; it cannot give them a wholesome assurance, a confident ability in their capacity to meet life. Character can only be built when the aspirations of youth are lifted beyond worldly goods to lofty ideals that challenge them to be and do their best.

Money cannot buy progress, which comes from asking, seeking, knocking at all doors before us, sometimes evolving slowly from plodding, patient research into the mysteries of the unknown, and sometimes leaping into life from flashing, brilliant insights.

Truth cannot be bought with dollars. Money cannot buy the peace and contentment that come from an understanding heart. Happy homes, education, character, confidence, self-respect, kindness, generosity, and peace—these different forms of worth-while treasures money cannot buy.

It is because we as a people have placed our faith in God's wisdom that we are strong.

If we but resolve to rededicate our lives to Christian living, the treasures money cannot buy will continue to multiply and America will be invincible and secure.

The Christian Informer

Volume 14

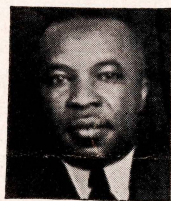
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Baltimore, Maryland

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.

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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

They Are Being Filled

Christ said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

The College of the Scriptures, Louisville, Kentucky, and the Winston Salem Bible College, Winston Salem, N. C., are filling the hunger and quenching the thirst our churches have had for the past fifty years, for Bible College, where our young men and young women can be trained for the ministry and for Christian Service.

In several states, our pulpits are filled with preachers trained at the above named colleges.

There is no need for our churches to hunger and thirst for doctrinal preaching. Their hunger can be filled if they only call a preacher, trained at either of the colleges. The students at these colleges are being filled with True to the Bible teaching.

The President and Faculty of the College of the Scriptures honored me, when they invited me to be the Commencement Speaker, May 19. I was filled with joy to speak and see those graduates receive their Diplomas.

STANDING A'FAR OFF

My Brethren, who have been standing afar off, watching and criticizing, should come a little

closer and get a good look at the things these colleges are doing for the churches. If you love Christ and the church, you will be filled with gladness. Any Brother who has been watching and criticizing, doubt my statement and judgment about these colleges. The Christian Informer and the National Christian Preaching Convention will humbly give him a free sight-seeing trip to either or both of these colleges.

"Blessed are they that have not seen; and yet have believed."

Every Member was a Captain at the Pew Rally held at Emmanuel Church. The following members made the Rally a success:

Mrs. Audrey Moody, Mr. Jasper Ford, Mr. P. J. Alexander, Sister Lyle, Mrs. Edmonia Foard, Mr. Everton Smith, Mrs. Annie L. Taylor, Mr. Norman Smith, Miss Shirley Smith, Mrs. Dora Williams, Mrs. Bessie Christophor, Mr. Edwin Pinkston, Mrs. Hazel Russell, Mrs. Frances E. Lewis, Mrs. Selma Draughn, Mrs. Essie L. Person, Mr. A. Wheeler, Mrs. Mary E. White, Mrs. Cora L. Jackson, Mrs. E. Goode, Mrs. Annie V. Johnson, Miss Nadine Sherwin, Mr. Daryle Sherwin, Mrs. Eliza Smith, Mr. Bernard Snead and Family.

Mrs. Pearl McIntyre, Mr. John A. Parker, A. Friend, Mr. C. L. Morris, Mr. Balock, W. H. Taylor, Minister, Mrs. Arnita Ford, Mrs. U. E. Rice, Mr. Edward Draughn, Mrs. Ester Dodson, Mrs. Ozella P. Sullen, Mr. and Mrs. Blunt, Mr. W. M. Brown, Mrs. Leona Ellis, Mrs. Mildred Brooks, Mr. Lewis White, Mr. Earnest Perkins, Mrs. Virginia Perkins, Mrs. Essie Carter, Miss Elnore C. Lawson, Miss Margreat Johnson.

Miss Adrienne Smith, Mr. Frank Abrams, Master Charles Brown, Mr. George Hamilton, Miss Sondra White, Miss Joann White, Master Clarence White, Mrs. Jessie White, Mr. Larry Lee, Mr. Luther Leaks, Mrs. Sarah Taylor, Mrs. Olivia Edmonds, Mrs. Deloris Puryear, Mr. Lawrence Simms, Mrs. Dorthy Simms, Mrs. Julia Thornton, Mr. Raymond Puryear, Mr. Pearl Wilson, Mr. George Smith, Mrs. Mary Sharp.

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"You Am What You Ain't"

Our Open-membership Brethren should read Preacher Bigjohn's sermon in a play called, "Slabtown Convention." In his sermon he said, "Be what you am. Don't try to be what you ain't." Because if you ain't what you am, then you am what you ain't." Don't be what you ain't. The church of Christ (Christian Church) is not a denominational man-made church. It is the church of the New Testament. Our Open-membership Brethren should be what they am, and not what they ain't. Our Open-membership Brethren should shamefully crawl down off the denominational band wagons, on which they are riding, and hide themselves behind the cross in the church of Christ, and be what they am. Don't try to be what they ain't.

Here and There

Elder and Mrs. W. H. (Baltimore) Taylor celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary, June 9.

Elder L. Philipps celebrated his fourth year as pastor of the Community Church of Christ, Fairmount Heights, Maryland, June 18th to 21st.

Emmanuel Church worshipped with the church at Fairmount Heights, Lord's Day, June 21st.

President Tibbs Maxey of the College of the Scriptures, left the States, May 27, to be an exchange professor for the summer term six weeks at Osaka Bible Seminary in Japan.

Elder W. H. Taylor, Pastor, Choir and congregation of Emmanuel Christian Church, worshipped at Mt. Olivet Christian Church, Lord's Day, June 7.

Elder C. L. Whitfield, Pastor of Mt. Olivet Christian Church, choir and congregation will worship at Emmanuel Church Lord's Day, July 19th.

Four persons were buried with Christ in baptism at Emmanuel Church, Lord's Day, June 14th. The youngest was seven years old and the oldest person was more than eighty years old. Emmanuel Church, Baltimore, will celebrate its 26th anniversary, Lord's Day, August 2nd.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

The Editor's Visit to Louisville, Ky.

On our way we stopped at the following places in the interest of the Christian Informer: Winchester, Va., Staunton, Va., Lexington, Va., Charleston, West Va., Huntington, West Va., Mt. Sterling, Ky.

At Mt. Sterling we met Elder G. A. Frazier, Pastor of the High St. Christian Church and his mother and fine family. Elder Frazier is doing a fine work at Mt. Sterling. From there we went to Paris, Ky., and spent the night with Elder I. H. Moore, Pastor of the Christian Church of Paris and Dean of the College of the Scriptures. In company with Dean Moore, we left for Louisville, where I delivered the commencement address. In Louisville, we were the house guest of Prof. and Mrs. Joe R. Kearns and family. They made my stay a pleasant one. Many thanks to them. On our return to Baltimore, in company with Dean Moore as far as Paris, we stopped in Midway, Ky.,

THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN PREACHING CONVENTION

will be held at

Emmanuel Church of Christ (Christian Church)
Baltimore, Maryland

August 7th to 11th, 1959

You are invited to attend. Notify us beforehand, if you plan to attend, so we may know how to prepare for you. Preaching - Praying - Singing and Shouting will be the order of the day.

and saw several of the Christian Informer Readers. In Lexington, Ky., we stopped at the home of Elder and Mrs. O. B. Garner; there is a great preacher, doing a great job at Lexington and Winchester, Ky. We arrived in Paris with Dean Moore and rested till daybreak. Then I bade him goodby. Our next stop was Portsmouth, Ohio, Ironton, Ohio. All along the way we met old friends and made new ones, and received subscriptions for the Christian Informer.

"Not On Sunday Night"

Gleaned from Footprints of Time

On Lord's Day morn' the brethren all
Come to worship God;
They like to hear of Jesus' love,
How Calvary's path He trod.
Then they enjoy the communion sweet,
And worship with their might;
But in this way, they're queer to me,
They don't come back at night.
On Lord's Day morn' they love to sing
The songs of truth and right;
They make the joyful chorus ring,
But not on Sunday night.
Each Lord's Day morn' they pray that God
Will help them win the fight;
But they don't seem to need Him long,
They don't come back at night.
On Lord's Day morn' they're at the church
They've come the truth to seek;
On Sunday morn' their faith is strong,
That night it's very weak.
They like to hear the sermon grand,
They listen with delight,
(That is, if it's a Sunday morn')
But they don't come back that night,
The finest sermon ever heard,
When preached to an empty seat,
Will not rescue one sinner's soul
From the doom that he shall meet.
So, brethren, if you love the Lord,
And would follow Him aright,
Let's go to church, Christ will be there,
Even on each Sunday night.

Editor's Note: The above poem was first used by a radio station in Martinsville, Va. and was sent to "Footprints of Time" by J. A. Hall, Rt. 4, Box 169, Martinsville, Va. We are glad to use it in The Christian Visitor. It reveals a true, but sad condition, in many churches.—Jesse A. Mason.

Thanks to The Christian Visitor.—Editor.

10 Commandments For a Happy Marriage

1. Thou shalt trust each other. One must trust, if willing to give one's self for life to another. One must trust, if willing to say: "With all my worldly goods I thee endow."
2. Thou shalt not credit evidence that is only circumstantial. Gossip starts with circumstantial evidence. That kind of evidence is poison to love and mutual esteem.
3. Thou shalt not sulk. Sulking is a mark of infantilism which many adults continue to indulge in to their peril. No grudge should be permitted to last overnight.
4. Be generous always. The person constantly afraid of getting the short end of the stick, usually does.
5. Thou shalt look upon sacrifice as a privilege and not as a burden. Like happiness, marriage blessings come as by-products of sacrificial devotion.
6. Thou shalt remember that the marriage carriage must be pulled by a team. Marriage is not a "one hoss shay."
7. Thou shalt not conduct postmortems over failure and disagreeable experiences. Only if mistakes can be avoided in the future shall they be recalled.
8. Thy home shall be the heart of thy life. Homes are most appreciated when there is a shortage and one has to live with in-laws.
9. Thou shalt not compare thy husband or wife with another's. You can't have a blonde and a brunette, a baldheaded and a curlytop in one person. Unpleasant comparisons corrode affection.
10. Thou shalt build thy marriage with God as a third partner. No two persons are ever quite good enough to obey all commandments for successful marriage.

Prayers For Children

One of the most important places where we can witness is in our home. As in every other situation, so in the home, prayer plays a vital role in winning and keeping others for Christ. DeWitt Talmadge tells in his autobiography that when he was a boy his mother often went to the next door neighbor without giving any explanation. He wondered why. It was not until after her death that he learned that his mother and her neighbor met regularly in order to pray together for the salvation of their children. How about you? Are you praying that your children may live for Jesus and be faithful followers of His to the end?

Duty is what you expect of others

An Irish Prayer



Take time for work—it is the price of success.
 Take time to think—it is the source of power.
 Take time to play—it is the secret of youth.
 Take time to read—it is the foundation of wisdom.
 Take time to be friendly—it is the road to happiness.
 Take time to dream—it is hitching your wagon to a star.
 Take time to love and be loved—it is the privilege of the gods.
 Take time to look around—it is too short a day to be selfish.
 Take time to laugh—it is the music of the soul.

When to Call a Pastor

1. When a loved one is seriously ill and facing death.
2. When a relative continues to be despondent following the death of a loved one.
3. When you are facing a surgical operation.
4. When you face adjustment to a physical handicap.
5. When you are going through a long convalescence.
6. Following the birth of a baby (for a prayer of thanksgiving).
7. When you desire to join the church.
8. When a loved one is drinking.
9. When you are having difficulty in your marriage.
10. When you are choosing a life work and feel uncertain about your choice.
11. When you are choosing a life mate and have doubts about your choice.
12. When as a parent you are concerned about either of the above decisions for your son or daughter.
13. When you are discouraged and life has lost its meaning.
14. When a loved one has become despondent for no obvious reason.
15. When the behavior of a loved one shows marked and rapid change, whether it is toward excessive mis-behavior or excessive interest in any phase of life. Both, may be indications of serious personality disturbance.

Are you a mere space filler, or are you filling your space?

Good religion and a closed mind never go together.

THE MOMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Four minutes to four by the Chapel clock. Four years of effort now crowned with success. This is the moment of achievement.
- Three minutes to four. The illusion begins to fade. Here, outside the ivy-covered walls the future looms more important than the past.
- Two minutes to four. A sense of fear. Can a diploma guarantee happiness through all the years to come?
- One minute to four. Futility! Education can't insure happiness. Life is a succession of uncertainties.
- Four solemn strokes of the Chapel clock. The Chapel clock! There is life's one Certainty... God! And with divine Love rewarding human faith, who need fear the uncertainties of life or doubt to find happiness under God.

Years of education are no substitute for minutes of spiritual searching. Diplomas are important, but the discovery of Faith is the real moment of achievement.

Come and Worship

This is a Church with open doors, open hearts, and welcoming hands. . . . A Church where fresh young lives may be won for the Master. A Church where men and women may discover meaning, where tempted souls may gain strength, and where wandering feet may be led to the Father's Home. Make your faith an active, daily part of your personal life. Go to Church regularly. Support your local Church. Find a way to give it more of your time and strength.

You Are Welcome!

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MESSAGE

By Sister Eulah M. Smith, Los Angeles, Calif.

Once again the special time has come - To pay tribute to the Immaculate Son - To give God thanks for this Holy One - Of whom His disciples proclaimed - Supreme Master, Saviour, King. The one who was hung on a cross of disdain - With a thief on each side to add to its shame - A murderer was freed - To oblige the greed - Of the sinful multitudes plead. His name was Jesus Christ - For our souls He gave His life - In a silent tomb He laid three days - Then God's angels rolled the stone away - As they entered the tomb until this day - No one knows what to each did say - The two Marys and others who came before dawn - Were astonished to find their Master gone. Their hearts were sad - They were so afraid - Then God's angels spoke and said - "Why seek ye the living among the dead? - He is not here but risen, as He said. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He goeth before you into Galilee - There Him the Saviour ye shall see." With fear and great joy the women ran - To bring His disciples word - Of the wonderful news they had heard; but they met Jesus on their way - On this great resurrection day - He said to them, "All Hail, be not afraid" - Then they knew He was not dead - He said, "Go into Galilee - There ye shall see me" - Forty days He dwelt on earth - After His resurrected birth. All power to Him was given - In heaven and in earth - Then His ascension took place - right before His disciples face - His work was done - The debt was paid, the victory won - So today let all Christians say, - "THANK GOD FOR THE NEW-BORN SON."

New and Renewed Subscribers

Mr. Willie Benjamine, West Virginia
Mr. John Law, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Joe R. Kearns, Kentucky
Dean I. H. Moore, Kentucky
Prof. C. Daniels, Kentucky
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Mrs. S. G. Matthews, Maryland

My Dear Bro. Taylor:

Enclosed is \$1.00. Thanks for the Informer. I pray your work in Baltimore is progressing.

Your Brother-in-Christ,
Blair T. Hunt, Memphis, Tenn.

An Appeal to All Club Women

Re: Freedom, Integration, and Peace

BY Sister E. M. Smith, National Chaplain of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., - Affiliated with the National Council of Women, U.S.A., Inc.

As I think upon the apparently grave situation of the world today, I cannot help but wonder when will men be men, and women be women.

When will we stop fighting and pushing like children, saying, "You can't sit by me, neither can you sit over there; if you do, I'll pull your hair." "You can't have this land or place; if you do, I'll scratch your face."

The nations of the world are constituents of the Human Race. Until we give deep cognizance to this truth and see ourselves as one, according to God's creation, we can never have the Freedom and Peace for which we seek.

Our oneness is inevitable. No notion is free as long as there is one in bondage.

Freedom is our rightful heritage. Unwittingly, Nations have deprived themselves of this Freedom through legislation, traditions, creeds, dogmas, and religion.

Punitive legislation alone will not change the hearts of the people.

Therefore, I believe that our foremost solution would be to turn to God in fervent prayer, asking Him, that we be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and thus be wholly regenerated.

As Chaplain of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc., I am appealing to women of Clubs, Leagues, Associations, Churches, and all other organizations all over the world to unite daily with us in this prayer -

OUR PRAYER—

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, I pray that Thou would "create in me a clean heart, O Lord, And renew a right spirit within me."
This I ask also, for human beings everywhere.

And now, Father, I give thanks for this regeneration which is taking place within us now.—
Amen.

Thank you for your consideration and loyal co-operation.

Sincerely,
Sister E. M. Smith,
251 North Bonnie Brae Street,
Los Angeles 26, California

CHURCH OF CHRIST OR JAIL

People that go to the church of Christ very seldom go to jail. People that go to jail very seldom go to the church of Christ. Children that go to Lord's Day School very seldom go to Court. Take your choice.

YOUR WAY OR HIS WAY

Two ministers, given to arguing about their respective faiths, were in a very heated discussion. "That's all right," said one calmly. "We'll just agree to disagree. After all, we're both doing the Lord's work—you in your way and I in His."