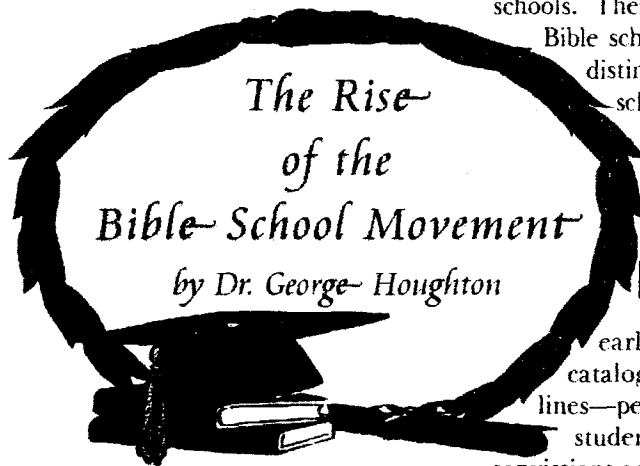


The PROJECTOR

DR. DAYTON HOBBS, EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"



The Rise of the Bible School Movement

by Dr. George Houghton

THE BIBLE SCHOOL MOVEMENT began in the later 1800s as a part of American Fundamentalism and has greatly impacted Bible-believing Christians over these last one hundred or so years. Since there already were many Christian liberal arts colleges and theological seminaries in existence at that time, it is legitimate to ask why there would be a need for Bible

schools. Their need, as understood by Bible school founders, is seen in the distinctive features which these schools had and ultimately in the characteristics of those early Bible school graduates. Just what are these distinctive features?

Key Features:

The key features of those early Bible schools can be cataloged along three specific lines—personal qualities expected in students and alumni, doctrinal convictions which would be emphasized, and some aspects of practical application.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

1. A DEEPENED LOVE FOR THE LORD

Whatever else might be true, the early Bible schools sought to produce in their students a deep and abiding hunger to know the Lord and walk intimately with Him. These schools wanted graduates

who not only knew *about* the Lord but who knew Him personally and whose walk with Him was continually developing.

2. A GODLY WALK

Out from a deep love for the Lord was expected a godly walk. This is often referred to as "personal separation." This meant that one's lifestyle was expected to be characterized by discipline and holiness. The motto, "Others may, you may not," reflected their thinking. And these personal standards arose out of seriousness of purpose as to what life was all about, the convictions that the things which really last are those which are centered in obeying the will of God, and a desire to please Him.

3. THE LIFE OF FAITH PRINCIPLE

God has a will for each of His children. As we yield to Him and allow Him to show us what direction He wishes us to go, He will make it possible to accomplish whatever is His will.

Continued on page 4

Deception by **I**mitation
by the late Dr. F. V. Dabold

DELVING INTO THE "MYSTERY" that "doth already work," we see how Satan's program of deception got an early start in the planting of the tares (Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43), which look just like the wheat.

The "form of godliness" of this present hour, the predicted strategy of Satan for the endtime, a strategy that constitutes our greatest peril, as Satan prepares to engulf the world in a masterpiece of deception which will terminate in "THE (definite article in the original Greek) LIE" (2 Thessalonians 2:11), palmed off on mankind by "THE (definite article again) LIAR" (John 8:44).

We read in verse eight of Second Timothy three: "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth." The persons to whom the apostle refers as "these" who in the last days "resist the truth" are the "men" of verse two, and those "of this sort" in verse six. This is one of the most astonishing, as well as one of the most solemn revelations in the entire Word of God. It is a most singular warning to all those who have any desire at all to "escape [those] things that shall come to pass" (Luke 21:36), very shortly, and to "stand before the Son of Man." As for those who shall be caught in Satan's net of deception, "they shall NOT

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ON RECEIVING ADMONITION

Guest Editorial

By

the Late A. W. Tozer

CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN organizations have shown a tendency to fall into the same error that destroyed Israel: inability to receive admonition. After a time of growth and successful labor comes the deadly psychology of self-congratulation. Success itself becomes the cause of later failure. The leaders come to accept themselves as the very chosen of God. They are special objects of the divine favor; their success is proof enough that this is so. They must therefore be right, and anyone who tries to call them to account is instantly written off as an unauthorized meddler who should be ashamed to dare to reprove his betters.

If anyone imagines that we are merely playing with words let him approach at random any religious leader and call attention to the weaknesses and sins in his organization. Such a one will be sure to get the quick brush off, and if he dares to persist he will be confronted with reports and statistics to prove that he is dead wrong and completely out of order. "We be the seed of Abraham" will be the burden of the defense. And who would dare find fault with Abraham's seed?

continued next page

ESCAPE" (I Thessalonians 5:3). My reader should acquaint himself with the MANNER of "escape," if he has not already done so (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

What is the Jannes and Jambres story? Let us go back to Exodus 7:9-11. In accordance with His own prescribed regulation that, "In the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established," Jehovah sent Moses and Aaron into the court of Pharaoh with an ultimatum: "Let my people go!" Pharaoh, in this cupidity, saw in those Hebrew people only valuable chattels with which to enrich his coffers. He was prepared to resist Jehovah's demand. Asking for the credentials of these two witnesses, Aaron proudly produced them. He converted the shepherd's rod into a serpent. That was a miracle and should not a miracle be sufficient attestation to the truth to prove its authenticity? It was a demonstration of the supernatural, and of course it was divine. Miracles always prove the reality of supernatural power.

At this point the unexpected and unbelievable happened. Pharaoh calls for his two witnesses and into the court step the two magicians. This story was written 1500 years before Christ. Like all Old Testament stories this was written for us, "upon whom the ends of the ages has come," for our admonition (I Corinthians 10:11 & Romans 15:4), and therefore the names of these two magicians have been withheld until the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to make the moral application in Timothy, so that we might be aware of what is going on around us today. Jannes and Jambres could also demonstrate the supernatural, and they too performed the same miracle. If Aaron, with his rod, could demonstrate the supernatural as a sign that Israel should be emancipated from her slavery and taken out of the land, Jannes and Jambres could perform the same supernatural demonstration as a proof that they should be kept in the land. Notice the baneful result: "Pharaoh's heart was hardened" (Exodus 7:22).

This story furnishes us with a basis for a clear understanding of the satanic strategy of the endtime, a program of deception which will become more artful as the days go by, coming to its perfection in the tribulation when it will become so artful as to deceive if possible "the very elect" of Israel (Matthew 24:24). What happened in the court of Pharaoh is becoming more and more the pattern of deception in our churches today in America.

Here we are face-to-face with a fact generally overlooked today, and that is in itself significant, for it is the intention of the evil one, (and we have seen that he is equal to it), to conceal his method of operation and the degree of his success. The fact herein set forth is the reality of two spheres of supernaturalism operating in the world today, and manifesting itself in the church. One is divine, the other is diabolical. It is the common belief that the performance of a miracle proves an operation of the Spirit of God, that it must be divine. Nothing could be farther from the truth as revealed in the Word of God. Satan's method has always been to duplicate the miracles of God and to IMITATE the work that God is doing in the earth. Therefore if God's servants can preach the gospel, so can the devil's servants preach the gospel; if God's servants can pray and cast out demons, so can the devil's servants cast out demons, and that too IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS; if the servants of God can do "many wonderful works" so can the devil's children do many wonderful works.

Let us read Matthew 7:21-23: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied (PREACHED) IN THY NAME and in thy name have cast out demons and in thy name done MANY WONDERFUL WORKS? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Here is a startling revelation. Here we have a company of audacious folk who presume to be followers of the Lord Jesus. They have all the phrasology of the Christian faith upon their lips. They can pronounce the shibboleths correctly. Many have had these shibboleths placed on their lips when small children. They profess to be fundamentalists, and all they do is "in the name of Jesus" (notice that three times we have "IN THY NAME"). However, these people are so taken over by the devil as to be unaware of the unreality of their profession. As the devil's dupes they express great surprise when the doors of heaven above are closed against them. Like Eve of old, they have been "thoroughly deceived."

Notice that in this group were preachers who could preach the gospel. "We have prophesied in thy name," they say. This means to preach the gospel. There was a time the writer believed that one could not preach the gospel if one was not saved.

Then one day he discovered in the gospel of Mark, that the only men who knew the truth about Jesus and who were not afraid to proclaim the truth, were demon possessed men. There was a time when these were the only professing fundamentalists. They said, "[We] know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24; 3:11).

E. M. Bounds once wrote: "When truth has once been promulgated, the after history of that truth does not necessarily prove an operation of the Spirit of God." And why? Because, too often, the devil has been known to take those very truths and use them as a smoke screen behind which he does his most deadly work. Paul says, "The letter killeth" (2 Cor. 3:6), and if the devil knows that the truth can be used to kill spiritual life, will he not take advantage of it? Indeed he already has done so.

Is it not startling to read about the Pope issuing a proclamation putting his blessing upon Bible reading? In Montevideo Catholics have been known to go from house to house distributing Gospels. The book stores in Montevideo carry the Bible in stock and the university students buy them because they are obliged to read certain books in the Bible as classic literature. And yet from these efforts we have never known of anyone being converted to Christ. Why? Because God is doing a masterpiece, the greatest thing He has ever done, or ever will do. God has His particular method of working and He will never depart from that method. If the Spirit of God does not work, there will be nothing accomplished of a divinely supernatural nature. God uses only a Spirit-filled man. These are few and far apart today. The Spirit of God is grieved because of sin and compromise in the church. He is retiring from the scene. The Church is almost complete. Behind the scenes this is what the devil knows, and he is confident, he has nothing to lose by exposing people to the Gospel—largely speaking.

Jesus said, "I receive not testimony from man" (John 5:34). So when the demon possessed woman, sincerely and enthusiastically, dogged the steps of Paul, crying out, "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation," Paul was grieved, as was the Holy Spirit, notwithstanding the fact that she spoke the truth. It is not enough to preach the truth. The Spirit of God must act directly through the speaker, and communicate the truth in a cordial manner, from the heart of the speaker to the heart of

the listener. The Spirit acts in a sovereign manner in His choice of time, and place, and speaker, as well as the listener. He is never, never reduced to such strains as to be compelled to use the tools of the devil, or to violate His own restrictions laid down in the Word. There is too much compromise today in the church to witness much of the work of the Spirit.

In a certain church the pastor was preaching like a whirlwind, "Be sure your sins will find you out." On the front pew sat a woman, supposedly his wife. When the service was over, two policemen waited at the door to apprehend this man, for the woman was the wife of another.

In a certain church there is a man who seems to have a string of converts. He is the best personal worker in the church. Then lo and behold it is discovered, he has joined the Theosophist Society. What kind of "converts" would such a man have, according to the Word? Why, they would be "children of the Wicked One"—tares, that look so much like wheat. Our churches today are full of them.

No, it is a gross error to suppose that any old Tom, Dick or Harry can go out and open the Bible and commence preaching and win converts to the Lord Jesus. There is always great dignity to the manner of God's working. Has He not warned us then of the precise manner of operation of the Mystery of Iniquity in the last days just preceding the tribulation? Jannes and Jambres are preaching loudly today, and we do well to listen to what they say. Ω

From the Book, "The Mystery of Iniquity," By Dr. F. V. Dabold, 1996.

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from ADMONITION

Those who have already entered the state where they can no longer receive admonition are not likely to profit by this warning. After a man has gone over the precipice there is not much we can do for him, but we can place markers along the way to prevent the next traveler from going over. Here are a few:

1. Don't defend your church or your organization against criticism. If the criticism is false it can do no harm. If it is true you need to hear it and do something about it.
2. Be concerned not with what you have accomplished but over what you might have accomplished if you had followed the Lord completely. It is better to say (and feel), "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."
3. When reproved, pay no attention to the source. Do not ask whether it is a friend or an enemy that reproves you. An enemy is often of greater value to you than a friend because he is not influenced by sympathy.
4. Keep your heart open to the correction of the Lord and be ready to receive His chastisement regardless of who holds the whip. The great saints all learned to take a licking gracefully—and that may be one reason why they were great saints. Ω

From *The Best of Tozer*,
Christian Publications, Inc., 1981.

DOCTRINAL CONVICTIONS

4. THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

There was the belief in the importance of doctrine generally—that is, whatever is taught in Scripture is of value. Also, there were certain doctrines which were fundamental or essential to Biblical Christianity.

5. BELIEF IN THE BIBLE AS GOD'S WORD

This included several ideas. It included, for example, the concepts of verbal plenary inspiration and the inerrancy of Scripture. This meant that as we study the Bible, we do so from an attitude of submission to the Bible's teaching whereby we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our understanding of the text, and mere intellectual academic abilities are not enough to properly understand it. There was a deep distrust of what was happening generally in the higher educational circles of their day.

Because the Bible is God's Word, it is to be studied completely and interpreted literally. Bible school students studied the Bible both synthetically and analytically—that is, they had classes which gave them a good overview of God's plan for the ages, and the overall scope of both Old and New Testaments, as well as careful minute study of Bible books, paragraphs, sentences, and words. And their teachers told them that they should interpret the Bible by accepting its normal and natural meaning—without looking for some hidden meaning, unless other clear Scriptures would so indicate.

6. RECOGNITION OF DISPENSATIONAL DISTINCTIONS WITHIN A PREMILLENNIAL THEOLOGICAL SYSTEM

Because the Bible was to be interpreted normally, its plain meaning indicated that God has worked at different times and in different ways with different groups. And God had made promises to Abraham and to his physical descendants through Isaac and Jacob—promises that their people would continue to exist, that they would be God's earthly people, that the land of Palestine belonged to them, and that David's Descendant, the Messiah, would one day come and establish them in prosperity in the land. Those promises still await their fulfillment. This dispensational approach helped them understand that things are not going to get better and better in the present age, but that apostasy, compromise, and worldliness would characterize the end of the age. The believer's goal, then, in serving the Lord was not primarily seen as that of cultural improvement, but rather, one of fulfilling the Great Commission to evangelize, baptize, and teach God's Word.

7. BELIEF IN THE IMMINENT RETURN OF CHRIST FOR HIS OWN

The next event on God's prophetic calendar is the return of Christ to take His own to Heaven, just as He promised in John 14:1-3, and just as described in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. It is not judgment upon the earth or Doom's Day for which believers look as their blessed hope. That hope is the any-moment appearing of God's Son to take them Home.

8. EMPOWERMENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Too many of God's people attempt to live for Him by means of their own effort rather than by allowing the Holy Spirit of God to control and empower them to live a victorious Christian life. Such a life of victory over known sin (not sinless perfection) is possible in this life, and, in fact, is God's will.

9. NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD RELIGIOUS LIBERALISM

Because Christianity had certain doctrines as fundamental to it, any religious system which ignored, reinterpreted, or denied those doctrines was not Christianity at all.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

10. COOPERATION CENTERED ON CONVICTIONS

There was an unwillingness to coexist or cooperate with religious liberalism or to compromise by joining hands in religious endeavor with those who did not share the great doctrines of the Bible. The 1878 meeting of the Niagara Bible Conference adopted a 14-point doctrinal statement which they prefaced with the following remarks: "So many in the latter times have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; so many have turned away their ears from the truth, and turned unto fables; so many are busily engaged in scattering broadcast the seeds of fatal error, directly affecting the honor of our Lord and the destiny of the soul, we are constrained by fidelity to Him to make the following declaration of our doctrinal belief, and to present it as the bond of union with those who wish to be connected with the Niagara Bible Conference."

11. TRAINING IS FOR SERVICE

The early Bible schools believed that an essential quality in their programs needed to be practical Christian service. Their very existence was due to the need for "gap men," as D.L. Moody expressed it. There needed to be more Christian workers raised up in the last days of this present age who would be well-equipped to minister from God's Word to the spiritual needs of those around them. Thus, street meetings, preaching in the parks, rescue mission ministry, and jail and hospital visitation were all an integral part of what Bible school education was all about.

12. THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING, EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

Preaching God's Word was the God-established method for bringing people to Christ and for building up God's people. The Great Commission is the marching orders for believers today given by our Commander, and He expects us to be ready and to obey.

As a result of establishing schools with these various characteristics, a host of Christian workers have been produced who were fully dedicated and committed to doing the will of God, who were willing to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ, who understood and were committed by personal conviction to the teachings of God's Word, and sought to serve Him in any way He chose. It is true that these schools did not advertise their programs with phrases such as "academic excellence," nor did they speak of their graduates as "culturally relevant," but then again, neither did their alumni—when interviewing for a position—ask among their first questions what would be the salary and fringe benefits! Perhaps we would be well-served to take a closer look at those early Bible schools to see why their graduates were often successful in their Christian service and to ask ourselves if those distinguishing characteristics are still true of Bible colleges today.

Dr. Houghton is the Vice President for Academic Services and the Adjunct Professor of Historical Theology for Faith Baptist Bible College, Ankeny, IA. Ω

Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

"Be all that you can be!" So goes the slogan for the Army. Some athletes take performance enhancing drugs to help build stronger bodies; however, the Olympic Committee has banned such substances due to health concerns and fairness. As Christian teachers, we, too, desire that our students be the best they can be in every area. To ensure this, we must make sure that they are in tip-top shape for school.

Although we understand that parents are primarily responsible for their children's health and well-being, Christian school teachers can take advantage of the opportunity to help parents in this regard. We are often in the front line position to notice subtle changes in a child's needs. We should always keep parents informed if we notice any health problem, especially concerning vision or hearing.

Factors

Three factors are necessary to insure our students readiness to learn at school:

1. Rest

All children need proper rest and sleep. The recommended hours of sleep for children age 4-8 are at least 10 hours per night. Young people age 9-14 should have at least 8 hours of sleep. Studies have found that most Americans are affected by sleep deprivation to some extent. Working parents often struggle to get their children to bed early when their time with them seems so limited; however, a sleepy child cannot do his best in the classroom. Kind, sincere encouragement to a sleepy student's parents should be helpful.

2. Nutrition

Eating a properly balanced diet is also a major factor in children's health. Teachers should be alert to their students' eating habits and teach the proper nutritional requirements even in the early grades. Of course, we are living in a "fast food" era, and some children seldom sit down to a "family meal" anymore. If the child packs his own lunch totally lacking in any of the basic four food groups, the teacher should notify the parents. They will appreciate your attention to their child.

3. Exercise

Children also need the opportunity to exercise and play. For elementary students it is advisable to have an exercise break (10-15 minutes) in the morning and a recess period during the afternoon. Lessons learned through organized games are very beneficial: obeying the coach, listening to instructions, developing manipulative skills, such as catching, throwing, kicking, skipping, etc. The development of physical skills directly affects the development of cognitive skills, and the two should be sequenced simultaneously. The recess/exercise time is one of the most important periods of the day. Playtime can often give a teacher insight into problems a child may be experiencing spiritually, emotionally, behaviorally, etc. Teachers should give much attention to the children on the playground—walk around, listen to conversations, prevent scuffles, and supervise. Teachers must be "eyes on" at all times. It has been said that Satan lives in the locker rooms of Christian schools. We must not give him a chance to "seek whom he may devour" under our care.

Teachers have the opportunity to influence parents as well as students. We can often help families as we teach the children. A Christian school teacher's testimony extends beyond his/her classroom. The love of the Lord Jesus Christ should be seen in our lives and shared with all those within our sphere. We have a responsibility to be a witness for Christ. Most parents will appreciate a phone call regarding any concern you may have about their children.

These factors: sleep, food, and exercise must be balanced in our student's lives. Leave any one factor out and the child's learning is harmed. We desire to help our students learn how to take care of their bodies so that they can be vessels "meet for the master's use" (2 Tim. 2:21). Ω

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Focus on Religion

by Tod Brainard

"Desire the sincere milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2a).

THE ENGLISH *SINCERE* comes from the Latin *sine cera* which means unmixed, pure, unadulterated. To paraphrase our verse we read as follows, "Desire the unmixed milk of the word."

A stroll through the Dairy Section of your local grocery store reveals many varieties of milk. For simplicity, I will categorize the milk families into two divisions: the *Diluted* and the *Sweetened*.

The strongest milk of the *Diluted* family is Mr. 4% Whole. This milk looks very much like the real thing, straight from Ol' Betsy, the milk cow; however, Ol' Betsy would be offended by what has happened to her product. It has been watered-down, pasteurized, homogenized, and then as a final offense, plagiarized!

Mr. 4% has several brothers and sisters. There is Skim milk, 1%, 2%, Evaporated, and Powdered milk. There are even milk substitutes for those who

have problems digesting this important dairy product. In my humble opinion, these members of the *Diluted* milk family are anorexic and unworthy to bear the name "milk."

In the *Sweetened* milk family we have chocolate, strawberry and condensed varieties. Chocolate and strawberry flavorings are added to the milk to give it a pleasing and popular flavor. Likewise condensed milk is nothing more than evaporated milk with sugar added. This family represents sweeteners that influence the character and taste of the milk.

Very few people know how unmixed, pure milk, straight from the cow, really tastes. We have grown so accustomed to diluted or flavored milks that to drink the real thing is, in many ways, repulsive. Let's look at the spiritual application. Peter declared, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word." The child of God is to drink that milk of the Word that is pure and unadulterated. He is to take his spiritual milk straight, without additives or dilutions. I, for one, like my chocolate milk, but in the spiritual

realm, I have no liberty to add a favorite flavor to the milk of the Word of God.

In my opinion, many of our generation's preachers and evangelists are consumer-driven milk men. They deliver whatever the consumer (average church-goer) orders. Delivering "Thus saith the Lord" is not a popular menu item. The straight preaching of the Word that "reproves, rebukes, exhorts" is perceived by many to be repulsive and unpalatable. To avoid this scriptural method, there is, I believe, a concerted effort to dilute or flavor the Word to make it palatable. After all, "a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down," right???

Pastor, ask yourself the following questions: What kind of milk ministry do I have? Do I find myself softening or sweetening passages for fear of offending? Do I hesitate to reprove, rebuke, exhort?

Professed believer, what kind of milk are you drinking? Do you choose to take your milk from devotional books that, for the most part, are non-confrontational? These are self-revealing questions we must ask ourselves. Our desire should be for the "sincere milk of the Word" and nothing else. God give us an appetite for the real thing that satisfies! Ω

Letters to the Editor



Dear Dayton,

I have been receiving *The Projector* this past year for the first time. I find the articles and commentaries much to my liking, especially "Laodecean Leaven." My thanks to you for a job well done, and keep 'em coming.

AZ



Dear Brother Hobbs,

Your faithful stand is an encouragement to me. *The PROJECTOR* does shine light on the trends and issues that Christians must face. I appreciate how our Lord is magnified by the articles written by you and your staff. May our Lord bless you all-for to know Christ is to see light!

ME



Thank you for the paper. It is a spiritual blessing to me and my wife

We thank the Lord for your insights into the direction of things in our country spiritually.

OH



Please send me a copy of the Synopsis of Christmas plays you have available for my Christian School to review please.

Also I want to thank you for sending me a copy of *The Projector*. It is encouraging to read solid material that challenges the Church to continue to take the stand against sin like they used to.

JN



The Projector is such a blessing to us and to the many friends whose names I have given you. They all appreciate your straight forward stand. May you never ease up on your stand for Christ and your messages to alert us in these last troublesome days.

PA

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU, TOO!



HIS MOTHER could have named him Paddy Bear for the thick, cushioned pads on the underside of his little, fat paws. She could have named him Berry Bear for his great zest for the wild, sweet berries in the forest. But the name that stuck was "Honey Bear"! Now all bears love honey, but this little fellow had an insatiable appetite for the sweet, delectable stuff. He knew where to find it, too. His mother had shown his brother and him just how to look for the hollows in the trees and climb right up and help themselves. He had tried it, too, only his first visit to a honey hollow wasn't very good, for the bees were still at home! What a fierce chase they gave him! Honey Bear half climbed and half fell down from the tree to escape their savage stings. He swatted bees half way back to the den where his mother soothed him and licked his painful, swollen wounds.

Honey Bear loved his home in the Great National Forest. It was the perfect place for a little black bear like him. He was quite safe except when those curious two-legged creatures appeared. They were "humans," sometimes called "people." The only one to be trusted was a strong, quiet man, who came through the woods in a brown uniform and big, stiff, broad-brimmed hat. He was called the Forest Ranger. He could be trusted, but other humans were to be avoided at all cost. They did act strange, Honey Bear thought, as they sometimes stood

below a tree peering up at him and his brother as if they were some kind of curiosity. Honey Bear thought it was the humans who were the curiosity! At certain places signs were posted. Honey Bear could not read the messages, but they must have said, "No Eating Allowed" or "Do Not Feed the Bears," for the humans never left any food there for the cubs to enjoy. Now out on the trails it was different. Honey Bear often found goodies—a tasty peanut butter sandwich, an apple core, or some sweet goodie. But it was that very taste for "goodies" that got Honey Bear in trouble.

Such was the day he got a whiff of "goodies" from a "people" camp site. No people were around, so Honey Bear followed his nose to a table covered with delicious things and a tent full of more food than heart could wish. Honey Bear was having himself a fine party, when to his great dismay, the campers came back. Such angry shouting and rock throwing Honey Bear had never before witnessed! He scurried away in fear for his very life! He hardly found a safe haven at home though, for his mother came running, gave him a sound swat with her big paw, and in Mother Bear language made him understand that he had disobeyed her rule and was never to go near a people camp again!

What temptations Honey Bear faced! Oh, why did forbidden food taste so good or honey so sweet?

Honey Bear was getting along pretty well learning and growing until one day when a sweet smelling scent filled the air and came drifting through the woods. Honey Bear's nose twitched, wiggled, snuffed in the whole enticing fragrance, and soon led him to the exciting treat. Honey Bear thought it rather strange that this honey was in such an unusual place, but that made it all the easier. He would not even have to climb a tree! Honey Bear reached forward with his paw to get it when something horrible happened! There was no chance to escape. As soon as his paw touched the treat, the hidden trap snapped shut with Honey Bear's front leg and paw caught hopelessly in its sharp, jagged teeth. In shock and awful pain, Honey Bear bawled out in agony! In terror, he pulled, twisted, and writhed trying to free himself, but nothing helped. It only made the pain more intense. Again and again he moaned and cried that pitiful, agonizing bawl, but no help came. He lay for what seemed like hours, terrified, and in mortal pain. Again came the bear cub's pleading cry. Perhaps his mother would come, but she was too frightened by the scent of the man who had set the cruel trap to come near. Honey's cries went unheeded as the grieving mother led her other cub to safety in the dark forest, leaving Honey Bear alone to face the consequences of his action.

Honey Bear was desperate! The spring of the trap had done its deadly work. The awful jaws had clamped shut and held Honey Bear fast. He fought and clawed at the awful trap! Now delirious with fear and weak from bleeding, Honey Bear began the only apparent solution. (Oh, no, Honey Bear! Don't do that! You must not!) But some way he had to get free! Biting and tearing at the flesh, he feverishly began the gruesome work of gnawing off his little trapped leg. The excruciating pain only drove him more intensely. The more he gnawed, the more blood flowed until at last his strength was gone. In pain and fear, he uttered one last distressing wail. Hope was gone!

Then the cub heard a sound. Again fear struck! It was the sound of man! Had he come to inflict more harm and cruelty? Had he come to kill the darling cub?

(To Be Continued)

Ω

Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

*"Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.
Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil"
(Proverbs 4:26, 27).*

Many of us are well acquainted with weight charts which provide a comparison of standard weights of people for various heights. We carefully examine the chart to see the standard weight for people of our age and frame. But will the simple examination of the chart affect my way of life? Will simply looking at the chart and examining its details do me any good? No! I must compare my weight to the standards the chart proposes in order to see how I compare with the standard. I must personalize the information in order for the chart to be effective in my life. And I must have an aid to know where I am in comparison with the standard. I must begin by stepping on a weight scale to get information relative to my condition. What is my weight compared to the standard weight?

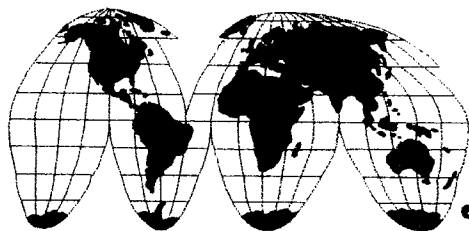
I have just described the act of pondering. Pondering does not simply mean the act of wondering or musing about, for those activities get no results! The word *ponder* is from the same word we get the word *pound*. It means to weigh, to compare with a standard. It means to be well acquainted with a condition and to compare that condition with an established and known condition.

Notice that this verse talks about *your* feet, not somebody else's feet. We are not to ponder the path of someone else's feet. Where do your feet take you? Where have your feet taken you? This is the question of the proverb. We are to ponder the path of our feet. We are to scratch our chin and say, "Hmmm," and consider our way. We are to cogitate, ruminate, deliberate, and agitate our minds. Where has our way taken us, and where is our way going? We are to look at the path from where we have come and compare it to the path that we see ahead. Has the path of the past been more effective for God than the path ahead appears? We ought to look at the detail of our path. Is it smooth, or is it pocked with rocks, pebbles, holes, sticks, stones, or pits? Are there side paths that deter us from the main path; are there ruts that impede our progress? We are to carefully examine our path and be well acquainted with it if we are to be successful ponderers.

This verse does not ask you to ponder your heart. Instead, it asks you to examine the evidence of your life, your path. Don't try to look into your heart, because your heart will deceive you. God expects us to ask ourselves questions about the path of our life on which we tread. What have you done in life? What will you do in life if you continue on the same path? Is there repentance on the path that you walk? Will salvation, the new birth, devotion, and service to God be found on the path of your life? What will the future hold on the path on which you are walking? Does the path coincide with the "Way" that is Jesus Christ?

So we are to ponder, we are to compare with a standard the path of our life. We are to study our path, so we can compare our path with the "Way." Jesus said that He is the "Way," so we must study the "Way." If we are His, then we are to compare our path with Christ. We are to desire that our path conform to Him, for He makes no adjustments to conform to our path!

This proverb tells us to establish our way. Since Jesus makes no adjustments, we can conclude that His way is established, and therefore, if our way is conformed or adjusted to Him, then, and only then, will our way be established. Solomon tells us to stay on the path once established. Don't get off the track. Don't veer to the right or to the left. Don't get on the conservative path or the liberal path. Go with Jesus Christ regardless of the doings of the right or the left. Both groups may be right some of the time, but both groups are also wrong some of the time. Jesus Christ is right all of the time, and only by knowing Him will your ways be established. Ω



Laodicean Leaven

by Dr. Fiddle, D. D. (To be read with tongue in cheek)

"WINNING THE WORLD"

Dr. Fiddle experienced the same disappointment with missionary endeavors as most pastors have today. He has poured money into missions and received little reward for his investment. That kind of missionary work fails to satisfy the people's need for quick gratification. The snail-like work of Judson and Taylor may have been acceptable in olden times but today's generation wants RESULTS. If missionaries aren't producing enough converts to justify the money they're getting, then the sound financial decision is to put that money to use somewhere else such as building bigger buildings and giving raises to the pastor and pastoral staff.

"But how can we win the world without missionaries?" Dr. Fiddle has had another brilliant idea. He has devised a method whereby we can win thousands in faster time and with less money. Let's find the most notable soulwinning pastors in America and send them overseas for evangelistic meetings. Imagine the results! At the conclusion of each meeting, hundreds of hands are raised in response to the invitation and hundreds of souls are ushered into the kingdom. These preachers could do more in an hour than some missionaries do in a year!

The plan is simple. Get a large group of people together by providing free entertainment, induce them to stay by offering them leftover prizes from your bus ministry. Conclude the message with one of the standard "sure response" invitations that Dr. Fiddle has perfected. The ones that offer the people a choice between raising their hand or going to hell. They will raise their hand, of course, and we will have scored another point for the kingdom.

Pastors will love the opportunity to travel and the recognition that successful evangelism brings. Your entire missions budget can be reduced to the cost of airfare and a week's stay at a hotel plus meals for the pastor. Complete details can be yours by contacting Dr. Fiddle and asking for information on his program, Scoring Points As Missionaries (SPAM).

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Dr. Dayton Hobbs, EDITOR

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