

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, EDITOR

“Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day”

Welcome to
The PROJECTOR
2006

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

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CONCERNING MIRACLES

By
Dr. Dayton Hobbs

The word “miracle” is thrown around rather loosely by most people today, not just the people of the world, but also by many professed Christians. The word has become so generic in its usage that a miracle has come to mean whatever the one who uses the word desires that it mean. Let's step back and take a look at the Biblical use of the word.

nature; a supernatural event.” In the secular use, a miracle is simply a wonder or a wonderful thing. The problem is that many professed believers use this secular definition and refer to most any wonder as a miracle. In our usage here in this article, we will use only the Biblical usage, which teaches that a miracle is a supernatural event.

Definition

Miracle (Webster's 1828 Dictionary): “In theology...A deviation from the known laws of

Israel and Miracles

Miracles, or supernatural signs as they are often called especially

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EVANGELICAL DILEMMA

by

William MacDonald

THERE IS a curious problem today in the evangelical world—one that poses sobering questions for the church and for the individual believer. The problem in brief is this: a great army of personal soulwinners has been mobilized to reach the populace for Christ. They are earnest, zealous, enthusiastic, and persuasive. To their credit it must be said that they are on the job.

And it is one of the phenomena of our times that they rack up an astounding number of conversions. Everything so far seems to be on the plus side.

But the problem is this. The conversions do not stick. The fruit does not remain. Six months later there is nothing to be seen for all the aggressive evangelism. The capsule technique of soul winning has produced stillbirths.

What lies at the back of all this malpractice in bringing souls to the birth? Strangely enough it begins with the valid determination to preach the pure gospel of the grace of God. We want to keep the message simple—uncluttered by any suggestion that man can ever earn or deserve eternal life. Justification is by faith alone, apart from the deeds of the law. Therefore, the message is “only believe.”

From there we reduce the message to a concise formula. For instance, the evangelistic process is cut down to a few basic

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EDITOR'S DESK

by
Dr. Dayton Hobbs

A FATAL ATTITUDE

Matthew 24:38, 39, 42, 44, 48-51 – *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.... Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.... But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

“My Lord delayeth His coming.” This passage of Scripture deals with Israel, not the Church; however, this attitude permeates the majority of those in the Visible Church today, and that includes Fundamentalism. The rapture of Christ’s body, the Church, has been the very next item on God’s calendar since Christ went back to sit down with His Father in heaven. The rapture is imminent, that is, it is impending; it could happen at any moment; and there are no signs or warnings that will prepare the saints other than those already given. Heb. 9:28b – “...Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation (that of the body.” Titus 2:11-13 – “For the grace of God that

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(Continued from page 1-Concerning Miracles)

in the Old Testament, were given by God to Israel as a part of His Covenant with them. As long as Israel was in God’s Program, signs and miracles were not uncommon; however, once Israel was set aside and the Church dispensation began, all evidential miracles ceased. After the Rapture when Christ’s bride, the Church, leaves this earthly scene, then Israel will again be God’s emphasis and signs and miracles will again be seen upon the earth. The Church Age is a time of spiritual miracles, which are happening all the time all over the world as the Holy Spirit, sent from God, does the work of God within the hearts of individuals. Evidential miracles, which are miracles designed to promote and encourage faith, are Israel’s heritage and came with the Covenant God made with them. Exodus 34:10 – “And Behold, I covenant: all thy people marvels, such not been done earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible (fearful) thing that I will do with thee.” Many would say that the way of signs and miracles is the highest walk, having marvels to encourage our walk, but such is not the case; the walk of faith, trusting the Word of God alone, is a far superior walk, in keeping with Grace rather than Law. Psalm 74:9 – “We see not our signs, there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.” This is the cry of the Psalmist in the time of Israel’s apostasy.



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Exodus
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The Projector



EDITOR
Dr. Dayton Hobbs

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Overlapping Period

In the early days of the New Testament Church, as long as Jews were still being preached to, the evidential signs and miracles were plentiful, but with the final putting aside of the Jews, all that remained was faith, hope, and love. I Cor. 13:8,10 – “Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies (the gift of determining the will of God),

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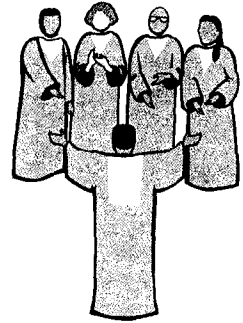
FOCUS ON RELIGION



Hymn Singing in Crisis

By

Pastor Tod Brainard



"There is a distinct relationship between a knowledge of our heritage in hymnody and better singing in our churches." This statement was made in the preface of the 1957 edition of the *Worship and Service Hymnal* produced by the Hope Publishing Company. These hymn editors of yesteryear recognized then what has been forgotten by so many now. **Our hymn heritage enhances congregational singing.** In my opinion, the tripe that is being offered today is destroying congregational hymn singing because there is no connection to the past. This disconnect is vividly evident because solid Biblical doctrine is being watered down in the new church music of today.

No Crusade for the Tried and True

One of the problems as I see it is that there are few preachers and church music leaders crusading for the old hymns of the faith. Pastor John Ashbrook of the Ohio Bible Fellowship has well said, *"You cannot maintain a position without crusading for it."* The crusade today is for change. The hue and cry of music leadership today is "We want new songs." This begs the question, "WHY?" Are we tired of the old hymns? There are few who are crusading to keep the quality hymns of the past. It seems that many are willing to sacrifice the tried and true for that which is popular to keep "tares" happy in the pew.

A Changed View of the Purpose of Hymns

The view of the use and purpose of hymns in the church has changed over the years. In the past, the hymnbook was used for public worship *as well as private devotion*. The attitude prevalent was, *"Give diligence that thy heart believes what thy voice sings, and that thy life demonstrates what thy heart believes."*¹ The personal hymnbook gave precious opportunity for the

Solid Biblical doctrine is being watered down in the new church music of today.

children of God to share and to sing the sublime truths of God's eternal greatness, His goodness, His grace, His sovereignty, His will, and the Savior's mighty love. It was considered a spiritual treasury of devotion, aspiration, comfort and assurance. Now it is being replaced and discarded in favor of big screens that project words to be sung *in a moment in time* with little contemplation beyond that moment. How views have changed!

Presentation of Biblical Truth in Song

One hymn editor of the past wrote, *"God gave us His holy Word in the form of our Bible. Man has compiled a book to be a companion to the holy Word, namely the hymnbook. The Bible is God's expression to man, while the hymnbook is man's*

*expression to God. The Bible presents truths and doctrines, and the hymnbook helps translate them to the masses. Good church music is not an end in itself. It is a means to the end that the lost may be saved and the redeemed my be brought closer to God."*²

I am Your Hymnbook

I close with this writing found in the flyleaf of the 1953 edition of the *Tabernacle Hymns Number Five*:

*"Next to the Bible, I should be your most treasured book.
Hold me in your hand on Sunday when you prepare to sing.
Let your heart listen to what has been enshrined within me. Hear the songs and the triumphant words of the martyrs dying for a faith the same as yours. Give heed to the prayers of devout men who have found the heart of God. Follow the missionaries of the Cross on their way to the ends of the earth. Listen to the great minds of the Church as they share with you the deep mysteries of the plan and purpose of the eternal God. Sit at the feet of the musicians and the poets, of the saints and the redeemed in all lands and times, of all those who have seen the hunger in the heart unsatisfied except through song. All these I have treasured.....for you.*

*I am your hymn book."*³

Ω

¹ *American Lutheran Hymnal*, The Wartburg Press, Columbus, Ohio; 1930; (Preface p. 4)

² *Worship and Service Hymnal*, Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL.; 1957; (Preface p. 2)

³ *Tabernacle Hymns Number Five*, Tabernacle Publishing, Chicago, IL.; 1953; (Flyleaf)



(Continued from page 2—A Fatal Attitude)

bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

My Lord Delayeth His Coming

The Blessed Hope is a purifying hope, as it is a constant reminder of our responsibilities and hope as members of Christ’s

body. The neglect of the preaching and teaching of this most glorious truth leads to weakness, slackness, and sin, as we see in the life of the unjust steward noted above.

Reasons for Failure

1. The first reason the Blessed Hope is not preached today is that the pursuit of purity is not the purpose of most of our churches today.
2. The second reason is that the Blessed Hope appeals only to true

believers, of which, I’m afraid, there are very few in so many of our churches.

3. The third reason is that the preaching of the Blessed Hope would create a back door revival, and those are not in vogue today. Churches today have largely become social and worldly cultural societies dealing with the “felt needs” of the congregation. Tickling ears and making folks feel good about themselves is what the average church program is all about.

Ω

(Continued from page 2 -- Concerning Miracles)

they shall fail; whether there be tongues (the gift), they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away....But when that which is perfect is come (the completed Word of God), then that which is in part shall be done away.”

The Purpose of Tongues

I Cor. 14:21,22a – “In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people (Israel); and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign (to unbelieving Jews), not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:...”

Sign Seekers

All through Israel’s history, signs and miracles were present, except for periods of time when God withheld them; however, it is one thing to receive the signs God gave, and it is quite another to seek

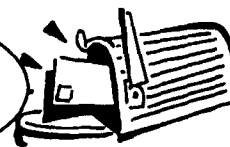
signs from God while disobeying His Word. Matt. 16:1-4 – “The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.”

Signs in the Future

The Book of Revelation is full of signs. In Chapter four; Verse one, the Voice from heaven speaks as a trumpet saying to believers, “Come up hither,” and the Church is

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Thank you for sending The Projector. It is good to know that you are still advocating Christian education to the children—especially to those in day school.

I am also appreciative of this because my daughter at one time taught in your school.

OH

Upon reading a recent Projector, it indicated an online donation option and since I do not use checks this option allowed me to donate at this time forward... God Bless



U.S.V.I.



WE THANK THE LORD FOR YOU AND PRAY HIS CONTINUED BLESSING FOR YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY THERE IN MILTON AND THROUGH THE PROJECTOR. WE PRAY THE LORD WILL MEET YOUR NEEDS. WE KNOW THE HURRICANES OF THIS YEAR AND LAST HAVE CAUSED NEEDS, BUT ALSO KNOW THE LORD IS ABLE AND FAITHFUL TO TAKE CARE OF US. WE HAVE SEEN THAT IN OUR LIVES... PLEASE USE THIS GIFT AS YOU SEE FIT.

FL



Proverb Practicals

By Ludwig Opager

Prov 26:18,19, As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

When I was a boy we played a game where we flipped a knife near the foot of another player who was required to move his foot nearest the knife, to the location of the knife, while keeping his other foot stationary. The first one to fall would be the loser. During the 4th of July festivities we took pleasure throwing firecrackers at the feet of our playmates to see how fast they could dance.

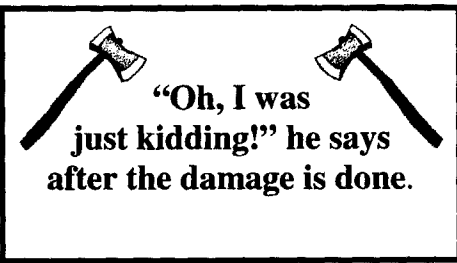
These acts do not measure up to the acts of madmen but they are the apprentice grounds for the job, for mad men start here. These acts are not meant to do harm but on occasion they do great harm.

The boy jumps away from a firecracker and into the explosion of another firecracker which blows up near his eye, causing permanent damage. The knife bounces off a hard object and stabs the leg of the player. These exhibit the law of unintended consequences.

What about the young fellows who stole the stop sign for a lark resulting in several deaths of innocent drivers? What about young people who sling a rock through a man's window not thinking that the house owner may believe it was a gunshot that caused a bullet to enter his house. Did they consider the possibility

of that house owner thinking the lives of his family were at risk. Did they consider that one of their own would be dead a few minutes after their ill-considered prank?

What about the hazing incidents in colleges and fraternities that end so tragically? What about the stupid challenges to drink vast



amounts of alcohol in order to fit in? These are all unplanned results of events that took place because of tricks, horseplay, or pranks. You had better be careful when you choose to indulge in such things, for there may be results that bear no resemblance to that which was planned!

In Eph 5:4, Paul cautions us in this when he wrote: **Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.**

He called what we have described, "jesting which is not convenient," jesting in the sense of a well turned phrase or witticism or act. Paul admonished us to let jesting which is not proper to "not be

once named among you, as becometh saints."


Those who do these things are false friends, deceivers who pretend to love but bring injury instead. They are those who elevate themselves on the back of another by jesting or practical joking!

Solomon says the same thing in our proverb when he describes one who deceives his neighbor and then says, "Oh, I was just kidding; I was just playing." Solomon asks us to picture a mad man who throws about flashes of fire, sharp instruments like knives and arrows, that can cause injury or even death.

This is the image we are told to carry with us as we relate to those around us. We are not, in the framework of jesting, to bring our neighbors, our friends, to a place of scorn. We are not by jesting, which is not proper, to say something that will result in friction, strife, contention, or embarrassment. Many times we allow the evil of our heart to reveal itself under the cloak of jesting.

On many occasions, while attempting to be witty, we cause hurt and pain to friends and neighbors. We think it more important to be thought of as witty, as one who can speak a

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SEPARATION AND THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH

by

C. H. Spurgeon

Truth could not be truth in this world if it were not a warning thing, and we should at once suspect that it were not true if error were friends with it. The spotless purity of truth must always be at war with the blackness of heresy and lies. I say again, it would cast a suspicion upon its own nature; we should feel at once that it was not true, if it were not at enmity with the false. And so at this present time, the church of Christ, being in herself the only incarnation of truth left in this world, must be at war with error of every kind and shape; or if she were not, we should at once conclude that she was not herself the church of the living God. It is but a rule of nature that holiness must be at enmity with sin. That would be but a mock purity, which could lie side by side with

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questions and answers as follows:

“Do you believe you are a sinner?”

“Yes.”

“Do you believe Christ died for sinners?”

“Yes.”

“Will you receive Him as your Saviour?”

“Yes.”

“Then you are saved!”

“I am?”

“Yes, the Bible says you are saved.”

At first blush the method and the message might seem above criticism. But on closer study we are forced to have second thoughts and to conclude that we have oversimplified the gospel.

The first fatal flaw is the missing emphasis on repentance. There can be no true conversion without conviction of sin. It is one thing to agree that I am a sinner; it

is quite another thing to experience the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life. Unless I have a Spirit-wrought consciousness of my utterly lost condition, I can never exercise saving faith. It is useless to tell

It is one thing to agree that I am a sinner; it is quite another thing to experience the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit.

unconvicted sinners to believe on Jesus—that message is only for those who know they are lost. We sugar-coat the gospel when we de-emphasize man’s fallen condition. With that kind of a watered-down message, people receive the Word with joy instead of with deep contrition. They do not have deep

roots, and though they might endure for a while, they soon give up all profession when persecution or trouble comes (Matthew 13:21). We have forgotten that the message is repentance toward God as well as faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A second serious omission is a missing emphasis on the Lordship of Christ. A light, jovial mental assent that Jesus is Saviour misses the point. Jesus is first Lord, then Saviour. The New Testament always places His Lordship before His Saviourhood. Do we present the full implications of His Lordship to people? He always did.

A third defect in our message is our tendency to keep the terms of discipleship hidden until a decision has been made for Jesus. Our Lord never did this. The message He preached included the cross as well

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Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Note to Readers: The following article may seem to be after-the-fact; however, while it is still fresh on the minds of the Santa Rosa Christian School faculty, it is offered to other Christian Schools as an idea for pre-planning next year's Christmas activities and schedule.

GIFTS

Christmas is a time for giving. As we recall God's gift of His son, Jesus Christ, we are moved to give to others as well. Each Christmas season our students should have an opportunity to give a gift from their class to our Lord Jesus Christ in honor of His birthday. We try to instill in our students that Christ is to be first in everything. Gifts are given to loved ones at Christmas, so it is natural to give a gift to the most loved One of all—our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our students need to know how their offering will be used. A few ideas may include library books, new carpet, shrubs and trees, or to any other area of need around your school. Our students need to be encouraged to think about others rather than solely dwelling upon themselves and their material needs. At SRCS, we present a large plaque for year-round display to the classroom that gave the largest amount. The plaque reads as follows:

IN APPRECIATION!

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Matthew 6:19-21*

Presented by Santa Rosa Christian School in appreciation
for the gracious gift of giving by this class.

Everybody likes to receive gifts! Big Gifts! But sadly, many gifts do not last. Toys break, clothes wear out, and money is too soon spent. Consider teaching your boys and girls to give gifts of value. There are many good books and tapes available that will give enjoyment, build character, and stir the heart and mind.

Since the Children's Bible Club is located on our campus, it is quite easy to take our students to the CBC office and allow them to "shop" for presents for their family, friends, and even themselves. Because it is not easy for parents to find quality, Christian materials suitable for young people, you may fill this need by setting up a table in your Christian school highlighting a few books, tapes, and other items along with order forms. You also have access to these same materials by logging on to our internet site at www.childrensbibleclub.com. These materials would richly bless hearts through the reading and hearing of Bible-based stories. Our on-line book store also offers missionary stories, novels about Christian heroes of the faith, along with many other books and pamphlets that would delight young people. Moms and Dads will be able to find books that will help with family devotions and child-rearing as well.

Our Christian schools need and deserve the support of every student and parent. When our students learn that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35), the lesson of the Christmas story becomes a bit more real to our students.



(Continued from page 6—Evangelical Dilemma)

as the crown. "He never hid His scars to win disciples." He revealed the worst along with the best, then told His listeners to count the cost. We popularize the message and promise fun.

The result of all this is that we have people believing without knowing what they believe. In many cases they have no doctrinal basis for their decision. They do not know the implications of commitment to Christ. They have never experienced the mysterious, miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration.

And of course we have others who are talked into a profession because of the slick salesmanship techniques of the soul-winner. Or some who want to please the affable, personable young man with the winning smile. And some who only want to get rid of this religious interloper who has intruded on their privacy. Satan laughs when these conversions are triumphantly announced on earth.

I would like to raise several questions that might lead us to some changes in our strategy of evangelism.

First of all, can we generally expect people to make an intelligent commitment to Christ the first time they hear the gospel? Certainly there is the exceptional case where a person has already been prepared by the Holy Spirit. But generally speaking, the process involves sowing the seed, watering it, then sometime later reaping the harvest. In our mania for instant conversion, we have forgotten that conception, gestation, and

birth do not occur on the same day.

A second question: can a capsule presentation of the gospel really do justice to so great a message? As one who has written several gospel tracts, I confess to a certain sense of misgiving in even attempting to condense the good news into four small pages. Would we not be wiser to give people the full presentation as it is found in the Gospels, or in the New Testament?

Thirdly, is all this pressure for decisions really scriptural? Where in the New Testament were people pressured into making a profession? We justify our practice by saying that if only one out of ten is genuine, it is worth it. But what about the other nine—disillusioned, bitter, perhaps deceived enroute to hell by a false profession.

And I must ask this: is all this boasting about conversions really accurate? You've met the man who solemnly tells you of ten people he contacted that day and all of them were saved. A young doctor testified that every time he goes to a new city, he looks in the phone book for people with his last name. Then he calls them one by one and leads them through the four steps to salvation. Amazingly enough, every one of them opens the door of his heart to Jesus. I don't want to doubt the honesty of people like this, but am I wrong in thinking that they are extremely naïve? Where are all those people who are saved? They cannot be found.

What it all means is that we should seriously re-examine our

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He gave everything and kept nothing. He gave heaven for a stable; He gave His throne in the skies for a bed in an ox trough; He gave up His reputation when He left heaven and came to dwell among men; He became the Son of man that we might become the sons and daughters of the Almighty; He became the Light of Life; he became meat that He might feed the perishing; He became the Bread of Life that a hungry world might eat and live forever; He became the Water of Life that the thirsty might come to Him and slake their thirst and go on their way rejoicing; He became rest for the weary, and said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"; He became riches for the poor, for we read "by his poverty, we shall be made rich"; He became sleep for the sleepy, for we read, "And so shall he give his beloved sleep"; He gave His peace to His disciples, He said, "My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you; let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"; He gave His joy to His disciples, He says, "Ask that your joy may be full." Jesus

Christ is the only chief man the world ever heard of that had a surplus of joy and peace left over to be used and enjoyed by His followers. Other men have left money and houses and land, but

**He gave everything
and kept nothing...
He gave Himself!**

the Son of God left His joy and peace to His friends. He gave sight to the blind; He gave healing to the afflicted; He gave life to the dead; He made the world, and then came into the world and was not known in the world and had no place to stay while He was in the world, and He came to His own and His own knew Him not. He gave His clothes to His enemies; He gave His back to the smiters and His cheek to them that pluck off the hair, and hid not His face from shame and spitting. His visage was so marred, more than

any man's, and His form, more than the sons of men. He gave His life for the world, and tasted death for every man. He gave Himself for the church that He might sanctify it, and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that He might present it to Himself a glorious church without any spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." He shall never fail. He shall not be discouraged. He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied. He was patient with His enemies; when they struck Him in the face, He gave them a look of kindness and only said, "Why smitest thou me?" He was patient with His friends; when they wanted Him to set up an earthly kingdom He only said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

While He was dying, His enemies mocked Him and said, "If thou be the Christ, come down from the cross, and we will believe on you." He only said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The only things the world ever gave Jesus were a crown of thorns, a Roman scourge, and gall mingled with vinegar.

Ω

(Excerpt from *A Pitcher of Cream*
By "Uncle" Bud Robinson)
Book Available from *The Projector*

(Continued from page 4-Concerning Miracles)

removed. At this point in God's calendar, He takes up His dealing with the Jews again to complete His plan, and signs will again be abundant.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus"

(Rev. 22:20).

Ω

(Continued from page 6-Separation & the Battle for Truth)

iniquity and claim its kinship. "Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee? Shall Christ and Belial walk together? Shall the holy be lined with the unholy?" If it were not so, beloved, we might then not only suspect it, but we might beyond suspicion pronounce a verdict upon her. "Thou are no more Christ's bride, that art an anti-Christ, an



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Review Issues & Articles
Back to October, 1979

"Enjoy!"

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 5-Proverb
Practicals)

well-turned phrase than one who cares about the feelings of others. Embarrassment of others in order to perform a jest and to receive acclaim is like a madman who amuses himself by threatening those around him with instruments of death. We choose to play with fire at the expense of others!

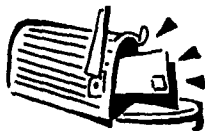
We certainly ought to be a people with senses of humor. We ought to be a laughing people, a people who enjoy one another and enjoy jesting and joking. But that ought to be proper jesting, jesting that cements friendships instead of separating friends. To be otherwise is to be a deceiver, a friend in name only and not a friend in deed. We

are not to be thought of as a friend when by our jesting we prove ourselves enemies. It is better to have enemies that are open enemies than a so-called friend, who brings wounds that are not the wounds of love but of hate.

Prov 10:23 says: **It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.**

A man of understanding has wisdom even in his jesting. Wisdom guards the door of his lips even in his times of humor and jesting. He dares not push himself up while putting others down. This is what God's heart is in this matter. He thinks that one who does is equal to a madman!

Ω



MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for holding a standard and planting your flag in the soil of "no-compromise" with ecumenicism and new-evangelicalism. There are so few of our younger brethren who seem to be aware of the importance of a separated stand. I fear for the future of fundamentalism unless an awakening takes place. May the Lord keep you strong and may the sword of conviction continue to cleave to your hand, much like Eleazar of old.

OH

Thank you Bro. Hobbs for your excellent publication, "The Projector". It packs a lot of wisdom in just a few pages. It doesn't always make me feel good but I can't (deny) the truth it presents. I wish I could have put my six children thru a (school) such as your paper presents. But that is water under the bridge. Your brother in Christ... Not complaining, just stating facts. I imagine a large majority of (people) would like to go back and do it over.



IN

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(Continued from page 9—Separation and the Battle for Truth)
apostate. Reprobate silver shall men call thee, because thou hast not yet learned to distinguish between the precious and the vile." Thus, you see, if the church be a true church, and a holy church, she must be armed: there are so many untrue things and unholy things, that she must be perpetually with her sword in hand, carrying on the combat against them.

Ω

Copied
The Maranatha Watchman
August 2003



Stars of the Morning

Many Happy Returns

by

"Aunt Carolyn"



MANY HAPPY RETURNS Gifts Go Back From Where They Came

That's what the headlines of Section B of the newspaper said on Sunday, December 25. The picture accompanying the article showed long lines of people at customer service counters, some looking pained and hassled as they waited to return gifts of every description! Why would anyone want to give back a gift? If Bridgett would ever receive one, she was sure she would hang on to it! She would not let it go! If it were hers, she would surely keep it!

Well, yes, over her few young years, she had received some nice presents - doo-dads, knick-knacks, one time a coat that nearly swallowed her, one time a toy that was fun but was soon broken by a mean boy, who snatched it from her. Yes, she had received such presents handed out by strangers out of the kindness of their hearts, but she had never received a gift that was given to her personally, one made or chosen just for her, or one given by someone who knew and loved her. Bridgett didn't know what that would be like, but she thought it must be wonderful.

All this sounds as if Bridgett was having a pity party. Not so! However, in her "few young years" she had developed a sort of toughness in order to cope with the disappointments that life had handed her. She managed on the street most of the time except when the truant officers came "stalking her tracks" to take her to school. School was all right. At least she was warm there and some food was provided, but it seemed to get in the way of Bridgett's efforts to get through life day to day.

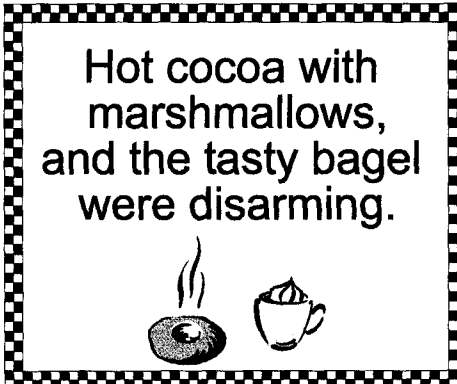
On one of her random wanderings down the street, a lady stopped Bridgett and spoke kindly. It made Bridgett uneasy, but a friendly voice was welcome in spite of her cautious,

wary manner.

"Ooh! The wind is getting colder, don't you think?" the lady said. "I get a little hungry this time of day, don't you? Would you like to go into this little café and have a cup of hot chocolate, my Dear?"

Bridgett was taken back. Her head spun a little. She tried to think. Should she or should she not go with this lady?

The elderly lady seemed harmless enough and Bridgett followed her into



the warmth and yummy aromas of the tiny café. They slid into a booth and the lady ordered hot chocolate and a warm bagel for each of them.

The lady's gentle smile, the hot cocoa with marshmallows, and the tasty bagel were disarming, and Bridgett gradually warmed up to this new friend. After a little small talk, the kind lady said, "Well, after that snack I feel better, Bridgett. How about you?"

"How—how—how did you know my name?" Bridgett sputtered.

"Well," she answered slowly, "I've had my eye on you from time to time as you've walked the street, and I just thought I'd like to know you. Is that okay?"

"Uh, I suppose so," Bridgett responded warily, "But now what am I supposed to do?" (Was the lady going to embarrass her or ask nosy questions? Should Bridgett run or stay? The kind lady seemed perfectly harmless.) Bridgett was edgy, but she stayed.

"Oh, you don't have to do anything," the lady said kindly. "If you don't mind though, I'd like to show you something," and pulling a little paper out of her purse, she pushed it over to Bridgett. It was a little folded paper with a picture of a bright hot air balloon carrying children on a high ride into the sky. What fun that must be! The balloon caught her attention and then she read the title, *What Every Kid Wants To Know*. "Huh, I'd like to know a lot of things" Bridgett thought. "I wonder what this is about?"

"What is this?" Bridgett asked, "But, first, I don't even know your name."

"Well, that's not really important, but most children call me 'Aunt Penny', or 'Grandma Pen' will do if you like that better."

"I guess 'Aunt Penny' would be good. They say a penny isn't worth much these days, but it is to me. If I can find enough, I can buy a flat bread for supper." Bridgett paused looking at the paper. "What is this about, Aunt Penny?"

Quietly Aunt Penny and Bridgett went through the tract together. Bridgett's brow creased in thought and she grew very quiet. The paper was full of questions children ask and Bible verse answers. She had never before heard about God or a Creator or where she came from, and she surely didn't know where she was going! Her heart seemed to withdraw at first, and then she felt limp inside as she had to agree with what the "Bible lady" was saying. Yes, she knew of many times she had done wrong, but so had a lot of other kids! Some of them had done worse stuff than she had, she thought. But Aunt Penny said that was not the point. Each person was responsible for his or her own wrong doings. Bridgett was accountable for her own sin, and "The

(Continued on page 12)



 (Continued from page 11—Stars of the Morning)
 wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a), eternal death in hell. Now what was she to do?
 “Oh,” exclaimed Aunt Penny, “There’s nothing for you to do. The Lord Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, has already done it all! There is nothing you can do or add to His finished salvation. Jesus has had His eye upon you all the time. He loves you! He died for your sin, rose from the dead, and is now in Heaven calling children lost in sin to come by faith to Him. If they repent, turn from sin, and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, He will forgive their sin and receive them as His children. He gives His salvation as a free gift! ‘The gift of God is eternal life’ (Romans 6:23b).”
 “Free?” Bridgett exclaimed.
 “Yes! Absolutely free! You can’t buy it; you can’t steal it; you can’t earn it; you can’t get it from anyone else. If you get salvation, you will have to receive it as a free gift from the Lord Jesus, Who loves you and died for you.”
 They read the tract again. It was a lot to take in, but Bridgett soon understood her need to be saved. There in the small café with Aunt Penny, she trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior. Afterwards, they prayed together. As Bridgett lifted her head and looked up, all at once the whole world seemed cleaner and brighter. She felt a smile spreading from ear to ear.
 “Would you like a little more hot chocolate, Bridgett?” Aunt Penny asked.
 ‘Oh, no...no, Ma’am. I...I think I should go back home now. Thank you, Ma’am!’ As Bridgett turned to leave, she asked, “Do you have any more of these papers, Aunt Penny? Could I have one for my brother?”
 Aunt Penny fished a few of those “papers,” *What Every Kid Wants To Know*, from her pocketbook, gladly giving them to Bridgett. “That’s how the Gospel spreads,” she thought with a smile. “Be careful going home, my Dear,” she warned Bridgett. “And I’ll meet you here to talk again tomorrow if you can come. God bless you, my Dear.”
 “Yes, Ma’am, Aunt Penny. ‘Bye, ‘Bye!’” Bridgett skipped down the sidewalk. She passed the news stand showing the headlines, “Many Happy Returns, Gifts Go Back From Where They Came.” Bridgett fairly jumped for joy knowing that she now had a special, personal gift of her own that she would never give back, given to her by Someone Who knew and loved her and would never take it back! Jesus had given her His gift of eternal life! She had a lot to learn, but Bridgett was on her way in her new life in Christ! She had a new friend in Aunt Penny and the very best Friend of all in the Lord Jesus Christ! This day had begun rather sadly, but now it was the happiest day of her life.
 Ω

The tract, *What Every Kid Wants to Know*, is available from *The Projector*. (\$6.00/100)

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(Continued from page 8—
Evangelical Dilemma)

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really involves. We should be willing to wait for the Holy Spirit to produce genuine conviction of sin. Then we should be ready to lead the person to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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