

# Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost."—1 Nephi 3:187.

Vol. 44

Independence, Missouri, February, 1967

No. 2

## *Sharing*

by

Josephine McAleer

When you have labored hard until  
You've earned a needed rest,  
Or persevered through strength of will  
To pass a special test;  
And when an unexpected prize  
You win, it's not the fun  
That you enjoy and realize  
When sharing with someone.

If you should suddenly acquire  
Success such as you never knew,  
Or find a fortune you desire  
One day awaiting you;  
No matter how high you may soar,  
From where you had begun,  
You always will enjoy it more,  
When sharing with someone.

## CONTENTS

	Page		Page
February (Ed.)	18	Obituary	21
Notice	19	O, Sturdy Oak	21
Local News	20	Children's Hour	22
Baptism	21	Family Worship and Study	23
There Is An Opposition In All Things		26	

# Zion's Advocate

Official Publication of the Church of Christ  
 Headquarters on the Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri.  
 Phone: TEMple 3-3995

**EDITOR**

Archie F. Bell, 802 South McCoy, Independence, Missouri 64050

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

James A. Hedrick, 103 North 22nd, Blue Springs, Missouri 64015  
 Roland Sarratt, 4305 South Main, Independence, Missouri 64050

**BUSINESS MANAGER OF ZION'S ADVOCATE:** C. LeRoy Wheaton, Box 472, Independence, Missouri, 64051. Subscriptions and changes of address.

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST** (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

Second class postage paid at Independence, Missouri.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** One Year, \$1.50. In bundles of twelve or more for missionary purposes, \$1.00. Canadian and all foreign rates, \$1.75.

Send all donations for the Temple Fund, the Storehouse, Consecrations, Tithes, Offerings, and Subscriptions for the Advocate to: Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to:

Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence Missouri 64051.  
 Price Each

Book of Mormon—Missionary Edition .....	\$1.00
Book of Mormon—Cloth Binding .....	\$2.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ.....	\$2.00
Book of Commandments—Leatherette .....	\$1.25
Book of Commandments—Controversy Reviewed.....	\$1.00
Temple Lot Deed .....	\$0.20
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God.....	\$0.50
Articles of Faith and Practice .....	.
Saturday Sabbath Delusion .....	.

Note: \* Donations accepted to cover postage and printing.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

### INSTRUCTIONS IN ORDERING

Our quarterlies are not dated, but numbered, because they contain a regular course of study, and if the schools desire to make this study, they should order the quarterlies according to number so as to avail themselves of the entire course, so far as the study has been extended up to the present time. None of the courses are as yet, complete.

In compliance with the action taken at the 1960 General Sunday School Association General Assembly, all publications printed by the Association will be sent free of charge. Send ALL orders to: General Sunday School Association Treasurer, Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Box 472, Independence, Missouri. 64051.

	Price Each
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 1, Childhood of Jesus.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jesus' Ministry.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 3, Jesus' Ministry con't.....	N/C
Primary, Vol. 1, No. 4, Life of Jesus.....	N/C
Sunday School Record Book .....	N/C
History and Religion—Chart .....	1.50

Editorial . . .

# February

The month of February holds memories of history which should be held in the minds and memories of the members of the Restoration movement and the members of the Church of Christ in particular. It seems to be as impossible to separate the historical events in the Church and the nation as it is to separate the spiritual and temporal in the Church alone.

Our national history records some of the life and activities of George Washington. He was born at Bridge Creek, near Fredericksburg, Virginia, February 22, 1732. He entered into military life at about the age of 20, and was appointed the commander of the Virginia troops at the age of 23. He became the commander-in-chief of the military forces of the colonies at the age of 43.

George Washington was recognized as a leader while still in his teens. He set an example of good judgment not only in his military work but also in his work with the state. He proved throughout his life to be a great statesman. The advice given by him in one of his addresses, that this nation should hold itself free of all foreign entanglements, was kept for a good many years. It has been wondered if this advice was not the same as given by Daniel: "And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." Daniel was speaking of the nations of Europe; George Washington was speaking of the United States.

There is one thing our history does not record and that was the strong faith that George Washington had in God. We get most of our knowledge of this through outside writings and paintings. The vision he had at Valley Forge concerning the rise and tribulations of this nation is considered scriptural by many. It foretold the war of 1812; the Civil War; and another war that was to come. This vision has been used by several of our ministers for quite a number of years.

Another great character of our American history is Abraham Lincoln. He was born on a farm in Kentucky, February 12, 1809. Unlike Washington who was born in fairly high estate for his day, Lincoln was born of poor parents as far as this world's goods is concerned. It is recorded that he was a great reader and student, and that he chose the better class of books to read.

Abraham Lincoln was considered as being of a religious nature. It was more of a frontier than of a church religious nature. The kind which regards the needs of all their fellowmen rather than just the needs of those of their particular church. He once made the following statement:

"I have never united myself to any church because I have found difficulty in giving my assent, without mental reservations, to the long complicated statements of Christian doctrine which characterize their Articles of Belief and Confessions of Faith. When any church

will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, the Master's condensed statement of substance of both Law and Gospel 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thy self' that church will I join with all my heart and with all my soul."

Abraham Lincoln was a strong believer in the fundamental principle of this nation: Freedom. He is known world-wide as the great Emancipator. He gave the Declaration of Emancipation, freeing all people in this nation from bondage. It was not his choice that there be a Civil War but circumstances seemed to rule different. He was a mild strong person and the thought of war was not of his nature.

Another act of Abraham Lincoln was his Gettysburg Address. If he had been a person who was self-centered, this address of his would never have been a reality. If he had said, "I am the President. I will have the main address or will give none at all," history would have failed to gain this masterpiece.

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought on July 1, 2 and 3, 1863. It was November 19, 1863, that a portion of that battlefield was dedicated as a final resting place for those who fought and died there. The main dedication address was delivered by Edward Everett, the most popular orator of that time. As an after-thought, Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States, was asked to deliver the closing address.

The day after the addresses were delivered, very little attention was paid to President Lincoln's address but the address of Everett's was given unqualified praise. Edward Everett's address was forgotten after a few years. Many years later, the address of President Abraham Lincoln became recognized as one of the classic utterances of all time. It might be of interest to notice the letter Edward Everett wrote to President Lincoln the day following the dedication at Gettysburg:

"I wish I could flatter myself that I had come as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

It is doubtful if American history records a happening of the Church of Christ which took place in February, 1867; just 100 years ago. This Church, many of its members remnants of a people who had been driven from Missouri 29 years before, returned to the same place it had left.

They had to be a people of courage and conviction to do as they had done. They had been working on a plan for 15 years to correct the error which had crept into the church over a period of 22 years. Efforts were started to return to the original name of Church of Christ. Efforts were also put forth to correct the errors in doctrine and organization.

It is quite evident that the Lord took notice of their efforts because they received from Him a revelation in 1864 to prepare for their return in 1867. We can see that this was an overall procedure of returning.

This people had to be a people of strong faith to accomplish the things they did. They made this trip

in the winter time, across part of Illinois and northern Missouri. This would be perhaps, between 350 and 400 miles; depending on the roads. A distance of 20 miles a day on a journey of this kind in the summer time, is considered good time with horses and wagons. It no doubt, would be much less in the winter time. History does not record any losses by death in this caravan despite the fact that it was mid-winter.

This people, the Church of Christ, followed the Lord's instructions in redeeming the Temple Lot and retain legal title to it to this day. Many feel that the process of correcting is not complete and that there needs to be an effort put forth in that direction. If this be true, there is only one way in which it can be accomplished and that is to be directed by the Lord for we read in the writings of Matthew the following:

"As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity."

We notice that this indicates that it will be as being burned by fire; they will not appear again. It will take very strong faith to make the proper preparation if a person and his teachings will be able to stand the correction when the Lord comes. The time may be shorter than we believe it will be for we read:

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

A. F. B.

## Dining Hall Note

In a few short weeks it will be time to assemble for our General Conference. Your Dining Hall Committee wishes to announce that free meals will be served to those attending. This is made possible by contributions of money, food and service. Remembering your cooperation in the past, we approach this year's activities with pleasureable anticipation. If you find it possible to contact members of the committee concerning the foods you will be donating, it will assist us in our planning and shopping. We sincerely thank you for the help we know will be forthcoming.

Louise McIndoo, Preston, Mo.

Irene Shaw, Louisburg, Mo.

Minnie Smith, Ava, Mo.

## Baptismal Forms Available

The Board of Publications announces the availability of two forms, "Baptism Data" and "Certificate of Baptism", in gummed pads, two of the first to one of the second. It is suggested that the ministry procure their supply from the General Church Recorder, Sister Lois Harris, 1920 South Osage, Independence, Missouri. It is suggested that the ministry use the new forms from now on and not use the old ones.

M. Harvey Seibel, Secretary  
Board of Publications

## LOCAL NEWS

### PURYEAR, TENNESSEE

I'm very happy to say that Bro. Don Housknecht was with us a few days ago. We are very happy to see the church people come and stay with us a few days or weeks. It helps us very much to hear sermons and speeches and we enjoy it very much.

Brothers and sisters, we have someone who is having some difficulties with the church leaders and we are asking all of you to pray for him and the rest of us that he may overcome this, and be able to stay in the church with us, for we love him very much and we enjoy his speeches and teachings. So pray for him, and may God bless you.

Rose Camper

### CEDAR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, LOCAL

We met at the home of Bro. and Sr. Grant Hanes on Saturday evening before Christmas for a service of worship and fellowship. Bro. George Brantner showed some slides of the Christmas story after the reading of the second chapter of Matthew concerning the birth of Christ.

After the worship service a program of games and refreshments was enjoyed. Pictures were taken of the event to show at some future meeting. There were 26 present of our local Sunday School.

Sally Brantner, Reporter

### TEMPLE LOT REPORT

Another year has gone, and gone is the commercial frenzy we witnessed through the last months of the year. Ironic as it may seem, by many of the anti-Christ, the best part is the sparkle in the eyes of little children.

We had our Christmas program on the Thursday before Christmas. Each class of younger ones worked hard to have something to present. Sr. Irene Maley gave a fine reading and one older class read Scripture, first in turn and then in unison.

Over the Christmas holidays Bro. and Sr. Leslie Case and family visited in the Lowell Larson home at Gurley, Nebraska. Our good friend, Bro. Fernando Ojeda, visited with his people in Yucatan. Bro. and Sr. Glenn Gill visited at Phoenix in the home of Bro. and Sr. Harold Gill.

The children caroled at various homes around town, and delivered cookies to one home for the aged.

Bro. and Sr. Bill Morris and family have moved to the Independence area from Lincoln, Nebraska, and we will surely be happy to have them attending our meetings.

This has been an unusual month, as far as weather is concernd. One extreme, and then another it seems. Flower and seed catalogs announce the coming of warmer temperatures soon and once again we'll try our hand to work with God and nature about something beautiful and so rewarding.

Sr. Katie Moyer, Reporter

### EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL

Winter has come and the holiday season is past. What a wonderful world this would be if we could maintain the feelings of love and giving of oneself portrayed during Christmas.

In the evening of December 21st we held our annual Christmas program. In charge were Sister Ruth Randall and Sister June Sarratt. The theme of love, joy and peace was carried throughout the entire program. Bags of goodies were distributed to everyone. The church was filled. How nice it would be if the attendance at these gatherings could be carried into the Sunday and Wednesday services.

We have finally completed the outside of our building with the addition of the steeple.

Two of our members, Sister Freda Flint and Sister Darl Jean Sheldon, were privileged to attend the Arizona reunion. Sister Flint remained after the reunion to visit. She returned home just before the holidays. Mighty nice having her back.

Brother William Sheldon, Brother Leon Yates and Sister Frances Yates are on their way to Mexico. We wish them a safe journey.

Brother and Sister James Speer had their baby, Shelly Renee, blessed November 20, 1966. Officiating was her great uncle, Brother Kenneth Smith, assisted by Brother William Sheldon. She is the granddaughter of Sister Lorraine Welton and the great granddaughter of the late Arthur M. Smith.

Jimmy Smith was home on leave from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in November. He is the son of Brother and Sister Kenneth Smith. Recently Jimmy passed all his exams and is now in line for a promotion.

Brother and Sister William Nast have returned after spending the holidays in North Carolina with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oldham.

Several of our members are in need of our prayers. Sister Metta Anderson, Sister Edna Smith and Sister Gladys Nast.

Sister Dollie Dickens, daughter of Brother and Sister William Anderson, is recuperating at her home in Arlington, Texas. She is still suffering, so our prayers will be appreciated.

I pray that we may let our light so shine as to be pleasing to the Lord.

Your sister in the great family of Christ.

Adair McCubbin

### SILENT BLISS

by

Ingrid Sherman

Far mightier  
Than a dream  
Is the silent bliss  
Of the living God  
Who showers us daily  
With a fatherly kiss  
Of noiseless infinity!

**CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND, LOCAL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Opening Hymn— No. 101 in Zion's Praises, "Joyously Sang the Angels."

Opening Prayer—Bro. Herman F. Burlingame, Jr.

Duet, Soprano and Alto—Sister Etna L. Tordoff and guest pianist Martha B. Emma sang "Dear Little Stranger" with Mrs. Emma at the piano.

Reading—"No Room at the Inn" by Sister Alice Coburn.

Piano Solo—"Come All Ye Faithful" by Mrs. Emma with her own adaptation.

Reading—"Love Came Down at Christmas" by Bro. Jim Cornell.

Organ Solo—"Christmas Medley" by Sister Elizabeth Cornell.

Reading—"Thy Light Is Come" by Sister Elizabeth Cornell.

Poem, written and read by author—"To Consecrate a Starving Earth" by Brother Harry S. Tordoff.

Solo—"C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S" by Sister Etna L. Tordoff.

Recitation—"Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Valerie Nolan.

Poem—"Nephi's Vision" written and read by Brother Harry S. Tordoff.

Piano Solo—"Christmas Medley" by Mrs. Martha Emma.

Poem—"By Loving—We Live" by Sister Etna L. Tordoff.

Congregation Singing—"Oh! Little Town of Bethlehem".

Sermon by Brother Herman Burlingame—"The Everlasting Gospel."

Closing Hymn—"Silent Night" by congregation.

Closing Prayer by Brother Jim Cornell.

Harry S. Tordoff

## Baptism

Brother Walter Paul Johnson, Box 35, Moorhead, Iowa, was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) on January 1, 1967.

The baptism was performed by Brother Robert H. Jensen at Independence, Missouri. The laying on of hands was also performed by Brother Jensen, with Brother William A. Sheldon assisting. It is a great joy to welcome this young brother into the Church.

## Obituary

### VERNON H. BURNS

Vernon H. Burns of Belding, Michigan, departed this life December 9, 1966, at the age of 75 years.

Brother Burns was born December 24, 1890.

Surviving are his wife, Mabel; his daughters, Mrs. Lorrain Monroe, Mrs. Winifred Rykert, Mrs. Edith Collins; his sons, Clyde Burns, Gene Burns, John Norgrove, Arthur Norgrove, Ivan Norgrove; 24 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted by Elder Varian R. Bauman.

## O, STURDY OAK

by

Roland Sarratt

O, Sturdy Oak, where have you gone?  
What great emptiness where you belong!  
He who has sent you, has taken you away;  
Only memories fill our dismay.

Your uplifted branches have these many years raised  
In simple reverence to your Maker in praise.  
No mockery have you made before His face,  
But in kindness you have served in His grace.

O, Sturdy Oak, where did you receive a strength so  
strong,

To serve so steadfastly the continuous throng?  
Where did you find courage during the stormy life  
When raging winds came so rife?

From within your trunk, covered with rough and knurled  
bark,

Came your strength, straight from your heart.  
Deeply rooted in the foundation God has given you,  
You have found sufficient; none other did you pursue.

A path has been beaten to your side  
When your loved ones have come to you to confide;  
You have listened and shared their joy and fear,  
Your shade of love has strengthened; their trials they'll  
bear.

O, Sturdy Oak, I knew you not in your prime,  
Yet, God has taken you from us in His own appointed  
time;

Your kindness towards me, I cannot now repay,  
How suddenly you were taken on that sad day!

No man-made monument ever to be erected  
Can occupy the place where you have stood and directed.  
A God given land-mark, many passed you by,  
But those who knew you has found it hard to say  
good-by.

Here is your book of life, each circle marks a year;  
No one but God can read the pages open here.  
But as we gaze deep within your heart,  
We find a love, relentless to depart.

You gave your love to those who knew you best,  
The countenance of love in which you were dressed;  
You gave what God has given you as your share,  
Not decorated with man-made flare.

O, Sturdy Oak, you have given me much truth,  
A shield in summer and a pillar in winter throughout  
my youth.

Your deep concern for me, I've always felt,  
A father-son relationship with no unkindness dealt.

Can thanks be given and quickly dismissed?  
No. Gratitude lives on in all you have assisted.  
Your example I've received and nothing will suffice.  
But to meet you there in Paradise.

*Children's Hour . . .*

## Families Who Moved for God

### 8. The Pilgrims

A short time ago—well, only a little over three hundred years ago—there lived in England a group of people called Puritans. They wanted to worship God the way they believed the Bible told them to, but their king said, "No, you don't! You worship like I tell you." So they moved away from England and lived for a few years in Holland.

But God had a special plan and a special land for a special people. His spirit worked upon people in different parts of the countries and they began to think more about doing as He wanted them to. Some of these were the Puritans.

What the Book of Mormon really says is that God's Spirit "wrought upon" these people. In a way that has a special meaning, more than just "worked upon." It's like if you went and chopped a tree down and cut off all the branches. Then you could say you worked upon that tree. But if you also trimmed off all the bark and knots, and cut the wood to the size and shape you wanted, then planed it down smooth and used it for a pretty post to hold the roof of your front porch, then it would have been "wrought upon". You had taken some rough wood and made something nice out of it. In a way you had put your mark on it, because that good porch post didn't look anything like a tree any more, although, of course, you could still tell that's what it had been.

In a way that's what God did with these people. First He chose a special people as a man would use a special tree—one that fit His plans. You wouldn't need a tall tree for a door sill, but you would for a porch post. God had His plans, too, and He chose His people to fit them. Then He "wrought upon" them, shaped them to finish His plans. Of course, He wouldn't do that unless the people would let Him.

God found part of these people among the Puritans. They were good people and they wanted to do what God wanted them to do. Even if it was hard. And what God wanted them to do would be hard. He "wrought up" them until even hundreds of years later people look back and see that these were a special people.

One of the hard things He wanted them to do was to move clear across the ocean and live in a land where they didn't know anybody, or much of anything. There would be no houses, or farms, or stores, or schools, or churches, or anything except the land and its forests and water and people. It would be hard to leave their homes and friends, their shops or workshops and go where there was nothing except what they would build, or find, or grow. Still they decided to move as He led.

There weren't many children on the first ship that went to America and that was a good thing. It was a miserable trip. It was a little ship and it wasn't built for carrying people. There were too many people on board and it was crowded and uncomfortable. The air was stale where they slept and they ran into storms and some of them were seasick. Two times they even had to turn around and go back to England. The third time they had even more people on board and storms blew them away from where they intended to go, but they did get to America.

Even while they were on this crowded little ship God was working with them and shaping them for His special plans. They were coming to a land where He didn't want any king to rule, as they had to learn how to get along among themselves and set up rules for themselves. Even before they got off the ship they had agreed to do that.

Just imagine that you were one of the little children on the day that they finally went ashore. Let's see—it took you three months to cross the ocean and then you had lived on the ship here in America for nearly a month. That's longer than a summer vacation from school. By now you would be pretty tired of that stuffy, stinky ship, I imagine. Still, it had kept the wind off you, this was December and the wind was awfully cold where the ship was anchored.

When you stepped outside it probably felt like the wind went right through your clothes like needles, and it would be a big ache in your chest every time you breathed for awhile. Then maybe you got your feet wet when you went ashore. The rocks were gray, the sky and the sea were gray. Everything except the sand and snow was black and gray. Nothing alive that you could see, except maybe some birds. You'd think it would be a dismal day, but somehow you felt good. You felt like running and jumping and breathing great, deep breaths. But the grownups knelt down, and you did too, with your father between you and the wind.

There on the shore the Pilgrims knelt down and thanked God that He had brought them safely to this land. They didn't know yet what He had given them, but they were thankful just to be alive and have a chance to live for Him.

---

#### FAITH

by

Florence E. Fry

Faith is not what's before us,  
It's what we think we shall see;  
Faith is not what is,  
But what we believe will be.

"And it shall come to pass,"  
If, in faith, we go on and on,  
Secure in the knowledge of God's power  
To turn a dark night into dawn.

---

It is cruel to ridicule another even when we don't mean it.

# Family Worship and Study

February 18, 1967

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:17-30 and Mark 14:12-25

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, take, eat; this is my body. And He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins, but I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29)

### Words of Jesus to His Disciples

"For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks and said, take this, and divide it among yourselves: for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the Kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also, the cup after supper saying this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:16-20)

### Words of Jesus to His Disciples

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, how can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink of His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day; for my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him." (John 6:51-56)

### QUESTIONS:

1. What Jewish feast was Jesus attending when he instituted the "Lord's Supper"? (Matthew 26:17-20)
2. What are two purposes of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper according to Luke 22:19 and I Corinthians 11:26?

### Apostle Paul's Counsel to Disciples at Corinth

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread and one body: For

we are all partakers of that one bread." (I Corinthians 10:16-17)

### Apostle Paul Further Instructs

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep for if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." (I Corinthians 11:26-31)

### QUESTIONS:

1. In Paul's reference to "not discerning the Lord's body", do you believe he was referring to the "body of Christ" as described in Ephesians 4:12-16?
2. Do you believe that right relations with God and our conscience has something to do with mental and physical well being as Paul teaches in I Corinthians 11:31?
3. According to I Corinthians 11:28, who has the responsibility to determine worthiness? What about the counsel given in III Nephi 8:60-62 and in Romans 14:1-18?
4. What was the "hard saying" which Jesus taught the Jews and his disciples, which they found so difficult to understand? recorded in John 6:32-66.
5. Note John 6:63 the reference that Jesus's words "are spirit and they are life". Have you found this to be true, as you study the scriptures?

February 25, 1967

## The Lord's Supper

Scriptures to study:

III Nephi 8:27-43—III Nephi 8:60-68—First time sacrament served by Jesus.

III Nephi 9:40-45—Second time sacrament served.

IV Nephi 1:29—Many churches were administering sacrament unworthily.

Moroni 4 and 5—Sacramental prayers recorded.

Moroni 6:6—After baptism, disciples names taken, they were taught and:

- (a) did meet together oft to fast and pray—prayer
- (b) speaking together of the welfare of their souls—testimony
- (c) to partake of the bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus—sacrament
- (d) strict to observe there be no iniquity among them—discipline

### QUESTIONS:

1. Sacrament was served by Jesus on two successive days among the Nephite disciples. What do you

find in III Nephi 9:2, 3-6 which might account for the necessity of the second larger communion service? Are we willing to work all night in order to make arrangements to be with Jesus, as did the Nephites of old?

2. According to III Nephi 9:43, how were the sacramental emblems provided?
3. The words "fruit of the vine" is mentioned by all four of the New Testament writers of the Gospels when referring to the Lord's Supper. However, in the Book of Mormon, the word "wine" is used in every instance. In studying this, try to catch the important meaning of the sacrament according to John 6:41-63.
4. The exact words for sacramental prayers are given in the Book of Mormon (Moroni 4 and 5) but are not found in the Bible record. Study I Nephi 3:166-171 and try to find what might be the reason for the omission of this important part of the "purity" of the Gospel from the record of the Jews.
5. According to Moroni 4:1, 2 and Book of Commandments 24:32-36-41 who, only, has authority to administer the sacrament to members of Christ's Church?
6. We often hear the question asked at Sacrament Service, "Has anyone been missed?" How many reasons can you think of which might account for the absence of others from sacrament service?
7. Could it be that our lack of testimony concerning Christ and His sacrifice for us, be one reason that many precious souls are missing eating at the table of the Lord in the Household of Faith?

March 5, 1967

## Confession

### Confession of Christ: His Diety and Resurrection

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." (I John 4:15)

### Confession of Sins: Related to Personal Salvation

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:8,9)

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed . . ." (James 5:16)

"And were baptized of him in Jordon, confessing their sins." (Matthew 3:6)

". . . they came forth and did confess their sins, and were baptized unto repentance, and immediately returned to the Nephites, to endeavor to repair unto them the wrongs which they had done." (Helaman 2:79)

"Therefore as many as believed on the words of Samuel, went forth unto him to be baptized, for they came repenting and confessing their sins." (Helaman 5:116)

### Confession at Judgment:

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:11)

"For it is written, as I live, sayeth the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." (Romans 14:11)

"Yea, even at the last day, when all men shall stand to be judged of him, then shall they confess that he is God; then shall they confess, who live without God in the world, that the judgment of an everlasting punishment is just upon them." (Mosiah 11:197-198)

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." (Revelation 3:5)

### QUESTIONS:

1. In Luke 12:8 it is written that Christ will confess before the angels, those that confess Him before men; What does confessing Christ "before men" mean to you?
2. How might confession of sins have a bearing on healing? (James 5:16) Study Chapter 9 of John's gospel for further thoughts on this subject.
3. Confession of sins marked the repentance and baptism of converts to the Church in New Testament times, both in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Does this principle apply to God's Church today?
4. To whom should we confess? Consider Book of Commandments 47:13-20 besides scriptures in the Bible and Book of Mormon quoted in this lesson.
5. What was the sin confessed, as written in III Nephi 1:28-31?
6. On what condition will God forgive our sins according to I John 1:7-9 and Acts 2:38?

### LESSON PURPOSE:

To consider the difference between profession and confession.—(Luke 18:11-13)

March 12, 1967

## Forgiveness

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitudes of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions." (Psalms 51:1)

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and



He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." (Psalms 32:1, 2)

"For behold, this is my Church: whosoever is baptized shall be baptized unto repentance, and whosoever ye receive, shall believe in my name; and him will I freely forgive: For it is I that taketh upon me the sins of the world. . . ." (Mosiah 11:129-131)

"And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

"Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

"And if he confess his sins before thee and me, and repenteth in the sincerity of his heart, him shall ye forgive, and I will forgive him also; yea, and as often as my people repent, will I forgive them their trespasses against me. And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses: for verily I say unto you, he that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses, when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under condemnation." (Mosiah 11:138-140)

#### QUESTIONS:

- Chapter 9 of Hebrews compares the first covenant given to Moses and the gospel covenant for which Christ gave His life that we might be forgiven of sin and have eternal life. Study especially verses 11 and 12 and verses 22 through 28. Relate this study to "forgiveness".
- What are the personal requirements in order for the blood of Christ to "cover our sins"? (Psalms 32:1, 2; I John 1:7-10)
- Baptism is for "remission of sin"; but daily repentance and relying on the mercies of Christ for forgiveness is required. In this regard study Matthew 6:14, 15 and Matthew 7:1-5.
- What is the lesson contained in Matthew 18:21-35?
- There is a "stumbling block" to many, contained in Christ's teachings in Luke 6:31-36. Whom are we to forgive?
- What are the requirements for "the elect of God" as written in Colossians 3:12-25?
- How shall the world be finally brought to know Christ's true disciples? (John 13:35)

Memory Verse: John 14:15.

---

#### THE GIFT

by

Florence Beck Unangst

One love beyond all depth  
To last God's allotted span,  
Is sometimes the very best  
That can occur to man.

## Test Shows Even A Single Drink Will Impair Brain Response

(Science Service)

Los Angeles—Even a single alcoholic drink may seriously impair one's ability to pay attention to more than one thing at a time.

Dr. Herbert Moskowitz of the Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles, in a study to find precisely what alcohol in moderate doses does to an individual, found that no effect on vision, hearing or time perception was demonstrated.

Next, he conducted experiments to determine alcohol's effects on information handling by the brain. Subjects were first told to identify a tone hidden in noise coming through one earphone but to ignore a voice reading numbers simultaneously over the other earphone. Then they were asked to repeat the numbers while ignoring the tone.

Alcohol had little or no effect on the ability to do either of these.

But when subjects were asked to identify the tone while repeating the numbers, there was a significant effect. Although sober, the subjects averaged only 78 percent on the numbers-tone test.

When the subjects had carefully measured amounts—one ounce of vodka for every 40 pounds of body weight—they fell below this mark by 16 per cent.

For a 160-pound man, this would amount to four ounces, or two drinks.

The legal measure of intoxication, .15 per cent blood alcohol, is achieved by approximately four (2-ounce) drinks.

"Very few people realize how limited the brain's capacity is to handle a lot of information at any one time," Dr. Moskowitz says. "Alcohol apparently interferes with the brain's ability to do more than one thing."

In driving, people are seriously impaired long before the .15 blood alcohol is reached, according to results of the study.

Dr. Moskowitz says that many people underestimate the complications of driving, in which the brain must pay attention to many things at the same moment.

---

#### NO FEAR

by

Caroline Kauffman

When life fades away  
I shall not know fear,  
For in that last hour  
My God will be near.

Just think of the joy  
When, after all odds,  
I grope for a hand  
And find it is God's.

---

Anything that's good will overcome any obstacle.

# There Is An Opposition In All Things

Sermon by E. L. Yates

It is a pleasure to greet you good people each time we assemble. I have indeed felt a keen spirit of fellowship with each of you, and I am of the opinion that were we as a people able to cultivate that spirit of fellowship and love for one another and consider it as important and first, we then could speak to one another, about differences of opinions that we might have both of things of the world and the things of religion, and we would consider them in the spirit of brotherly love and there would be no contention. When we talk of the great things of the Divine without contention, then we are on the threshold of learning. But when we begin to contend as a people one with another then it is that we drive ourselves apart and we begin to look at our brother or sister with suspicion. The first thing we know we have such wide views and variations of belief that we feel we cannot associate together. This is a sad condition, but it is true that it is prevalent in the world. So, like I have said, I appreciate the feeling that has been expressed by each of you as you have accepted us here in this locality.

It is indeed my hope and prayer that I might be able to bring to each of you some thought or plant a seed in your heart that will grow into something of beauty, or perhaps bring us each to a better understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Not many years ago I was listening to a minister speaking on the radio. He made the remark that I was quite in agreement with, but as he continued with his remarks I was quite surprised. His first remark was, "It is the purpose of this church (the one he was representing) to expound the teachings and the philosophy and the doctrine of Jesus Christ and to promote His teachings." This I agreed with but next he said, "Evil has no power and is not a reality." I was surprised to hear that a minister would expound the teachings of Jesus Christ and in the same breath say that "evil has no power and is not a reality." The scripture says that even Christ himself was taken by the spirit into a high mountain and there He was tempted by the Devil. Yes, even the Master of men felt the power of evil and was tempted by it.

I say to you tonight that it is my hope not only to teach and to expound the gospel of Jesus Christ but also to teach you that through Christ and Christ alone can we escape that which is real; the power of evil. We are in this world right in between two enticing spirits, even at this very moment. There is that spirit which entices for good, and there is that spirit which entices for evil. There are opposites in everything. I will name a few: life and death. These are two opposites. Height, the opposite is depth. Heat, the opposite is cold; love and hate; peace and war; harmony and discord.

Yesterday we were in the home of one of our sisters and while there she brought beautiful harmony from the

electric organ as her fingers wandered softly over the keys. When she took a little rest, I sat down at the organ and my fingers wandered softly over the keys, but regardless of how softly my fingers touched the keys they brought only discord, for my fingers were not skilled in the art of music.

This reminds me of a story I once read. There was a music recital and a young man who was a beginner at music played an old violin. It was scratched and seemed to be a poor instrument. The music which came from it as the young man played was anything but good. He was a beginner and he was unable to produce harmony from that instrument, but soon an old master of the violin took the instrument and as his fingers began to caress the strings there came such melody of music from that old violin that it held all those who heard, spellbound with its beauty of sound.

I believe that the Master of men can bring harmony and beauty from the souls of men in like manner. Regardless of who we may be or how crude we might appear to the world, if we would but be obedient to the Master, he could touch our lives and and cause the harmony and melody of the gospel through His teachings to have sway in our lives. But without His touch our lives will indeed be a symphony of discord.

We have health; we have sickness. We have life; we have death. We have God; we have Satan. All of these things and many others, but in each case there is always an opposition.

I read from the Book of Mormon, "For the kingdom of the Devil must shake." Here it speaks of the kingdom of the Devil which is the opposite of the Kingdom of God. It says, "the kingdom of the Devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the Devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger and perish: for behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good;" (II Nephi 12: 23, 24).

We are living in that dispensation of time that many of the old prophets identified as that day, which is our day, or days, which are days of trouble and turmoil. Days when there would be, according to the scripture, a time of trouble come upon the earth such as never was before and never would be again. And so we read, "at that day shall he (the devil) rage in the hearts of the children of men." We note here that the Devil has real contact with men and shall rage in their hearts and can "grasp them with his everlasting chains." This certainly seems real, yet the minister that I referred to said that "evil has no power and is not a reality."

Surely, if evil has no power then there can be no Devil. He is the author of evil but if evil does not exist then there can be no Devil. We propose to show that there is devil. Some people say, why show us that there is a devil? Why don't you just show us that there is a Christ? This Church of Christ believes that there are both a Christ and a devil, and that it is the duty of the ministry of this church to tell the people of that

from which we must escape, and to show them and to tell them of the only avenue of escape. If we do not realize that there is a power on earth from which we must escape, we shall never see the need of the avenue of escape.

We continue to read from the Book of Mormon, "For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good; and others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say, All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well; and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell. And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell." Many people today are beginning to believe that there is no hell. "And he sayeth unto them, I am no devil, for there is none." (II Nephi 12:24-28)

So we see that the very power that has a destructive control over the hearts and souls of the children of men if they make the wrong decisions in life, is denying that he even exists.

Now we read a little more, "And thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance."

Some people may think that if we are dutiful members of a church that evil can have no power over us. Let us read what the Book of Mormon says about the churches of this day.

"Yea, they have all gone out of the way: they have become corrupted. Because of pride, and because of false teachers, and false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted; and their churches are lifted up; because of pride, they are puffed up. They rob the poor, because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor, because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek, and the poor in heart; because in their pride, they are puffed up. They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray, save it be a few, who the humble followers of Christ."

This means that in the the day that we are living all have gone astray, except a few humble followers of Christ. But what about those few? Are they now on spiritual easy street? Listen, as we continue to read. "Nevertheless, they are led that in many instances they do err, because they are taught by the precepts of men." (II Nephi 12:13-17)

Surely, we the people of the church believe that we are humble followers of Christ, but remember, "that in many instances they do err (the humble followers of Christ) because they are taught by the precepts of men." Yes, we are always in danger of being led into by and forbidden paths.

In this day and age we often hear the question, why does the Lord permit so much suffering and sorrow? Many people are actually provoked at the Lord because of the suffering of the world. They do not seem to understand that God has provided a plan for man whereby if he would but obey all the law that there would be

no suffering, but because of disobedience and the partaking of the opposite of that which He has given us, which He says that if we will by our own free agency accept, ye shall walk in paths of righteousness as a people into that abundant life if we will but accept the principles that He has brought into being through and by His Son, Jesus Christ. Yet man, because of his carnal desires, has taken the opposite or that which is in opposition to righteousness. Because of this disobedience man has brought suffering upon himself.

A few months ago I was called upon to preach the funeral service for a young girl who, in innocence of her youth, was killed by a horse. This seems to be an injustice but let us turn to the Scripture and let Christ do the talking.

"Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: **for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**" (Matthew 19:14) Yes, she was adorned with the innocence and purity of youth, and so we hear again, "of such is the kingdom of heaven."

We must understand that when death comes to the innocent and the righteous it is not a tragedy but it is a victory through which they walk through the open door to the Master of men. But we do not always understand and some people spend their lives in the bondage of sin and in bondage of fear because of death that we all must face. If only we could understand that there is an open road by which we can accept the gospel of Jesus Christ and walk therein, there would be nothing to fear of that which we call death. Christ liberates us from that bondage.

Many say, why do we have to suffer so in this life, why didn't God make it such that we would all be happy? It seems that all who ask such questions think that the condition of life should be such that we would be happy without any effort on our part. Now the question that arises in my mind is this, would we recognize happiness if we did not understand that there was opposition to happiness and just what that opposition is?

Thank God, that the information we need, to know what the opposition to happiness is, can be found in the Scriptures. And so we turn to the Book of Mormon for inspired information. Here we read the words of one of the old masters who was moved upon to write as the power and might of the Holy Ghost touched him with the spirit of wisdom from God Almighty.

Before I read I would like to relate a beautiful story that I read some years ago. There was an old gentleman who lived alone. His neighbors wondered about this old man, thinking that because he lived alone he must be terribly lonesome. He was asked if he were not a lonesome man and his answer was, "No, I am not lonesome. You see, I live with all the old masters and daily I walk with them." He was referring to his books. Yes, he had books that told him of things, of far-flung places, books that told him of doctrine, of beauty, of the difference between daylight and dark, both physical and spiritual. And so as he walked with all the old masters he was not lonesome, for he never walked alone.

It was for this reason that the Master of men caused the scriptures to be brought into being, that you and I might be able to walk with all the old spiritual masters and learn through them of the ways of life and death.

Do you know that by the reading of the Word that we can walk in the garden of Gethsemane and suffer with the Master of men? Not only this, but we can also walk with Him from the tomb.

So now back to the written word. Let us walk with one of the old masters and as we walk, let us learn wisdom. Reading from the second book of Nephi beginning with 1:81:

"For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things. If not so, my first born in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass; neither wickedness; neither holiness nor misery; neither good nor bad. Wherefore, all things must needs be a compound in one; wherefore, if it should be one body, it must needs remain as dead, having no life, neither death nor corruption, nor incorruption, happiness nor misery, neither sense nor insensibility. Wherefore, it must needs have been created for a thing of nought; wherefore, there would have been no purpose in the end of its creation. Wherefore, this thing must needs destroy the wisdom of God, and his eternal purposes, and also, the power, and the mercy, and the justice of God." Now if there was no sin, only righteousness, there could be no redemption from sin and the justice of God could not work. If there had never been sin, God would not have, in compassion for mankind, sent his son to the world with the gospel of salvation that through Him man might have eternal life. "And if ye shall say there is no law, ye shall also say there is no sin. And if we shall say there is no sin, ye shall also say there is no righteousness. And if there be no righteousness, there be no happiness. And if there be no righteousness nor happiness, there be no punishment nor misery. And if these things are not, there is no God. And if there is no God, we are not, neither the earth, for there could have been no creation of things, neither to act nor to be acted upon; wherefore, all things must have vanished away. And now, my son, I speak unto you these things, for your profit and learning:" That is why we are gathered here tonight, that we might have something given to us for our profit and our learning. I am certain that each of you know these things as well as I do but it is a strange thing about preaching. The scripture tells us that through the foolishness of preaching men's souls shall be saved. The Apostle Peter said, "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance:" (II Peter 1:12-13) Then we have that great prayer upon the bread and the wine that we are commanded to repeat at each communion for the purpose that we might have brought to our attention that great Spirit and that great compassion and sacrifice of the Master of men, that in the remembering of these things we might have His Spirit to be with us.

If we did not bring these things to our memory from time to time, some of these great things would be forgotten and in times to come there would be men come to search the ruins of our great cities and they would find there the evidence of a people who had forgotten God, a people who had failed to bring to their remembrance the great truth that in all things there is an opposition. "The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:11-12)

When we study the ruins of Central America in the light of the Book of Mormon, we come to know that this great civilization fell because its people of their own free will chose evil instead of ways of righteousness.

Peoples and nations have in the past dwindled in unbelief and have been destroyed and it shall happen again, just as often as they of their own free will choose evil rather than righteousness, darkness rather than light. So it certainly behooves us to bring to our attention these things with sufficient force and strength that we will be obedient to the law and use our liberty to make the proper choices that it may never be said of us that we dwindled in unbelief.

When the time comes to close the door on this life, those who have remembered to make their calling and election sure shall be given their rightful place in their Father's house of many mansions. "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 1:10, 11)

Now back to our reading in II Nephi, first chapter and continuing at verse 95. "For there is a God, and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them is; both things to act, and things to be acted upon; and to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man, after he had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was an opposition; even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter; wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man, that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself, save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other."

Man could act for himself; he could not attain that elevation of life known as the more abundant life if he were not standing between two enticing spirits with the

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Original Articles are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the church or the opinions of the editorial staff. We solicit articles written in an affirmative manner in which a belief or an opinion is expressed, and evidences presented to support that belief.

free agency to make his own choice between the two. If he should deny Christ and choose evil then he would forfeit his birthright, eternal life.

We are faced each day with choices and our punishment or reward depends entirely upon the choices we make. When any individual comes into contact with truth and recognizes it as such he must make a choice then and there between that which is true and that which is false, or else he will have wasted that opportunity to act for good.

Now to continue with our reading. "And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read, must needs suppose that an angel of God, according to that which is written, had fallen from heaven; wherefore he became a devil, having sought that which was evil before God. And because he had fallen from heaven, and had become miserable for ever, he sought also the misery of all mankind."

Yes, the scriptures are clear that there are two great spirits in the world today, two great powers, one is enticing constantly for good and the other is enticing just as constantly for evil. We each stand directly between the two and having been given our own free agency we must make our own choices. I cannot choose for any individual nor can any other make a choice for me. But we can together expound the gospel of Jesus Christ to one another in the spirit of fellowship and compassion and then when we come to an understanding of the truth, then it is that we must make a decision.

Reading again from the Book of Mormon. "And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed, he would not have fallen; but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created, must have remained in the same state which they were, after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. And they would have had no children; wherefore, they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things." (II Nephi 1:111-114)

This is one of the things that we must accept. Regardless of how much we may fail to understand why misery is poured out in this earth, seemingly upon the just and the unjust, we must accept the fact that the Creator of the universe and all that therein is, has a plan, and we must accept that plan under these conditions, "behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things." We must accept the fact that His mind is higher than ours and when we feel we do not understand the mysteries of these things, yet we must accept Him as a just God regardless of how things may seem to us here on this earth.

The apostle Paul said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (I Corinthians 15:19) Paul was able to comprehend through the gospel of Jesus Christ that beyond this life there was justice.

Regardless of what you have done or who you are, if you have chosen the things that has brought the dark-

ness then you have chosen those things that will bring punishment, and punishment will come and will be given by a God that in the ultimate, in the last degree is just in its completeness.

"And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become free forever, knowing good from evil;" Ah yes, we are free, because it is now given unto man that he be able to tell the difference between good and evil and is free to make his own choices. "To act for themselves, and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Lord, at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given unto them which are expedient unto man." The next statement very clearly shows the great opposition in life and the means whereby we can choose life rather than death. "And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil: for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. And now, my sons, I would that ye should look to the great Mediator, and hearken upon his great commandments; and be faithful unto his words, and choose eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit, and not choose eternal death, according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein." (II Nephi 1:116-124)

If man submits to the will of the flesh the time will come that the body will be master not only of the mind but also of the soul, but if man will choose those things which are of God the mind will become master of the body and of the soul.

The world is filled today with young and old who have made so many wrong choices that many have become alcoholics. They have reached a point where no longer have they control of their sensibility but their passions have become the only guide which they know and the only thing they can follow. By disobedience they have lost that priceless quality known as will-power. Oh yes, we recognize the fact that alcoholism is a sickness but we also recognize the fact there was a time in every alcoholic's life that he knew the difference between right and wrong and he also had the right of choice between the two but he willingly chose the evil until the time came that the pull of the flesh became so strong that he could not choose right if he wanted to. This indeed happens to the minds of men. And according to the words of the scriptures, if we choose evil it gives us into the power of the devil who seeks the misery of all mankind. Listen well as we read the remainder of II Nephi, chapter 1.

"For he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. And now, my sons, I would that ye should look to the great Mediator, and hearken unto his great commandments; and be faithful unto his words, and choose eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit, and not choose eternal death, according to the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein, which

giveth the spirit of the devil power to captivate, to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you in his own kingdom. I have spoken these few words unto you all, my sons, in the last days of my probation; and I have chosen the good part, according to the words of the prophet. And I have none other object, save it be the everlasting welfare of your souls. Amen."

This is the reason why we have met together. We have no other object than the everlasting welfare of our souls. We have met together to talk about things Divine, about the gospel of Jesus Christ and we hope that by our gathering together and the pooling of our desires and hopes we might be able to strengthen one another in the art of making the proper choices in life.

When I was a younger man I had the same drives and pulls as young people have and I heard the stories of other young people of the great pleasures they had in their drinking and in their dances and parties and I also had a desire to partake of these things. But because of the training within the gospel of Jesus Christ, because of the training of God-fearing parents through the years of my youth, upon many occasions I was able to make right choices when many unfortunate youngsters could not because they had not had the background, they had not had the training. This training many times was directly responsible for my having been able to withstand many of the temptations of evil that came my way. Many times when temptations were strong and I wanted to yield it seemed that I could not break through the barrier, there seemed to be something just holding me back. I believe that it was the power of God Almighty that was there to protect a young man from the pitfalls that would destroy him. I do not say that I have never yielded to temptations that were evil, but I do say that upon many occasions as I was faced with temptation there came to me a power that gave me strength that was far beyond my own strength and by that power I was able to make the escape from evil.

The apostle Paul expresses the above thought in the following manner. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Corinthians 10:13)

As I look back through the years I marvel at the many times the Lord in His wonderful wisdom and mercy has inspired me with His Spirit so that I might know right from wrong and thereby avoid many pitfalls that I would otherwise have fallen into. I will relate one experience.

When I was but a young minister, the Lord in His mercy gave a warning in a night vision so that I could, if I would but heed His warning, avoid spiritual and soul disaster. In the vision I saw myself standing on a high plain. As I stood on the edge of the plain I could look down to the valley below. There I saw men and women dancing, singing and drinking. There was loud music and everyone seemed to be having a good time. As I looked and listened there came a spirit of desire over me

and I wanted to go down and join the crowd. I saw a wide road leading from the plain to the valley below. I saw myself walk down the road but when I reached the valley floor, instead of finding joy and happiness I found myself tangled in brambles and briars. I could hardly make headway. I began to look for a way to get back up to the high plain. Now I could not see a broad road leading back but rather I saw a little steep trail and looked as though it would be most impossible to climb back. I saw a large sign on the trail. It was shaped like a hand and the index finger was pointing to the plain above. The words on the sign read, "THE ROAD BACK."

I never cease to thank God for that vision or dream for I truly believe it has opened my understanding and has helped me avoid many pitfalls that otherwise would have destroyed me. I testify unto you that the Spirit revealed unto me that those things that the world thinks are pleasures have nothing to offer but momentary pleasures and thereafter comes heartaches, drudgery, sickness and despair all the days of your life.

So, we find an opposition. The high level of life, the abundant life herein is the good way and the good way is promoted and taught by the Spirit of Christ and by righteousness. And that broad way leads down to a kingdom controlled by the Master of Hades. I preach to you a world wherein there are two great powers active twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days a year. One is desirous, because of love and compassion for all mankind, to bring you to the highest elevation possible, salvation and eternal life. The other is desirous to drag you into the depths of all misery as he is. There he desires to keep you. We cannot listen to both powers. We must either accept one and reject the other, or vice-versa.

"No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other." (Matthew 6:24) This applies to the gospel or kingdom of Christ and also it applies to the kingdom of the devil. You will either hate one and love the other or you will hold to one and despise the other and it is your choice to make the decision.

I don't feel that I am speaking to people here tonight that have a great need for repentance for some of the grosser sins but I say to each of you there are things that come up in everyday life that requires tolerance, longsuffering, patience, compassion, and love for your fellowmen. Anytime you fail in these requirements, you are committing sin and you need to repent. That applies to me, you or anyone.

According to the scripture there is only one way man can redeem himself from the fallen state. "Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the holy Messiah: for he is full of grace and truth. Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered. Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, that they may know that there is no flesh that

can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the holy Messiah." (II Nephi 1:71-73)

And from Psalms, we read, "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." This is opposition to righteousness. "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." It stands to reason that if the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears open to their cry, then they are not open to those who choose by their own free agency to deliberately walk that broad way into that valley of worldly pleasure. "The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalms 34:11-18)

Turning now to Daniel we will find just what is meant by, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." "Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies." Ah no, when we pray to God we do not pray to Him because we are so righteous, but we pray for His great mercies to be poured out upon us, but He demands a certain amount of righteousness before he will even hear your prayers.

There was a certain individual who had done great good in the church, a marvelous work, but the time came that the pull of the world took its toll. The statement was made to him, "The Lord has helped you and prospered you wonderfully in your work." His answer to this was, "Yes, but just look what I have done for the Lord." This shows that sometimes men make the mistake of praying to God because they think that God owes them something because of their righteousness, rather than praying just for God to hear and pour out His tender mercies upon them because of His great compassion and love for all mankind.

Now we continue with the prayer of Daniel. "O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name. And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about

the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou are greatly beloved:" He was greatly beloved because of his righteousness but nevertheless it was not because of his righteousness that he was praying to God. He was praying because he had come to understand that because of the grace of God he would pour out his mercies upon the people. By the grace of God He sent His Son and He gave to us a plan of life, not because we are worthy of it, but because of his love and compassion. "Therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision." (Daniel 9:17-23)

Did not this identical thing happen to me when the great pull came to me to go to the world? It was not because of my righteousness, but it was because of the compassion, because of the love of the Master of men that he gave unto me a night vision and showed me two ways that I could go. One, by the choosing of righteousness, into the kingdom of God, the other, by the choosing of evil, into the kingdom of the devil. God did not come down and say to me, "now look son, you cannot go wrong, I am not going to let you," but He did give me my free agency and He gave me a choice between two ways to go. You have a choice everyday of your life between two ways to go. Sometimes you have many choices through the course of a day. There is always a wrong way or a right way to go.

If we fail to exercise humility, longsuffering, kindness, tolerance and love in our life, in our everyday association, in our everyday human relationship, we are committing sin. If we are committing sin, then we have some adjustments to make, some right choices to make to overcome these things.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1) He was speaking here to a people who had made a choice of entering into the gospel, or kingdom, by baptism and of course they had made the right choice, for this is the way prescribed by Christ himself. Any one who has not entered as yet, it is necessary for them to make the same choice when they come in contact with the truth and understand it as such.

Upon one occasion when the apostles were met together and in their disturbed minds they asked this question. "Men and brethren what shall we do?" And the answer came, "Repent and be baptized every one of you." That is the answer today for all those who have not yet entered by the door, "repent and be baptized everyone of you." When you come to the knowledge of the gospel, when you come to the understanding of which way you should go, then is the time of decision, and every day that it is put off increases the possibility that the decision will never be made. The individual who fails to make that decision certainly has a great deal to lose.

Paul further speaks to those who have entered the kingdom. "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour another, take heed that ye are not consumed one of another." (Galatians 5:13-15)

This means contention. When there are envyings and strife among a people they are contentious and thus they devour one another and they are carnal.

Paul says in I Corinthians 3:2, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" Why ye, if we are of a contentious disposition, with our loved ones, we are carnal and cannot be fed the meat of the gospel. If I should find these short comings in my life it is my problem. If you find them in your life, it becomes your problem. We each will be responsible for our own sins and our own corrections when we find it necessary to make them.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:16-21)

I thank God that He has provided a way whereby those who have been guilty of these things can by repentance, by a broken heart and a contrite spirit, return unto God and then though their sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.

Let us give ear to the prophet Isaiah. "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." (Isaiah 1:16-19)

Yes, there are indeed two Spirits in the world constantly enticing us, one for good and one for evil. We can choose to follow either. If we follow the evil we act in such a way that it is said, "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." If we choose to follow after the spirit of righteousness we develop the fruits of the Spirit.

I will close by the reading of Galatians 5:22-26: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

---

### REAL BARGAINS

by

William L. Riggs

The next day after Christmas, shoppers filled the store,  
Exchanging presents, and looking for bargains galore;  
Some shoppers were short of money, and were very poor  
guys,  
And some were just downright stingy, looking for good  
buys.

Everyone likes bargains, there were many to be had,  
But some of the Christmas bargains were shoddy and  
bad;  
It takes shrewd shoppers to know good bargains and  
what isn't,  
The shrewd ones bought bargains, and the ignorant  
didn't.

The goods that are marked down doesn't mean it's worth  
the price,  
Sharp merchants know how to fool the people more than  
twice;  
They will mark the price up, then they will mark the  
price down,  
The customer pays the price, and never makes a frown.

Bargains are to be had in the spiritual realm too,  
Many have been fooled by satan, but don't let him fool  
you.

Esau was a customer who lost a real good deal  
When he sold Jacob his birthright for a good hot meal.

Judas was another one that made a sad mistake,  
When he sold Jesus for money he made a bad break;  
He was sorry afterwards, but then it was too late.  
He'd made a bad bargain and missed the pearly gate.

No one has ever received a bargain in sin;  
You will have to make a bargain with Jesus if you win.  
Beware of satan's bargains, that he may advertise,  
He is seeking to catch all the people in disguise.

Jesus Christ will accept your prayers of contrition,  
And He will pardon your sins under this condition;  
He'll take your repentance in exchange for salvation,  
Sinners! do not delay, put in your application.

The best bargain that God offers is eternal life;  
It's good for the husband, and it is good for the wife.  
God offers His people so much, and the price is so small;  
Sinners, I think this is the best bargain of them all.