

# THE REFLECTOR



## THE HOLY BIBLE

This BOOK contains: — the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

Here, heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our God its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." (Psalm 119:89)

Author Unknown

December 1975



# MARRIAGES THAT FAIL

By Irvin Himmel

It is an indisputable fact that an alarming number of marriages are failing. Every divorce is a testimony to lack of success. Many marriages fail that remain legally intact. Separations may occur because of disagreements even when there is no divorce. The fact that a husband and wife continue living under the same roof is no proof of real togetherness. A couple may remain in the same house only to fight, quarrel, and make life miserable for themselves and others around them.

Some marital problems would puzzle one with the greatest of wisdom, but the major causes of failure are not so complex.

1. *A marriage may fail because it is viewed as a purely human arrangement.* We must remember that it was God who ordained the husband-wife relationship and gave laws to regulate it. Matrimony originated in the divine decree of Genesis 1:27,28: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." Read also Genesis 2:18-24. It is God Who joins partners in marriage. (Matt. 19:3-9). Gospel preachers stress these facts in marriage ceremonies.

If we may judge their convictions by their attitudes and actions many people must feel that God has no control or voice in marriage. Some men and women mate without marriage, living much like animals. They are led by physical drives, switch in partners at will having no higher purpose than gratifying carnal passions. Others are careful to comply with the laws of the state, but they recognize no higher laws. All who leave God out of the picture by ignoring His laws for marriage could not be expected to attain real success in that relationship. To

view the husband-wife connection as purely human in every sense is to act as if marriage is only a human arrangement, therefore to conclude that we may do whatever we please and it is none of God's business!

2. *A marriage may fail because it is not considered as a lifetime contract.* Naturally, people who leave God out would be expected to regard marriage lightly. But some who claim to believe the Bible do not take marriage seriously. No doubt ignorance plays a role in this. Jesus said, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matt. 19:5) Many have not read. They claim to believe the Bible but are unfamiliar with what it teaches about the permanence of marriage.

People must be taught that God does not approve everything that the state approves. God designed marriage as a lifetime agreement. To overcome the looseness of attitude that manifests itself strong teaching is needed on such passages as Romans 7:1-3 and Matthew 19:9.

3. *Some marriages fail because the partners have no common spiritual bond.* Marriages with the heathen were highly detrimental to the Israelites long ago. When Ezra learned of such marriages among the Jews, he plucked off the hair of his head and his beard, and sat down in



astonishment. Ezra intreated the people to put away their "strange wives" and "such as are born of them." The birth of children by heathen women did not make the marriages any less abominable. (Ezra 9 and 10.) In Nehemiah's time the same situation prevailed. The Jews had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. The children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod. It was a terrible evil. Nehemiah reasoned, "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? . . . even him did outlandish women cause to sin." (Neh. 13:23-27.)

Today, the laws that governed ancient Israel are not in force, but serious problems can arise when one parent is trying to be loyal to Christ and the other is not. It is difficult enough to overcome obstacles when both husband and wife are endeavoring to follow the Scriptures; a Christian who marries out of the faith creates a built-in potential for failure.

4. *A marriage may fail because true love is lacking.* If a couple



genuinely and deeply love each other, problems can be solved, mistakes will be forgiven freely, and selfishness will be put aside. The husband who sincerely loves his wife will be tender and kind. He will love her as his own body, or as he loves himself, "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." (Eph. 5:28,29.) The wife who loves her husband will submit to him and reverence him. (Eph. 5:22,33.)

All marriages are not based on love. Some are based on the desire for financial security, or maybe a longing for social prestige. Some couples marry merely because of physical attraction. And sometimes people marry out of spite, but in the end they spite themselves!

5. *Many marriages fail due to lack of preparation.* In relatively few things do any of us succeed without adequate preparation. The following are some areas in which preparation is needed for marriage: (1) *physical* - the body should be kept strong and healthy; (2) *emotional* - one may be physically mature but too emotionally immature for marriage; (3) *moral* - "keep thyself pure" (1 Tim. 5:22) is good advice for anyone at any point in life, especially for one who expects to enter marriage; (4) *intellectual* - one should know his or her responsibilities and how to fulfill them; (5) *financial* - do not expect to begin with a dream house fully furnished, but realize that there must be some means of a livelihood; (6) *spiritual* - this is the most important area of preparation for disciples of Christ who contemplate marriage.

A lot of couples, particularly younger ones, jump into marriage with little of no preparation. To make a marriage succeed, planning and determination toward that end

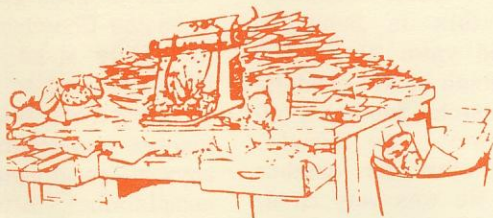
are necessary from the beginning.

To realize before wedlock why many marriages fail should help to avoid pitfalls. I urge teenagers to study this article carefully. All who plan to marry should ask themselves what kind of a marriage they really want. If one desires a

messed-up affair, that can be arranged with ease. If he wants a happy meaningful, and glorious marriage, it will take the right attitude, sincere and continued effort, respect for the laws of God, and deep love with understanding.

END

## EDITOR'S DESK



How about this! Here we are at the end of Volume 15. It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since we began publishing this paper in its present form. A lot of work has gone into the past twelve issues. We think it has been worth the effort.

About 25 to 30 people are directly involved in the production and mailing of the paper each month. The type is set and printing done with our own facilities. All the labor is volunteered (well, maybe a little commandeered) by members of the church at Fultondale. This is why we can afford to put out such a large paper. Our thanks go out to those who are interested enough to help with the work.

Our mailing list constantly grows. So far, we have been able to send it to any and all who have requested it. We hope to be able to continue this policy. We have received encouraging letters from a variety of places over the year. We wish time would permit our answering each letter, but it is not possible - but we want our readers to continue writing us. We do read your letters with appreciation.

We look to 1976 with a great deal of hope and enthusiasm. We hope to see the local work here continue to grow, continue this paper, and keep the daily Bible Talk programs on the air.

With this issue we are changing our method of composing the type. We hope it will make the paper more attractive and readable for you.

We welcome manuscripts on both "first principles" and "Christian living" from brethren. We want to use the paper to teach a balanced diet of Scriptural teaching. Of course, the decision as to which manuscripts to print will have to be left up to our judgement.

We thank brethren Maples, Keith, and Hutto for their regular columns during the past year. We look forward to more from them in 1976.

Visit with us during our services at Fultondale when you can. If you can't visit with us, at least write.

E.O.B.

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## SUNDAY WITH THE CHURCHMEMBERS

By Bill Moseley

The hands of the clock had slowly crept toward 9 a.m. and the bright-morning sun was already looking in the window. Suddenly, Luke W. Churchmember sat bolt upright in his bed. With a start he thought, "I'll be late for work!" Then it dawned on him—"Why, this is Sunday!" With a contented yawn he settled back into the warmth of his comfortable bed to catch another "40 winks". "Oh well," he thought, "class doesn't start for another hour anyway." He was very tired, as he and his wife were out with bro. and sis. Deacon till 2 a.m. last night, and also the kids were out late. "By the way," Luke thought, "I wonder where they were and whom they were with?"

Finally, his conscience made his body get out of bed. He awoke his wife and children, reminding them that "we haven't studied our Bible lessons yet." You see, he had a club meeting during the week, a night out for bowling, a night to visit friends for a social get-together, and a night for PTA, and just didn't have a free evening to study. After a leisurely breakfast (and a hurried glance at their Bible lessons) the Churchmember family was about ready to leave for class. "Classes start at 10 a.m." Luke reminded his family, "and it's 5 till 10, so we'd better get going." "I guess we will be a little late," said the good wife of Luke, "but after all, it's *such* a job to get around on Sunday morning." (They're doing better, however—didn't make it at all for class last week.)

At 10:10 a.m. (not bad—only 10 minutes late) the Churchmembers drove up to the building. Said Luke to his family "I'm sure proud of our new church building! I was ashamed of our old one. The Baptists down the street have such a nice building. Now we have one just as nice and have lots of room to grow. Our sanctuary seats 750, and maybe we can grow to fill it up if these lazy brethren would go to work!" "And

to think," said sis. Churchmember "It only cost \$600,000. I just love our landscaping—and all for only \$5,000." "Yes," said Luke, "the Lord must really be proud of his house in this city now. But we wouldn't have had it if it hadn't been for me always bringing it up to the brethren. Why, I'll bet pretty soon we'll have at least 100 members!"

The classes were well under way when the Churchmember family went in. Only about half of the class looked around to see who came in and completely forgot about what the teacher was saying! (He's so dull anyway, some members were always complaining). After crowding into a pew by bro. and sis. Deacon, Luke nudged the fellow on the other side, and with a loud whisper that all could hear said, "exactly where is the class studying...we missed last week, you know." With Luke dozing off and on during the class, it at last neared it's end. Sis. Churchmember leaned over and whispered to sis. Deacon. "I just love bro. Elder's classes. Why, did you notice that we covered almost three chapters of Romans this morning?" "Yes," replied sis. Deacon, "but I could hardly keep my mind on the class. I just couldn't keep my eyes off that new hat sis. Banker has on! I wonder how much she paid for it?"

After the class, the place came alive with chatter that had to do with the week's events. Bro. Churchmember was arguing with bro. Goodtime over who was going to win the world series. Most of the ladies were dispensing and accepting the latest gossip. Nobody seemed aware that the worship was going to start any minute. Finally, a brother rose and took the floor. After a couple of minutes of patient waiting he got everyone's attention, and began to make announcements. There was going to be a dinner in the "fellowship hall" this afternoon. (Now there's something the Lord must really be "proud" of!) The monthly Youth Rally was going to be at 5 p.m. that afternoon, and "let's not forget the Campaign for Christ in the next town." After the song

service, and communion were over bro. Churchmember grudgingly dropped a dollar in the collection plate to help sooth his conscience, and settled back to hear what the preacher had to say, which took up a full 20 minutes.

At last, the services were over, and the Churchmember family left. "I sure do like our new preacher, bro. Backslapper," said sis. Churchmember. "So do I," said Luke. "He's not at all like our old preacher, brother Peter Paul. Why, he would preach for 45 minutes at a time, and was always against everything. We never would have gotten the Herald of Truth in the budget if we'd kept him." "Yes," interrupted sis. Churchmember. "and he actually had the nerve to tell some people they were going to be lost if they didn't straighten up. Why, doesn't he know that people don't like negative preaching anymore? I wonder who made him a judge?" "Yes" said Luke, "I'm sure glad to be rid of him. He was too narrow ... thought he had to have what he called 'Bible Authority' for things we do in religion."

After hurriedly throwing some sandwiches together, they returned to the "fellowship hall" for lunch. Then the Churchmembers decided to drive in the country. After a leisurely drive Luke looked at his watch. "My, how time flies. We'll never make it back for the evening services. I completely forgot about the time." His wife said, "Oh well, there was an educational program on TV the children wanted to see to-night anyway."

After the TV program was over and the children were in bed, Luke's wife said, "I sure have enjoyed the day." "Yes," replied Luke, "so have I. And isn't it wonderful to be a Christian?"

*(I am sure that brother Moseley would be the first to agree that the churches that support the Herald of Truth, have "fellowship halls", etc. do not have a FRANCHISE on the Luke W. Churchmembers—EOB)*



# "Behold, Thou Art Old and Thy Sons Walk Not in Thy Ways"

By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

He who seeks alterations in divine arrangements usually capitalizes on human frailties. The caption of this article is one example. The elders of Israel (1 Sam. 8:5) used this as a pretext for their revision of divine government. They used weaknesses in the human element (Samuel's age and his sons' corruption) to set aside and replace the order (the judgeship) approved of God. Those who have desired their "kings," in whatever form, have more or less used this tactic effectively through the centuries. This type maneuvering is deceptive and hard to deal with. There is enough truth in the charges to give them weight, yet such cannot be used as a spring-board into digression. It was true that Samuel was old. It was true that his sons walked not in his ways. It was also true that Israel was in error in demanding that the judgeship be replaced by a king like the nations. No problem can be solved by the abolition of God's arrangement, but rather by the correction of any human abuses that might be. The old, old tactic is still used among brethren to this good day:

1. Those who set up and support human institutions among brethren to do the work of the church have cried, "What are local churches doing to get the job done? Are they preaching the gospel as they should? Are they doing what they should to care for the needy?" Suppose we were doing absolutely nothing — this still does not justify setting aside the local church for a humanly devised organization. The problem is not solved in this fashion, but rather complicated by opening the flood-gate for every imaginable invention of human dexterity. Brethren need to get busy working God's arrangement, not replacing it with their own.

2. Opponents of evangelists locating and preaching to a church

cry, "Located preachers are nothing more than sectarian-type pastors." They yell loudly about the "pastor system." They give us good lessons on "hirelings." Who, among us, will deny that such exist? But "none of these things move me." It is still right for preachers to locate. Timothy was told to "abide still at Ephesus." (1 Tim. 1:3.) Paul was located at Ephesus for three years. (Acts 20:31.) Who accused the Ephesian church of harboring the "pastor system"? Now, just because one is fully supported for preaching the gospel, does not make him a "hireling." Paul said that he and Barnabas had the right to *forbear working*, along with some others. (1 Cor. 9:6.) He further says that "the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14.) One can scorn the idea of full-time, fully-supported preachers all he likes, but facts are stubborn things. If a man forbears working and lives of the gospel, and "Concentrates . . . on (his) reading, and on (his) preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 4:13, Phillips Translation), he is just that!

I can cite cases where preachers in my judgement have become sectarian-type pastors — with all the term implies. There may be others who are "feathering their nests" at the expense of the brethren. But I have always thought that a poor way to stamp out fleas is to try to kill all the dogs. There may be some preachers who need spraying for "fleas," but let us not shoot the poor preacher, nor seek to abolish his rightful work.

3. We have seen elders become dictators on occasions. Most preachers who have lived and worked with different sets of elders over many years, have been mistreated to some degree by some elders. I personally have found those who "lord

over God's heritage" to be the exception and not the rule. In many cases when they acted as "lords" they were provoked to anger by the actions of a power seeking novice or preacher. But dictatorial elders do not excuse our setting aside the "office of a bishop." No amount of human abuse can nullify the God-ordained "overseers" in local churches. In fact, if elders have no right to make decisions and can only rule by example, then the word "overseer" is the wrong word; Acts 29:28 should read, "over which the Holy Ghost hath made you exemplifiers." Who can believe it?

Just as pointing to Samuels sons did not justify Israel's rejection of the judgeship, pointing to some modern Diotrophes does not justify rejection of the overseership.

4. "I am not going to become a member of the church, because there are hypocrites in the church." is the excuse of some whom we approach with the gospel. We patiently point out that this does not mean that the Lord's church should be rejected. The New Testament church is still right. We cannot substitute human churches for it, even if some do abuse membership in the "church of God." They did in the New Testament days, at Corinth, and Paul still called it the "church of God." The church has both its human and divine sides. Its members are human beings, subject to error. This in no way justifies alteration of its divine characteristics, not the substitution of denominations.

The church's troubles with those who pervert God's order are not cured by setting aside God's way. In the church we have, at best, imperfect beings trying to carry out the perfect arrangement. If one sets aside the local church for human institutions on the pretext that the members of the local church are not performing their duty, what guar-



## HOW TO BECOME A SKILFUL CHRISTIAN

Matt. 5:12-14

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Hebrews were rebuked for being unskilful Christians.
  - A. Had created "communications gap" between Paul and themselves. (v.11)
  - B. Had hindered ability to "discern (thoroughly judge) good and evil." (v. 14)
2. Christians should want to be as skilful as possible.
  - A. Do this in lesser matters: job, art, games, hobbies, etc.
  - B. Do this by following basic RULES for becoming skilful:

### DISCUSSION:

- I. It takes **STUDY** to become skilful. (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15)
  - A. Hard to become skilful on 1 hour per week. (cf. Acts 17:11; 8:28; Ps. 1:2)
  - B. Hard to become skilful on poor study habits.
    1. The habit of merely looking at words.
    2. The habit of passing over unfamiliar words and phrases without looking them up.
    3. The habit of letting the Bible fall open and reading a portion without considering context.
  - C. Hard to become skilful on passive listening to sermons and classes.
- II. It takes **EXPERIENCE** to become skilful. (verse 14).
  - A. Cannot develop skill on study alone. ("by reason of use" -cf. Jas. 1:22-25).
    1. College "whiz kid" still needs on-the-job experience.
    2. One can know every fact in the Bible and still not know how to apply them.
  - B. Cannot develop some knowledge without some background experience. (cf. Jno. 8:31,32)
    - 1- Apostles needed wait until they were ready from some teaching. (Jno. 16:12).
    2. Did you ever find the assembling instructions complicated for a child's toy? Did they not become clearer AFTER you had completed each preceding step?
- III. It takes **TIME** to become skilful. (verse 12)
  - A. Babes in Christ must recognize this fact.
    1. Or they will become discouraged with themselves.
    2. Or they want to become teachers and leaders too soon. (cf. Jas. 3:1; 1 Tim. 3:6)
    3. Or they become offended when their judgement is not followed by the older.
  - B. Mature in Christ must recognize this fact.
    1. Or become impatient with mistakes of young in the faith.
    2. Or push them into leading roles before they are ready.
  - C. ALL must be willing to give TIME to spiritual development.
    1. Too many fill ALL their time with lesser matters.
    2. Too many wonder why their development is slower than others - may be the time element.

### CONCLUSION:

Remember: It takes ALL THREE to become skilful Christians.



antee do I have that those who make up the human arrangement will not be slothful human beings? If I set aside the overseership for some other order, how long is it until some one in the church, preacher or otherwise, become a church boss? The problem of "lording it over God's heritage" is not solved, and the divinely ordained function of elders is kicked out in the process. All human inventions have to be run by human beings. The duties of the arrangement have to be performed by human beings. A perfect ordinance, imperfectly administered, is far better than an imperfect ordinance

imperfectly administered.

We must take heed unto ourselves that we do not "put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall" in our brothers' way. This we do when we sin by commission or omission. Let us seek to correct the ills of the church but be sure what those ills are. The divorce menace is not cured by demanding celibacy. Israel's troubles with "lucre, bribery, and perverted justice" (See v.3) were not cured by demanding a king. Our troubles are not helped by trying to update the New Testament, but by our striving unto perfection in God's ways. **END**

## 'WHAT SAITH THE ANSWER OF GOD?'

— By Charles G. Maples, Sr.

**QUESTION:** "Does not John 1:12 prove that the only condition of salvation for the alien sinner is faith in Jesus as Christ?"

**ANSWER:** In John 1:11-12 Jesus says, "He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name." (ASV) This does teach, as do so many Scriptures, that faith is an essential prerequisite to becoming a child of God. But, does it teach that it is the *only* condition?

First, if the fact that the only condition mentioned here proves "faith only" salvation, then I Peter 3:21 would indicate that baptism is the only condition essential to salvation, since that is the only condition mentioned there! (If for no other reason than the fact that this application of these two passages put them in flat contradiction one with the other, we know such conclusions are wrong!)

Second, and most importantly, faith is in John 1:12 said to be a condition to the "right" (Power, or

Privilege) to become a son of God. Granted that when one has become a son of God he has obtained salvation; however, being something and having the right to become that are two different things!

Jesus was there (John 1:12) saying that when a person comes to have faith in Him he has the right to become something he is not yet. He has the right to become a child of God — not that he is such already.

The truth of the matter is instead of John 1:12 proving that salvation comes "At the point of faith," it teaches the very opposite. It teaches that at the point of faith the alien sinner is not yet a child of God, for one does not need the right to become something he already is!

**Conclusion:** If you have faith in Christ, then you have the right to become a child of God. Now if you will exercise that right by repenting of your sins and be baptized "for the remission of sins," you will be a child of God (Acts 2:38).

Address all questions to:  
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## THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL THINGS

By Connie W. Adams

In this day of *think big* philosophy in government, business and even in the churches, I wish to strike a chord for the value of small things.

(1) Solomon said there are four little things which are exceedingly wise, the ants, the conies, the locusts and the spider. (Prov. 30: 24-28). They use what they have and do quite well.

(2) Bethlehem was little among the thousands of Judah, but out of her came the ruler of Israel, the Christ. (Micah 5:2).

(3) When Saul was little in his own sight God lifted him up to be king of Israel. (1 Sam. 15:17). Even after he was anointed king, he was found out following his father's sheep. When he got the bighead, then his troubles started.

(4) Ruth the Moabitess gleaned in the fields to provide for herself and her poor mother-in-law. She met and married Boaz and became identified with the lineage of Jesus the Messiah. (Mt. 1:5).

(5) Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." (Mt. 13:31-32).

(6) Jesus sent twelve lowly men to preach the gospel in all creation and they did it. (Rom. 10:18).

The gospel of Christ makes its appeal to units of one. The seed must fall into each single heart and either bear fruit there or else wither. While we think in terms of reaching the masses, let us not forget that the masses are composed of individuals. Let us not despise the day of small things. By the use of these God demonstrates the superiority of his wisdom and might over the wisdom and power of men. (1 Cor. 1:25-31). **END**



# Where The Wolf And Lambs Dwell Together

By Herschel Patton

I heard Billy Graham on a telecast the other night assure his listeners that the Bible teaches a time will come when nothing but peace will be known here on this earth; when lions and lambs will lie down together and a little child will play with a snake without fear or harm. Technically, this belief is known as pre-millennialism, involving a thousand year reign of Christ on earth, with Satan bound, preceding the judgement.

If the Bible so teaches, all should know it and rejoice in this hope. But, the Bible no more teaches this than Jesus taught He would destroy the temple in Jerusalem and raise it up again within three days. Some thought Jesus taught this because they failed to recognize the figurative or symbolic language he used with reference to His body (John 2:19-21).

A prophecy of Christ and His reign is found in Isaiah, Chapter 11. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall judge after the sight of his

shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;

and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Isa. 11:1-9.)

The "rod" or "Branch" out of Jesse described in this prophesy is obviously the Messiah, or Christ (Zech. 6:12; Rev. 5:5; Acts 13:22-23). He will act with the "spirit of the Lord upon him," in wisdom, understanding, and might, rendering judgement and equity and righteousness. With authority and might, He will "smite with the rod of his mouth," yet all will be in righteousness. Verse nine explains the figures of the lamb, wolf, kid, lion, cow, bear, child, asp, etc., dwelling peacefully together thusly "They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Notice the place where this righteousness and peace is to exist is in "my holy mountain" (kingdom-marginal reading). The establishment of this mountain or kingdom is prophesied in Isa. 2:2 and Dan. 2:44. The fulfillment of these prophesies is found in Acts 2. This holy mountain or kingdom is not an earthly one (John 18:36) but spiritual and its time is from the beginning of Christ's reign on Pentecost (Acts 2:29-36) until the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

It is the peace with God and with one another, characteristic of all those who submit themselves to Christ as head (king) that is pictured in the beautiful analogy of Isaiah 11. To visualize from this passage a utopian period on earth with a

literal mingling of the wild and tame is to err as those Jews who thought of Jerusalem's temple instead of Jesus' body (John 2:19), Nicodemus who thought of a fleshly birth instead of a spiritual one (John 3:4), and the woman of Samaria who thought of literal water rather than spiritual (John 4:15).

Revelation 20 is another highly figurative passage showing the nature of our Lord's kingdom. Key, bottomless pit, chain, dragon, serpent, thousand years are obviously to be taken figuratively and not literally. Some of these are clearly identified in the text. The dragon (serpent) is said to be Satan. The chain signified a binding of Satan. This binding was "that he should deceive the nations no more." During this same period some are pictured as "reigning with Christ." The Bible clearly states that Satan was bound through the coming of Christ and evangelism (Matt. 12:29; 4:1-11; Lk. 10:17-18; Jno. 12:29-32; Col. 2:15). Thus, the 1000 years would simply signify a long period of time - the Christian age. This also is the time of the saint's reigning (Dan. 7:18, 22; 2 Tim. 2:11-12). Christ's reign, saints reigning, Satan bound all occur simultaneously-during the 1,000 year period. We have previously pointed out the time of Christ's reign-from Pentecost till the resurrection-which is the Christian age.

Those who think they see in this text a period of time here on earth when there will be no sin or violence make that age-old mistake of viewing literally what is obviously symbolic, or placing a literal construction on spiritual teaching.

These were not the only passages misunderstood and perverted by Mr. Graham in the telecast mentioned. At the close of his message, he referred to the thief on the cross as an example and Acts 16:31 as proof that "faith" is the only condition of



being saved. The thief lived and died under the Mosaic law, which he had violated and was never under the law of Christ, which requires baptism. On earth, Christ had power to forgive the sins of the penitent (Matt. 9:6), which he did for the sinful woman (Lk. 7:48), the palsied man (Mt. 9:2), the thief (Lk. 23:42-43) and others. It is a perversion, therefore, to hold up the thief as an example of those who live in the regeneration period, when Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16).

The belief that saved the Jailor was more than just an instantaneous sentiment. Upon being told that

belief in Christ would save, he then "heard" the word spoken (which produces faith—Rom. 10:17), showed fruits of repentance (washed the stripes of Paul and Silas), and was baptized (Acts 16:30-33). He is identified as "believing in God with all his house" (vs. 34) after this obedience.

Obviously, Mr. Graham knows very little about what the Bible actually teaches, yet with a lot of natural talent and by speaking "smooth things" (what people want to hear) he is able to deceive and lead hundreds of people into a false hope. Being sincerely wrong and honestly ignorant will not save. Jesus says, "ye shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (Jno. 8:32)

scientific hanky-panky used to allow to seem to conform to Darwinian evolution? Or did true man exist in Africa 4 million years ago, only to have a new and primitive evolution begin from an entirely different source some 3 million years later a few thousand miles away in Java? And still turn out the same way with all the same organs and structures? No, either the old progression from Java Man to Cro-Magnon Man must go, or else one must reject the Leaky's discoveries in Africa.

The theory of evolution is in a mess, as physicists and mathematicians have recognized for some time now. But your children will still have it taught to them in school with all assurance. Having no better information, the faith of some of them will be destroyed. The fact of the matter is that the more evidence we find of ancient man, the more like modern man we find him to be.

Thus, apart from the extreme ages assigned Mrs. Leaky's discoveries, she has found what the Bible leads one to expect. The oldest evidence of man now has him fully man with no apparent natural ancestors. This invalidates all the progressive statues and displays found in museums throughout the land. It makes science textbooks out of date, as well as all the popular propaganda of such as the Time-Life Book which proposes a missing link between man and apes some 2 million years ago. The "hero" of this latter publication has since been declared an extinct ape leading nowhere. He was 2 million years too late to be an ancestor of man. But people still use it to confound their friends who believe in God as Creator. They are not as smart as they think they are.

One more thing. Unless you are an evolutionist, it is not necessary to accept dates spanning back millions of years in that the procedures used to determine such antiquity are based on some unproved assumptions. Apart from that feature, the latest discoveries of man have him one the scene fully man as far back as he is found. That accords with the Bible.

## Evolution In Confusion

By Dale Smelser

It is amusing to watch the on-going search for original man. I find him in the first chapters of Genesis as a special creation of God, a being with purpose in an environment of design. In the past the evolutionist found him in a chancy evolving progression beginning a million years ago in Java. Man at that stage barely escaping apehood, stood erect and was called *Pithecanthropus erectus*, *Java Man*. He is then found in a little more advanced state in China as *Peking Man*, still progressing in Germany as *Heidelberg Man* climbing to *Neanderthal Man* in the Mediterranean area, achieving *Cro-Magnon* status in France, and finally becoming modern man a few thousand years ago.

At least that is what a couple of generations now have been taught in our schools, with textbooks containing pictures and vivid descriptions of all these ancestors of modern man. The Darwinian evolutionists which thus evolved man from a common ancestor with the apes had it all figured out, and everything from children's cartoon to National Geographic productions on television advanced the theory with unhesitant

certainty. Every "intellectual" accepted it. So surely you had it memorized too! Well now you can forget it.

A couple of years ago Richard Leaky found in Africa evidence of man which is dated (using similar methods as those used to date the heretofore described pre-historic men) at 2.6 million years. Yet the accepted theory till now, and had the bones to "prove" it, had man just *beginning* to emerge in extremely primitive state a million and a half years after that. Now Mary Leaky has found jawbones and teeth of men which have been dated at 3.35 to 3.75 million years old, pushing the existence of man perhaps back to 4 million years ago—back before those ape-like creatures from which we have supposedly descended! Furthermore, Mary Leaky describes the people she has discovered as "not unlike ourselves."

If 4 million years ago man was substantially as we are what happened to all this gradual evolution beginning with the Java Man? Was it more imaginary than substantive? Was "anthropological license" or



# " 'TWAS THE EVE BEFORE SUNDAY "

'Twas the eve before Sunday  
When all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring,  
not even a mouse.

The youngsters were absent  
and gone for the night;  
Their mother and father  
were out of their sight.

The children were "dating,"  
no thought of their beds;  
While visions of pleasure  
danced in their heads.

Mama in her fur coat  
and I in my vest,  
Had just left the house for  
we needed no rest.

That night at the party  
There arose such a stir,  
A "stogie" was dropped on  
mama's new fur.

Away to the kitchen  
I flew like a flash  
To stop her new coat  
from becoming an ash!

The flow of the stream  
on the coat's burning skin,  
Extinguished the blaze  
and dampened the hem.  
When what to my wondering  
eyes should appear,  
But the clock on the wall  
saying dawn was now near.

We rushed to our "Caddie,"  
so lively and quick;  
And lit up our weeds  
with the "flick of my Bic."  
More rapid than eagles  
we raced to our home,  
To get there before  
the kids and the dawn.

"Bye, Ollie! Bye Polly,  
Bye Ollie and Dixie,  
Bye Ronnie and Donnie;  
Bye Trixie and Pixie!"  
To the back of the drive,  
to the crest of the wall,  
The kids beat us home,  
now don't that beat all?

We snuck around back  
by the light from the sky,  
To get in the house  
and in bed with a sigh;  
And wait for the kids  
to come in the front door:  
"Where've you been to this hour?  
Do you know it's past four?"

And then in a moment  
they'd rush into bed,  
While our hearts were filled  
with all kinds of dread.

"Brush your teeth before jumping  
there into your beds,  
Wash your faces and hands  
and then pillow your heads,  
Today is the Lord's day  
and we must arise  
To worship the Master  
who lives in the skies."

The jangle of nerves would  
disturb our night's sleep,  
But we know that we had  
The Lord's day to keep!  
We slept through the morn  
and arose around noon,  
Ate lunch and waited,  
for the game would be on soon.

We sat back and watched it,  
and cheered with the rest,  
For our team was playing  
"the best of the West."

At last it was over;  
our team had not won,  
So we left our house saddened  
to worship the Son.

The preacher just preached there,  
long winded and boring,  
And mama just poked me  
and said to stop snoring.  
When finally finished  
he close with a thunder,  
Warning of sins into  
which we might blunder.

We arose with the others  
and went to the pew,  
At the front of the church  
when he gave the right cue.  
For we had been "hindered,"  
and could not break bread,  
So we took it that evening,  
as lambs to be fed.

As we left the Lord's house  
to return to our next,  
To get to bed early  
(for we needed the rest),  
Tomorrows a work day  
and the kids are in school,  
And I must get to the office  
where I won the "pool"!

Like all His children,  
who put the Lord first,  
We wonder why others  
for sin seem to thirst.  
Why is it so hard  
to give Him your trust?  
If we can do it —  
others could emulate us!

So we beg you my friend  
to give God your heart,  
To worship and praise him,  
and do not depart.  
But faithfully serve him  
until you must die,  
And join US that day  
in our home in the sky!

\*  
"Be not deceived,  
God is not mocked,  
For whatsoever a man soweth,  
That shall he also reap."  
— Gal. 6:7

—Floyd Chappelear

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Oops! We goofed! The text for that sermon outline is Hebrews 5:12-14. The Editor would like to blame the error on the printer, but the Editor is the printer.



# Instruction Sheet for Prospective Tongue Speakers

Below we have one page from a four page guide to speaking in tongues. This material is distributed by the Rainbow Revival church in Los Angeles, Cal. When you compare this to what happened on Pentecost it is enough to stir ones "holy indignation." On Pentecost the Holy Spirit blessed the apostles with the ability to speak in various languages so they could preach the gospel to them. This would be to edify (Eph. 4:29.) It was to the saving of souls. Remember in 1 Cor. 14:40 Paul by inspiration ordered, "Let all things be done decently and in order." And previous to this in vs. 9, the Holy Spirit through Paul said, "So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?" And in vs. 12 he adds, "...seek that ye may excell to the edifying of the church." (Raymond E. Harris)

## WORDS OF PRAISE TO RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST

Jesus who baptized 120 believers with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost ten days after He ascended to heaven, is still baptizing Christians with the Holy Ghost today. Acts 2:1-4.

Usually Jesus baptized believers with the Holy Ghost while they are praising the Lord, and their words change from words of Praise to unknown tongues, which is proof that they have received the Holy Ghost.

We suggest these words of Praise to use while seeking the baptism. To try to say words of Praise too perfectly hinders the Holy Ghost from speaking in His Heavenly languages thru you. SAY THE WORDS OUT LOUD."

As you praise God, do NOT try to stop stammering. In fact the more you get the words of praise mixed up, the easier it is for the Holy

Ghost to take control of your tongue and speak in unknown tongues through you. Isa. 28:11: "For with stammering lips and another tongue will I speak to this people."

## TO START SEEKING

Say the words of Praise in a paragraph below over and over very rapidly for 2 or 3 min., then go to the next paragraph, repeating the words of Praise in each paragraph about the same length of time.

After you have repeated the words in all the paragraphs, you may start at the beginning, and use these words of praise over and over.

1. Glory to God, hallelujah; glory to God, hallelujah, glory to God
2. Praise precious Jesus, Prince of peace, praise precious Jesus
3. I love you Jesus, I love you Jesus I love you Jesus, I love you
4. Jesus saviour save sinful souls, Sanctify saints to serve thee
5. Praise God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, praise
6. I beseech blessed Baptizer bestow bountiful baptismal blessing

ings

7. Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus  
Glory to Jesus, Glory to Jesus
8. While wholeheartedly worshipping, willingly waiting, Jesus baptize me with the Holy Ghost. While while wholeheartedly worshipping
9. Glory to God, gracious generous giver of good gifts, glory to God

\*\*\*\*\*

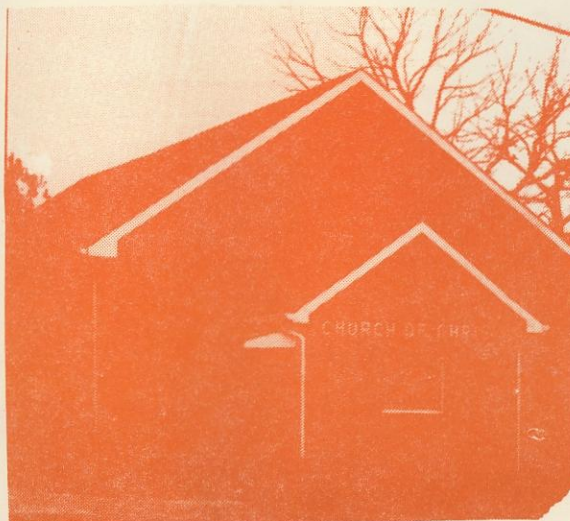
**Editor's Note:** Well, there it is, kind readers. If you want speak in tongues you have to practice. Please note this insidious plan:

1. Say the words two or three minutes; this commits to memory some
2. Then start saying over and over all the paragraphs.
3. Don't try to say them too perfectly. If you do, you will not stammer.

## SO WHAT HAPPENS?

The individual commits a few phrases to memory, he starts trying to say them over and over again, his tongue gets twisted, but he must keep on trying, so finally he is muttering and **BLAMES IT ON THE HOLY GHOST!**-----

(Paul Brock, via Provoker)



**SUNDAY**  
9:45 A.M.  
10:45 A.M.  
6:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**  
7:30 P.M.

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