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The Christian Life

By James H. Smith

(Continued from the January Issue. Ed.)

II Providence of God

Christians believe that there is a providential order working in relation to this universe and to man. We believe that He is working out a purpose in the lives of men. God who created all things and sustains all things by His marvelous power can do what He pleases with the things which He has made; He can even change the order, if He so wills to do so; and He does change the normal order sometimes when His children, or His cause or purpose is endangered by the order of nature. I have heard it argued that God set everything in order in the beginning, and that nature just takes its course. They say that God has nothing to do with the wind, the storms, and the rain. God did put things in order in this universe, and they work very orderly, but the God who set everything in order can change the normal order when He so desires. We find in recorded history, in the Bible, that the Almighty restrained and rebuked the things of nature. Jesus rebuked the wind and the storms to protect His disciples from perishing. Matthew 8:26.

God notices everything that goes on, even the smallest matters. He sees the little sparrow when he falls to the ground; He numbers the hairs of our

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Powerless Churches

By F. R. Bingham, Pastor

Jordan Baptist Church
Oak Lawn, Illinois

We are told in II Timothy, chapter 3, that in the last days people would have the form of Godliness, but not the power thereof. To me, there is no question but that we are living in the last days of this present age. There are so many things happening that indicate this to me.

So, in these last days, we see that we have come upon the time when churches have lost their POWER; and churches as

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In California



Elder Oakley Cook

Eld. Oakley Cook went from Lafayette, Tenn. to Fontana, Calif. in 1964 and served as pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in that city until August, 1966. He was then called to the pastorate of Gloria Gardens Missionary Baptist Church, Downey, Calif., where he is now serving.



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The Finished Work of Christ

By C. B. Huddleston

Bethpage, Tenn.

When Jesus, therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished;" and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost. John 19:30.

Webster says, finish is to complete or bring to an end; therefore, we see that Jesus Christ, our Saviour, completed something that day as he hung between the heavens and the earth, almost two thousand years ago. Now let us look in the scriptures concerning that which Christ completed. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. John 17:4.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night com-

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Missionary Writes To Banner Readers

2-Ku, Kogushi
Ube City
Yamaguchi Ken, Japan

Dear Friends:

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to weep, and a time to laugh; Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 4. Our hearts are

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CHILDREN For The

By Mrs. Larry Snoddy
Adairville, Ky.

David and Goliath

1. The giant that David killed was _____ tall.
2. Goliath was _____ tall.
3. Goliath was covered with _____ from head to foot.
4. His armour was _____.
5. The only armour that David had was _____.
6. David's weapons were _____.
7. The stone that David threw sank into Goliath's _____.
8. David killed Goliath and cut off his head with _____.
9. His reward was to be _____.
10. Who was the king at this time?

(Check answers on Page 4)

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eth, when no man can work. John 9:4.

Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. John 4:34.

The above scriptures teach that God the Father sent his Son from heaven to complete a work upon this earth.

Part I of His Work

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10.

But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Matthew 9:12-13.

The Pharisees were condemning Jesus for eating with Publicans and sinners, and Jesus pointed out to them that he was doing the work that God the Father had sent him to do. Therefore, in the light of these scriptures, the first work of our Lord was seek out the lost, to heal the sick, and to comfort the brokenhearted.

In the sixth verse, Jesus had sat down at Jacob's well being weary on his journey. The work that Jesus did going from place to place to seek out the lost, caused him to become tired in body, but we see the manifestation of our Savior's great love for lost souls. Even though he was tired in body, he gladly told the woman about the free gift of God. John 4:6-26.

There was a sick man of palsy who was unable to get to Christ without help; four men brought him to Christ. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee, verse 5. In this age of the modern day healers, they would have found out the money he had and how much was in it for them before they would go through the deceiving act of trying to heal him. I'm glad that Jesus placed the souls of men far above the material things of life. Mark 2:3-5.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were true friends of Jesus. Jesus received word that Lazarus was dead, and after two days, he made his journey to their house. In the 21st verse, then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here my brother had not died. In verse 23 and 26, Lazarus had been dead four days, but Christ sought means to comfort the broken hearts of the bereaved. There is a great comfort to be found in the scriptures to those that are troubled, sad, or brokenhearted.

(To Be Continued)

Son Talks To Dad

Dear Dad:

I am just a little fellow but I have been doing some thinking. Some day I will be a big man just like you. You are my ideal. I think you can do anything. I like to hear you talk and watch you walk, and see you drive the car. You are so strong and it seems like you know how to handle any situation. I am never afraid when you are around.

But, Dad, there is something that is bothering me a bit. I know that I am going to be like you, even tho I should try to be different. Now, I like to go to Sunday School and church. When I get a little older very likely I will not, because you do not go. I like to study the Bible now, but will I when I get as big as you? You do not. When I get big like you, Daddy, I want to go to church with my wife, but will I? You do not go very often. I am going to be like you.

Dad, I want to give thanks at the table for food, clothing, and the home God has given us, but do you reckon I will? You do not and you are my ideal.

And Daddy, I want to help my wife win others to Christ when I grow up and get married, and especially our children, but how can I? You think only of your work and paying for our house, and buying food and clothing. This is very nice of you, Daddy, but the Bible says, "Man shall not live by bread alone," and I know this is true because men are dying every day and leaving their farms, filling stations, grocery stores, jobs, offices—they are leaving their pretty homes behind and their saving accounts, too. Daddy, I am afraid you will not take time off from your work to go to heaven.

Anyway, Dad, I have enjoyed talking to you about these things. I do hope you will become a Christian sometime, so I can be the kind of man I want to be, and still be like you, too.

Love,
Your son

Bible School

A Bible School is now in progress at Salem Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tenn., with Eld. W. T. Russell, Bowling Green, Ky., teaching. Classes each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights at 7:15. The book of Revelation is being studied. Everyone is invited to attend. A good interest is manifested, as well as good attendance.

Missionary Writes The Christian Life

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heavy for the lost and dying people of this nation and we know that while the door of this nation is open to God's word, it certainly is the time to try to carry the Gospel to as many as possible. God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. Ecclesiastes 3:17. No matter how sincere people are in their beliefs; if that belief is in material things, in idol gods, in good works, or any such thing, in the time of judgment they will hear their condemnation and find their eternal abode in a devil's hell. Only through repentance and belief in the lamb of God, Jesus Christ can any person be saved. Some who attend the services here seem interested in their salvation, especially the high school student that we have requested prayer for on different occasions. She still comes regular and she still bows and prays; please continue to pray for her and the others, also the ones who attend Bro. Smith's services and other places in this nation. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9. We can never find words to fully express our appreciation for your prayers.

This work takes patience and faith that only God can supply. A friend recently wrote us telling about hearing an old missionary speak who had spent many years in a foreign land. The missionary spoke about praying for one man for eight years, and finally that man came down in humble repentance before God and was saved. He further said that later the Lord called that man to preach the Gospel to the people of His country. It was a blessing to us to read those things, truly we must do all that the Lord requires of us and trust the results in God's hands. We cannot see into the future but thank God we are serving a Master who can.

Recently I was talking about God and the Bible to a man who has never attended the services here. I talked to him about Jesus and His willingness to die on the cross for the sins of all the world and also about Jesus' resurrection. He asked me if it was an actual fact that Jesus rose from the dead. I told him that it certainly was an actual fact. Pray for him that he would open his heart to God and come to the services to hear more about the great love of God for lost man.

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head. If He is watching the sparrows and takes note of as small a thing as the hairs of our head, surely He is watching for us and protecting us from the things, even the things in nature; surely He can work all things for our good. I can recall in my life when God looked ahead and protected me and property which He had entrusted me with. I mention just one time, as this one stands out in my memory.

Once over in Japan during a time of heavy rains, I had just a few minutes before taken my car out of the garage when the side of the mountain slipped off onto the garage. The building was crushed, and if I and the car had been in the building, it could have ruined the car and endangered my life. It just came into my mind that morning to go out somewhere in the car. This wasn't just an accident, as some people would have us believe, but it was the wonderful providence of a loving Father who cares for His children.

III Prayer

Prayer and providence are very closely related to each other. So often we fail to watch and look ahead and wait on the Lord for the answer to our prayers. God is looking ahead many times, He will bring about conditions, using various means, to bring about the answers to our prayers. Sometimes He answers immediately but at other times delays the answer, and at times the answer will come in a way for which we are not looking.

1. The Nature and Elements in Prayer

Prayer is communion with God. Man is on the receiving end; "Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you." The Lord knows what we need before we ask, but it pleases our Father for His children to ask for the things that we need.

Not only are we to ask for things, but in prayer we must thank our Father for the things already received. The Lord wants to receive praise; and certainly He deserves praise and honour and glory for all that He gives us. Paul said, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20. Another element in prayer is confession. Unconfessed sins in the lives of God's people become a tremendous obstruction to prayer. Jesus said in the model prayer, teaching the disciples to pray, "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us." Luke 11:4.

David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." We all have our sins, but we must not hold on to them. Confession must be made, and if we confess our sins, He will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. I John 1:9.

We can not know peace and joy in our hearts as long as we harbor sin in our lives. David confessed his sin before the Lord, and then he said, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness." Psalms 51-7. David knew that his sins had to be done away with before he could know joy and gladness. So it is in our lives. There is no sense of going on and being miserable because of sin in our lives; the Lord is willing to forgive and restore our fellowship with Him. How awful it is to lose our fellowship with our heavenly Father! But that is what we will do, if we don't confess our sins before Him. We don't need an earthly priest to confess our sins before. John said, "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." I John 2:2. Jesus is our great High Priest and we are privileged to come unto God the Father by Him.

Quotes

My first wish is to see this plague of mankind (war) banished from the earth, and the sons and daughters of this world employed in more pleasing and innocent amusements than preparing implements and exercising them for the destruction of mankind.

—George Washington

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A Liquid Situation For The Children

By Mrs. Larry Snoddy

Answers to questions on page 2.

1. Goliath. I Samuel 17:4.
2. Six cubits (about 9 ft. and 9 ins.) I Samuel 17:4.
3. Brass. I Samuel 17:5.
4. A sword, a spear and a shield. I Samuel 17: 7, 45.
5. God. I Samuel 17: 37-39, 45.
6. A sling and five smooth stones. I Samuel 17:40.
7. Forehead. I Samuel 17:49.
8. Goliath's own sword. I Samuel 17:51.
9. Great riches, the king's daughter, and his father's house free in Israel. I Samuel 17-25.
10. Saul. I Samuel 10:11.

Report On Work In Indiana

By M. V. Hammock

Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Franklin, Ind. called me for their pastor September 30, 1956. I served the church ten years, closing out my work there September, 1966. Feeling my time was up, I asked the church to help me pray over the matter of my resigning over three months in advance. I resigned last September.

During my ten years as pastor at Faith the church enjoyed some of the richest services that I have ever been in anywhere. Lots of Sundays I didn't get to preach at the eleven o'clock hour. I recall one Sunday as the results of giving an opportunity for members, that two souls got saved and again when six souls were saved on Sunday just before our revival began. Ten were saved then during that revival.

Faith Church has enjoyed some of the greatest revivals that I have ever been in. Ten were saved in a revival in 1964, and in 1965 there were 23 saved during a revival. While I was pastor, there were 80 saved, 41 of them in the last three years. We feel that the church will continue to prosper under Bro. Edward Bradley's pastorate. He is as sound as they come. I would recommend him to any church. There have already been some additions to the church since he began his work.

I am now pastor at Kokomo. Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church, 1723 N. Lindsay St., Kokomo, Ind., called me to their pastorate last August and I began my work there after finishing my work at Faith in September. Since coming to Kokomo, we have had some conversions and some additions.

Missionary Writes

(Continued from Page 3)

We are very thankful for your prayers and offerings for us in this work here. Some of you we have never met yet in this world. How wonderful is the ways of the Lord. We cannot praise His Holy Name enough. Our sincere desire in this year is to try to let His will be done completely in our lives. We pray that all of you will have a prosperous year in the Lord's work there in our homeland, churches strengthened and lost sinners brought down in conviction unto repentance.

Sincerely in the Lord's Service,
Dexter Bacon, Jr. and Family

Powerless Churches

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a whole have lost their POWER, because individual members have lost their personal spiritual power. The great majority of churches today do not have the Power to pray and receive spectacular answers to their prayers. They do not have the power to break down the stubborn will of sinners, and win them to Christ and Salvation. They do not even have the power to get sinners to come to church, though sinners are not commanded to come to church, yet we know that it is best if we can get them to be at church, under the influence of a powerful Gospel service. And churches do not have the power to influence even professed Christians to forsake worldly things, and live a dedicated life for Christ.

The REASON? Too many church members, while having a form of Godliness, are guilty of the things cataloged in II Timothy 3:2-4. Too many church members are conformed to the world, instead of being transformed from the world.

—The Baptist Instructor

There are over five million alcoholics in the United States alone. Norman Taylor states in his book on narcotics that there are 600 million gallons of whiskey produced annually and 90 billion barrels of beer, 6 billion cans or bottle beer. Also, there are 150 million gallons of wine produced each year. One doctor would categorize all of these as "crude protoplasmic poison." Taylor further states that the people of the United States spend more money on alcohol than they spend on the education of their children, the care for the sick, or the glorification of their God.

Doctors say that alcohol is not a stimulant but a depressant. Alcoholism is called dipsomania in the Greek. Translated into English it means "drink-madness." Doctors also state that alcohol deteriorates the brain. The chronic drinker develops various kinds of mental and organic diseases, such as cirrhosis of the liver. Alcoholism has become one of the most prevalent diseases and today is a serious health problem.

Nine Things To Be Ashamed Of

J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F. B. I. and trustee of the National Presbyterian Church, in Washington, D. C., emphasizes again some of the things about which Americans should be concerned.

1. People spend eight times more at movies than at Sunday School.
2. Only one out of 12 persons in our country attends church regularly.
3. Seven out of eight children quit church and Sunday School attendance before they reach 15 years of age.
4. Fifteen million sex magazines are printed monthly and are read by teenagers.
5. There are more barmaids in America than college girls.
6. One million girls have venereal disease.
7. One million illegitimate babies are born annually.
8. Our nation harbors three times as many criminals as college students.
9. A major crime is committed in America every 22 seconds.

—Eld. Raymond R. Smith