

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Publication No. 211780

Second Class Postage Paid at Mammoth Spring, AR

Volume 24

Mammoth Spring, AR 72554

April 1990

No. 4

Buy The Truth And Sell It Not

By T. Pierce Brown

To the superficial mind, the question might be raised, "How could a person buy something if no one sold?" But the thing of which Solomon spoke in Proverbs 23:23 is not a commercial venture. Our liberty was bought with the blood of our forefathers, and our Christian heritage was bought with the blood of the martyrs, but no person sold it to us.

The importance of that precept seems increasingly important as we see a number of men who at one time seemed to exalt truth, but who have sold out for some reason or another.

When Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32), he expressed a principle of the widest application. Knowledge of historic truth can make us free from various things, but especially from having to repeat the same mistakes over and over. Knowledge of scientific truth can make us free from superstition in those areas, and free to explore in all sorts of areas heretofore inaccessible. Economic truths can make us free from poverty. Medical truth can make us free from various kinds of diseases. Moral and ethical truths can make us free from many of the social ills that plague our nation. Religious truth can make us free from the love, practice, guilt, burden, stain and the punishment of sin. But when Jesus used the word "shall", he did not mean in either case that it was an automatic or predetermined reality. That is, "You shall know the truth" in no way means you are forced to know it. And "The truth shall make you free" in any or all of the areas mentioned above, or any other, only if it is applied or acted upon.

There is no authority that can cause man to respond with the proper attitude but that which comes to him in the guise

of truth. To seek the truth wherever it may be found, to follow it wherever it may lead, and to practice it whatever the consequences is one of the highest duties of man.

If we think of truth in man's normal relationships with man, we can immediately see the value of Paul's admonition, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor" (Ephesians 4:25). An orderly society, even in the Communist world, cannot exist in the absence of truth. The disorder in all societies is largely the result of the failure to recognize the value of truth. Whether one goes to the gas tank and expects to see the true number of gallons delivered, or takes a bank draft from another, or goes to the grocery store and gets a bag labeled "Sugar", or does any other thing in his social relationships, the truth must be respected, or chaos results.

In the philosophical or scientific area, the same kind of thing is true. For example, the acceptance of the false doctrine of evolution and its related corollaries has brought untold damage to humanity. It includes such things as the murder of millions of unborn babies, Hitler's atrocities (many of which were based on the idea of "the survival of the fittest"), including selective breeding, and the murder of the "unfit", and many other examples of man's inhumanity to man. There is nothing at all philosophically or scientifically sound about the theory.

One of the most remarkable things in the history of scientific thought is that thousands of persons who know that absolute scientific, demonstrable truth is necessary for us to even begin to explore, much less conquer, outer space, try to explore and conquer inner space with no apparent

regard for either scientific or philosophical truth. The wisest philosopher and the greatest scientist cannot even answer the simplest questions concerning this "inner space" because they have no regard for truth. For example, you may ask, "From whence did man come?" "What is his purpose in life?" "How can he fulfill that purpose?" "What is his destiny?" The only answers you get from those who have no regard for truth in those areas, that is, facts that can be philosophically demonstrated as reasonable, or scientifically proven as facts, are simply wild guesses.

Then, beyond those kinds of truth, there is moral, religious, or spiritual truth. Probably Solomon had this kind primarily in mind. It would be humorous, if not so pathetic, to hear Congressmen, news commentators and others speaking of the ethics of certain things, such as getting drunk or committing adultery. They seem to equate it with the ethics of killing seals, whales or crocodiles. But I have never heard any of them give the slightest hint as to what they think makes a thing unethical or immoral. If God is not a sovereign God, the source of all moral and spiritual truth, and man is not a mortal, moral, accountable being, made in his image, bound by nature and law to live in accord with that truth or suffer the consequences, then any talk of ethics and morality is so much foolishness.

To "buy the truth", then, is to assiduously assert its reality, painstakingly persevere its acquisition, and deliberately devote oneself to its practice. Prejudice and pride must be put aside. Sin and self will must be sacrificed.

To "sell it not" means never to lose the disposition of mind that causes you to value it above all else. It means never to betray it through any selfish, sordid motive. A preacher who preaches some false doctrine through the desire for money, prestige or power has sold the truth. But the preacher who does not preach false doctrine but fails to preach the truth for the same reasons, or any other, has also sold it.

(Continued on page 2)

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

P. O. Box 251

Mammoth Spring, AR 72554

Eddy Gilpin EDITOR

Publication No. 211780

So Thick, It Could Be Felt

By Eddy Gilpin

The Bible is unique among all books in many ways. One such way is its use of typology. Many items of the Old Testament are used as types, or shadows, of the true substances to be found in the New Testament (Heb. 8:5; 9:1-17; 10:1). When one compares such items as the Passover lamb (Ex. 12:43-13:10) and Christ, the true Passover (Jn. 19:36), he can readily see how the former points to the latter. (Also compare Numbers 21:8, 9 with John 3:14, 15). Close examinations of such instances reveal many lessons. This article will center around one such instance, the ninth plague brought upon the land of Egypt.

thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:11-14). Here again, light and darkness are placed in contrast. Darkness has always symbolized that which is perverse and evil, in contrast to light, which represents good. I John 1:5 states: "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." It stands to reason, then, that when a plague of darkness was brought upon the ungodly of Egypt that light would be present among God's people.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12). John penned, "If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I Jn. 1:6,7). Jude revealed the despair that darkness represents when he spoke of the destiny of the angels that sinned. He wrote, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6). Again he stated, "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame-wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever" (Jude 13). Numerous other passages could be cited which reveal the standing contrast between light and darkness in the spiritual realm. However, these are sufficient to establish the basis of a study of the aforementioned passage from Colossians 1:11-14.

One can readily see in this passage the contrasting kingdoms of light and darkness. Contained in the kingdom of light is the "glorious power" of God (vs. 11). Conversely, the kingdom of darkness has been made powerless (Heb. 2:14). It is also noted that through the power of God man can be made "meet (suitable) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (vs. 12). On the other hand, Satan can only deliver a portion of his inheritance, which is "everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mt. 25:41). It is also seen as a place of "outer dark-

BUY THE TRUTH...

(Continued from page 1)

I heard Marshall Keeble give an exegesis of Paul's statement in 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season." He said, "'In season' means 'when they like it'; 'out of season' means 'when they don't'."

I still remember reading half a century ago from Hamlet, "This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow as night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." Inasmuch as no society can function with disregard for truth, no noble or worthwhile activity that is not based on truth can be carried to successful fruition, our freedom in any area is based on truth, and our sanctification and eternal salvation are as a result of truth, let us buy the truth and sell it not. Let us sacrifice all, even life if need be, on the altar of truth.

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*Say not, my soul, "From whence
Can God relieve my care?"
Remember that Omnipotence
Has servants everywhere.
His methods are sublime,
His love supremely kind;
God never is before His time,
And never is behind.*

God gives the bird its food, but He does not throw it into the nest.

Exodus 7-12 records the miraculous endeavors by God upon the nation of Egypt in order that His people might be set free. This series of plagues is one of the most intriguing of all Old Testament accounts of history. Each of these plagues was aimed at one or more of the Egyptian idols. For example, the Egyptians worshipped the Nile River (and its god, Hapi), so God proceeded to turn it, as well as all Egyptian waters, into blood (Ex. 7:14-25). Thus, the plagues served well not only in delivering the Israelites from bondage, but also in revealing to all mankind the futility of serving impotent idols. This was a lesson that neither Israel nor modern man has learned.

The ninth plague in this series brought upon Egypt is overwhelming in its power, significant in its magnitude and revealing in its scope. Exodus 10:21-29 reveals that the Lord, through Moses, brought "a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days." It was described as "darkness which may be felt" (vs. 21). Yet, in the land of Goshen, the dwelling place of Israel, the Bible reveals there was light (vs. 23). Here, then, was a distinct line of demarcation. On the one side lay Egypt, the idolatrous. On the other lay Israel, the chosen. On the one side was complete darkness. On the other side, there was light.

The apostle Paul penned through inspiration his desire that the Colossians be "strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; giving

ness" (Mt. 25:30).

Verse 13 reveals that Christians have been delivered from "the power of darkness." Not only that, but they have also been "translated into the kingdom of his dear Son." Thus, as with Egypt and Israel of old, the line of demarcation is clearly drawn. On the one side are those who, like Egypt, are not in fellowship with God and are, hence, in darkness. On the other side are those who have been delivered from that particular kingdom with its power, and have been redeemed "through his blood," thus obtaining "the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:14).

It must have been an awesome sight to behold a portion of land in which there was no light (indeed, in which there was darkness so thick it could be felt), and then see another portion of that same land in which there was light! Only the power of God could have accomplished such. It is just as amazing to note that there is such a distinction in the spiritual realm as well. However, just as there were those whose hearts were like Pharaoh's, who would rather stumble in darkness than submit to God, there are those who would rather grope in spiritual darkness than to yield to God's will and enjoy the glorious light. Why would anyone in ancient Egypt prefer absolute darkness and that which was powerless to light and He who has all power? But, then again, why do modern men desire spiritual wickedness and ignorance with its darkness over the lamp unto their feet, and the light unto their path (Ps. 119:105)? "And have NO FELLOWSHIP WITH the unfruitful works of DARKNESS...(Eph. 5:11).

I've Got The Cure For Aids

By Bill Brandstatter

According to the news media the A.I.D.S. virus has reached epidemic proportions. Yet statistics continually reveal that 90% of the A.I.D.S. cases fall into two categories: homosexuals and intravenous drug users. To lessen the number of people in each of these categories would be to decrease the number of A.I.D.S. cases substantially. If such were the case this disease would no longer be considered "epidemic".

God never has been, nor will He ever be pleased with homosexual activity. It was even wrong for Ham to see his father Noah naked (Gen. 9:22ff). Throughout the ages the principle set forth in Gal. 6:7 has applied: "Whatever man soweth, that shall he also reap." People that lead such lifestyles are "worthy of death" (Rom. 1:27, 32). Sodom and Gomorrah were engaged in activities of this sort. God condemned them, "making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly" (II Pet. 2:6). People who live this "alternate lifestyle" according to the Bible "shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven (I Cor. 6:9, 10). The first step in curing A.I.D.S. is to get back to the Biblical teaching of one man married to one woman for life. Then, sexual activities are to be confined to that marriage (I Cor. 7:2, 4, 9; Rom. 7:2).

People that use drugs are violating a number of scriptures. In I Cor. 3:16ff Paul indicates the body is a temple of God and must be kept holy. This text has reference specifically to the Christian. However Eccl. 12:13 states: "Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man." Surely no one can say that God is pleased with an individual who is a drug user. Two verses of scripture could be used to summarize how to cure A.I.D.S. First is Phil. 4:8. Although written to Christians primarily, mankind in general needs to heed the words in that passage: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Also Col. 3:17 states: "whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Since there is no authority in scripture for either of the major causes of A.I.D.S., both are wrong and therefore sinful (I Jno. 3:4).

If individuals would follow the above mentioned scriptures and heed the words of the Bible, and become a Christian and "deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteous, and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12) the threat of A.I.D.S. would be eliminated.

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It is often better to return than to go on, especially if you have taken the wrong road.

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NEW BOOK BY THE EDITOR

The Bible and The Baptist Manual is the title of a new book written by this editor. It is a comparison of the two works mentioned in the title. It has been well received by those who have obtained it. The cost is \$3.00 per copy plus \$1.00 postage. Send your request to: P.O. Box 251, Mammoth Spring, AR 72554.

If we write on marble it will perish,
If on brass time will efface it.
If we rear temples they will crumble
in dust.

But if we work upon immortal minds
And imbue them with the just fear
of God

And love for their fellow-men,
We write upon those tablets
something that

Will brighten for all eternity.

- Daniel Webster

TOO BUSY

A business man, harrassed and discouraged from overwork took his problem to a psychiatrist who promptly told him to do less work. "Furthermore," prescribed the doctor, "I want you to spend an hour each week in the cemetery." "What on earth do you want me to do that for? What should I do in the cemetery?" "Not much. Take it easy and look around. Get acquainted with some of the men already in there permanently and remember that they didn't finish their work either. Nobody does, you know."

Well, it's so, isn't it? Perhaps many of us become involved in so many responsibilities and affairs of life that we feel we have no time to give to faithful worship of God... No time to study and meditate upon the word of life... No time for anything but "making a living." We just can't take off from our regular routine. YES YOU CAN. And furthermore, you will some day and permanently. And the world will go right on without you just as it has done with countless thousands of people who, like you, thought they just had to attend a multiplicity of matters before they met their obligations to God. Think it over.

YOUTH: Too happy to think; there is plenty of time.

MANHOOD: Too busy to think; I must get more money.

PRIME: Too anxious to think; I am overburdened with worry.

DECLINING YEARS: Too old to think; the years are fast slipping away.

DYING BED: Too ill to think; I am weak, suffering and all alone.

DEATH: Too late to think; the spirit has flown.

ETERNITY: Forever to think; God's mercy is past.

A Christian is one who makes it easier for other people to believe in God.

The best time to tackle a small problem is before it grows up.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelations 2:10).

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