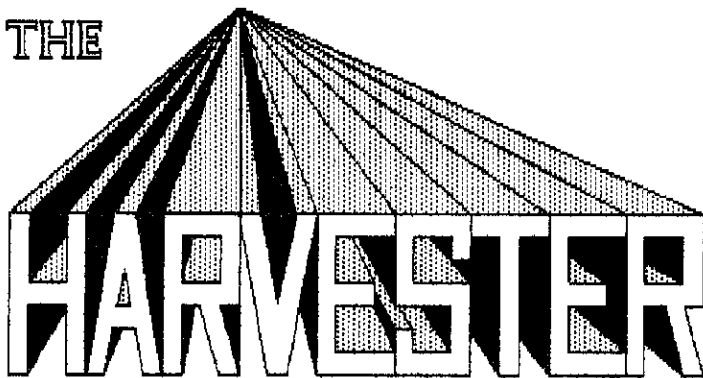


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

DECEMBER 1999

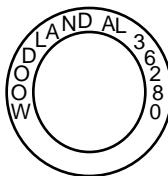
No. 168

BELIEVE THE BIBLE

A college student is asked, do you believe the Bible? Why should a fellow want to believe the Bible? He answers, "What difference does it make anyway?" This, I am persuaded is the attitude of many.

The Bible preaches that man will live after death. With other books death is the end of man. With the Bible it is the beginning. None, save the Bible teach that man as the same conscious personality, the same individual lives

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after death. Others have said that man's goodness lives on, or that his spirit is reincarnated and becomes a rock, an insect, a cow, a donkey, but the Bible alone advances the idea that the same individual lives again. Read John 5:28-29. *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."* Every sane individual wants to live after death. No man wants to go down into the darkness of the tomb to come up no more. Therefore every normal individual should want to believe the Bible.

We should want to believe the Bible because it tells of a home and life better than this. Many books have told of utopias. The Bible is the only book that seriously tells man that he may dwell at last in an ideal abode. We live in a wonderful world. Its joys and friendships grow sweeter as the years go drifting by. Yet who has not seen poverty, crime, sin, suffering and distress on every hand? Who has not wished that they might dwell where all such is banished? The Bible teaches that in the fairest of summerlands there will be no death, no pain and no sorrow for the former things are passed away.

We have known and loved some of earth's finest friends. Some have passed on. We would like to see them again. To those who believe the Bible, seeing them again is no more unreasonable than meeting them

the first time. The account of David at the death of his son, he stated, "I cannot bring him back but I can go to him." (2 Sam. 12:23) Surely we want to meet all our friends and loved ones. We are taught in the Bible that we must believe the Bible and obey the commands of God to gain eternal LIFE. Read the following: Heb. 11:1, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" Heb. 11:6, "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*" Rom. 10:17, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" Luke 17:3, "*Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.*" Matt. 10:32, "*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*" Phil. 2:11, "*And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" Rom. 10:9-10, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" Acts 2:38, "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" Gal. 3:26-27, "*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized*

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into Christ have put on Christ." 1 Pet. 3:21, "The life figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Before following Jesus, one man said he first wanted to bury whom?
2. What kind of sacrifices does God require of man, according to Psalm 51?
3. What was Jeremiah to break after he told the elders and the priests what the Lord was going to do to them?
4. In what book of the Bible are these four Aramaic words found: Mene, Mene, Tekel, Peres?

5. With whose sword did David cut off the head of Goliath?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who was the mother of Esther?
ABIHAIL (Esth. 9:29)

2. How old was the daughter of Jairus whom Jesus healed in Luke 8? ABOUT 12 YEARS OF AGE (Lk. 8:42)

3. What did God say would be a token of the covenant that He made with Abram? CIRCUMCISION (Gen. 17:11)

4. Paul said in 1 Cor. that he was free from all men, yet he made himself what to all men? A SERVANT (1 Cor. 9:19)

5. What does Proverbs say is more profitable than silver? WISDOM (Prov. 3:14)

THE CHRISTMAS BIRDS

[This is a story that was told on Paul Harvey talk radio. My dad heard it and passed it along to me. It's a neat tale set at Christmas time, though it's not really about Christmas. I hope you enjoy my rendition.]

Charles really didn't believe in Christmas. He didn't have faith in God or Jesus Christ either, for that matter, but his wife and two children did. And this particularly cold and snowy holiday night the three of them had gone to the

big church a couple of blocks down to the yearly Christmas pageant. Of course, his family had asked Charles to go with them, but he chose to stay at home.

Charles had just settled into his recliner to do his leisurely things when he heard a loud 'thump' at the window. His head jerked up in surprise. He looked around to see what caused the noise -- nothing was there. Just as he relaxed again, he heard another 'thump.' then 'thump, THUMP.' His first thought was that the neighborhood kids were throwing snowballs at his windows. When he stuck his head out of the door, no one was there. The snow was piling high in the front yard, and several dime-sized flakes made their way into the house as he held the door ajar. A dozen birds that hadn't flown south for the winter were the only ones in the yard. Charles was about to shut the door when one of them flew right into the window before his eyes! "They're trying to get into the house where it's warm --" he thought.

An idea came to him -- though he didn't know God, he was a compassionate man. "I'll open my shop out back and turn on the light. Maybe those birds will go out there for the night instead of trying to get in my window!" He put on his galoshes and trudged through the piling snow to the barn; he opened the front door and turned on the light. But the birds didn't follow. He found them still trying to fly through the window.

Then he thought he'd call them by whistling. That didn't work. He tried

to lure them with bird seed. That failed too. Then minutes had passed, and he was beginning to shiver. The birds just wouldn't respond to him. "Stupid birds! The barn is open -- why don't you just go there?!?" He threw the rest of the feed on the ground at his feet, bared his teeth in a growl, and charged toward the birds -- a frustrated attempt at shooing them toward the open barn. The birds scattered, going in every direction. Charles leaned against his wall of his house wagging his head at the birds, which were reassembling at the window.

"If only I could be like one of them," he thought, "then they could see me and understand me. I could tell them what I was trying to do and help them into the barn." Just then, the church bells rang out in the cold night air, and it dawned on Charles: this was the very reason why God sent Jesus to earth -- so He could be one of us, and could tell us personally what we needed to do to reach the home He has prepared for us.

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If a child watches TV too much, he will go down in history -- also in math, English, and science.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Nov. 29 - - Dec. 3	Estesburg Church Eubank, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

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WHAT IF?

What if, *GOD* couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank *HIM* yesterday?

What if, *GOD* decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow *HIM* today?

What if, we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when *GOD* sent the rain?

What if, *GOD* didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if, *GOD* took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?

What if, *GOD* didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?

What if, the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if, *GOD* stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if, *GOD* would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday?

What if, *GOD* answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?

What if, *GOD* met our needs the way we give Him our lives???