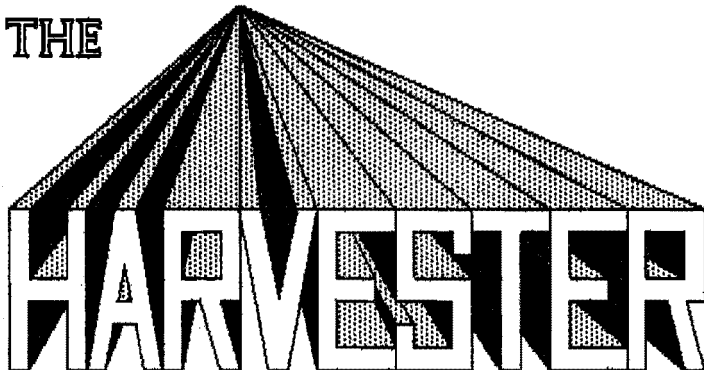


THE



"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]

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No. 123

## WHAT IS THERE IN HELL YOU WANT?

We ask a child what does he or she want for their birthday and they will ask for a toy or a doll or some item to give them pleasure. We ask an adult what they want for their birthday or for an anniversary and they usually will want something to make them look nice or something to make their home look nice so that they will feel good about themselves and their surroundings. But when we look at the lives that so many people live we have to ask ourselves or them, "What is there in hell you want?"

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FORWARD AND  
ADDRESS CORRECTION

Jesus Christ came to this earth, lived and died on the cross so that we could have the opportunity to spend eternity in Heaven with Him and God the Father. Jesus left us a plan whereby we as Christians might be saved. He did not put on us demands more than we can bear as we see in Matt. 11:28-30. *"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

As Christians we must believe on Jesus Christ and be baptized. Our belief must be an obedient belief as we have to follow His commands as He left them in His New Testament that He purchased with His blood. We must become again as little children and grow up in the way of righteousness to reach Heaven as we see in John 3:3. *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

With Heaven so easy to reach, why are so many people on the broadway that leadeth to damnation (Matt. 7:13)? It must be that the people have chosen the pleasure of sin for a season, and not to suffer affliction with the people of God as Moses did (Heb. 11:24-26).

If people today would just read the Bible and study what they read, they would see that there is nothing in hell that they want. No amount of good living and good times on this earth would be worth the trade for eternity in hell. It comes down to what would a man give in exchange for his soul (Matt. 16:26). People today, as in all times, are willing to exchange a life of good times and

riotous living for their earthly body in exchange for damnation for their soul for eternity.

When Heaven is described as a place more beautiful than the human mind can comprehend (Rev. 21:10-26) and hell is described as a place of torment and pain (Luke 16:23-24), when Heaven is the place where all the good and decent people who have loved and worshipped God as He commanded will spend eternity, and hell is where all those who live and love the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) will spend eternity, I can not comprehend why so many people are trying so hard to get to hell.

We are here on this earth such a short time (James 4:14) and have so few days in which to do the will of God, I can not see how anyone would want to walk on the wide road that leadeth to damnation (Matt. 7:13) even for a little while. We never know if we will be here tomorrow (Luke 12:16-21), so we must be ready for the coming of Christ or the coming of our death today.

We will all stand before Jesus on that day of judgement to give an account of our lives on this earth (2 Cor. 5:10). We have been offered a chance to go to Heaven and live in the presence of God for eternity or we have been promised a one way trip to hell. Which one we take is up to us, but for me there is nothing in hell that I want. Which do you choose?

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Even when all is said and done, there is  
usually more said than done!

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Lk. 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. To what governor did Claudius Lysias write a letter about Paul?
2. At what age were the firstborn sons and the firstborn of unclean animals required to be redeemed?
3. Did the Lord grieve for making Saul king over Israel?
4. In the book of Revelation, which part of the dragon flung a third of the stars to the earth?
5. What book of the Bible records the destruction of Sodom?

### ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who brought spices to Solomon in such large amounts that their quantities were never again equaled? THE QUEEN OF SHEBA (1 Ki. 10:10)
2. Before we partake of the Lord's Supper what should we do to prepare ourselves? EXAMINE OURSELVES (1 Cor. 11:28)

3. What event took place after the feeding of the 5000? JESUS WALKING ON THE WATER (Matt. 14:25)

4. Proverbs observes that what animal has no commander nor overseer, and yet it stores its provisions and gathers its food at harvest? THE ANT (Prov. 6:7,8)

5. What did David pick up from a brook on his way to fight Goliath? STONES (1 Sam. 17:40)

## THE CHURCH AT ALEXANDRIA

Sometimes it is very interesting when we read history and look back at the earliest churches of the New Testament era. We can learn how the Lord's disciples lived and how they studied the Word and also how they worshipped God. By following their pattern, as they imitated Christ (1 Cor. 11:1), we can be assured of pleasing our Heavenly Father. One such fascinating account deals with the church at the city of Alexandria.

Ancient Alexandria was a city in Egypt, on the Mediterranean Sea. It was founded in 332 B.C. by Alexander the Great as a naval base for his designs on Persia. Soon it grew to become one of the most important cultural centers in the world, second only to Rome. It was especially noted for its library, the most remarkable and largest collection of books of antiquity! Alexandria was also the place where the Old Testament writings were translated into the Greek language and which version we call the Septuagint. During the time of Jesus Christ many Jews were already living in this important city.

History tells us that Mark, who wrote the gospel account which bears his name, was the first disciple to proclaim Christianity to the inhabitants of Egypt and is credited with establishing the churches at the city of Alexandria. Philo Judaeus, a Jewish philosopher, was so impressed by the response of the multitudes to the gospel call and by their subsequent manner of life, that he saw fit to include much of it in his writings. (Philo was born in Alexandria, Egypt, about 20 B.C. and died about A.D. 50.)

Concerning the churches at Alexandria, Philo writes: "In every house there is a sacred apartment which they call the Semnaeum, or Monasterium, where, retired from men, they perform the mysteries of a pious life. Hither they bring nothing with them, neither drink nor food, nor anything else requisite to the necessities of the body; they only bring the law and the inspired declarations of the prophets, and hymns, and such things by which knowledge and piety may be augmented and perfected . . . The whole time between the morning and evening, is a constant exercise; for as they are engaged with the sacred Scriptures, they reason and comment upon them, explaining the philosophy of their country in an allegorical manner."

Philo also adds that the brethren at Alexandria used "commentaries of ancient men", which I found to be an interesting description because many historians believe these ancient commentaries are actually the gospels and writings of the apostles. In addition, Philo records that women also were included with the assembly at Alexandria. However, most of the females were aged maidens who were seeking to preserve their purity and had a strong desire for attaining wisdom. Wouldn't it be great

if that attitude was still prevalent to this day? In fact, the brethren in these meetings had a sincere thirst for studying God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Notice what Philo further writes: "But laying down temperance first as a kind of foundation in their minds, upon this they build the other virtues. For none of them is to bring food or drink before the setting of the sun, since they judge that philosophical exercises should be prosecuted in the light, but the necessities of the body in the dark. Whence they assign the one to the day, and to the other a small portion of the night. But some of them do not remember their food for three days, when influenced by an uncommon desire of knowledge. And some are so delighted, and feast so luxuriously on the doctrines so richly and profusely furnished by wisdom, that they forbear even twice this time, and are scarcely induced to take necessary food even for six days."

That last statement really impressed me. Many of us cannot go three hours without thinking about physical food and yet, some of the early disciples went several days eating nothing but the Word of God! Sometimes we go to Bible Study or worship services with thoughts of our next meal filling our minds. Is that the proper commitment to our Lord? Shouldn't we be more dedicated than that? And will we do something about it?

The attitude and pattern of the churches at Alexandria should give us many good examples to follow. *"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee"* (1 Tim. 4:15-16).

# **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 1 - 3	Napolean Church Woodland, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
March 15 - 17 (F-Su)	Lake City, GA 7:30pm E.S.T. 10:30 & 6:00 Sun.	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)
March 29 - 31	Owens Road Church Prattville, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
April 4 - 7	West Broad St. Church Wedowee, AL	Various Speakers
* * * * *		

## **WHAT THE JUDGMENT IS:**

Pre-eminently a Bible subject --

- \* It is as old as the preaching of Enoch --  
Jude 14.
- \* It is as certain as Our Lord's resurrection --  
Acts 17:31.
- \* It is as beautiful as Christ's provision of  
heaven -- Rev. 22:14.
- \* It is as terrible as the vengeance of the  
living God -- Heb. 10:31.
- \* It is as just as the righteousness of God --  
Acts 17:31.
- \* It is as fair as the impartiality of God --  
Acts 10:34.
- \* It is as accurate as the truth of God --  
Romans 2:2.
- \* It is as final as the closed door of heaven --  
Matt. 25:10; Luke 13:25.

SELECTED