

THE



HARVESTER

"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)

AUGUST 1997

No. 140

PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER

It seems we live in an increasingly impersonal world today. We are assigned credit card numbers, personal identification numbers for ATM machines, account numbers, employee numbers. Even Social Security numbers are now applied for in conjunction with birth certificates. Your number is more important than your name! Robberies, murders, sexual attacks, beatings, spousal abuse, gang violence, drug dealings, and other acts against one's person are common and reported every day in the news media. Such deeds show a callous' disregard, in

THE HARVESTER
1120 Sun Hill Road
Birmingham, AL 35215-4106

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deed perhaps a contempt, for others. God's word to Israel through Hosea (4:1-2) chided there was "no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land..." but there was "...swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery..." How well this describes much of society today. Recall also Judas' repentant confession to the chief priests and elders that he had sinned in that he had betrayed the innocent blood. Their response was, "What is that to us?"

As Christians seeking to be lights and strangers and pilgrims, to be in the world but not of the world, it is important that we abhor the world's influences which engender the things just previously mentioned and strive to "...live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world..." (Tit. 2:12) In this endeavor, we need all the help and encouragement we can garner. Consider Paul's admonition in Romans 12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another." What greater boost to our spirituality can there be than being in the company of brothers and sisters in Christ? Good influences, relationships, and associations build us up in the faith. Contrarily, questionable companions can lead to temptations and disaster. Why not choose the high road with those of like precious faith?

That we as members make up the body of Christ is beautifully stated by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 12 where he

stresses the interdependence and necessity of each one, and further declares, "...whether one member suffer, all the members suffer...or one member be honored, all the members rejoice..." If we are to prefer one another and love one another to the extent that all men will know we are His disciples (John 13:35), I am made to wonder if we as Christians see and are involved with one another as much as we should be. Often it is only a brief period of an hour or so maybe one, two or three times a week, depending upon how frequently we attend the gathering of God's family together in the meeting house. This does not make for a very close family. If we don't associate much with our brothers and sisters on the earth, do we expect to be comfortable in their presence in heaven?

I believe a resurgence of hospitality would help to improve our closeness. It seems neglected but is much favored in the Scriptures. Heb. 13:2 admonishes, "*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*" Titus 1:8 requires hospitality in a bishop, and I Tim. 3:12 says the bishop must be given to hospitality. "*Use hospitality one to another without grudging,*" enjoins I Peter 4:9. Hospitality gives us an opportunity to get to know brothers and sisters from our own and other congregations when they visit with us, and an opportunity to talk with the visiting preachers -- to pick their brains, so to speak. We are enriched by so doing and are the poorer if we let the opportunity pass us by.

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 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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Hospitality can be effective in teaching others. Matt. 9:10-12 records Jesus eating with publicans and sinners, and the receipt of hospitality by Jesus was an opportunity to instruct them. His purpose in being there was not to become like them, but to influence them in the way of righteousness (those who were sick needed a physician). Luke 10:38-42 records where Jesus was received into Martha's house and used the occasion to instruct her regarding her priorities. Jesus (in Luke 19:1-11) invited Himself to the house of Zacchaeus, who was led to reform his life.

It is vital that we use every means possible to strengthen ourselves, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to bring others to the Lord. We need the type of love that God displayed in sending his Son and that Jesus exhibited in His tears at the death of Lazarus when the Jews that stood by said, "*Behold how he loved him.*" (John 11:36)

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Three men appeared to Abraham on the plains of Mamre. Where did he tell them to rest?
2. The devils believe there is one God and they what?
3. For what spiritual trait were the Thessalonians known?
4. What does Proverbs say yields better returns than gold?
5. How many books of the "Minor Prophets" are there?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Two men killed the king of Israel and brought his head to David. What did David do with the head? HE BURIED IT IN ABNER'S TOMB (2 Sam. 4:12)
2. Where does the Lord prepare a table in Psalm 23? IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES (Psa. 23:5)
3. What kind of sacrifice are believers urged to offer continually, according to Hebrews? THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE TO GOD (Heb. 13:15)
4. To which church did the book of Rev. record, "I know thy works, and thy charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience"? THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA (Rev. 2:19)

5. What did Jephthah give to the Lord for allowing him to defeat the sons of Ammon?
HIS DAUGHTER (Judg. 11:3-35)

A PROPHECY IN GENESIS

Christian Apologetics is the use of evidence both secular and religious in the defense of the Bible. Historical, scientific, geographic and prophetic information, gleaned from the Bible, is the greatest testimony for the accuracy of God and His word. Paul wrote to Timothy that all scripture is from God and is *"profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."* (2 Tim. 3:16). It is profitable because every word is accurate and true. No other book can make these claims.

Genesis is but one of the books used in Christian Apologetic. The historic and scientific evidence it reveals for the age of the earth, the worldwide flood and the beginnings of the Hebrew people are very important as proof texts to an unbelieving world. But there are prophecies in Genesis that might also aide us in our battle to expose the truth found in God's word.

The fifth chapter of Genesis provides the Bible student with the names and ages of the early, pre-flood patriarchs. Their ages, coupled with references in other books of the Bible, are used to make a determination for the date of the Creation (currently figured between 4150-

4004 B.C.). It is their names that we turn to for what is perhaps the most interesting of the information that we can gain in this chapter.

Each name has a corresponding meaning, such as Adam which means mankind (see Genesis 5:2). The following is a list of each of the early patriarchs with the corresponding meaning of each of their names:

Adam.....	Mankind
Seth.....	Appointed
Enos.....	Mortality
Cainan.....	Wailing for the dead
Mahalaleel.....	God be praised
Jared.....	He shall descend
Enoch.....	A mortal man
Methusaleh.....	When he dies judgement
Lamech.....	The weary
Noah.....	Rest

When the meanings of each of the names are strung together, they form a prophecy: "Mankind (is) appointed (to) mortality, wailing for the dead. God be praised. He shall descend, a mortal man. When he dies, judgement. (To) the weary rest." This prophecy concerns the plan of a loving God for his wayward people with confirmation in Jesus Christ (Matt. 11:28-29 and Heb. 4:1-11).

This also shows that God had planned for man's redemption from the very beginning of Creation. The Apostle John wrote of: "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8) clearly showing

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
August 1 - 3	Fairview Church Oxford, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 3 - 8	Rainsville, AL 7:00 evenings	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
August 3 - 10	Antioch Church Greenup, IL	Jim Pritchard & Bill Adams
August 8 - 10	Poplar Grove Church Burkesville, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 11 - 15	Hokes Bluff Church near Gadsden, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 25 - 29	Lily Church near London, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)



(continued from page 7)

God's purpose and intent for salvation
for man in Jesus Christ.

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**If you're feeling low, don't despair. The
sun has a sinking spell every night, but it
comes back up every morning.**