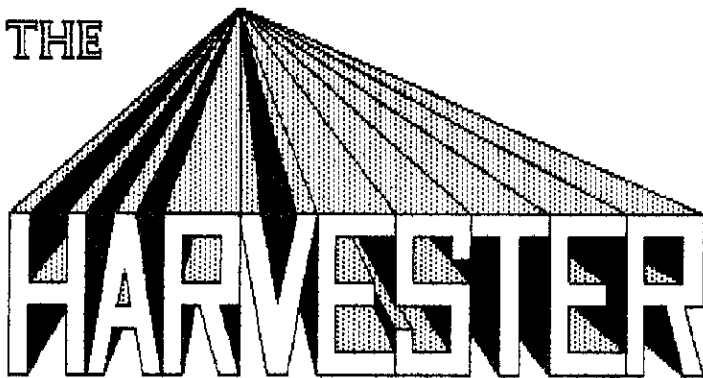


THE



"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)

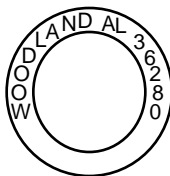
NOVEMBER 1999

No. 167

LOST IN THE CHURCH

Nobody wants to lose. Everybody wants to be a winner. In the physical world we realize there will be some winners and some losers. But in the spiritual realm everybody CAN be a winner. Everyone has the potential to go to heaven. The reality of the matter, however, is that most people will lose in this important game that deals with the soul (Matt. 7:13). Probably the saddest group of all will be those who are members of God's kingdom and will NOT make it to heaven. What's that?! Jesus referred to this group in one of His parables. "The Son

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



FORWARD & ADDRESS
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of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 13:41,42)

It is very hard for some to accept the concept of the above statement but that is exactly what God's Son taught! Simply being a member of the church of our Lord is NOT an automatic admission to heaven. Jesus stated that unfortunately certain ones IN His kingdom will be bound for hell! [One point to make clear: The Bible DOES teach that one **must** be a member of Christ's church (body) to be saved (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23). But not all members may be saved (Matt. 13:41).]

Some of our congregations are using a blue song book which contains a song that makes me cringe at the chorus and deals with our topic at hand. The song is titled: "When We All Get to Heaven". Think about the message of that particular phrase. Doesn't it contain a rather questionable message? How can we sing, "When we ALL get to heaven ..." and have it harmonize with the Lord's words in Matthew 13:41? How do we know ALL of us will make it to heaven? For example, I may falter and fail to repent of my sins. Then not all of us who were singing that song made it to heaven, right? I suppose I prefer the version of the song found in some of our older red song books, "When the Saved Get to Heaven". Now that has a more scriptural basis. We can be sure that the "saved" and **only** the saved will get to heaven. (Enough from my soapbox, let's continue!)

So, who exactly in the church will be lost? Jesus plainly stated that those who bear no fruit will be cast away. *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit... If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."* (John 15:1-6)

It is important when we are added to the Lord's church to become productive members. After baptism it is not a time to rest but a time to labor! We must not neglect our duties as God's children (Jas. 4:17). Imagine how disappointed Jesus was when He saw a fig tree with no fruit on it! He caused it to wither away (Matt. 21:19). He will do the same to those who are in His body and bear no fruit.

Those who are members of the church and walk after the flesh will also be lost. In Romans 8:1 Paul writes, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* Conversely, there WILL BE condemnation to those IN Christ Jesus, who walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit. As Christians we can look forward to the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21) IF we will only walk after Christ. But if we choose to walk after this world and after the flesh and after Satan, then we will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9; Rev. 21:8).

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:

Ray McManus
141 County Road 474
Woodland, AL 36280
Phone: (256) 449-9221

Finally, those church members who surrender to sin will be eternally lost. "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." (2 Pet. 2:20-21). This is perhaps the most vivid description of God's feelings toward those who accept his offering of salvation and then they return the precious gift. Peter compares it to the dog that returns to its own vomit or the washed sow that returns to the mud hole (2 Pet. 2:22). It is an awful and despicable picture, but one that has certainly taken place too many times. Members of Christ's church who eventually surrender to sin will be lost forever.

So often we are quick to jump on those who believe the false doctrine called "once saved, always saved." We ridicule those who have faith in the "eternal security of the believer." Yet many of

the arguments we use against this popular belief could be turned around and made to apply to us! Brethren, many of us act as if we have a similar guarantee of a home in heaven. We think that simply being a member of the church of Christ is our ticket to the Promised Land. Not so. Those who endure to the very end and live a faithful, productive Christian life will be the ones who will receive a crown of life and see God in eternity (Matt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10).

RAY McMANUS

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who was the mother of Esther?
2. How old was the daughter of Jairus whom Jesus healed in Luke 8?
3. What did God say would be a token of the covenant that He made with Abram?
4. Paul said in 1 Cor. that he was free from all men, yet he made himself what to all men?
5. What does Proverbs say is more profitable than silver?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who killed Saul's three sons -- Jonathan, Abinadab, and Melchi-shua?
THE PHILISTINES (1 Sam. 31:2)

2. How long was a captive woman, taken as an Israelite's wife, allowed to mourn for her parents? ONE FULL MONTH (Deut. 21:13)

3. One should put on the Lord Jesus Christ and not make provisions for what? THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH (Rom. 13:14)

4. In what book of the Old Testament do we find the words: "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity."? ECCLESIASTES (1:2)

5. Did Abraham actually take hold of the knife to kill his son, Isaac? YES (Gen. 22:10)

LEVELS OF LEARNING

1. **Unconscious Incompetence:** This is when a person doesn't know anything about a subject, but doesn't realize he/she knows nothing.

2. **Conscious Incompetence:** In this instance, the person IS aware that they know nothing on a subject. He/she is aware of a need for growth.

3. **Conscious Competence:** The person can perform a task with thought. An effort is required to accomplish the task.

4. **Unconscious Competence:** Here, the task is performed without thought by the individual.

The first level of learning makes sense - there are plenty of things that we don't know, and we don't even realize these things exist! The second level fits me well right now; I'm preparing for a test. There's a lot to learn, and I realize too well that I don't know it all.

Jumping to the fourth level: this is like walking down the street. We rarely think about walking at all, and we can walk and talk, sing, chew gum (hopefully!), read, etc. All is well until something unexpected happens -- you step in a hole or trip because you weren't paying attention to walking.

The third level of learning requires effort on the part of the individual to complete a task. Generally, fewer "simple/stupid" mistakes are made when we are paying close attention to what we are doing. A lot of automobile accidents happen when people slip from "conscious competent" driving to "unconscious competence."

Spiritually, I believe we should fall into learning levels 2 and 3. Hopefully we are aware of any growth that needs to take place in our lives. In those areas in which we are "competent", we need to be careful not to fall into level 4. Spirituality should never become a "habit" to the point that we do not engage our minds or hearts.

CHAD PRINCE
233 Oakland Drive
Oxford, AL 36203

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
November 5 - 7	Camelia City Church Greenville, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
November 12 - 14	Fayetteville Church Fairburn, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
November 12 - 14	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Jim Pritchard (Shawnee, OK)

8 8

WHO IS READING GOD'S WORD?

Twelve percent of all American adults read the Bible every day of the week, while 52 percent do not read it at all. Another 33 percent read the Scriptures at least once during a typical week. More blacks (70 percent) read the Bible than Hispanics (49 percent) and whites (42 percent). More women (50 percent) read it than men (39 percent). The South can retain its label as the Bible belt: 56 percent of southern adults read the Bible at least weekly. On the other end of the spectrum is the Northeast, where only 30 percent do. Twenty percent of "evangelicals" report they never read the Bible outside of church.

Copied from a report by
Barna Research Group

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."