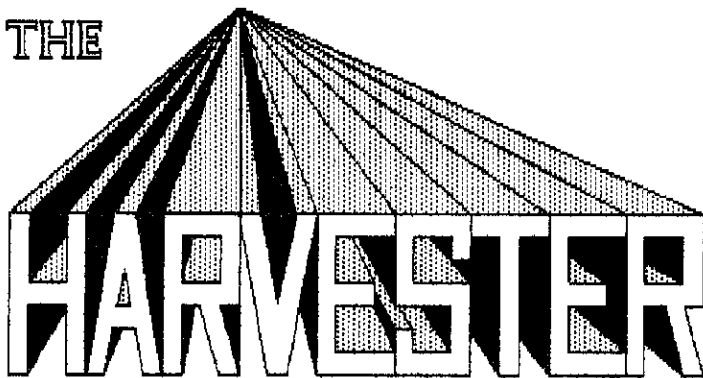


THE



*"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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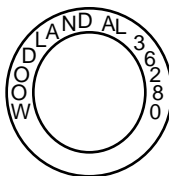
## THE CRUCIFIXION

Gethsemane was a garden near the foot of the Western Slope of the Mount of Olives according to the map. The traditional site, just opposite the Golden Gate, cannot be far from the actual site.

Have you ever thought about this? The human race started in a garden. Jesus suffered His agony in a garden, was crucified in a garden, and was buried in a garden. *"Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher, wherein was never*

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man yet laid." (John 19:41) Also, Paradise was in a garden.

The most pitiful incident in the whole sorrowful story of Jesus' sufferings was that night in Gethsemane. We wonder why sometimes He dreaded His death. We read of martyrs being burned at the stakes with songs of joy on their lips. But when Jesus (Who was stronger than ordinary men) was brought face to face with His death, He acted as if He just could not go through with it. He cried out in anguish that if possible, that it might not be. We wonder why. And I believe I know. It must be that Jesus knew He was going to suffer something that men do not ordinarily suffer in death, or at least that they do not know beforehand that they are to suffer. The Bible said He sweated great drops of blood. And I believe this is the reason. He must have known that most people would not accept this great sacrifice, this awful suffering that He was willing to bear that they might be saved from their sins and have a peaceful, beautiful, loving, and happy place to spend eternity with Jesus and God the Father. Think about it! He knew this, yet He was willing to go ahead and bear all this for you and me. Anyone who is not thankful for this must deserve what he will get: an eternity of suffering in a devil's hell.

Some physicians or medical authorities have said that Jesus' heart literally burst open. It may be that suffering for human sin is more than the human constitution can stand. This may probably be a parallel to Genesis 2:21-22. As God took

from the side of Adam (in sleep) that from which He made a bride for Adam, so He took from the side of Jesus (in sleep on the cross) that from which He made the church, the bride of Jesus.

Jesus died for the sins of the world. Whatever theory of the atonement we may hold, Jesus in some sense or another died to save us from being lost. He must therefore have suffered something of what we will suffer if we are lost. Else how could His death save us from being lost? Whatever it was, Jesus dreaded it. His soul shrank back in horror from it. Jesus had come out of eternity knowing that the cross was at the end of the road because He knew He was coming as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. As a man He left Galilee and set His face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem, walking steadily, never wavering, never faltering, knowing that the cross was at the end of the road.

But now He had come to the end of the road and there stood that ghastly thing. It made even Jesus the Son of God temporarily entertain the thought of turning back. The language of His three prayers shows that the possibility of not going to the cross was in His mind. But unlike most people today, He said, "*Father ... not my will, but thine, be done.*" (Luke 22:42) Then as the two or three hours of wavering past and He put out of His mind all thought of escape, He set His face like steel to go to it. What it meant to Him made Him sweat great drops of blood and He was so weak, God sent an angel to strengthen Him.

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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We can never in this world understand the awful mystery of the atonement and why it had to be. Only this, it was to save us. The simple story of Jesus' suffering, whatever else it may mean, has been the most blessed influence that has ever been in the world.

CHARLIE KIRBY (deceased)  
 reprinted from The Lifeline  
 October 1982

## A QUESTION ABOUT BAPTISM

Does baptism sanctify sinful relationships? No. The Corinthians had to give up sinful practices before they were washed, sanctified, and justified (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Before one is baptized, he must repent of all known sins (Acts 2:38). Repentance is a change of heart resulting in a change of life (Matt. 21:28,29). Though one will not live sinlessly, all deliberate sins must be forsaken. For instance, if one is living in adultery (Col. 3:5-7), baptism does not make that sinful relationship right. Baptism washes away past sins, but does not permit one to continue sinning.

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What was the name of the servant girl that Sarai gave to her husband?
2. Which of the following is the time Jephthah allowed his daughter to weep for her virginity: two days, two weeks, or two months?
3. To what object did David liken God for strength?
4. In what book of the Bible is the fall of Jericho recorded?
5. With what two things did Gideon equip his men before the attack on the Midian camp?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Saul had been wounded by whom before he took his own life? THE PHILISTINES (1 Chr. 10:2,3)
2. How long did David rule over Israel? FORTY YEARS (1 Chr. 29:27)
3. Jehoram did evil in the sight of the Lord yet the Lord would not destroy Judah. Why? GOD HAD PROMISED DAVID THAT HE'D GIVE HIM A LIGHT, AND TO HIS CHILDREN (2 Ki. 8:19)
4. Through what power is the believer kept? THE POWER OF GOD (1 Pet. 1:5)
5. What was Joshua's signal for the ambushers to invade Ai? HE HELD OUT HIS SPEAR (Josh. 8:18)

## EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE

By the preponderance of evidence we determine the validity of questioned legal documents, settle disputed dates and ascertain the facts of science. Should we use this method in dealing with the Bible, we would be driven to the irresistible conclusion that it is God's word. A few notable examples will show what others have thought of the Bible.

Dr. William Lyon Phelps, noted educator, "I thoroughly believe in a university education for both men and women; but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college education is more valuable than a college course without the Bible."

Dr. Schurman, President of Cornell University, "The Bible is the most valuable document in English literature. No man can be called an uneducated man who knows his Bible and no man can be called an educated man who does not know his Bible."

Daniel Webster, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury us and our glory in obscurity."

Woodrow Wilson, "A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of a knowledge of the Bible."

Lord Roberts, "You will find in this Book guidance when you are in health, comfort when you are in sickness and strength when you are in adversity."

Patrick Henry, "There is a Book worth all other books in the world."

The human mind is so constituted that it believes only when sufficient evidence is brought to bear upon it. We must therefore have some reason for believing the Bible, some evidence upon which to base our faith. As we search for that evidence much will depend on our frame of mind. Will it be pro-religious, irreligious, or with an open mind? To be open-minded does not mean to open the doors of our minds and let all the trash in the country blow in. It means to carefully examine the evidence found. Let us therefore search the scriptures for the evidence that will lead us to believe the Bible as the word of God.

JOE W. YOUNG  
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**"Worry is like a rocking chair.  
It will give you something to  
do, but it won't get you  
anywhere."**

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
April 2 - 7 (Su-F)	W. Broad Street Wedowee, AL 10:30am & 6:00pm 7:00 pm Mon - Fri	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY) Sun
April 3 - 7	Blanchester, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 14 - 16	Westside Church Shawnee, OK	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 21 - 23 (F - Su)	Second Ave. Church Opelika, AL 7:00 pm Fri & Sat	Kevin Mills (Fairburn, GA)
April 23 - 28	Rich Hill Church Liberty, KY	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
May 1 - 5	Chestnut Grove Church Parksville, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

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## HOW CAN A MAN BE BORN AGAIN? (John 3:4)

1. Man must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 8:24; Mk. 16:16; Acts 16:32)
2. Man must repent of his sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19)
3. Man must confess the name of Christ (Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9,10)
4. Man must be baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3,4; Acts 22:16)