

THE

# HARVESTER

*"Therefore said he unto them, 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)*

April 1989

No. 040

## WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING

*"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)* The examples of 1 Cor. 10:1-11 were *"written for our admonition"* that we might have hope and comfort, *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness"* (2 Pet. 1:3). But we must study (2 Tim. 2:15).

Let's begin by setting forth the books of the Bible in their place and God's purpose. First, we take up Genesis, which book sets forth the beginning of all things, the heavens, earth, sun, moon and stars; both man, beast and every creeping thing; also the fall of man, the flood of great disaster, the story of Joseph, and

**THE HARVESTER**  
5367 Scanlan Way Dr W  
Satsuma, AL 36572-2417

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
P A I D  
SATSUMA, AL  
PERMIT NO. 30

many other very interesting things which are too numerous to mention in this little study.

We next take up the next four books. We find many interesting features. We might note that God speaks to Moses in the Burning Bush, also Moses leading the children of Israel out of the wilderness and through the Red Sea, the giving of the Ten Commandment Law with its blessings and penalties, the order and kind of sacrifice to be offered in worship of God, also the numbering of the children of Israel, and a promise of a great Prophet (The Christ).

Next, we shall take a look at the next 12 books which more or less describe the history of the children of Israel in the wilderness and the crossing over Jordan into the Land of Canaan, the hardness of heart of some, yet the loyalty of others, and the period of judges and kings.

I now call your attention to 5 other books beginning with Job, the man of great patience. Though his loss and pain were great, he remained faithful to God. The Psalms of David, a man after God's own heart, but who still, through his weakness, committed great sins. Next, Proverbs--we might class this book "the book of nature". And the Ecclesiastes, which contains the warnings as we make Life's great flight--"*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth*", and "*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*" (Eccl. 12) Then the Song of Solomon. Surely these 5 books summed up would fix the minds of Israel and the people, through their poetry and truth, to search the prophecy and look forward to their blessing.

We next look at Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel which are looked upon as the major, or the most outstanding prophecies. But

we must consider the last 12 books of prophecy and promises. We see in these 17 books how they portray Christ in His humbleness as He would be *"despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief"*. Yet we see the rays of light shining through the great darkness as this would all bring about salvation to the lost souls of men (Isa. 53 and 46:13), a promise of a new and better covenant (Jer. 31), and also for the one and only true living way (Jer. 32:39). Truly, indeed, we should appreciate the Old Testament, yet learn it is not our law of pardon. It is not our rule; it is written for our learning. It is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ our Saviour. It is the background of the New Testament. It surely verifies the fact that Christ is the Son of God, that God would build one Church or Kingdom. Yes, surely these things are and were written for our learning and admonition, *"that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"*.

Next, I wish to call your eyes to the scenes of the first 4 books of the New Testament and their purpose: the birth and life of Christ and the many things that happened that were foretold would come to pass by the prophets of old which we have already mentioned; how He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind and the many, many things He did; then how He was betrayed, killed, died and bled on the Cross for you and me; how He was buried and guarded, but rose victorious over death, hell and the grave. What is the purpose of these 4 books? *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* (John 20:31)

Next, let's take a look at the Acts of the Apostles. We find the establishment of the Church or Kingdom that God and Christ had

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

Ray McManus  
5367 Scanlan Way Dr W  
Satsuma, AL 36572-2417  
Ph. (205) 675-5258

promised they would build. Then we find about 3000 souls saved and added to this church the first day the Spirit entered into it, and at least nine examples of how men and women were saved or became free from their past sins. I shall call your attention to only a few of them. Acts 2:36-47, they were told to repent and be baptized for the remission or removal of their sins. Acts 10:47-48, they were asked who could forbid water--and he commanded them to be baptized. Acts 8:33-38, they came to a certain water, went into and were baptized. Acts 22:16, Saul was asked, *"why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* Summing up God's plan of salvation for alien sinners, the first 4 books of the New Testament establishes faith in Christ. Acts of the Apostles shows the Gospel was preached, heard, learned, believed, and that men repented of their sins, confessed that Christ is the Son of God and were baptized in water for the remission of sins.

Then after becoming Christians, we take up the next 21 letters which tell us how to live the true Christian life. (See Rom. 6:1-18) There Paul is writing to Christians, shows we should, after being buried with our Lord by baptism, rise to walk in newness of life. 1 Peter 2:1-3 shows we must reform our lives. Titus 2:11-12, we must deny ungodliness and worldly lust--and live a clean life in this present world. If we

would as Christians follow the instructions laid down in these 21 letters beginning with Romans through Jude, we would have a clean and happy home and church. There would be no confusion, malice or strife. We would have no divorce in our homes or divisions in the blood-bought church of Christ. Indeed, we would be a city set on a hill that could not be hid.

Next, we look at the last book in the Bible. Rev. 1:19 shows us a great scene of both past and present and future things. This also was for the church or the Christian people. John, though he had been isolated on the Isle of Patmos to die for the testimony he held and for preaching Christ and the things that concern the Kingdom of Christ, was not left alone. He was in the Spirit, and God would allow him to look and see, for thousands of years that had past, such as the creation, God's love, the beginning of the gospel, and the present state of the church; then to the future and final destiny of man, the horrors of hell fire, the punishment of the wicked, the victory and happiness of the saints in the home eternal not made with hands.

Oh, sinner friend, I have tried to open up this great Book of Knowledge to you, that you might understand it as you search its pages of truth. The time is short, you must die; oh, prepare to meet thy God. Dear Christian brother and sister, arm yourselves with truth, put off the works of darkness, lay hold on eternal life. This short study of this Book called the Bible is written with a sincere desire and prayer to God that it will help each and every one that reads it to understand the written Word of God; and that it will cause sinners to be saved by the things written therein; and that it will cause Christians to be strong in the faith, and cause them to forsake evil and cleave to that which is good.

Please read 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:1-10; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 21:1-8; Rev. 22:12-17; Eph. 5:10. In Christian love I submit this to whom it may concern. To God and Christ and the Holy Spirit be glory, honor and thanksgiving throughout all ages in the church. In Christ's name--if I can be any help to you, please let me know.

MILES E. BUSBY  
126 N Street N.W.  
Thomaston, GA 30286

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!

1. Who heard the Lord marching in the tops of mulberry trees?
2. How many sons did Moses have?
3. If it were physically possible, what would the people of Galatia have given to Paul?
4. According to Ecclesiastes, what does a bribe do to the heart of a man?
5. Why did Adam call Eve "woman"?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who was so anxious to speak that he was like bottled-up wine? ELIHU (Job 32:19)
2. How old was Noah at the time of the flood? SIX HUNDRED YEARS (Gen. 7:11)
3. Whose taxes did Jesus pay? HIS OWN AND HIS DISCIPLES (Matt. 17:27)
4. What do you spare that indicates you hate your son? THE ROD (Prov. 13:24)
5. After Aaron's staff blossomed, what edibles did it produce? ALMONDS (Num. 17:8)

## AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

On the night of His betrayal, after supper had ended but before the instituting of the Lord's Supper, Jesus quietly rose up. He took a towel, poured some water into a basin and then proceeded to wash the disciples' feet. This was a common act of hospitality in those days. When a guest arrived at the front door usually he was offered a towel and some water with which to wash his feet and hands. When the host himself did the washing of the feet, this was an even greater compliment to the guest for it showed humility and affection from the master of the house.

When Jesus approached Simon Peter to wash his feet, Peter was not sure if this was proper. He asked, "Lord, do you intend to also wash my feet?" Wasn't Jesus the Lord and Master and Saviour? Should not Peter be washing Jesus' feet instead? So he resisted. But, *"Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."* With these words, Peter finally gave in. In fact, he exclaimed, *"Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."* (John 13:9) Although he missed the point in Jesus' act, his desire and attitude is commendable.

Peter's display of zeal is really one to be admired. He loved his Lord tremendously. When he heard that having his feet washed meant having a part with the Lord, he wanted as much as he could get. In a way, he was greedy -- greedy for the Lord!! **"NOT MY FEET ONLY, BUT ALSO MY HANDS AND MY HEAD"**. It is this same attitude that every disciple of Christ should likewise have.

In regards to church attendance, each member should display the zeal and desire befitting a Christian. A member of the Lord's church will

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
April 2-7	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL	Various speakers
April 13-22 (Th-Sa)	Moffat Road Church Mobile, AL 7:30pm on "Revelation"	Harry Cobb (Birmingham, AL)
April 28-30 (F-Su)	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL 7:00pm	W.C. Cofield (Woodland, AL)

[continued from page 7]

want to be at every service and to share in every meeting that involves Christ. Just like Peter, our thoughts should be this: "Lord, since you told me not to forsake the assembling, then I will attend not only on Sunday mornings but also on Wednesday and Sunday nights!" Is this our true attitude? I'm afraid for most of us it is not. Nowadays it seems that there are more members who miss the church services than there are who show up. Is this what the Lord wants the world to see in His church today?

Our desire should be to go to the Lord's house at every opportunity possible, not just on Sunday mornings. *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."* (Isa. 2:2,3)

RAY