

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)

June 1986

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NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM

"And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart,

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and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God..."(Mark 12:28-34)

Many of us have close friends who are not yet members of the body of Christ. Some of these friends may truly believe in Jesus but hesitate to "repent and be baptized"(Acts 2:38). Others may be strongly influenced by "traditions of men" or sectarian groups. Nevertheless, all of these "potential" members could use our help. Just like the scribe mentioned above, they are "not far from the kingdom of God."

It may not take much to convert such a one. Some people need to hear just the slightest bit of Truth; some need just one word of encouragement; and others need just an ounce of concern before they can become a Christian. Who knows how many people out in the world are just a step away from obeying the gospel and we could be that final, motivated thrust needed for conversion? Who knows?

So what are we doing for those who are "not far from the kingdom of God"? Are we setting good examples? "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."(Matt. 5:13-16) One bad example from me could be enough to convince

others not to be "just like me" and thus, not desire to become a member of the Lord's church.

Are we building up our neighbor's faith? "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself;..."(Rom. 15:1-3) We should spend the time it takes to edify our neighbor to the point that he will want to obey the gospel.

And are we preaching that gospel? "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."(2 Tim. 4:1-4) If we will continue to plant the seed (Word of God) and constantly water it, the Lord will take care of the increase (1 Cor. 3:6).

Sincerely, what are we doing toward helping our fellow man? Do we really take time out to aid the "spiritually sick" and lost friends around us? It would be so sad to see a loved one on the Judgment Day, standing "not far from the kingdom of God".

RAY

* * * * *
 * Have you missed an issue of THE HARVESTER? *
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FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

ABOUT EMPLOYEES

Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. (Lev. 19:13)

It shall not seem hard unto thee, when thou sendest him away free from thee; for he hath been worth a double hired servant to thee, in serving thee six years; and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all that thou doest. (Deut. 15:18)

Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates: At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be sin unto thee. (Deut. 24:14,15)

The workman is worthy of his meat. (Matt. 10:10)

The labourer is worthy of his hire. (Luke 10:7)

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. (Rom. 4:4)

For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. (1 Tim. 5:18)

AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

The devil sure works in a crafty manner. On Sunday morning you wake up with a headache. It's not a terrible one but uncomfortable enough to make you miss the communion service. Later that afternoon your back acts up and it forces you to cancel your plans to attend the night services. You simply don't feel you can make it. Then come Monday morning, your whole body is healed and you're able to make it to work with a smile on your face. Isn't it amazing? Or is it?

Do we really try to go to church like we should? Or are we looking for any excuse to get out of going? It takes great dedication to show up at our job every day on time and to earn our pay for that week. Yet, if we spent as much effort on getting to work as we do in going to church services, we would all be fired! That would be true for too many of us.

On the job we are docked a certain amount of pay if we punch the timeclock 5 minutes late. Knowing this, we make it a point to start early enough to get to work on time. Tardiness is no problem with us when it deals directly with our paychecks! Now, if it were possible to similarly dock people in a spiritual sense, would this cure the stragglers who always wander in the building ten minutes late? How does your time-card read lately?

Maybe if we were paid by the hour to attend services, more people would come and stay longer. It certainly works in the field of labor. In fact, when folks are paid hourly, they usually request overtime work. Would it not be wonderful to see members desiring to spend more time with fellow Christians in worshipping God? But God does not want to have to

pay us to come to His house. What kind of people would show up? It would be hard to tell if members were coming for the money or because they truly loved Him, although God would know for sure.

Out of 168 hours in a week, we usually spend 40 of those on our job. At the most, we may average 4 hours in church. Are we really using our time wisely, *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil"*(Eph. 5:16)? Some of us care more about our jobs than about the Lord who gave us that job in the first place. Sadly enough, it is very evident today where our hearts truly are just by looking at the effort we put in going to church. *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* (Matt. 6:21)

RAY

Look for the way-marks as you journey on,
Look for the way-marks, passing one by one;
Down through the ages, past the kingdoms, four,--
Where are we standing? Look the way-marks o'er.

First, Babylonia's kingdom ruled the world,
Then Medo-Persia's banners were unfurled;
And after Greece held universal sway,
Rome seized the scepter--where are we to-day?

Down in the feet of iron and of clay,
Weak and divided, soon to pass away;
What will the next great, glorious drama be?
Christ and his coming, and eternity.

Author Unknown

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o Some people give and forgive; others get o
o and forget. o
o o

GOSPEL MEETINGS

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<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
June 16-22	Marrowbone, KY 7:30 pm (EST)	Sammy Dick Cave City, KY
June 22-27	Mt. Carmel Church Woodland, AL	Wilbur Bass Auburn, AL
June 23-27 (M-F)	East Lake Church Birmingham, AL 7:30 each evening	James McDonald Woodbury, TN
June 23-29	Purcell, OK 7:30 pm (CST)	Pat Mannon Huntsville, AR
June 22-28 (Su-Sa)	Red Hill Church Woodbury, TN 7:00 pm (CST)	Sammy Dick Cave City, KY
June 27-29 (F-Su)	Fairview Church Oxford, AL 7:00pm Fri & Sat 10:45am & 6:00pm Sun	Richard Sargent Marty Livingston Terry Milner David Carter
July 6-11 (Su-F)	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL (10:30am Sun.) 7:30pm	Sammy Dick Cave City, KY
July 6-12	Athens Church near Liberty, KY	James McDonald Woodbury, TN
July 11-13	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL	Wilbur Bass Auburn, AL
July 20-26	Stratford, OK 7:30 pm	Harry Cobb Conley, GA
July 25-27 (F-Su)	Fairview Church Oxford, AL 7:00 each evening	Terry Newell Earlsboro, OK
July 27 thru Aug. 2	Napolean Church near Wedowee, AL 7:00 pm	V.W. Boland Gadsden, AL

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
June 1-7 (Su-Sa)	Taylor's Crossroads Roanoke, AL 7:00 each evening	Wilbur Bass Auburn, AL
June 5-8	Altus, OK	Lindeal Greer Bogue Chitto, MS
June 2-8 (M-Su)	Rich Hill Church Casey Co., KY 7:00 pm (EST)	Sammy Dick Cave City, KY
June 8-13 (Su-F)	Freefield Church State Line, MS [fellowship & singing on June 7]	James McDonald Woodbury, TN
June 8-14 (Su-Sa)	Pleasant Grove Church Alexander City, AL (10:30am Sun.) 7:00pm	V.W. Boland Gadsden, AL
June 8-15	LaPrada Church Mesquite, TX	Local Brethren
June 9-15 (M-Su)	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY 7:30 pm (EST)	Sammy Dick Cave City, KY
June 15-20 (Su-F)	Ephesus Church Ephesus, GA 7:30 pm (EST)	Bill Prince Jr. Oxford, AL
June 15-20	Claud Church (between Claud & Tallassee, AL)	V.W. Boland Gadsden, AL
June 15-20	Thomaston, GA	Doug Farmer Rainsville, AL
June 15-21	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass Auburn, AL
June 15-21	Cold Springs Church Bogue Chitto, MS	Terry Newell Earlsboro, OK
June 15-22	Yukon Church Oklahoma City, OK	Harry Cobb Conley, GA

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