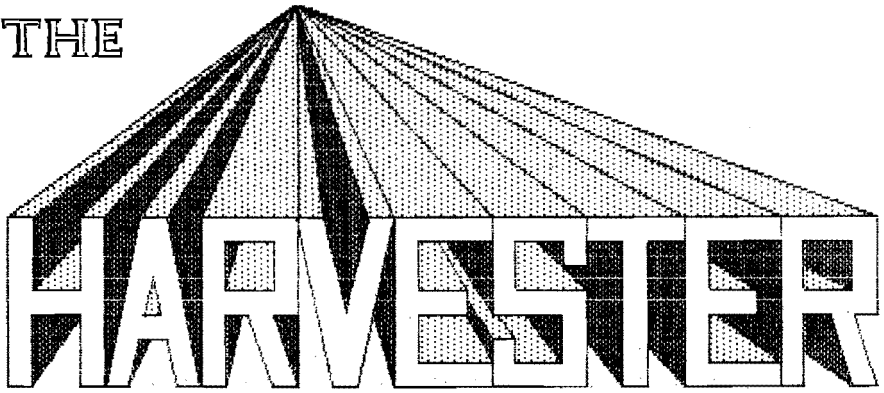


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"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest!" [Luke 10:2]

MAY 1991

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THE 'LOVES' THAT KILL

Much is said in the Bible about 'love.' The two greatest commandments are: "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind*" and "*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*" (Matt. 22:37-40). Many sermons on this same subject have been preached. That is wonderful and it should continue to be taught. But sometimes we fail to warn our brethren about the other kind of 'loves': the loves that kill!

The Word of God has much to say about these evil kind of 'loves' and their reward. Those who are guilty of these will suffer an eternal death. This being the case, it is so very important that we warn everyone of these

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dangers. There are at least five 'loves' worth noting in this respect.

1. The physical world contains many allurements which can side-track the Christian. Thus, Paul wrote, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him"* (1 Jn. 2:15). A disciple of Christ cannot divide his love between God and the world. When he gives his affection to earthly things, he robs God of the love that otherwise should be reserved for our heavenly Father. Such a person becomes an idol worshipper, forsaking everything that is righteous because his desire is for material matters. The apostle encountered such a man and wrote of him in 2 Tim. 4:10. *"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica."* I wonder how many people like Demas do we know of today?

2. One of the items in the world that has particularly captured the love of erring men is MONEY. Unfortunately, there are many members of the Lord's church who share this 'love.' Some participate in raffles or in placing "friendly bets", some miss church services, some steal from their own neighbors, and some even take advantage of another's misfortunes: all for the LOVE of money! The rich young ruler went away sorrowful because he had possessions that he was not yet ready to part with (Matt. 19:22). The worst case of this type 'love' can be seen in Judas. *"Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver."* (Matt. 26:14-15) What else could possess a man to betray his dearest friend than the 'love' of money? Brethren, beware of this infatuation because as Paul

states: *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* (1 Tim. 6:10)

3. The Jews in Jeremiah's days had a 'love' which today we must likewise avoid. They loved false teachings! *"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"* (Jer. 5:30-31) Nowadays there are many who do not want to hear the Truth preached because it condemns them. Members do not want their toes stepped on. They want to hear *"Peace, peace; when there is no peace."* (Jer. 8:11) They would rather be told lies and to die in hell than to receive the Word that can save their souls! The Thessalonians were warned about the Man of Sin, *"even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of truth, that they might be saved!"* (2 Thes. 2:9-10) There is certainly no lack of truth in the world for the Bible has been read from one end of the earth to the other. But there is still too much lack of love for the Truth. It makes me so sad to know that the 'love' of false preaching has claimed millions because this is a 'love' that will kill all of its followers.

4. The 'love' for a friend or a family member can also be very fatal. It is not wrong to love our parents. In fact, we are greatly encouraged to do so (Matt. 15:4), but when we put dad or mom before Christ ... well, that's another story! Jesus once said, *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not*

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worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me!" (Matt. 10:37) The key word is "more." Whom do we love more? God demands the highest priority in our lives (Matt. 6:33). We are to love him above all others. This even means we are to love God more than SELF. That is difficult for some to do, but it must be so if we are to reach heaven. *"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal!"* (John 12:25)

5. The final kind of love that kills is the 'love of praise.' People want others to think well of them. They want to be bragged on. They want to be well-pleasing in the eyes of men and to be held in the highest esteem. Such was the case of the rulers who knew Jesus. *"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God!"* (John 12:42-43) Obviously the chief rulers were more interested in what others thought about them than what was right. And many of us are the same way. We 'love' to hear our names mentioned in the prestigious circles. We 'love' to be recognized for our good deeds. In fact, most of us will refuse to do any work for the Lord unless we are sure that we will be noticed and seen of

men. This 'love of praise' is not a Christian quality.

When Paul wrote, "*the fruit of the Spirit is love*" (Gal. 5:22), he was not referring to the 'love of the world' or the 'love of money'. Neither was he talking about the 'love of false prophecies', the 'love of father or mother more than Jesus', or the 'love of the praise of men.' These are the types of 'love' every Christian should turn away from for these will certainly kill the soul of man.

RAY McMANUS

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. None of the kings of Judah were as close to God as what king?
2. What did the critics accuse Stephen of doing?
3. What was there about the children of Hosea that God used in his prophecy to Israel?
4. What did Tertius do?
5. The tribe of Simeon received their land within the territory of what other tribe?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who laughed when she was told she would bear a son? SARAH (Gen. 18:12)
2. For how long did God give the land of Canaan to Abram and his heirs? FOREVER (Gen. 13:15)
3. What does Peter say is ahead for the heavens and earth? DESTRUCTION BY FIRE IN THE JUDGMENT (2 Pet. 3:7)

4. What name is written upon the forehead of the woman in Rev. 17? MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Rev. 17:5)

5. How did Joab get the position of commander-in-chief? HE LED THE ATTACK ON JERUSALEM (1 Chr. 11:6)

CHRIST IN THE BIBLE

Having read about the Messiah in the historical books of the Bible, we now turn our attention to the poetical books. Here it will be easy to trace the continuing theme of Christ.

JOB, the "Persecuted One", is a great poem about a man who loses everything and then wonders why. It is during his questioning of God's methods that Job introduces us to Christ. He acknowledges a Redeemer and every ear hears him cry out for a Mediator. A closer examination even lets us see the Sufferer in Job himself. Job did not sin, yet he was allowed to be afflicted. In the same manner Christ, who did no sin, will suffer for each one of us as our Advocate.

In PSALMS we find perhaps the most widely used book in the Bible. Throughout the "Praises", David covers every emotion of the human life as he pours out his heart to God. But the specific prophecies concerning the Messiah are truly the highlights of this songbook. Christ is portrayed in detail from His crucifixion to His resurrection and finally, to His ascension into heaven. In the beauty of song lyrics, Psalms describes the universal and gracious Redeemer of the whole world. To sing this book is to sing Christ our Saviour!

The book of PROVERBS is more than a collection of wise sayings or short stories or provoking thoughts or witty poetry. It is a book about the personification of Wisdom. Wisdom is perfect and divine. It is righteous and moral and available to all who will receive it. It is the way of life and in it can be found Life. Wisdom is eternal and was present with God during the Creation. Who is this Wisdom? None other but Christ! Proverbs is really a book about the Messiah, just like the rest of the Bible.

The next poetical book is ECCLESIASTES which means "one who addresses an assembly, a preacher." It is here that Solomon leads his readers to a search for the true meaning of life. From a human standpoint, life is 'vanity.' From a materialistic perspective, it is 'vanity.' From the viewpoint of popularity, power, prestige, and pleasure, it is all 'vanity.' That's the whole point: life without the Lord is "*vanity of vanities*." Only the Messiah can provide true satisfaction, joy, and wisdom in a person's life. That is the conclusion the "Preacher" reached. Thus, the answer to the questions found in Ecclesiastes is "Christ!"

The last book in this grouping may also be the most avoided one in the entire Bible. In SONG OF SOLOMON we find a love song abounding in beautiful imagery. But the common man, who generally equates physical sex as 'dirty', is afraid to deal with such language in God's word. He forgets that "God is true love", although the name of God does not appear in this book. The Song of Solomon is the story of a bride's love and fidelity for her bridegroom, in spite of the temptations from a king. It is in the bridegroom that we see the picture of Christ and in the bride is seen His church. With great anticipation, God's people eagerly await the Wedding Day.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
May 3-5 (F-Su)	Brushy Creek Church Lucedale, MS 7:30pm Fri & Sat	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)
May 10-12	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Thadeus Eubank (Waynesboro, KY)
May 13-17	Blanchester, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 20-24	Chestnut Grove Church Danville, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 24-26	Holdenville, OK	Max Gaskins (Oxford, AL)

" "

What Think Ye of Christ?

Youth: *Too happy to think -- time yet.*

Manhood: *Too busy to think -- more gold.*

Prime: *Too anxious to think -- worry.*

Declining Years: *Too aged to think -- old hearts harder to get.*

Dying Bed: *Too ill to think -- weak, suffering alone.*

Death: *Too late to think -- the spirit has flown.*

Eternity: *Forever to think -- God's mercy past. Into hell I am righteously cast, forever to weep my doom.*

Author Unknown