

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)*

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[Editor's Note: Sections of this article first appeared in The Lifeline, July 1982.]

## TAKE NO THOUGHT

More and more it seems easier to get caught up in the things of this world. Could this be happening to you? Most people would quickly answer, "No, not me!" But seriously, have you lately become more concerned for the worldly things than for the spiritual things? Do you worry more about where your next meal will come from, how you will pay next month's bill, or when you will feel better and healthy again? If you find yourself constantly in situations such as these, then it would definitely be of some comfort to review Matthew 6:25-34.

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"... Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"(v.25) In other words there are more significant things than food, drink, and clothing. Eternal life should be a very important matter to each one of us. Yet how sad it is to find someone who would "sell his very soul" to obtain all the riches in the earth or someone who would "give anything" to own some material object. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 16:26? "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Obviously, the soul of man is more precious than anything the world has to offer today!

"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"(v.26) Here Jesus uses a beautiful but simple illustration. Have you ever wondered about the birds? Where do they go for safety during the worst of thunderstorms? How do they always manage to find food, even enough to feed their young ones? Obviously their Creator watches over them. Similarly, God watches over us, but more so because we have been created in His own image (Gen. 1:27). In this sense we are better than the fowls of the air. Therefore we should worry less about life and the things of this world than the birds seem to do.

"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?"(v.27) After all, what good does fretting do for a person? All the

THE DOOR TO THE HUMAN HEART CAN BE  
OPENED ONLY FROM THE INSIDE.

worrying in the world will never put food on your table nor make you one inch taller!

"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."(vs.28,29) Solomon was a king of immense wealth and honor. Yet his expensive and elaborate apparel could not match that of the lilies of the field. Why? He did not receive his clothes directly from God like the lilies did! His clothing was artificially made, not natural!

"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? [For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:] for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."(vs 30-32) Before we even ask, God already knows what we need. Naturally He knows we need food, water, etc. to survive. Therefore He provides these items. Sometimes He provides our necessities directly. Sometimes He provides the money we need to obtain such articles. And other times He provides the means by which we can survive. All in all, we must remember that God is the source of our being, not our own selves! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."(Jas. 1:17) Once we realize this, we need not worry about how we will make it through another day. Our entire trust must be in God, "O ye of little faith".

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be

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*added unto you.*"(v.33) If we put God first in our lives, if we search for His kingdom at all times, then God will certainly take care of our lives and our needs. This means we are to *"love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength"* (Mk. 12:30). And if we truly love God, we will obey all His commands. *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."*(1 John 5:3)

*"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."*(v.34) Why worry about things that we have very little control over? Tomorrow will take care of itself. More importantly, God will take care of us, if we will only allow Him. So let God reign in your life and *"take no thought"* for worldly things anymore.

RAY McMANUS

## FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

### ABOUT ENVY

*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*(Psa. 37:1)

Be thou not afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; (Psa. 49:16)

Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. (Prov. 3:31)

A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones. (Prov. 14:30)

Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them. (Prov. 24:1)

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. (Rom. 13:13)

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-21)

We ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. (Titus 3:3)

If ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. Where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. (Jas. 3:14,16)

## "CHANGING TIMES"?

In today's society, many things come and go or change with "the times". For example, there are Service Stations that are being replaced by Filling Stations. What is the difference? A filling station is where you may drive up and fill-up. A service station is where you may not only get gas, but also receive automotive

service such as the oil level checked, air in the tires, or water in the radiator.

Sadly, this example also seems to illustrate people's faith for today. Some people go to church and just "fill-up" on the Word until it quickly runs out. Then there are others that not only fill-up, but they also give and receive "service". These are those who care enough about their eternal home to get involved. *"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*(Matthew 25:34-40)

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## AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

There is a story told about a man who had studied the New Testament carefully and then set out to find the church he had read about in the word of God. He was looking for the church which Jesus had purchased with His own blood.

Each week the man would visit a different religious group but would return home disheartened because none of them seemed to preach and practice what he read in the Bible. Finally, one Sunday morning he came to the building where the church of the Lord met for worship. As he entered the building, he noticed that it was packed to capacity, the congregational singing was certainly zestful, the prayers were earnest and touching, and the sermon was challenging and true to the Book -- just like Paul would have preached. He went home that day a very happy man. At last his search was ended for he had found the New Testament church. He decided to go back that night and check again to make sure. But much to his dismay, only about half of the building was filled, the singing dragged, the prayers were repetitious and the sermon had lost its zest. Truly this seemed more like a sham and a pretence than a real worship service. The man said to himself, "No, this isn't the church of Christ. If it were, everyone would have been back tonight."

I am sure the message in the story above holds true for nearly every congregation of the Lord's church. Fewer members attend night services than they do on Sunday morning. So, what if someone should come among us searching for the New Testament church? Would he find it judging by our attendance record? *"For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes."* (Luke 6:44) Our attendance is one of our fruits, a reflection of how we feel about our worship service. Brethren, what kind of yield are we producing today? If a stranger saw our "fruits of attendance", would he keep the tree? Or would he go on searching elsewhere for a better harvest? Think seriously about this and consider carefully *"as the manner of some is"*.

RAY

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Sept. 1-6	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 12-14 (F-Su)	Godby Road Church Atlanta, GA 7:30 pm EST	Terry Newell (Earlsboro, OK)
Sept. 14-19	Estesburg Church near Somerset, KY	V.W. Boland (Gadsden, AL)
Sept. 14-19	Carter Street Church Ashland, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 19-21	Rincon Church Rincon, GA	Harry Cobb (Conley, GA)
Sept. 21-28	Marlow Church Marlow, OK	Pat Mannon (Huntsville, AR)
Sept. 26-28	Gilstrap Church near Morgantown, KY	Harry Cobb (Conley, GA)
Sept. 29 - Oct. 5	Glasgow Church Glasgow, KY	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY) & Harry Cobb
Oct. 5-11	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Oct. 12-18 (Su-Sa)	Pleasant Grove near Alex City, AL 7:00 each evening	Mark Parkhurst (McMinnsville, TN)
Oct. 23-26 (Th-Su)	Haleyville Church Haleyville, AL 7:30 pm	James McDonald [Thur. - Sat.] Phillip Bobo [Sun]
Nov. 7-9	Godby Road Church Atlanta, GA	Bill Prince Jr. (Oxford, AL)