

# Bible Student's Notebook

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XVII Issue 416

# Tongues, Signs and Visions:

### Not God's Order for Today

by — A.E. Bishop

#### **FOREWORD**

After repeated study of the Epistles written after Paul's arrival at Rome, I am convinced that in them is found a curative teaching for all of the present day delusions and fanaticisms found among many.

From Romans 9 through 11, it is evident that Israel was set aside nationally before the close of the Acts. The imprisonment of the apostles, the inhibition to preach and the stoning of Stephen seem to be Israel's answer to the offered amnesty granting pardon for the murder committed and promising national deliverance upon condition of national repentance (Acts 3:19-20).

That the Jew is in the forefront right down to the end of the Acts cannot be disproved, notwithstanding the setting aside of his nation during the present dispensation and the clear revelation given in the Acts period (I Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-29), proving that the Jew has no preference over the Gentile in the Body of Christ.

It is impossible that the Spirit of God could have produced things which kept the Jew to the front after they had been set aside. If we leave Satan out of the equation, we will never be able to understand it.

Likewise, if we fail to see the hand of Satan in the present eccentricities and fanaticisms prominent in the "Tongues," "Pentecostal" and "Holiness" movements, we will dishonor the Lord, and not be able to serve Him in the deliverance and protection of His own from these delusions.

### THE PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST

The prophetic Scriptures, speaking of the Kingdom blessings, stated clearly,

Your God will come with a recompense: He will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart and the tongue of the dumb sing (Isaiah 35:4-6).

John, in prison with a wavering faith, sends two of his disciples to Jesus, asking,

Art Thou He that should come; or, do we look for another?

#### Jesus answered:

Go, and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them (Matthew 11:2-5).

(see Order, page 3727)

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#### Bible Student's Notebook<sup>TM</sup>

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25):
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
  - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
  - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
  - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellow-ship."

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#### **Order** (continued from front page)

This proves quite conclusively that the said miracles were performed for the purpose of authenticating Jesus the Christ to Israel as their expected Messiah and

It is quite reasonable to believe that the Messiah empowered His disciples to perform miracles in the historic period of the Gospels and Acts for the same purpose - that of authenticating His Messiahship and Kingship.

The Epistles of Paul reveal to us the mystery which was hidden in God through all of the past ages. They alone reveal to us the wonderful organism of the Body of Christ and the relation of each member to the Head. They unfold grace.

#### THE SIGN GIFTS RETIRED

The star which guided the Magi of the East to the newborn Babe, served but for one trip, and that only to an elect few.

When the Israelites crossed over into Canaan the walls of the first city fell by miraculous power unaided by the sword, but that mode of conquest ceased at once.

To the observant student it has ever been noticeable that the sign gifts accompanied the opening of this dispensation of grace rather than its continuation.

When the apostles were doing "signs and wonders" in the Book of the Acts period, the sign gifts mentioned in I Corinthians 12 were operative among some of the members of the Body of Christ. Yet the fact that the Bible does not give a hint of the manifestation of the sign gifts after the close of the Book of the Acts period must carry convincing evidence to the careful student who compares Scripture with Scripture that they have been retired.

In contrast with the sign gifts of I Corinthians 12, limited to a portion of the believers and operative only during the Book of the Acts period, let us note that the non-sign gifts of Ephesians 4:10-11, were given for the purpose of perfecting all of the saints "for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man ..." (4:12-13).

The prophet was a gift to the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:28) for the definite purpose of giving divinely inspired messages until the written Word was completed. At the very time these prophets were given, it was stated that their prophesies would fail (I Corinthians 13:8) - they would accomplish their purpose, but soon be done away.

In this same connection it was also stated "whether there be tongues, they shall cease," and the "knowledge" that was given as a special gift to some (I Corinthians 12:8), for the short period of time until the written Word should be completed, vanished away (I Corinthians 13:8) soon after the canon of Scripture was completed.

#### **DELUSIONS & FANATICISMS**

The healings divinely wrought in connection with the shadow of Peter and the handkerchiefs "brought unto the sick" from the body of Paul were the signs of an apostle.

Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds (II Corinthians 12:12).

Yet in the latest Epistles of Paul, not only is it noticeable that the sign gifts are nowhere in manifestation, but a different order is brought forth for the correction of prevailing delusions and fanaticisms.

A remedy is suggested to Paul's ablest helper (I Timothy 5:23).

A choice servant is sick "nigh unto death," not because of sin, but because of excessive labors in the Gospel (Philippians 2:30).

Another companion journeying with Paul must be "left at Miletum sick," and the apostle, who had once the gift of healing, proceeds on his journey with no attempt to heal his sick fellow traveler (II Timothy 4:20).



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Luke is the "beloved physician," rather than merely the beloved brother (Colossians 4:14).

There is no foundation in the Word of God for the prevailing popular doctrine of "divine healing."

Some of the choicest of saints have been patient sufferers for years on sickbeds. Age tells on the best of God's servants, and it is His first will for the majority of them to avail themselves of the services of doctors and dentists. Those who do so while believing the popular teaching on "divine healing" are inconsistent.

Incalculable damage is being done by fanatical teaching on tongues, healing, visions and dreams.

A careful study [by the saints] of the latest Epistles of Paul, which give the normal course of the present dispensation, would eliminate the last vestige of Judaism from their lives and teaching, and would adjust things in general, placing secondary things in their place and first things where they belong.

God is not speaking to us through visions, dreams and trances as He did in former times. The written revelation of His Son is complete, and anything that detracts from that Word is of Satan.

### THE REAL SATAN NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT



How to Be Free From Sin While Smoking a Cigarette: The book for people with weaknesses

*by* — Martin Zender #4233, 50 pp, PB, \$9.95 (+ \$3.99 S&H = *\$13.94*)

This book is written for those who know what they're supposed to do but sometimes don't do it. It's written for those who think that their own particular weakness keeps God from completely liking them. It's written for those who just can't shake a bad habit. This book is written for the wretched souls who totter between their passion life and their desire for God, not realizing that in order to have a desire for God they must also be dogged by at least one detestable/wonderful passion that keeps them humble and needing Him.

Satan is content when the fullfledged orthodox look on him as a king reigning in hell, and when the unlearned think of him as a dreadful monster with horns, hoofs, great teeth and long tail, aided by beings of slightly inferior magnitude, armed with pitchforks and tongs.

The Scriptures of truth declare Satan to be the god of this age (II Corinthians 4:4), the prince of the power of the air energizing the unsaved (Ephesians 2:2), and blinding minds to the gospel of the grace of God (II Corinthians 4:4).

As an angel of light, in the sphere of ethics, morals and religion, aided by his own "ministers of righteousness" (II Corinthians 11:13-15), he is doing more against the Cross of Christ than he has ever done through the most worldrenowned infidels and atheists.

Those who know the Scriptures and are acquainted with the tactics of Satan will have no trouble in believing that he is ever the enemy and opposer of every Godgiven truth *in its own place and time*, and the friend and sustainer of that *same truth out of its place and time*.

### THE JEW REMOVED FROM A SUPERIOR POSITION

Some years before the close of the Book of the Acts, Paul by inspiration wrote,

There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

This agrees with the Ephesian revelation of the "one new man" feature of the mystery of the ecclesia, written years after the close of the Acts (Ephesians 2:14-15; 3:5, 9).

This clear revelation of the mystery, hidden in God from all ages, removed the Jew from the position of superiority he had occupied and placed him on a level with the Gentile in the Body of Christ.

Is it the Spirit of God, or Satan, who attempts to

(see **Order**, page 3730)

# The True Nature of Death, Resurrection and Immortality

by — Dan Sheridan

edemption and resurrection are the channels through which God fulfills His promises. The teaching that death is really life in another form, or another place, makes redemption and resurrection unnecessary.

This false teaching is called: The immortality of the soul. It's a concept that's foreign to the Word of God.

Our minds are dominated, or at least profoundly affected, by our Greek (essentially Platonic) inheritance, so that we think of immortality as the "immortality of the soul" ... we still feel that there is some essential part of our personality which alone is capable of immortality, and that part does not include the body ... Paul was constitutionally incapable of thinking of eternal life in terms of a "soul" existing in some disembodied state ... A spiritual resurrection would to him be no resurrection at all; a disembodied existence would be no better than the shadowy and unsubstantial existence of a shade. He is therefore bound to express his hope of immortality in terms of attaining to the resurrection from the dead (F.W. Beare, *The Epistle to the Philippians*).

Note that Paul was "constitutionally incapable" of thinking like Plato. Greek philosophy and Scripture do not match. Paul took God's side over the "thinking" of the great "thinkers" of his day.

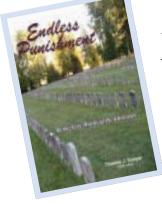
We are not immortal; we will be made immortal in resurrection. This mortal must put on immortality.

As in Adam all die, even so, in Christ all shall be made alive (I Corinthians 15:22). They won't be kept alive, but *made* alive.

We aren't raised from another form of life; we are raised from the dead.

This should be clear as crystal to those who call themselves Christians, but it's not. Why? Because they don't take the Word of God seriously. They accept tradition and near death experiences over God's Word.

What about you? Do you think creeds, Plato and "near death experiences" take precedence over the written Word of God?



#7888, 244 pp, PB, \$19.95 (+ \$3.99 S&H = \$23.94)

## Endless Punishment: In the Very Words of Its Advocates

*by* — Thomas J. Sawyer (1804-1899)

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#### **Order** (continued from page 3728)

revive the sign gifts that were divinely retired after having fulfilled their purposes?

Is it the Spirit of God, or Satan, who turns eyes back to Pentecost and away from the goal placed before them in Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians?

Is it the Spirit of God, or Satan, who teaches that it is sinful to use remedies in sickness when they are plainly suggested in Scripture (I Timothy 5:23)?

Is it the Spirit of God, or Satan, that leads multitudes into the practice of things that pertain only to the dispensation of the law, and which proclaim louder than words that "they are Jews, and are not, but do lie" (Revelation 3:9)?

There is a corrective passage in God's Word for every error, every heresy, every delusion, every fanaticism, and every unbalanced position.

What injury to the cause of Christ, what distress to babes in Christ, what heartrending, faithdestroying disasters would be avoided by dividing the Word aright, by comparing Scripture with Scripture, by forming no doctrine on a passage of Scripture disassociated from the complete revelation, and by studying the Word, the whole Word, to learn God's mind about everything, instead of taking some pet inclination, doctrine or preconceived idea to the Word of God to establish it, prove it, sustain it.

The Gospel Message 1920



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