

(Persecution continued from page 2)

considerable time without food, till he famished; after which they threw his corpse into the street before the prison, and it was devoured by dogs in a most shocking manner.

Margaret Sarotta was stoned to death, and then thrown into the river; Antonio Bertina had his head cleft asunder; and Joseph Pont was cut through the middle of his body.

Daniel Maria, and his whole family, being ill of a fever, several papist ruffians broke into his house, telling him they were practical physicians, and would give them all present ease, which they did, by knocking the whole family on the head.

Three infant children of a protestant named Peter Fine, were covered with snow, and stifled; and elderly widow, named Judith, was beheaded; and a beautiful young woman was stripped naked, and had a stake driven through her body, of which she expired.

Taken out of Wright's Martyrology, 1784

Editor's Note: Often times in early history books the word "Protestant", as explained by the historians, did not mean those who protested and came out of the Roman Catholic church. But rather anyone who protested its beliefs which explain why Ana-Baptists were also referred to as protestants. Baptist never came

(Taskmasters continued from page 11)

Let me close this message with a few warnings concerning shepherds, pastors.

"For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered." Jer. 10:21.

"Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD." Eze. 34:9.

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them." Eze. 34:9-10.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Heb. 13:17.

May God give us pastors according to His heart, which shall feed the flock. □

From Our Mailbox

...I do appreciate you sending me "The Baptist Pillar". This paper had been a tremendous blessing and challenge to my heart. It is not easy to find such biblical materials this side of the world. ...

Manchester, England

"Thank you" doesn't seem enough to express my gratitude to the wonderful articles you have provided on this great web site!

For ONCE, a site where the TRUTH concerning the word of God is spoken!!

I praise the Lord for allowing me to sort of "stumble" onto you web site!...

I feel as if I have struck onto a "gold mine"!!

Thank you for the

precious articles concerning modesty, public schools, homeschooling, KJV verses NIV, Billy Graham, etc....!!!!

...I will be passing on my "gold mine" of information on to everyone I meet!

Thank you again and again!!

J.B.

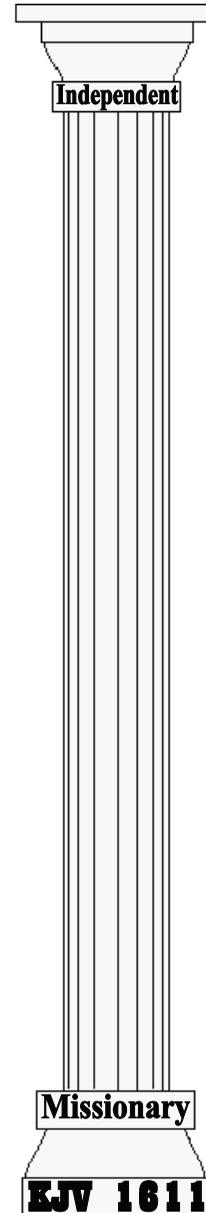
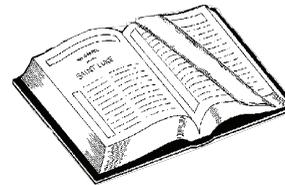
Ran across you in looking for articles on the King James Bible...I have now started to read through your library of articles which I find most informative and enjoying. Thank You so much for such a refreshing time of study. God Bless.

P.S. I would like to be put on your mailing list to receive *The Baptist Pillar*.

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THE BAPTIST PILLAR

"... The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

I Timothy 3:15



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TASKMASTER OR OVERSEER?

By Pastor John Reaves Sr.

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." I Pe. 5:1-4.

Within the religious or Christian circles today we seem to have so much extremism. Webster gives this definition for extreme: "Outermost, utmost, farthest; at the utmost point, edge, or border."

We have extremism concerning salvation. At one end we have easy-believism, "Say this little prayer after me and be saved." Then at the other end we have, "Man has nothing to do with his salvation." Both groups ignore certain verses pertaining to the truth.

II Pe. 3:9 deny both, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* God is *"...not willing that any should perish,..."* That takes care of one extreme. The verse also says, *"...but that all should*

come to repentance." That takes care of the other end.

We also have extremism concerning separation. One group says, "Dress code, that's legalism." The other side says, "You have to have your hair one quarter of an inch above your collar, dresses to the ankle, head coverings, etc." What you end up with is modernism and Phariseism. Neither are right. The Bible just simple says, I Ti. 2:9-10, *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."*

And yet concerning our subject at hand, pastors, we also have extremisms. On one end we have puppets, completely controlled by the church and its boards. He has no freedom to lead the flock. On the other end we have the dictator, taskmaster. He is absolute authority. In reality the dictator is the cause of the puppet. When a dictator gets through with a church, mishandles the funds, gets the church in debt, runs off good people, etc. When he finally leaves, the church says, "Never again." They get one they can completely control. Again neither side, or end is right, the puppet or dictator — demi-god.

A pastor, what should he be? What does the Bible say? Is the pastor to be a

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Forget Not The Past

WHAT DID IT COST OUR FOREFATHERS?

PERSECUTION IN THE VALLEY OF PIEDMONT, IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Giovanni Pelanchion, for refusing to turn papist, was tied by one leg to the tail of a mule, and dragged through the streets of Lucerne, amidst the acclamations of an inhuman mob, who kept stoning him, and crying out, He is possessed with the devil, so that neither stoning, nor dragging him through the streets, will kill him, for the devil keeps him alive. They then took him to the river side, chopped off his head, and left that and his body unburied, upon the bank of the stream.

Magdalen, the daughter of Peter Fontaine, a beautiful child of 10 years of age, was ravished and murdered by the soldiers. Another girl, of about the same age, they floated alive at Villa Nova; and a poor woman, hearing the soldiers were coming towards her house, snatched up the cradle in which her infant son was asleep, and fled towards the woods. The soldiers, however, saw and pursued her, when she lightened herself by putting down the cradle and child, which the soldiers no sooner came to, than they murdered the infant, and continuing the pursuit, found the mother in a cave, where they first ravished, and then cut her to pieces.

Jacopo Michelino, chief elder of the church of Bobbio, and several other protestants, were hung up by means of hooks fixed in their bellies, and left to expire in the most excruciating tortures.

Giovanni Rostagnal, a venerable protestant, upwards of fourscore years of age, had his nose and ears cut off, and slices cut from the fleshy parts of his body, till he bled to death.

Seven persons, Daniel Saleagio and his wife, Giovanni Durant, Lodwich Durant, Bartholomew Durant, Daniel Revel, and Paul Reynard, had their mouths stuffed with gunpowder, which being set fire to, their heads were blown to pieces.

Jacob Birone, a school-master of Rorata, for refusing to change religion, was stripped naked; and after having been very indecently exposed, had the nails of his toes

and fingers torn off with red hot pincers, and holes bored through his hands with the point of a dagger. He then had a cord tied round his middle, and was led through the streets with a soldier on each side of him. At every turning the soldier on his right-hand cut a gash in his flesh, and the soldier on his left-hand side struck him with a bludgeon, both saying, at the same instant, Will you go to mass? Will you go to mass? He still replied in the negative to these interrogatories, and being at length taken to the bridge, they cut off his head on the balustrades, and threw both that and his body into the river.

Paul Garnier, a very pious protestant, had his eyes put out, was then flayed alive, and being divided into four parts, his quarters were placed on four of the principal houses of Lucerne. He bore all his sufferings with the most exemplary patience, praised God as long as he could speak, and plainly evinced, what confidence and resignation a good conscience can inspire.

Daniel Cardon, of Rocappiata, being apprehended by some soldiers, they cut his head off, and having fried his brains, ate them. Two poor old blind women, of St. Giovanni, were burnt alive; and a widow of La Torre, with her daughter, were driven into the river, and there stoned to death.

Paul Giles, on attempting to run away from some soldiers, was shot in the neck: they then slit his nose, sliced his chin, stabbed him, and gave his carcass to the dogs.

Some of the Irish troops having taken eleven men of Garcigliana prisoners, they made a furnace red-hot, and forced them to push each other in till they came to the last man, whom they pushed in themselves.

Michael Gonet, a man of 90, was burnt to death; Baptista Oudri, another old man, was stabbed; and Bartholomew Frasche had holes made in his heels, through which ropes being put, he was dragged by them to the gaol, where his wounds mortified and killed him.

Magdalene de la Peire being pursued by some of the soldiers, and taken, was thrown down a precipice, and dashed to pieces. Margaret Revella, and Mary Pravillerin, two very old women, were burnt alive; and Michael Bellino, with Ann Bocharno, were beheaded.

The son and daughter of a counsellor of Giovanni, were rolled down a steep hill together, and suffered to perish in a deep pit at the bottom. A tradesman's family, himself, his wife, and an infant in arms, were cast from a rock and dashed to pieces; and Joseph Chairet, and Paul Carniero, were flayed alive.

Cypriana Bustia, being asked if he would renounce his religion, and turn Roman Catholic, replied, I would rather renounce life, or turn dog: to which a priest answered, for that expression you shall both renounce life, and be given to the dogs. They, accordingly, dragged him to prison, where he continued a

(Persecution continued on page 12)

Moses came down off the mount with shining face, he could not hide the fact that he had been with God. If we spend much time with the Lord, we cannot and will not want to hide the fact we have been with Jesus. Sin, selfishness, hatred, enmity, and worldliness in the life of a believer will tend to hide the Lord Jesus Christ from the view of others. Oh, that Christians would throw away their smoking and chewing tobacco, their beer, their indecent clothes, and all of the things that hinder their fellowship with God. Oh, that they would stay away from the theatres, the dance halls, and the places where they sell booze. The lack of separation among churches is one of the greatest things that is holding back revival.

Do we know Him; not His doctrines
Not His wisdom, love and power,
But Himself, the Friend unfailing,
In affliction's darkest hour?
To be with us as a Person
Not a presence—vague, unreal;
But a living, loving Saviour,
Who our every need doth fill.
Is He with us now, abiding?
Is He chiefest, and the best?
Would our home be sad without Him?
Have we each His perfect rest?
If we have, we know just dimly,
What the light of heaven will be;
But the joy will be the grander;
For we then our Lord shall see!

We Would That Sinners Would See Jesus

First, they need to see themselves lost and undone and on the way to an eternal hell. Before men can be saved they need to see themselves lost. One of the greatest hindrances in winning sinners to Christ is the worldly ways of professing saints.

Second, they need to see Jesus Christ as the only remedy for sin. There is no other way to God, but by Him. He is the way, and He is the door. His substitutionary death at Calvary is the ONLY answer to man's sin problem. Without Him as Saviour, all men are lost. With Him as Saviours, there is no way to be lost. □

(Taskmasters continued from page 6)

God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." We are to go out ahead of them and set the example. But I am afraid many pastors are poor examples with their finances, families, and faith. 1 Ti. 3:5 says, "*(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*" Not only are they poor examples but they are neglecting their main responsibility to the flock, to feed them. They get all caught up in the mechanics of the ministry and then feed the sheep canned food (sermons out of books), and they wonder why the sheep are not growing. I have had pastors tell me, "It only takes me a few hours to get a message." It does not take long to open a can. Shame on pastors who shirk their responsibilities by letting deacons teach their adults and by singing for 45 minutes, but preach for only 20 minutes. No wonder the sheep are ignorant. I have been in so-called strong Baptist churches and the sheep could not even tell me why they are Baptist, or even why they use the KJV 1611. Shame, shame, shame.

Many pastors have become like the shepherds in Nah. 3:18, "*Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them,*" and like those in Zec. 11:17, "*Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.*"

There is a strong warning to those kind of shepherds in Ez. 34:7-10, "*Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.*"

I am afraid that behind many pulpits in North America we have taskmasters, they demand, command, and drive the sheep but these are not what the Lord gives the church. Jer. 3:15 tells us what kind of pastors He gives, "*And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*" That is the kind of pastors God wants the churches to have.

Remember where the shepherds were when Jesus came into this world? Luke 2:8, "*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*"

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them. Why can't we sing "Amazing Grace," "How Firm a Foundation," "The Old Rugged Cross," and "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross?" They are easily found in the old hymn books, along with hundreds of other great songs. We have no objection to new arrangements of the old songs as long as they are not robbed of their message, and as long as the music is not jazzed up to sound like the abominable music of the world.

Why must our music reflect the influence of the night clubs, and dance halls? Why do we import the background music, with its synthesized sound, instead of encouraging the ones who play our musical instruments to learn to play better? If we are going to have professional background music, why not have professional singers, too. Just put on a record or tape and let it run. If we are going to do that, why not just put on a taped sermon preached by a professional preacher. In the words of an ungodly advertisement, "we have come a long way, baby," and I must say that most of it has been in the wrong direction.

Why must we import the same kind of amplifiers, microphones, and synthesizers into our churches that are found in the night clubs? Do we have to have singing groups with each one holding their own microphone? Often times the singers have their lips wrapped around the microphone screen with the heavy breathing and the same movements like the depraved performers in the hell holes of sin. The excuse is often given that we must have this kind of music to attract the youth, or to gather big crowds. Even if it does work to what have we attracted them?

We want music in which we can see Jesus. Unless the words and musical style are right, this can never be. Let us hear once again, "Saved by the Blood," "There Is Power in the Blood," and "Nothing But the Blood." Let us hear, "Jesus Paid It All," "He Lifted Me," "He Leadeth Me," and "More About Jesus." We have no objections to new songs if the message is strong and clear and the music is tasteful and devoid of the contemporary sound and beat. In all our music we would see Jesus Christ.

Once it was the blessing;
Now it is the Lord;
Once it was the feeling;
Now it is His Word.
Once His gifts I wanted;
Now Himself alone;
Once I sought for healing;
Now the healer own;
Once 'twas painful trying;
Now 'tis perfect trust.
Once a half salvation;
Now the uttermost.
Once 'twas what I wanted;
Now what Jesus says;
Once 'twas constant asking;

Now 'tis ceaseless praise;
Once it was my working;
His it hence shall be;
Once I tried to use Him;
Now He uses me.
Once the power I wanted;
Now the Mighty One;
Once I worked for glory;
Now His will alone.

We Would See Jesus In Saints.

Saints are not some kind of super Christians who lived long ago, and now have been declared to be saints. Over and over again in the New Testament, Christians are called saints. Every truly born again believer is a saint. Of course the word saints refers to holiness, but every follower of Christ is to be holy. The very word Christian implies that the person is Christ like. That is the way it should be, and the way that God meant it to be. Every believer should be like a sign post, pointing men to Christ.

We are to be like Jesus Christ. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (II Cor. 3:18)

While passing thru this world of sin,
And others your life shall view,
Be clean and pure without, within,
Let others see Jesus in you.
Your life's a book before their eyes,
They're reading it thru and thru,
Say, does it point them to the skies,
Do others see Jesus in you?
Keep telling the story, be faithful and true,
Let others see Jesus in you.

With Christ living in us, what excuse could we possibly have for not being Christ like.

Paul said, "Christ in you, the hope of glory," (Col. 1:27). To some immature Christians he wrote, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again, until Christ be formed in you." (Gal. 4:19) Jesus Christ should be seen in the talk, walk, and work of every believer. In the home, in the house of God, and in the highways and byways of life, everyone should be able to see the Lord in the life of the saints. The saints should be separated, consecrated, sanctified and dedicated in every day living. Their clothes as well as their conversation should reflect the presence of Christ in their life. There is no place for indecent dress or indecent conduct in the life of the Christian. They are to watch where they go, and what they do, that they may reveal the Living Christ. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13)

Can sinners tell that you have been with Jesus? When

"PREACHER, PLEASE SHUT UP!"

by Evangelist T.A. Nalian

As long as I have been a Christian, it has been my experience, to hear regrets, sore feelings, and disgruntled attitudes toward the length of preaching services. Notice, I said preaching services. You will not hear complaints breathed out toward the length of singing, or some other special activity within the church service. No, the complaint is focused in on the preaching. Why is this the case? What is wrong?

The attack is not really on the preaching; this is a subtle camouflage. The voice of complaint is an out right attack upon the "Word of God!"

Over the many years of my Christian service and attendance, in the church house, I have observed those who breath out such contemptible remarks. Deacons, trustees, Sunday school teachers, seemingly Godly mature people are among the clamorous crowd. The much given excuse is this: I have other important things to do; the church service is only to be an hour or so; we go to church three times a week, there should be a set time of length for the service, (I guarantee you most of the people disgruntled over this issue do not attend every service).

The majority of people, in the Bible, who scorned and disobeyed the Word of God, were people of authority. Often kings would lead people astray. Jeroboam led the people of Israel astray because he did not listen to the Lord, (I Ki. 11:26-40; 12:25-33; 14:16). Rehoboam led Judah into error, because he forsook the Word of God, (I Ki. 14:21-24). Many kings of Israel and Judah were guilty of this because they despised the Word of God.

Prophets and Priests also transgressed against the Word of God, in so doing, leading and teaching God's people the wrong way, (Jer. 23:1-2; 9:40).

People who cry aloud, despising the length of the preaching service and time spent in the church house, are those who spend very little time in personal study, prayer, and meditation of the scripture. Love for God is synonymous to having love for his Word. Love for the Word of God is hunger and thirst that will pursue God at any length, (time will not be an obstacle) (Mt. 5:6; Ps. 63:8).

The churches in the United States of America are broken, weak, feeble, carnal, immature, lackadaisical, and self-seeking, because it is starving for the knowledge of the Lord.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." Hos. 4:6

In our day, people (professing Christians) go to church

out of convenience, not conviction; their reasoning is superficial not sacrificial! The average church member will spend more time watching TV, gratifying the flesh, indulging in personal hobbies, chasing the dollar, living for temporal pleasure, than they do in the Word of God, and in the service of God. This is a wicked sin, an abomination before God! Like in the days of Isaiah, our assemblies are loathsome before God, Isa. 1:11-15. God does not want your spotted, blemished, weakly, sickly sacrifices. He desires your heart! Love! Devotion! Deut. 6:5. If you cry out against the length of preaching services, and at the same time do nothing for God, all you are is a carnal bum, eating out of the garbage can of this world! If you spend 3 hours watching a football game, 2 hours observing a baseball game, an hour and a half polishing your car, you better bite your poisonous tongue before you sink your fangs into the body of your local Bible believing, gospel preaching church for declaring the Bible for an hour! Why do we have no power? Why do we not win souls? Why are prayers not answered? It's because we are forgetting God and forsaking His Word!

The problem in our nation is not with the ungodly forsakers, the problem is the Godly forgetters who forsake God's Word, (Ps. 9:17). David said that he did not wickedly depart from his God, (Ps. 18:21). To depart from God is the sin of wickedness.

Some preachers advocate that you should be able to "say it all in 20 minutes." Please show me that in the Bible. On the contrary, church services in the Bible were long in duration. In Neh. 8:1-12, many who returned from Babylonian captivity stood and listened to the reading of the Word of God for hours, (at least four to six). The people wanted to hear the scriptures, (Neh. 8:1). Ezra "brought the law before the congregation" 8:2. Ezra "read...from the morning until midday...the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law" 8:3. Not many attentive ears today. Ezra... "stood up on a pulpit of wood..." 8:4; "Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people;...and when he opened it, all the people stood up" 8:5. Their standing position showed a readiness to serve. When Ezra preached, the people responded by saying, Amen! Amen! They lifted up their hands, (expecting to receive something from God) and bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord, (showing self-effacement, and Godly sorrow) 8:6. After the service concluded, the people went away in Joy, 8:12. The Word of God brings Joy!!

The early church held services every day "and they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple..." (Acts 2:46). When they would come together

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taskmaster, dictator, or is he to be an overseer? Let us take a look at both.

The Taskmaster

Strong's gives this definition for taskmaster: "Captain, a head person, keeper, lord, master, ruler,..." Many pastors today seem to get the idea that they are supreme ruler. What they say goes, no debate. They take the verses like Heb. 13:7, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation," and Heb. 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you," to try to justify their dictatorship. They begin to think, "I am the Lord, and there is none else."

The first place the word taskmaster or taskmasters appears in Scriptures is in Ex. 1:11, "Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses." What did the taskmasters do? They afflicted them with their burdens. The word burdens means, "That which is borne or carried; a load. Hence, that which is borne with labour or difficulty; That which is grievous, wearisome or oppressive."

You see a taskmaster assigns someone a task, a definite amount of business or labour. They burden them with some task, and they require them to perform it. No wonder God's people today are getting weary in well doing. Many pastors are taskmasters, they are assigning tasks, requiring church members to perform, burdening them down with a heavy load.

What ever happened to believing that Christ is the head of the church? Eph. 5:23 says, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Christ is the head of the church not the pastor. Don't get me wrong. I am for pastoral leadership and pastor lead churches. I am definitely against deacons and trustees controlling the church. The pastor is to take the oversight and to be obeyed. Heb. 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." and I Ti. 5:17-18 does says, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward." But pastors need to realize that even as the Holy Spirit leads them to accept a certain pastorate at a certain church, so

too must the Holy Spirit lead in all aspects concerning the operation of the body, the church.

I do not appoint Sunday School teachers or assign God's people certain tasks. Nor do I appoint someone to be a Sunday School teacher just because they are qualified. That would be like appointing a pastor to a church just because he meets the qualifications. There must be a calling, a working of the Holy Spirit in the heart. If Christ is to be in control, He must be allowed to place as He sees fit to those positions in the church. After all it is His body. When it comes to Sunday School teachers, I want who the Lord wants in these positions. I do as that first church did when they were in the process of replacing Judas. In Acts 1:23-24 it says, "And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen." They appointed two, but the bottom line was, "...shew whether of these two thou hast chosen."

We as pastors are not to assign a task but if the Lord works in someone's heart and they get a burden from the Lord, the task is not wearisome or oppressive. It is a joy and they don't become weary in well doing. Like I mentioned earlier it is the taskmasters that lay heavy burdens on the people, which results in deacon and trustee controlled churches. When a church gets rid of a taskmaster they say, "Never again." The next pastor that comes to fill the pastorate does not have a chance in leading that church in the manner in which the Lord would have him to lead.

In Webster's definition of taskmaster he says, "One who imposes, commands, or impress forcibly, a task, or burdens with labour." A taskmaster, one who commands, demands. But you won't find a shepherd or a pastor, one of God's anyway, like that in the Bible. In our text we read, "Neither as being lords over God's heritage,..." I Pe. 5:3. Remember, part of the definition; Strong's, for taskmaster is, "A keeper, captain, a head person, lord,..."

A pastor is not to lord over God's heritage, the church. A good example of where this lording over will lead is found in I Ki. 12:1-16, "And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;) That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying, Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee. And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed. And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon

CASANOVA CLERGYMEN

I have been preaching for 34 years, and once in a great while when I first started out, you would hear of a preacher going morally wrong, and I suppose back through the centuries of the church it has been so, but in the last ten to twelve years there has been an increase of immorality among preachers that staggers the imagination.

Those who have studied the situation have sought for answers as to why this is happening. It has been suggested that several things may, contribute to it. 1) Lack of happiness in the preacher's own marital life, 2) Personal involvement in counselling with those of the opposite sex, who, may be lonely or unhappy in their marital life, 3) Involvement with the problems of a very promiscuous society, 4) Becoming vulnerable because of the long hours and pressures of the ministry, 5) For some men the so-called mid-life crisis is the excuse, and on and on we could go.

I believe when a preacher goes morally wrong, it does not happen in a few moments of time. It begins almost unnoticed in his heart. A man becomes careless in his moral perception. He begins to personally justify his affinity toward a woman, other than his wife. He begins to deliberately put himself into opportune situations to be around her, and the process of yielding to lust and grieving the Holy Spirit is well underway. Preachers go morally wrong because they backslide in their heart, grieve the Holy Spirit, and walk into sin with no excuse whatsoever.

What should a preacher do who is guilty of adultery, or if he is a single preacher and is guilty of adultery or fornication? He should immediately resign his church or his ministry, confess his sin, make it right before God and man, get out of the ministry and stay out forever. We know that when sin is confessed, it is forgiven, but a man who has been guilty of adultery or fornication has forfeited his right to lead God's people. Though God has forgiven him, in the eyes of the people of God and the world, he is no longer blameless.

The tragedy is that most preachers who are exposed for being guilty of sexual immorality, don't come forward because they are convicted of their sin, but because they have been caught or exposed by someone. Be assured of one thing, a preacher who can have the audacity to stand before his church week after week and preach, and appeal to sinners to get saved and God's people to live victorious over sin, while he himself is living a double life, is in a terrible spiritual condition, and the Holy Spirit has withdrawn the manifestation of His presence in that man's life.

The sad thing is that many preachers who go immorally, will keep a low profile for a time, then move somewhere else and start all over again. God give

us preachers who are Holy Men, who walk with God. (ADP) □

The Maranatha

(Preacher continued from page 3)

they preached, prayed, praised, and participated in the Lord's Supper. "They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine," (Acts 2:42). I guarantee you, that they were in church for more than one hour daily. When they came together the preaching was hot! They had a Glory Hallelujah Shouting Time. The early church was effective, people were saved daily. Glory! This kind of attitude toward the Bible and the local church would bring revival to America!

Before Jesus fed the great multitude, He was preaching, teaching, and healing all day; the day was far spent, the time was far passed, (Mark 6:35). The disciples wanted to send the people away hungry, Jesus would not, but fed them. Again we see another long church service in the Bible. In Acts 20:9, the Bible tells us that "Paul was long preaching." Paul preached until midnight, (Acts 20:7). A man by the name of Eutychus fell asleep and fell from the third loft and died, (Acts 20:11). Oh, how we should hunger and thirst for God and His Word, (Ps. 42:1-4).

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD (communion, fellowship, devotion of soul), and to inquire in his temple (to seek the Lord's will)." (Ps. 27:4). America, let's return to the Word of God! II Chron. 7:14. □

THE COMPLAINT BOOK

A certain minister kept on his desk a special notebook labelled, "Complaints of Members Against Other Members." When someone called to tell him about the faults of another, the minister would say, "Here's my complaint book. I'll write down what you say, and you can sign it. Then, when I have to take the matter up officially, I shall know what testimony to expect from you."

The sight of the open notebook and the ready pen always had its effect. "Oh, no! I couldn't sign anything like that!" the member would protest, and no entry would be made in the book.

The minister said that he kept the complaint book for over forty years, and had opened it a thousand times, but had never had occasion to write a single word in it. □

God that taketh away the sin of the world. Lessons on astronomy and the solar system may satisfy the carnal, but a spiritually minded people are more interested in the Bright and Morning Star. Much can be made of a beautiful sunrise, or sunset, but these can never compare with the "Sun of Righteousness" who shall "arise with healing in his wings." (Mal. 4:2)

Churches are giving much attention to architecture and building and too little attention to Him who is the door, the foundation, and the chief cornerstone. Men can talk about doctors, medicine, and divine healing, but what we need is the great physician, the Lord Jesus Christ. Preachers tell their congregations about lakes, rivers and the seven seas. From the reports I read, many churches are taking the youth and others on excursion trips to see and enjoy these sights. At the judgment seat of Christ, I wonder how all the excursions and trips will weigh out in the light of the fact that so many know not of the water of life.

Geography and highways may interest the minds of many, but some are longing to hear about Him who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh to the Father, but by me." Many seem to be interested in the false theory of evolution. Even those who believe in the biblical account of creation often place too little emphasis on Him as the creator.

Political leaders are praised or denounced from many pulpits, but they all pale into insignificance when compared with Him who is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords. Literature with the words of men have their place, but how feeble they are when placed beside the living Word. It is not good men and the son's of men that we need to hear about, but the God-man, the Son of God.

He should be the subject, center, heart, theme, and climax of every sermon. When we speak of creation, we need to emphasize that he was the creator of all things. "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:3) "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Col. 1:16-18) Let us never forget that in all things He is to have preeminence.

No sermon from the Old Testament should leave Him out. He is there, everywhere you turn. After His death and before His resurrection was fully known to all of His followers. He walked with the two discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus. They of course did not recognize Him at the first. For their discouraged hearts, He prescribed a blessed diet of Old Testament truth. "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to

believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27)

No sermon on the law is complete unless we emphasize the glorious truth that He bore the curse of the law for us. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hanged on a tree." (Gal. 3:13)

How can we preach the truth, without proclaiming that He is, "the way, the truth, and the life?" (John 14:6) Whether we preach on the atonement, grace, death, resurrection, judgment, or any other biblical subject, we must realize that no sermon can be complete without Him being the center of it all. When we preach or teach on God, we must ever be careful to declare that, "in him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Col. 2:9) There cannot be a right emphasis on the Holy Spirit without the truth of Christ's person. "Now if any have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Rom. 8:9)

We would hear more of His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His teaching, His substitutionary death, His resurrection, His bodily ascension, and His second coming. Hungry hearts long to hear more of His coming as conquering king, reigning Lord, and righteous judge. How sad that some Baptist preachers can pray and never mention His name. Some liberal speakers brag on Jesus but they never show Him to be God. Why? They do not really believe that He is God.

We Would See Jesus In Song

I am utterly worn out with the corruption of Christian music in the 20th Century. For many years the churches of our Lord have been afflicted with such songs as, "I'll Fly Away," "The Great Speckled Bird," and "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." Truly speckled birds have crept in bringing this kind of trash into our churches. Now we hear such lines as, "I woke up this morning feeling fine, I woke up with heaven on my mind."

Churches have been cursed with the Nashville sound, the Country-Western sound, the Southern Gospel sound, and the Rock sound. From lofty anthems which had no meaning, we have seen religious music descent into the underworld of music, to catch the mood and style of a new generation. Each time the transition is made, they bypass the grand old hymns of the faith.

Church music directors rush madly about, looking for new music that will satisfy the worldly people who go to church for various reasons. Thousands of dollars are spent for music that should be banished while at the same time they have old hymn books which contain an abundance of wonderful songs that are seldom sung. In fact the younger generation has never heard many of

(Sir continued on page 10)

his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day. And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat. So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents." Rehoboam thought he could be over God's people by lording over or by a heavy hand, a taskmaster if you please, but what he ended up doing was splitting the nation.

Today we have many churches being split as a result of this lording over, commanding, and demanding. Jer. 50:6 speaks of this kind of sheered or pastor, "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace." I know of some pastors who tell their people when they can go on vacation, if they can get married, what to eat, and not to eat, etc., etc., with no Scripture to back it up.

It is religion that brings people into bondage. Jesus warned of what religion will do in Mat. 23:4, "For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." It's religion and false prophets who bring God's people into bondage. In

II Pe. 2:15-19 we read, "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." They promise liberty, John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed," but they are brought into bondage.

These taskmasters are well described in Isa. 56:10-11, "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter." Notice, "they all look to **their own way**..." What about God's way? I can assure you, based upon God's word that, "Liveth and abideth forever." God's way is not for pastors to be taskmasters, or to lord over His heritage.

So what is the pastor to be if not a taskmaster?

The Overseer

In Acts 20:28, we find a charge to the pastors, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." It says, "... the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,..." Strong's gives this definition for overseer, "a superintendent, officer in general charge of a (or the) church..." So much for deacons or trustees in charge.

But it says the pastor is placed in the position as overseer by the Holy Ghost, he is the superintendent. The word superintendent means, "one who has the oversight and charge of something, with the power of direction..."

The Holy Spirit does not *make* pastors taskmasters but He does *make* pastors overseers. You see the difference is the taskmaster commands, oppresses, and drives, but the overseer gives direction. Just like the conductor of an orchestra, he directs and leads all the musicians and it results in them being one.

The taskmaster, you see, is out of place. They are behind the sheep, yelling, commanding, driving the sheep. That is why so many pastors cannot see any good in their sheep. They are behind them and not out

ahead leading them, giving direction.

With Christ as our example, look at John 10:1-5, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."* "...He goeth before them..." Pastors, shepherds, are to lead the sheep, give them direction in the way they should go.

Our Great Shepherd is not a dictator or a taskmaster, on the contrary, Psalm 23 says, *"...he leadeth me beside the still waters,"* verse 2, and verse 3 says, *"...he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness..."* Isa. 40:11b, speaking of the Lord says, *"...and shall gently lead those that are with young."* Gently, that does not sound like someone who imposes a task, or burdens one down with labour. It sounds like someone who cares. John 10:11-14 says, *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."* The one who is not a real shepherd does not care for the sheep.

The very word, "pastor," speaks of care. Webster's 1828 Dictionary gives this definition for pastor, "A shepherd; one that has the care of flocks and herds. A minister of the gospel who has the charge of a church and congregation whose duty is to watch over the people of his charge, and instruct them in the sacred doctrines of the Christian religion."

There is no doubt that the Great Shepherd cares for us. I Pe. 5:7 says, *"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* And of course, to care for or to take care of the flock speaks of taking care of their needs, like feeding them. Again in Acts 20:28, *"...to feed the church of God..."* The number one task of overseer is to feed the flock. I Pe. 5:2 says, *"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight [to oversee] thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind."* Jesus asked Peter three times, *"Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?..."* and three times Peter replies, *"...I love thee..."* Our Lord's reply, *"Feed my lambs,....Feed my sheep,....and Feed my sheep,"* John 21:15-17. Our Lord still says to pastors, *"If you love me, you will feed my sheep."* But today we have pastors spending more time out of their pulpits than in them which results in ignorant sheep. The end

result of ignorant sheep is spelled out in Hos. 4:6a, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:..."* Pastors are to be busy at taking care of the sheep but today we have many shepherds as found in Ez. 34:2-3, *"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock."*

When our Lord saw the sheep as sheep without a shepherd, what did He do? Mk. 6:34, *"And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things."* **"Because they were as sheep not having a shepherd,"** the first thing He does is *"...and he began to teach them many things."*

Overseeing has a lot to do with feeding. In Exo. 17:9-13, we have a beautiful example of a shepherd, of which Moses was, *"And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword."* Notice every time Amalek began to prevail, what does Moses do? He lifts up the rod of God and the children of Israel prevail. From Moses' vantage point he could *over see* the battle that raged and when he saw the people of God being defeated, he lifted up the rod, the Word of God, and they prevailed.

We as pastors when we see the people of God being defeated we are to stand behind the pulpits and, *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."* II Ti. 4:2.

Remember the difference between a taskmaster and an overseer? A taskmaster is one who imposes or commands a task, or burdens with labour, he drives the sheep. The overseer goes out ahead, he leads the sheep, gives them direction. The way he does that is with the Word. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Ps. 119:105.

You see, pastors are not to drive the sheep down the path but as I Pe. 5:3 says, *"Neither as being lords over*

(Taskmasters continued on page 11)

"SIR, WE WOULD SEE JESUS"

by E.L. Bynum

"And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus." (John 12:20-21)

Some months after the birth of Christ, wise men came from the east, asking, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" (Matt. 2:1,2). Now shortly before His death, Greeks came from the west saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus." They must have been proselytes to the Jewish religion, for they came to worship. If they were Gentiles as it would seem, they may have come from a long distance. Here among the great throngs who came for the passover, they no doubt viewed many awesome sights.

The temple itself was loved and highly prized by every follower of the God of Jacob. The impressive sight of the temple itself was enough to remove ones eyes totally from interest in seeing the faces of men. Yet, these men were not satisfied with a view of the great city of Jerusalem. They were not satisfied with a view of the vast throngs of worshippers and all their activities. The view of the magnificent temple with its ornaments, and sacrifices, could not meet the deep longing of their hearts.

They may have known Philip, or it may have been his Grecian name that attracted them. It was not Philip that they wanted to see. No, their request was, "Sir, we would see Jesus." Theirs was a wise and providential request. There are those today with the same desire. Somehow I believe that there are those who are tired of beautiful church buildings, robed choirs, and flowery sermons from the pulpit. Those things do not satisfy. They come to church to see the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one that can meet the deep need of the heart.

I once heard about a fashionable church with a well trained pastor. His personality was delightful, and his sermons were homiletical. While his sermons were for the most part biblical, there was little of Christ to be found in them. After listening to his flights of oratory, and well polished sermons, some of the hungry hearted came up with a plan. While the pastor was away for a few days they hired a skilled wood carver to work on the pulpit. When the pastor returned, he placed his Bible on the pulpit for his Sunday morning sermon, and then he noticed some changes had been made. There beautifully carved into the wood just above the edge of his Bible were the words of our text, "Sir, we would see Jesus." According to the story, it changed his style of preaching and he began to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

There is nothing wrong with a choir that can sing, and

musicians that can play skilfully on the instruments. That is, if the music truly glorifies the Lord. There is nothing wrong with nice buildings, as long as they are not extravagant. There is nothing wrong with a nicely dressed minister, with a pleasing manner, and with homiletical skill. But people should not come to see and hear all of this, but they should come to hear more about our Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.

He is not available for us to see with the physical eye, but we can see Him with the eye of faith. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." (Heb. 2:9)

We Would See Jesus In Sermon

The churches are not drying up and dying out because of a lack of education and learning. It is not a lack of oratory or attractive programs. Churches and Christians are suffering because there is so much of many things, and so little of Jesus Christ in all that is said and done. Charles H. Spurgeon said that it was his aim and goal in every sermon, to take a text and follow it like a road until it led him to Christ and His cross. If that particular text did not seem to lead in that direction, he would simply jump over to another text that did. Oh, that our preaching today had this same aim and goal.

Paul expressed it well as he wrote, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (I Cor. 2:2) This does not rule out the preaching of the whole Bible with all of its doctrines and precepts. Rather it is the recognition that every doctrine and precept flows from, and leads to, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have in my library a little book that I highly prize, which for some time was out of print, but it may now be available again. It is "The Summarized Bible," by Keith L. Brooks. In it, he gives a short summary of each chapter of the Bible. One of the chief points that he makes in almost every summary of a chapter is how that Christ may be seen in that chapter. I dare say that He is there, on every page of the Bible He may be found. Let us long for a glimpse of Him in every chapter. If we look for Him, He shall be found.

What a tragedy that many are preaching on geology and the ages of the rocks, when they should be talking about the Rock of Ages. What good are lessons on botany and gardens of prose, when our hearts are hungry for the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley. What good are all the church kitchens and good food, when people are perishing for lack of knowledge of Him who said, "I am the bread of life."

Why should we waste time in learning about zoology and animal life, when we really need to know more about the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb of