

The PROJECTOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

DR. DAYTON HOBBS, Editor

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PROVERB PRACTICALS

Proverbs 27:7
By Ludwig Opager

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. Proverbs 27:7

Jesus said that we should take no thought for what we eat or what we drink. God will provide. But our nature calls us to store up for ourselves that we may be full. Why take chances? It is our nature that our cupboards be full, making us confident of our next meal. Not wanting to risk hunger, we make arrangements and plans. Striving for abundance, we conclude abundance good. Depending upon abundance, we live as if we do not need God.

Man strives to reduce hunger and increase abundance, and as he does so, he becomes more independent of God. He desires to increase comfort and to insure that no bad thing, including hunger, befalls him. We do not want bad things to come into our lives, but God thinks differently.

In abundance we may get what we want, but with abundance comes a loss of

something needful. Abundance, instead of increasing the happiness of the full soul, deprives him of the happiness that the sweetness of the honeycomb brings. This happiness comes only to those with less abundance; those who are hungry!

God looks for hungry souls and feeds them with food eternally satisfying.

The man indulging on the finest of food may be sickened as he looks at sweet desserts set before him, yet those hungry and near starvation relish every bitter and distasteful thing. The difference is hunger! One is filled and one is not. Hunger, then, is beneficial by giving an appreciation for that which is bitter.

Hunger may even urge us to feed on unpalatable truths; truths bitter to our nature. In Deut. 8:3, Moses provides a

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THE APOSTASY OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH

ANCHOR OF THE SOUL
PART TEN

Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Hosea 6:4-11, *O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness (or we could say your loyalty) is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away. Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the*

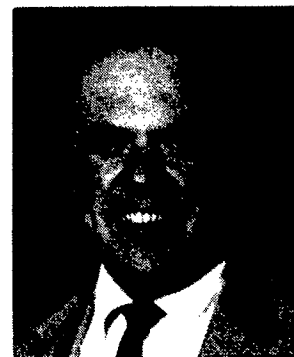
words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth. For I desired mercy, (this is the same word that is earlier translated goodness), and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me. Gilead is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood. And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit

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New Administrator



Mr. Ronald E. Bean has joined the Gospel Projects staff as the new Administrator of Santa Rosa Christian Academy. Mr. Bean formerly served in the Academy as Teacher and Coach for three years, from 1976-1979, before going on to Graduate School. Mr. Bean received the B.S in Secondary Education in 1976, from the University of Maine, and the M.A. in Pastoral Studies in 1982, from Bob Jones University. With his experience in the pastorate, in education, and in communications, he brings to students a thorough understanding of educational challenges as well as a warm heart for individual student needs.

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Stars of the Morning

By: "Aunt Carolyn"



PETAL POWER

Papa declared Amy inherited her love for flowers from his mother. Mama insisted the interest came from spending so much time with her in the garden and in the flowers in the big yard of their farm home, but everybody agreed that God had put the love of His beautiful creation in Amy's heart. They hoped Amy would let God make her heart as pure as the lilies of the valley, and give her a backbone as strong as the cottonwoods in the pasture, a sense of humor as gay as a strawberry blossom, the graciousness of the spring iris down the driveway, and character and stamina of the prairie sage.

TINY TEACHERS

Amy fairly laughed out loud the mornings she played near the pansy beds. They seemed to tease her with their bright pixie faces so that Amy couldn't resist them. She teased them right back and gave each its own name for the day as she gingerly touched their velvety purple, blue, and yellow petals. Tiny little things they were. The largest bouquet she could pick would fit in a teacup, but how bright that bouquet would be. It was enough to make even ailing Aunt Margaret smile. The pansies all but talked aloud to tell Amy that she didn't have to be big to be a blessing. With the Lord Jesus Christ in her heart, His light and joy could shine through her life to bring pleasure and blessing to others. Yes, in the Lord Jesus Christ is abundant life.

STARRY WONDERS

And there were the phlox--inside the fence and out--purples, reds, whites, and pinks. Bless 'em. Once you got them started Mama said, you couldn't stamp them out. Sturdy little plants they were, but an endless delight to Amy. She never

tired of searching through them. Sooner or later she thought she would surely find one without a star, but she hadn't yet. It was amazing. Every little one that unfolded it's bloom had a perfect star, bright as day. God never missed a one. How perfectly He made things even down to the details of every little blossom. He never forgot. How wonderful it was to be His child through faith in Christ Jesus and know that He never changes. If He cares so much for each little flower that blooms and then will fade, Amy reckoned He surely would care for those who trust Him. "The eternal God is thy refuge." (Deuteronomy 33:27) "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

SPLENDID FAINTERS

Maybe she shouldn't have felt that way, but Amy didn't have much use for morning glories. They would run like wild fire along the fence row and bloom in the morning with grand pronouncements of great deeds--until the sun got hot. But when the morning was

How perfectly God made things even down to the details of every blossom.

gone, so was the glory. They seemed like some people--when the work wore on long and steady, hot and heavy, and faithfulness required selflessness and keeping on even through hardness--they seemed to silently fold up their petals and flee away. Like Demas, they were gone, loving comfort, ease, and pleasure more than the Lord and His work. Amy surely didn't want to be that kind of Christian.

GLORIOUS LOAFERS

She didn't want to be a four-o'clock either. She thought they were pretty nery to blossom forth in the late afternoon along side the other flowers that had stood straight and tall through the heat and wind and pressure of the day. Some Christians were like that. They would let somebody else do the tough jobs and just come at the end.

They would get in on the finishing touches and stand all aglow as if they had been faithful through the whole task. Worse than that, some people seemed to want to wait until life was nearly over and then come to Christ with what was left. Not Amy! She wanted her whole life to be given to the Lord to do His will.

*Excerpt from LILACS AND SAGE, by "Aunt Carolyn". For these delightful lessons in Christian character, fill in the form below and send to:
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Mr. Bean's wife, Nancy Kepler Bean, who received her B.A. and M.A. from Bob Jones University, also joins the SRCA faculty in History and Music. She is an accomplished violinist and was a member of the Bangor, Maine Symphony Orchestra before moving to Milton. The Beans have two sons: Stephen, age 9, and David, who is 6.

We are glad that the Lord has led the Beans to serve with us here. They will be a real asset, and we look forward to their ministry in the church, school, and other areas of the work.

TEACHING CHILDREN TO LISTEN

Excerpt from *For the Good of Your Child*
by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Listening is an art that has to be developed. We come into this world with the proper tools but without the inclination. Training is difficult in proportion to its importance, making the development of listening skills among the most difficult to master. It would seem on the surface that teaching a child to listen should be a relatively easy matter; after all, the physically normal child comes with a set of receivers and every physically normal parent has a more than satisfactory transmitter. It might be good for us to recall, at this point, that although Jesus on at least three different occasions, told all the disciples that He must suffer many things, be rejected by the Jewish leaders, be killed, and the third day rise again, the disciples didn't understand a thing that He said. They heard His words but they were not "listening"; they had preconceived ideas that closed their ears to truth. Their own self-centered ideas about an immediate earthly kingdom with themselves sitting upon thrones caused them to make this teaching fit their own selfish ideas. This is not listening. Listening involves submission, attention, concentration, evaluation, assimilation (make part and parcel of one's being), and determination.

- 1) Submission - The listener is a learner and a learner must have a submissive attitude. Submission to parents' spoken word (voice obedience) is the first and most important lesson for the young child to learn and is the basis for most of the rest of the training the child will receive.
- 2) Attention - The submissive child must be taught to give its undivided attention to the instruction given.
- 3) Concentration - Prolonged attention is basically concentration. A child's attention span is not very long; therefore, we should not expect nor require them to listen intently for too long a period at first. The ability to concentrate for longer periods should increase with age.
- 4) Evaluation - As our children grow, the ability to evaluate what they have heard or read (for giving our attention to

the written page becomes a vital part of the learning process as children become proficient in reading) becomes important. Discernment is vital for a Christian in a world that cries for our attention.

5) Assimilation - (to incorporate, the act of making a part of one's being.) Having evaluated what we have listened to (spoken or written), the child must learn to incorporate principles learned which square with the Word of God into his everyday life.

6) Determination - Using that to which we have listened to make decisions in life is the end result of learning to listen. Truth received must become truth in practice, and error discerned must be avoided and denounced.

Deut. 5:1 "...Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep and do them."

POINTERS TO AID IN TEACHING CHILDREN TO LISTEN

Some things to remember when teaching children to listen:

- 1) Give clear instructions and insist upon complete compliance, even in the smallest detail.

- 2) Don't let them play with something while you are talking to them. Insist that they sit up and look you in the eye.
- 3) Don't teach or give instructions until you are sure you have their attention.
- 4) Require accountability from your children for what you have told them.
- 5) Don't accept excuses such as "I didn't hear you" or "I didn't know you were talking to me."
- 6) Don't always be talking in their ears. Too much talk is confusing to them and will make them believe that what you have to say to them is not very important anyway.
- 7) The time to be the toughest in seeing that your instructions are carried out is the first time they fail to do what you say.

IT TAKES TIME

Take the time to teach your children to listen. It will be a tremendous benefit to your child throughout life. Don't get weary and give up. Remember, "in due season you will reap, if you faint not." Fainting is the one thing you must not do. Just because fruit is not harvested immediately does not mean that it will not be forthcoming. The longer the process of ripening, the sweeter and more precious the fruit. Patience and perseverance are the success twins of child rearing.


(See page 7 for order form for Dr. Hobbs' book *For the Good of Your Child*.)

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FOCUS ON RELIGION

By Rev. Tod Brainard

DR. MONROE PARKER WITH THE LORD

On July 17, Dr. Monroe Parker went to be with the Lord after a short bout with pneumonia. Dr. Parker had just turned 85 on June 23 of this year. Dr. Parker's ministry spanned 65 years and was multi-faceted. He served as director of religious activities and assistant to the president at Bob Jones University. He was president of Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, MN for eight years; and served on the boards of Bob Jones University, Fundamental Baptist Fellowship, and Baptist World Mission, which he helped to form. He also served as pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Decatur, AL. Dr. Parker's preaching of the Word of God was renowned and his love for God's work and God's people was evidenced by his service for Christ. Dr. Parker is survived by his wife Ruby Parker, one son John Monroe Parker, Jr. of Tullahoma, TN and one daughter, Penny Parker of Abbeville, GA. He will be greatly missed by all who stand in the battle for truth.

CULT STUDIES

In the June issue of *Modern Maturity* magazine, a large section was devoted to the issue of cults in America entitled, "Let Us Prey". According to Margaret Singer, adjunct professor at the University of California at Berkeley and student of cults for over 25 years, there are 2,000 to 5,000 cults in the U.S. today with 3 to 5 million full-fledged members. She adds that "when you consider the 10 to 20 million Americans who have had some involvement with cults at one time or another you begin to see the magnitude of the cult movement." This study, however, does not consider Catholicism or Seventh-Day Adventism to be cults. If we consider these so-called "evangelical religions" to be cults, which I believe to be the case, you may double the figures given above.(1) From the same article, a

Connecticut based cult expert, Kevin Garvey, notes that approximately 40 percent of all those involved in cult-like New Age groups are over the age of 50. Cult groups target the older generation because, as former cult member and author Ellen Kamensky states, "elders are easy to influence, often home, plentiful, and lonely."(2)

1 - *The Almanac of the Christian World*, Tyndale Press, 1992 pp. 373-376.

2 - Ellen Kamensky, *Hawking God*, Sapphire Press, 1992 as quoted by Catherine Collins and Douglas Frantz, "Let us Prey", *Modern Maturity* magazine, June 1994; pp 23-32.

WERE DANIEL AND NEHEMIAH "CHRISTIAN POLITICIANS"?

There is much stir today in "fundamental" circles concerning the believers' role in politics. There are those who have come to the conclusion that Christians have a role to play as active politicians in America today because of biblical examples of men and women involved in "politics" such as

Our role as believers in a wicked world is spiritual in nature, not political.

Daniel, Esther and Nehemiah. For example, Timothy Keese, author of the booklet, "The Political Christian", published by Bob Jones University Press, states in reply to the objection raised by some believers that Christians can't get involved in politics without being corrupted, "Many politically active Christians have, in fact, become an embarrassment to the cause of Christ... Yet to insist that political success and spiritual failure occur simultaneously is to deny the power of God's grace and to ignore the biblical examples of Daniel and Nehemiah...." "As Christian leaders we will be driven by the demands of *dual citizenship*, for our citizenship in heaven and *earth doubles*, rather than

diminishes, our responsibility to this generation." There are, I believe, two problems with these rationalizations. First, Daniel did not run for office in Babylon, nor did he aspire to. As a young Jewish captive, Daniel, under commandment of Nebuchadnezzar, was ordered to attend special royal training. God sovereignly endowed Daniel with special knowledge and supernatural enablement (Daniel 1:17-21; 6:1-3). These were given in order for Daniel to excel in the courts of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Darius, that God might reveal through His servant, Daniel, His sovereign rule in the kingdoms of men and to reveal His glorious plan for the ages. Can any Christian claim special knowledge and endowment for political purposes today?

Nehemiah, a cupbearer in the King's house (Neh. 1:11), served in a dangerous, yet trustworthy position. Like Daniel, Nehemiah did not run for this office either. It was a position given to trustworthy captive slaves. Nehemiah was called of God to return to Jerusalem to administrate the restoration of the walls of the city and return a captive people to the land and the teachings of the Word of God (Neh. 8:1-18). Nehemiah worked with the government of his day and prayed to God for power and guidance. (Neh. 1:9-10). It can hardly be said that Nehemiah aspired to be a politician in the day in which he lived.

Secondly, as to dual citizenship, the statement that our responsibility is "doubled" as to political involvement has no clear biblical basis. I Peter 2:11-12, and Phil. 3:20 make clear our citizenry and our essential role as Christians, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as *strangers and pilgrims* (here on this earth), abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against your soul; having your conversation (Greek-politeuesthe-behavior, manner of life as a citizen) honest among the Gentiles...I Peter 2:11-12a." "For our conversation (Greek -politeuma - citizenship, commonwealth, native land) is in heaven...Phil 3:20a."

Sterling Christian character and bedrock convictions are in stark contrast to the politicians and politics of today.

**Teaching
Tips**
by Mrs. Doris Peppard

**Tools
or
Crutches**

Teachers like to use a variety of teaching tools in their elementary school classrooms. Children enjoy seeing their rooms decorated by colored pictures, charts with stars, bold bulletin boards, and a nice, clean environment in which to work. Some elementary classrooms also have computers available for students to use, and children begin using calculators even in the early grades. All these things are nice, but they certainly should not be used as crutches or babysitters, replacing the teacher's role of teaching. We want to develop the "computer" in every student's head first!

Often, the use of computers in the elementary school is in the playing of

games - educational games, yes, but still games. These are "fun," of course, but should never replace teachers teaching with their hearts attuned to God for guidance in their preparations.

Computers are here to stay, and children need to be able to work successfully in this age of technology. Keyboarding is a very important skill our students should learn. Some adults are afraid of their own computers and seem to think of the computer as an enemy. We don't want our students ignorant of this technology; we just want them to learn to think, to "develop the territory under their hat," and, when they are older, to learn to reason. Isaiah 1:18a says: "*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord.*"

Computers are machines, which work with the information man plugs into them. As the saying goes: "Garbage in - Garbage out!" Our children need to be taught truth. Truth comes from the hearing of the Word of God. The ear is still the most important teaching tool we have. That is the "educational aid" we must develop and work with most.

Calculators are tools, too. I do not know any adults who balance their checkbooks by long hand anymore. We

all use calculators! I am thankful for mine! Our students need to learn to use theirs, too, but only after they have been taught to understand the processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents. There is really no need for students to use calculators in their math unless they are taking a trigonometry or upper level math course. There is no substitute for thinking and using their own brain power to solve problems. This is the way to prepare students for solving many of the problems they will face as adults. Sometimes there are no "easy-outs" in problem solving. You simply work on the problem, use an eraser when necessary, and try again!

Technology brings wonderful inventions, and new items are coming out every day. We should be thankful for such helps, but we should also be careful not to allow these new advances to set the tone for educating our children. Some of our children may be more adept at learning to use this technology than we are, and if they have the opportunity to use a computer, that's good; but it will never replace a Christian teacher in the classroom. □

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From FOCUS page 5

Our role as believers in a wicked world is spiritual in nature, not political. Only God's Spirit can change the heart of man. No amount of "Christian" political savvy, influence, or legislation can make America or any nation righteous before God.

DISPENSATIONAL ECUMENISM

Tim LaHaye has formed a new coalition called the Pre-Trib Research Center (PTRC) for the "proclaiming, teaching, defending, and applying the doctrine of the Pre-Tribulational Rapture of the Church." (BDM Letter 7/94) Notable personalities who have signed the PTRC's doctrinal statement include: SBC Evangelist & TV Host John Ankerberg, Radio Teacher David Jeremiah, Radio Bible Class host M. R. DeHaan II, Former SBC presidents Jerry Vines and Adrian Rogers, Dallas Seminary Zane Hodges, Robert Lightner, John Walvoord, Charles Ryrie, J. Dwight Pentecost among others, also psychologizers Ed Hinson, Kay Arthur, and Tim LaHaye. PTRC is a "hodgepodge of new-evangelicals, psychologists, and prophecy hyper-speculators" (BDM Letter, 7/94).

TVC UPDATE

The Traditional Values Coalition has announced a "Religious Freedom Assembly" in Washington, D.C. on September 13, 1994 (TVC Newsletter, 7/1/94) In the brochure sent out by TVC, the following announcement was made, "Traditional Values Coalition in conjunction with many national religiously-affiliated organizations calls Pastors, Rabbis, Priests, Ministers, and all lay leaders to the Religious Freedom Assembly..." Once again, we sound the alarm that fundamentalists should beware of this ecumenical organization, which probably could be called the New Moral Majority. It is a politically oriented, religious coalition. □

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From APOSTASY page 1

lewdness. I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled. Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, (or judgment for thee) when I returned the captivity of my people.

This passage gives a vivid description of the true condition of Israel and Judah. They are described as a morning cloud. In that land, there are basically two seasons—the dry season, and usually, twice a year, the early and the latter rains. The rest of the time, it is dry. Often in the morning, because the land lies along the Mediterranean Sea, clouds would come rolling in off the Mediterranean and would give a false hope, a false prospect of rain. Anyone not familiar with the area would expect those clouds to be followed by refreshing rain; however, the morning clouds would quickly dissipate and produce no rain. They brought no moisture or blessing. The prophet compares the people of Israel to the hypocritical morning clouds. They professed to be the people of God, but they soon revealed that profession was not the same as possession. They were described as a morning cloud and the early dew. The dew was seen in the early morning, glistening on the plants, professing desired moisture, but as soon as the sun was up, the dew was gone and was of no value. It was false hope, and that falseness described Israel. Reality and sincerity were altogether missing.

They were living a lie, yet all the while they were claiming to worship Jehovah.

DECEITFUL HEART

We must understand this. I think this is the reason this theme is repeated so often in the Scriptures. It is difficult to understand the deceitfulness of the human heart. Man does not like to face up to it. Man does not like to admit that he has a deceitful heart; he cannot come to grips with just how easily he is deceived by his own heart. Man refuses to admit that, in fact, he cannot trust his heart at all. Jeremiah 17:9, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

The people of Israel had deceived themselves into thinking that God was pleased with their worship and their life

style. Do you know anyone like that today? If you know many professing Christians, you do. Israel was in a time of expansion, prosperity, and religious revival. Calling one's self by the name of Jehovah was the "in" thing at that time. Thirty years ago it was not the "in" thing to say you were a Christian in this country. When I started my ministry forty years ago, not many people would say they were Christians. Most folks would frankly confess, "I am not saved." Today, it is difficult to find one who will admit to being lost. In forty years, things have changed dramatically in this country, at least in the South.

Now the Israelites had deceived themselves into thinking God was pleased with their worship and their life style. Why not? They were very religious and prosperous. Why should they not think that God was pleased? Tatford said: "They approached Jehovah as they would have done Baal, without the slightest awareness that the character of their lives and conduct was in any way pertinent." (*The Minor Prophets*, Vol. 1, Frederick A. Tatford, p. 87.) They did not think their character or their conduct made any difference to God. They approached Jehovah just as they would have Baal. Is that not how many approach Christ today? Almost any Southern Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, or Episcopalian Church in the South talks about Christ today. They did not do that forty years ago. Now they may even talk of being born again and of being saved, but it was not that way forty years ago. Now if you go to a Methodist church, they will talk about Christ. Go to a Southern Baptist Church, and they will talk about Christ. Go to the Presbyterian Church, and they will talk about Christ, but the "religious revival" we have seen in recent years has not done a thing for the character of America. That tells me that there is nothing to it! Anytime there is a genuine movement of God's Spirit it will do something for the character of people.

In Micah's day, Israel practiced falsehood; they lived a lie, thinking it to be the truth. You say, "Can people be that deceived?" Yes, and so can we! Do you believe that? You can be deceived and live a lie and think it is the truth as easily as did Israel. There are millions of

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people across the world doing that today. All false religions are living a lie thinking that it is true, and the Christian religion is very much the same. Israel spoke of knowing Him and of serving Him when they had no idea what truth was. They were satisfied in their deceit. This is the condition of a heart captured by deceit.

MORAL STANDARDS

God is merciful. He worked, He warned, and He kept pleading for them to turn to Himself. Having gotten rid of moral standards they had no protection for themselves or for their children. Did you know that moral standards in this country were the protection of our children? The Bible, although it was not believed and accepted by everyone in personal faith, was the standard for America. It was a safeguard for our children. It put a protective shield around them.

Israel had earlier substituted the ideas of man for the Word of God and gradually slipped away from truth to a deceitful lie, all the while thinking they were the same as at the beginning. Can you understand that? They had the Word of God. God had given them His commandments, but they had substituted the ideas of men, in this particular case, the ideas of Jeroboam. He told them that they could worship God outside Jerusalem, the place God had established as the only place of worship. Once they had substituted man's way for God's way it was easy to continue their slide, that is, to drift on into apostasy and live a lie. Folks, Truth is precious! Guard it, love it, hold it! To know the Truth is very rare today. If you have been given the privilege of having truth, love it, hold it dearly. Do not let it slip; do not let anyone steal it from you; do not let it slip from your grasp. Keep it; hold on to it; pass it down to your children! It is precious!

PRECIOUS TRUTH

Oh, it is so wonderful to know Truth. Sometimes I lie in bed and I thank the Lord, not only that He has saved me, but that He has allowed me to know the Truth. It is glorious to have God's Word and to have the Holy Spirit to teach us

God's Word. It is wonderful to have some small understanding of the conditions in which we live and not be in the dark as those who do not have the Light. It is so precious to have light. Do not forfeit it; do not give it up. Pass it down to your children! It is more precious than silver or gold or precious jewels! Hold on to it; keep it in the family; do not give it up. Nothing is more precious than Truth! Nothing is more precious than the Word of God! We must hold to it, and we must pass it down to our children. Israel had failed to do this. America has failed to do this. They had slipped away from their moorings. They had changed from truth to a lie and did not even know it. It had happened so subtly. That is the way error captures us. It creeps in. First, you have to cast off from your moorings. You remove the ancient landmarks. You cut the anchor rope, and then you start drifting. Oh, the drift is so slow you hardly notice it.

SURE COUNSEL

Heb 6:16-19, *For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.*

We don't have to drift off into apostasy. There is a hope, which is an anchor for our soul, both sure and steadfast. And what is the hope set before us? It is the "immutability of his counsel." What does immutability mean? That is a big word which simply means "not able to be changed, not capable of change." God will give you counsel that is not capable of change. That is the reason it is an anchor. Is not that what an anchor is supposed to do, keep you in the same spot? If you know anything at all about boats and fishing, you know that the purpose of an anchor is to keep you in the same place, to keep you from drifting into the rocks, drifting into the current,

drifting to disaster. So the hope that is set before us is the immutability of His counsel. The only anchor that is trustworthy, that gives confidence and stability to man, is the unchanging Word of God. You had better tie your family rope to it; you had better tie your personal rope to it; you had better tie your business rope to it. You had better tie your hope to the Word of God, so that you do not drift into error. There are not many men I know today who hold the same positions they held twenty or thirty years ago. So many have drifted; so many have moved. You must anchor to the unchanging Word of God! If you are to hold sound, workable principles in every area of life, they must be the unchangeable counsels of God's Word. If our souls are anchored in these principles we will not drift with the passing of years.

Being anchored does not mean not growing! Some seem to think that growing is learning to compromise; however, growing is becoming more like Christ and stronger in your resolve, stronger in your position, stronger in your faith. Do not pull up the anchor. Do not move the ancient landmark. This is why people, societies, and nations change. This is why America has changed to the decadent society it is today. Jeremiah said, "Ask for the old paths, wherein is the good way" (Jer. 6:16). Old ways are good ways when they are God's ways.

(To be continued next issue.)

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