Bryan Riggs

The Christian COURIER

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"TREASURES IN HEAVEN"

In those far off days, when Jesus was teaching in Galilee there were no banks such as are found today in every city. If a man had something of value he wanted to keep very safely, he put it in a hole in the ground, or in a cellar under his house: but the best of such hiding places, were not very safe. If they were damp, then the precious object, if it were metal, became rusty. If they were dry and the treasure was a beautiful garment or a priceless picture, or a valuable piece of furniture, if left buried too long, would be damaged by moths, worms, or white ants. Then too there was always the danger of it being stolen, or confiscated by an invading enemy, who would carry it away. In fact there was not any real safety anywhere, and Jesus pointed out to the people how foolish it was of them spending so much time trying to save money, to buy things with, that wouldn't last, or that couldn't be kept very long, or that could be so easily stolen. (Matt.6:19-21)"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Treasures would then be safe for ever, no rust, noths or thieves can enter there.

Don't you suppose that the people looked upon him with puzzled expression on their faces, and wondered what he meant? How could anybody do such things? perhaps some one called out, you mean I can put my money in heaven and it will be safe? And just how can I do this? By simply giving it to somebody in need. Then no doubt every one must have smiled, it sounded so foolish yet it wasn't; it was very true, you see when we use our treasure in a spirit of love to help others we really give to God, and God never forgets a single good deed done in his name, and will someway repay our gift. It often will be much more than we could every wish for, (Luke 6:38) "Give, and it shall be given unto you;good

easure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running r, shall men give into your bosom,---"

Of course it takes faith to put money or anything else into this kind of a bank. You wouldn't put your money into an earthly bank, if you didn't believe it was solvent, then you have to be very careful and not misplace your check book, for someone might write checks on your account, and then you would be the loser; so to make this bank of Gods work, you must be one of Gods children, believe in His promises, about love and heaven, which is the only kind of money heaven knows.

In Matt. 6:21 Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If your treasure is in the basement or any where else on earth, you can always lose it, and you will be forever worrying about it, but if you use it in love to the Glory of God, you will have put it in heaven; and your heart in following it, will bring you the Peace and Happiness, which heaven Alone can give.

Yours in Christ,
Bert Weakley
413 Rowland
Modesto, California 95351

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CHRISTIAN APPAREL

This small piece I'm about to study; I feel is more directed to the Christian women. In this day and time it seems hard for me to seperate what is appropriate for us in clothing and whether to cut or not cut our hair. We,as Christian women, are to be just that, Christian women and to be able to be seen as such:

Please read 1 Tim. 2:9-10, " In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

Anymore Christians seem to have their own opinions of these verses: but just take it for exactly what it says, no "Buts" or "I think" or "You've got it all wrong" approaches, but word for word, what it says:

"In like manner also, the <u>women adorn</u> themselves in <u>modest apparel</u>."

(1) women- Christian women; young and old.
(2) adorn- to decorate or beautify.
(3) modest- decent, and limited in size and amount, or aim.
(4) apparel- clothing and dress.

"With shamefacedness and soberiety"

(5) shamefacedness- ashamed, embarressed-the sufix (ness) means a degree,goodness.
(6) sobriety- the quality or state of being sober: earnes

"not with broided hair, or gold or pearls or costly array."

(7) broided hair- 1 Pet.3:3, "Whose adorning,let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair,"

(8) gold or pearls- or costly array- to dress in splendid attire;

"But which becometh women professing godliness with good works."

(9) becometh- to suit or be suitable.

Please read 1 Peter 3:3-5, "Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:" I wonder just how our lives compare with the women of old, with modesty as it is in our lives today? Let this world see us in the light of Christ, instead of style or fads! Be a Light for Jesus!

The subject on cutting hair has always been a delicate subject for those, counting myself, that have cut their hair, as we know we are going to account for own selves. 1Cor. 11:13-15,"judge in yourselves: is it comely that a womean pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given to her for a covering."

(1) comely- good-looking.

(2) nature- one's natural instincts or ways of life (our life is to live a Christian life)

(3) long- extending for a considerable distance, having a specified length. (how long is long?) In John 11:2, it was that Mary, which anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair.

(4) shame- a painful sense of guilt, dishonor,of reproach suffered.

In the 15th verse we are being told how glorious our long hair can be to us. It has been given to us for a covering. I give praise to those who have the glorious gift of long hair, and can withstand the temptation of cutting the GLORY God gave us for our covering.

How many of us could or would comfort our Lord by letting our hair be the covering He meant it to be?

In Faith and Christian Love,
Retha Morris
Baron, Oklahoma.

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WE NEED MORE GOOD ARTICLES-WE NEED YOUR 1972 MEETINGDATES

ASSEMBLE YOURSELVES

Some members and even preachers don't understand, what it is that assembles in worship. Some say that man and wife alone cannot assemble in worship.

Heb. 10:25 says,"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

It has been said that man and wife cannot assemble, because, they are one and one cannot assemble, it is true that one cannot assemble alone, but in the case of man and wife, they are one flesh, but the flesh is not the things that assemble in worship: It is the spirit or heart or mind or conscience that assembles in worship.

Rom. 2:29, "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." You see we learn a little by that scripture about what assembles.

Now we will go to John 4:23-24,"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worhsip him in spirit and in truth."We see inthose scriptures that it is in spirit and truth, that a member assembles, a man and a his wife are one in the flesh, but they have different minds, hearts and souls: that is the things that assembles.

I want to prove what I just said: Phil. 2:1-2 says, "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." We see here that if we are not of one mind and of one accord we are not assembled in the spirit of truth. A man and his wife can be thinking differently before they assemble for worship, but at assembling time they are to be of the same mind, and that is the thing that assembles and not the flesh.

Phil. 3:3 Tells us that the flesh is nothing. "For we are the circumsision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

If the assembly is one part, it can not assemble, but two parts or more can be assembled. Matt. 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." When you are gathered together in the name of Christ you are assembled in the same mind and not the flesh.

With Love of the Truth,
Bro.V.E."Dutch" Staggs
Rt. 1 Box 86A
Yuma, Arizona

LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE.
(Will We Know Each Other?)

It is pretty hard for anyone to believe that we will not know each other if we reach the other side. It is pretty hard for some to believe that we will know each other.

We all pray that God will help us, that we may reach that other side safely and that all who profess to be Christians will also make it, if we follow after Christ, and do the will of the Lord; by God's grace we will reach that other side.

We can-not expect any help in getting there, we have to go alone: as Paul indicates to the Phillipians 2:12-13, "---work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

We cannot take anything with us, nor anybody with us, nor does Christ want us to wait in doing his will, or in following him: Luke 9:61, "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

Jesus Christ is not worried about anyone else but you; and that is the way we should be, worried about ourselves. James 5:20, "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." If we can help someone else to do the will of God, then we can rest assured that we have saved a Soul from death, and have hid a multitude of sins. That life that we will have on the other side, if by the Grace of God we make it, may be more beautiful, and more rewarding of of what we will see, than tongue can tell.

The following Poem from the Reasoner: Author Unknown.

I dreamed death came the other night,
And heaven's gates swung wide,
With kindly grace an angel ushered me inside.

And there to my astonishment,
stood folks I'd known before,
Some I'd judged and labled unfit for
heaven's door.

Indignant words rose to my lips
but never were set free,
For every face showed stunned surprise--
not one expected ME:

If we can be as near like Paul in his faith unto the Lord Jesus Christ, as we find in 1 Cor. 13:12,"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as

also I am known." And when we come Face to Face with the Lord, for he tells us that "Every eye will see him."Rev. 1:7 Is our mind going to be on our friends, our loved ones, or on Jesus Christ?

1 John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." Therefore, if we shall be like him; and shall see him as he is, how are we going to tell which ones are our loved one? We will be classed as one; we will either be a brother or a sister, or a mother;

When we look back to Christ and his teaching. Matt. 12:46-49, While Jesus was speaking unto the Scribes and Pharisees in their Synagogue; some one said unto him:"---behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." So if we carry out the will of God, we will all be classed as brethren, and sisters when we reach the other side.

John 19:25-27, when Jesus was being crucified, his mother and the two Mary's were there: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." This, then, would indicate to me, "That you are my mother, you are my sister, you are my brethren"

When we return unto the questioning of the Sadducees of Jesus, of the seven brothers that had one woman as their wife, (individually) and they all died, and finally she died, Whose Wife would she be of the seven? (at the Resurrection that is). Assuming now that all seven brothers were christians, and that this wife was a christian also; Would one brother be set aside in recognition of the wife, or unto the wife, for they will all be there? No, I do not believe we will know each other, as our knowledge is now of each other, when we reach that other side.

Who will the bachlors fook for? And who will the unmarried woman look for? We will all be as the Angels in heaven, as Christ has said: (Luke 20:36)

The following was written by Myrtle D. Ingalls, of Tacoma, Washington.

"We'll be equal to the angels when we reach the
wother shore,

And with them in joy supernal, we shall live forevermore;
We'll be equal to the angel, and we'll walk the golden street,
There the saints of all the ages shall our happy vision meet."

Will any one of us be able to outshine one of those saints?

Life on the other side is going to be far beyond our thoughts, far beyond our imagination, far beyond any conceivable idea that we might have; We are too wrapped up in this life, or in the world, and its ways, that it is almost impossible to think what it will be like over there.

We will all have to look more closely into the mirror, we will have to examine ourselves to see if we have the Three Virtues:FAITH-HOPE-and LOVE. Jas.2:17,"Even so faith if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." And even with Faith, and the Hope, if we have left out the works, will we be admitted on the other side? "Faith, if it hath not works , IS DEAD"

We are all going to be tried, we are all going to be weighed in the balances; will be like Job 31:4-6, "Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? If I have walked with VANITY, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit; Let me weighed in an even balance that God may know mine integrity." Or will we be like Belshazzar, when Daniel interpereted his dream: Daniel 5: 27, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

We have a way to get on the other side, to that life after death,(for death is certain: Heb. 9:27) Death is also uncertain, if Christ should come at this moment: Rev. 16:15, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Matt. 24:42,"Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

We all like to hear about good things, and we all like to be included in them; and I believe we all like to hear of that resurrection, and we all want to be included in it; (and we all will.) But we all just want to hear of the Right hand side of God, and leave the Left hand side of God out:

To have our loved ones with us when we reach the other side, would truly be heaven; but it would seem to much as a reality, to this life here on earth; to really expect these things.

It may be my thoughts only, that prevents me believing we will know every one of our kindred; as far as I know, (and I pray that I am wrong)there will be none of my kindred there, for me to see, should I possibly make it.

Referring to future recognition, George MacDonald asks the question:"Shall we be greater fools in paradise than we are here?" This is a good question, but it is beside the point. It hardly appears to me that our values will be the same there that they are here.

There is no question but that we shall know one another there, but possibly it will be more in what we really are, not for what we seem to be. Disrobed of some of the subterfuge we can hide behind in this life, our knowledge will have to be along the lines of Spiritual values.

A related question to this one, is whether or not those who have gone before, know what we are doing. The rich man knew the state of his five brothers, but that is probably in rememberance of what it was when he left them.

However, there may be an affirmative answer to this question in that the Martyrs(Rev.6:9-10) seemed to know that the Lord had not yet avenged their blood.

I believe if we knew every one up there, we would have a division of fellowship, the same as we have here: we would all1 be interested in looking for our own loved ones,(going back to self again) and ignoring our brother.

If we could not find them there; where would our thoughts be diverted to? There would be only one other place for them to be!

Wm. E. Robison.

(This is one of the last articles ever received by the Courier from Brother Bill Robison,who passed on to the other side a few weeks ago. I'm sure all who knew him in this life will miss him very much. These last two articles of his will or should give us a lot to think and study on.)

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THE HOLY GHOST

We may think of the Holy Ghost as some mysterious phantom not easily understood; but as far as man is concerned, it has been explained in the Bible pertaining to him.

First, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost. Matt. 1:20.

Second, The word was received by the Holy Ghost. John 14:26.

Third, Miraclous power was given by the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:4.

Fourth, Salvation is by the Holy Ghost since the word is by the Holy Ghost Rom. 1:16. Acts 2:17, "...I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh..." The Spirit which he poured out was teh Spirit of Truth. John 15:26. Now out of dosen't signify being filled as were the Apostles. Acts.2:4.

1 Cor. 12:4,"now there are diversities of gifts,but the same Spirit." We see there are diversities of Spiritual gifts and these were given in individual parts.

1 Cor. 13:10,"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." These miracles were performed to confirm the new doctrine,Mk. 16:20. After having confirmed the word there was no more need for them, 1Cor.1:6.

Acts 2:38, Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Notice 'the' indicates one. The next verse tells us what it is. Verse 39, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." 1 John 2:25,"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."

Considering the above scriptures, it would appear God's dealing with us has been exclusively by the Holy Ghost, Our Saviour, Our Testament, Our Salvation.

The Holy Ghost is the invisible hand of God.

In Christian Love,
Lawrence Arnett
4449 So.Carpenter Rd.
Modesto, California95351
Phone: 5379720

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IT EAKES MORE THAN A NAME

Some religious people wear the right name, but hold membership in a church that is unscriptural in faith,doctrine, organization and practice. In this way, a right name may be wrongly applied. You may call a car a Cadillac: but if it has a Ford motor, Ford chasis, and only Ford parts; it still is a Ford regardless of what you call it.

This condition is similiar to that of the man that was attracted by the cry of a young boy selling hot apple pie, the man bought one and when he tasted it, it was not hot and it was not apple, and he told the boy, and the boy said, 'yes I know that, its just the name I give my pies.' So we have to look under the crust to see what is inside.

If you are baptized into a faith you can't read about in the Bible, you went into the eater dry and come out wet, you were't baptized into anything, and nobody can shake you in.

Eph. 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism."

With Love of the Truth,
Bro. V.E. "Dutch" Staggs
Rt. 1 Box 861A
Yuma, Arizona 85364

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EUGENE, OREGON

Flu and car trouble has caused the congregation to lessen. Sisters Sevier, & Peavy and Bro. Starnes have had car trouble,; Sister Seviers step-son and Bro. Starnes each came back into the fold.

Sister Van Devender isn't able to be out.Brother Dale Roberts has the flu.

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Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts. Proverbs 21:2

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brethren:

The flu has invaded the Yuma congregation. I think every family has the flu or has had it in the last few weeks. Other than the flu we are all in reasonably good health now.

Our gospel meeting is scheduled for April 23rd thru the 30th. Bro.Roger Bixler of Aztec, New Mexico, will do the preaching, the Lord willing. Everyone is invited to come and hear a fine young Christian preacher preach the gospel. We will enjoy having everyone that can make it, come and stay for the weekend or for the entire week. Try our hospitality.

To those that have never visited Yuma, we meet Lords Day morningss at 1o45 a.m. and evenings at 7 p.m.-1st & 16th Ave.

We do enjoy the paper and want again, at this time of the year, to thank all of you that work on it.

Christian Love,
Harry Dye

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AKIN, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren in Christ:

I'm writing concerning the new congregation of the church at Akin, Oklahoma. Thus far it has been blessed with new people every Lords Day. We have had one baptism and two confessions of faults.

I preached the first sermon for the new congregation. Bro. Jim Bryant and myself have been trying for sometime to get a place to worship in Akin and it was a great pleasure to us when we found this community building available.

My wife and I, our daughter Bonnie, her husband, Ralph Rhodes & children, our daughter Vivian, her husband Jack Padgett & baby Matthew Lee; The Bryant family, Jim,Connie, their son Sam, and their daughters Debbie, Jamey,& Cindy; & Bro. Jim Beng. We had four visitors the first service. The prospects look very good. Although there are five Baptist churches in the neighborhood.

Pray for us, we need the prayers of the faithful every where.

I drive 35 miles each way to be with the them and help out. The Bryant family are young in the faith, but very faithful.

We meet at 10:30 a.m. Lords Day morning. 6pm. Lords Day evenings. Everyone is welcome. Any of our preaching brothers are welcome to come and preach for us.

The directions how to reach the Community building from Stilwell is: Hwy.59 south to 101 East. Turn left on 101 five miles to Akin. The building is on the right side of the road. Brother Earl Atchley of Westville made us a sign to put up out on the side of the road infront of the building. Any further information contact Jim Bryant Rt.1 Sallisaw,Okla. Pho.775-2849- Hayse Morris for the Church at Akin, Oklahoma.

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Again from Modesto congregation, which meets each Lords Day morning at 10:30 and in the evening at 6:30 at the corner of Glenn and Dallas Streets, welcomes you to come be with them at any or all of their worship times.

Our ailing brothers and sisters are somewhat better at this present time. Bro. Carter, who is 90yrs. past, is able to be back at worship, after a very long severe illness. We are proud to have Sister Elizabeth Stark back at worship after a lengthy illness, very thankful she progressed very nicely, missing the surgery, we reported in January issue, that she might have to have. Sister Alice Weakley fell breaking two ribs, but is doing well and able to attend worship now.

Bro.& Sis. Gene McKinney of Brentwood,Calif., Brother Johnny McKinney of Grass Valley, Calif., and their other brother James and his wife Louise of Brentwood made a very rushed trip shortly after the 1st of this year to Yakima, Washington due to their mother, Sister Vestal McKinney being hospitalized, with a serious spell with her heart. She is now improving nicely and is home and was able to attend worship Jan. 30th. She is also the mother of Sister Evelyn Lamb of Yakima. The McKinney boys & wives returned home safely after very bad weather most of all those long miles.

While printing the news for the Modesto congregation, we have been asked by Sister Annis Brown of Waterford congregation to thank each and everyone for the many cards letters, calls & prayers, during all her illness. They were all greatly appreciated. She underwent surgery Dec. 21st 1971, after a very lengthy illness. She is doing well and was able to be back to worship Jan. 30th.

Bro. Ben Rollins, whom many of you know, as he preached for a good many years at many congregations in the past, is still in a convalscent home in Modesto, where he has been many years. Anyone wishing to write or send him a card, you may do so to: Driftwood Convalscent Hospital 1611 Scenic Drive. Modesto,Cal.95350.

As this was being printed we received word that Sister Nollie Bowen, sister of Sister Allie Baxley of Modesto, passed from this life and will be laid to rest Tuesday morning, Feb. 15th at 10:30 a.m. Sorry we have no more information at this time. Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Sister Bowen, eho met with this congregation for a number of years until a short time ago.

We have just set our spring meeting date; March 26th thru Easter Sunday, April 2nd each evening at 7:30 p.m. with Brother Howard McCay of Yakima, Washington doing the speaking. We cordially invite each and everyone to come and be with us, and bring someone and many with you. We are scattered around the area and if you need a place to stay here are some phone numbers to call:Modesto,Bro. Al Burtis 523-6387-Stockton,Bro.J.D.Logan-464-4961 and Brentwood,Bro.Gene McKinney-634-3194-

ATTENTION!

This may seem a little early, to start planning or announcing your spring and summer meetings, as we said before, but many have to set their vacations at the first part of the year and many like to plan, in order to be with congregations in their meeting or meetings or a camp meeting some place.

PLEASE PLAN NOW! As soon as possible, send us your dates and times. If you need a speaker and can't afford one, let the Courier know, someone can and will donate his time. There are numerous speakers throughout the Brotherhood.

Remember, this is your paper: so please help, by sending us articles and news as quickly as possible. People will be edified and strengthened by articles; Then news helps us become better acquainted with one another.

The Courier Staff.

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MEETING DATES

Modesto, California-March 26-April 2-Bro. Howard McCay

Yuma, Arizona- April 23- April 30- Bro. Roger Bixler

Yakima, Washington-June 4- June 10- Bro. J.D.Logan

Port Orchard, Washington-June 11-June 18- Bro. J.D.Logan

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THE ANVIL OF GOD'S WORD

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

"And so," I thought, "The Anvil of God's Word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
Yet, thugh the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unchanged, the hammers gone."

John Clifford.

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There is a power in the Word of God that positively changes men's lives. In this Book the drunkard, the profligate, the thief, and every kind of sinner can find re