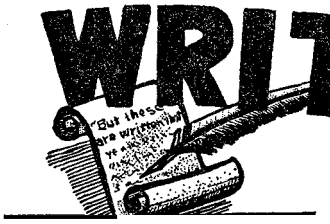
"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:31)

IT IS WRITTEN



THIS PAPER IS DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF UNDENOMINATIONAL NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

SEPTEMBER, 1956

"IT IS WRITTEN" came into being several years ago, as a friendly, informative periodical, sent out free of charge to all whom the editor (J. S. Bedingfield) thought would be interested. Its primary purpose was to hold forth the word of TRUTH, and to present the truth, plainly and fairly on all religious subjects. Another purpose was to help all who are seeking the true worship, to be united in fellowship and purpose. It has been the means of many people finding a scriptural place of worship, and of locating other Christians who were of like precious faith. Another purpose was to publish the news and activities among the Brotherhood, in order that we might have more interest and zeal in the Lord's work.

Today, as I take over the responsibility of editing "IT IS WRITTEN," I pledge to carry out that purpose, to the best of my ability.

I humbly ask the help of faithful Brothers and Sisters, everywhere, in carrying out this task. I need articles for publication, and also would like to have a news item from every congregation in the Brotherhood. "IT IS WRITTEN" is interested in YOUR congregation, in your plans, in your efforts, in your triumphs, in your joys and in your sorrows.

I will be assisted by a man, who I am sure is approved among you all, Bro. Paul Ferguson of Buena Park, Calif. Now Brethren, let us all take interest, and work together to set before the Brotherhood, and the world, the best paper possible, dedicated to the great task before us, of "Speaking the TRUTH in love."

Your Editor, J. W. BEDINGFIELD
P. 0. Box 441, Magdalena, N. M.

gdfivaal

By J. W. Bedingfield

What quality was it in the character of the man, Jesus, that caused him to weep over the city of Jerusalem? Matt. 23:37 "0 Jerusalem, Jerusalem thou that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." Was it tender heartedness? sympathy? pity? It was a great deal more than this. We find this same quality in the character of the Apostle Paul, hear him in Rom. 10:1 "Brethren my heart's desire and prayer to God, for Israel is that they might be saved."

Now remember, Paul was speaking here about the Jews, the very people who were lying in wait to kill him. In II Cor. 11:26 Paul says that he was in peril of his own countrymen. Also in verse 24, he says that he was beaten by the Jews five times. In the 14th chapter of Acts we find that they stoned Paul and cast him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. Many other disturbances are recorded where Paul was abused and mistreated by his own countrymen, and yet we hear him say, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel, is that they might be saved." Like Jesus, he was weeping over the lost ones, even though they were his enemies.

When Stephen was stoned to death, he cried with a loud voice "Lord lay not this sin to their charge." Acts 7:60. When Christ died on the cross, he said "Father, forgive them."

Yes it was more than just sympathy and pity, that caused Christ to weep over the lost. It was a sincere love for his fellow man. It was a deep concern over the fate of others, even though they were his own murderers. This same concern for the souls of his fellow man, this same love for mankind led Paul through perils on land and sea, in hunger and sickness, in weariness and abuse. He devoted a lifetime, and then finally gave his life, trying to save the souls of those who were in a lost condition, in the sight of God. There is a lesson on conversion here, too. We remember the account of the stoning of Stephen, and we see a stony hearted Saul consenting to his death. Later we see this same cruel Saul, on his way to Damascus to persecute his fellow man, but on the way, he learned something about Jesus. Notice the difference in this man Paul as he goes about, seeking to save that which he once destroyed.

Peter says, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart, fervently." I Peter 1:22. John says in I Jno. 4:20, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his Brother, he is a liar." Now this is plain teaching, that if we are Christians, we are to love one another, but the MASTER himself says "Love your enemies." If we love our fellow man, we will be concerned over his soul's salvation, and will say like Paul, "My heart's desire and prayer to God is that they might be saved."

IT IS WRITTEN

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In our grandfather's time, it was not uncommon for some men to devote a life time to preaching the gospel to the lost, with no thought of temporal gain, in fact they were very thankful to get a few items of produce for holding a month long meeting. A few apples, potatoes, a ham, or some homemade molasses would send him bravely on to the next chance to preach the word. Why did they do this? Because they loved their fellow man, and cared for his soul. They were men who like Paul had truly been converted, and had the mind of Christ. These men were preaching the gospel because they loved the truth, and because they loved the Lord. This was before the day of the salaried minister, with his furnished house free, and his year's contract with a guaranteed salary, and a paid vacation. This was before the day of the furnished "Study," with the great library of books, a desk, and a comfortable chair, into which no ordinary member can go without first securing permission, by appointment.

Brethren, let us take heed. How is our zeal toward the lost? How concerned are we over the fate of the lost? How deep is OUR love for our fellow men? I John 3-18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in DEED and in TRUTH."

We become like that which we constantly admire.

WE SHOULD HAVE A BIBLE EDUCATION

By Willie Doan

Why should we? Well, because first, if we don't study the Bible, and divide it as it should be, we can be lead to believe a lie and be lost, as we will find in II Thess. 2:11-12 "For this cause God shall send them strong delusions, that they should believe a lie. That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrightousness." If we don't know what the truth is, how are we to know what to believe? That is why Paul told Timothy in II Tim. 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." We know that there is a right and a wrong way, to divide the thruth, and it must be divided the right way to please God.

We find in I Thess. 5:11 where we are to impart instructions to each other. "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another even as also ye do." So you see, we can't instruct another the right way, if we don't know the right way ourselves. In Eph. 5:6 we find these words "Let no man deceive you with vain words, for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." We can be deceived by man's words, by not knowing what the word of God tells us. Therefore we should have a Bible education.

Let us read Deut. 6:6-7 "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart, and thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up." Let us read I Jno. 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Well the word of God is spirit and truth. St. John 6:63. "It is the spirit that quickeneth. The flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." The only way we can try the spirits is to apply the word of God to all spirits, and all that don't measure up to what the word of God tells us is false. So we should have a Bible education, to know just how to try the spirits, in using the Bible as our guide.

There is another scripture that tells us how men will come to us, dressed in sheeps clothing, and have a deceiving way. Matt. 7:15. "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are raven-

ing wolves," which means that they will devour greedily, or put the word of God to shame. So you see it is very important that we have a Bible education.

So, my love goes out for everyone, everywhere. Yours truly,

Willie Doan
Rt. 1, Box 343
Broken Bow, Okla.

We appreciate this timely article, very much, Bro. Doan. We hope that you will continue to be one of our regular writers. Would appreciate it, if you would send us the news from that section of the country. Ed.

Brother Paul Ferguson will hold a gospel meeting at the Church of Christ at Lugert, Okla., Aug. 5 through Aug. 12. From there on to Arkansas, where he will probably do some more preaching. Brother W. H. Francis reports that all is ready for a good meeting and all are invited to attend. Several out of town visitors are expected. Our prayers and best wishes, for this effort at Lugert.

———

Brother J. S. Bedingfield of Bryte, Calif., reports two recent baptisms there. Our hearts rejoice with them.

THE FALL AND RISE OF MAN

(No . 3)

By L. L. Coleman

In my first article, I endeavored to show when Satan appeared, and how he was ensnared by Satan; and again in the second article, the same.

Now in the 19th chapter of Genesis, we find God again dealing with men as a result of their being ensnared by Satan. At the time of the angels' appearing, Abraham was 99 years old when God promised that in his seed should all nations of the earth be blessed. After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot took his two daughters and went to dwell in the mountains out of Zoar, where he had fled from Sodom. And they both got with child of their father and bore a son apiece.

In Chapter 20, Abraham went and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur and sojourned in Gerar. And here again we see the work of Satan in Abraham, for he said of Sarah, "She is my sister," where as she was his wife; but notice how God watched over him and protected Sarah from Abimelech, the king of Gerar.

In Chapter 21 God visited Sarah, and she bore Abraham a son in his old age, as God had promised; and he called his name Isaac (Vs 1-8). Now, it is not often that God told a man to listen to his wife in anything, but, in the next verse — 9-21 — he told Abraham to listen to Sarah and do what she told him to do, for as we can see by the Truth given in Gal. 4:21-31, it stood for a sign of the two covenants which came later.

Please turn and read in Gen. 21:9-21. Notice also in the next verses how Abimelech and Phichol came to seek security against any trouble which they imagined Abraham might cause them later on (Vs. 22-23).

Let us notice in Chapter 22 how promptly Abraham obeyed God when he put him to the test regarding obedience. This was the supreme test, if you please. In Chapter 23 Sarah died and Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah in Hebron and buried her there.

In Chapter 24, he sent his head servant to his father's house to take a wife for Isaac, and he brought back Rebekah, whom Isaac took to be his wife, and he loved her. In Chapter 25:1-11, Abraham took another wife who bore him six more sons; then Abraham died and Isaac and Ishmael, his sons, buried him in the cave of Machpelah. Vs. 12-18 give the generations of Ishmael. Vs. 19-34 give Isaac's generation, and Esau sold his birthright for a "mess" of pottage. This again was Satan at work, and later he came again and worked through Jacob and Rebekah as pertaining to the blessing.

In Chapter 26:1-5, Isaac went into the land of the Philistines and "The Lord appeared unto him," and told him not to go into Egypt but remain in the land where he was, and said God, "I will bless thee" etc. Again, Satan "gets in his lick" (Vs. 6:16). As Abraham had done about Sarah, so did Isaac about Rebekah; he said, "She is my sister." After Abimelech reproved him for it, he left Gerar and moved into the valley of Gerar and dwelt there (Vs. 17-25); and there arose a controversy between the Philistines' herdsmen and Isaac's herdsmen over the wells. In Vs. 26-33, Abimelech went to him and made a covenant with him as he had done before with Abraham. In Vs. 34, 35, Esau took two wives of the daughters of the Hittites to displease his father and his mother.

In Chapter 27:1-5, Isaac sent Esau to hunt and prepare him savory meat such as he loved. While Esau was gone — Vs. 647 — Rebekah persuaded Jacob to kill two kids of the goats, and she prepared savory meat and also prepared Jacob to deceive Isaac so that Jacob could receive the blessing instead of Esau, which thing was accomplished (Vs. 18-29), so that when Esau returned to his father with savory meat, Isaac had already eaten and blessed Jacob who had departed just before Esau arrived. (Vs. 30-40.) In Vs. 41-46, Esau hated Jacob and decided to kill him, but Rebekah heard of it and told Isaac; so they sent Jacob to the house of Laban (Rebekah's brother) until Esau should get over his anger (Ch. 28:1-5). Then in Vs. 6-9, Esau took another wife of the land of Canaan to spite his parents. In Vs. 10-15, Jacob started toward Haran, but night found him on the way; and while he slept with stones for a pillow, he dreamed, and God talked with him, and renewed the promise he had made to Abraham and Isaac. In Vs. 16-22, when Jacob awoke he realized that God was in the place, so he took the stone he had used and set it for a pillar and poured oil on it and named the place Bethel; and he vowed a vow to God.

In Chapter 29:1-14, Jacob me et s Rachel and falls in love with her and is welcomed by Laban. Next, we see Jacob beginning to reap some of what he sowed earlier. First in Vs. 15-30, Jacob served seven years for Rachel, but had to take Leah first and then Rachel for whom he had to serve another seven years, making 14 years altogether. Thus we see he paid some of the debt of deceit. But rest assured that this also is Satan's doing that Laban deceived him. In Vs. 31-35, God blessed Leah because she was hated, and she bore Jacob two sons. Chapter 30:1-13: Here again is more payment in that Rachel bore no children but by her handmaid who bore two sons. Also did Leah's handmaid bear two sons to Jacob.

I thought when I started out with this I might cover the entire Bible outline in 10 articles, but, the lessons about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the children of Israel are so valuable to us that I cannot slight them by cutting them down to so brief an outline. Please notice in these next verses — 14-21 — how Leah hired Jacob from Rachel. Poor Rachel, how she must have longed for her own child in her arms. In Vs. 25-36, Jacob asked to be let go, but finally he made a deal with Laban and stayed longer. Again in Vs. 37-43, notice how Jacob built up his herds by trickery. Yet God blessed Jacob, because he was Abraham's seed, and his flocks increased.

Next, we shall study Jacob fleeing from Laban.

L. L. Coleman
107 First St.
Watsonville, Calif.

Thank you, Bro. Coleman, for this good article. We have been following your commentary with much interest. Next month will carry article No. 4. Ed.

NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Brother Howard Studer of Lorenzo, Texas, reports that they have bought a large corner lot in Lorenzo and hope to have a building moved on it by this fall. The church now meets in Bro. and Sister Studer's home. We bid Godspeed to these faithful Christians in their efforts, and their devotion to duty.

A LETTER

Dear John,

Things are not so good around here. It is getting dryer and dryer, and now the grasshoppers are eating up everything that is left. The way prices are, it wouldn't do much good to raise a crop anyway. Folks around here can't hardly afford the gasoline to come to church regular anymore. At least, that is the excuse they give.

My nearest neighbor (you know the one I mean), said to me the other day that he didn't see why the Lord wanted to send so much trouble on him, what with the drought and the low prices and the grasshoppers, and his well gone dry, and one of his best milk cows up and died last week. I don't know why he blames it on the Lord, though. As I recall, a few years ago when prices were the highest in history and it was raining just right, he was selling weaning calves for a hundred dollars a piece, and really making money. But you know I never did hear him give the Lord any credit for that. I never heard him even thank the Lord for the good things, but now he blames the Lord for sending the bad things.

That's the way with a lot of folks; when things are going good with them, they brag about how smart they are, and what good managers they are, and then when trouble comes they s a y, "Why does the Lord want to punish me so?"

Like my neighbor, now, when he was making so much money, you couldn't get him to come to church, not even for the big meeting when we had all day singing and dinner on the ground. He was always too busy. They were always going off to the city, to the conventions and the fairs, or the horse races, or the shows. He was always buying something new, and you couldn't hardly talk to him about the Lord. He was always telling you what big things he was going to do.

He reminded me of that feller over there in the 12th chapter of Luke, verses 16 through 21. That was a sad case, wasn't it? That feller was sure making the plans, wasn't he? Only thing, he didn't include God in his plans. A sad case. Lots of folks like that these days though.

I eat dinner with some folks just the other day. They had a wonderful meal there, but they didn't even offer thanks for it. Only time their kids ever heard anybody pray was at a fourth of July picnic, and a funeral.

Like I said, things are not so good around here these days, but I am not blaming the Good Lord for it. We still have a roof over our heads (least it's good enough this dry weather), and we still got beans from last year, yet. I had a chance to trade them for a television the other day, but I don't know about them things. I never seen much good in them myself, beside you can't eat them, and it looks like another hard winter.

So like I say — we ain't got much, but we are thankful for what we do have, and we are thankful that we don't live in China or Russia or some place like that where we couldn't even go to church and serve the Lord like we can here. Because, even if we don't have much here, and things are pretty tough, just think of the mansion that is prepared for us up above, that is, if we do His commandments while we are here.

So we intend to have a home up there some day, where just one square foot of the pavement on the street is worth more than this whole section, improvements and all.

How is everything with you folks?

Sincerely,
Happy Walker

SICK LIST

Our sick list, as reported at this writing, include: Brother Claude Scott of Lorenzo, Texas; Sister Bessie Dye of Somerton, Ariz.; Brother W. A. Nelson of Somerton, Ariz.; and Brother Earl Atchley. Our prayers for a speedy recovery for all of you.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

By J. S. Bedingfield

This is a subject of vast importance, and the grandest theme that ever engaged the mind of man. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jno. 3:15.) This is God's truth, but what does "believe in" or "believe on Jesus" mean? John said, "For neither did his brethren believe in Him" (Jno. 7:5).

Does this mean that they did not believe that he existed? We know that it does not. We know that it means that they did not believe his statements, his claims, and his doctrines. For example, I ask the Democrats if they believe in the Republican Party, and they reply, "No." The reason for this is that they do not believe their statements, their claims, nor their doctrines. The same is true if you ask a Republican if he believes in the Democratic Party, for he does not believe the claims, statements, nor doctrines of the Democratic Party.

Another example may be found where Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). If we do not believe that statement we do not believe "in" or "on" Jesus, for when we set aside one of his statements we have denied that he is truthful, and thereby have denied his divinity.

We see then that to believe "in" or "on" Jesus, we must believe every statement he made, even Mark 16:16, for it is Jesus' words. Therefore, we understand that faith includes obedience to the things believed.

The apostle Paul said, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Hence, we see that we must hear and believe everything that God says. The Bible says that we must *hear* (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:2). Hence, when we hear Jesus by hearing his words, it is an *act of faith.* The Bible says that we must believe (Mark 16:15, 16; Rom. 10:10; Heb. 11:6). Again, we see that when we believe what God says, it is an *act of faith.* Jesus himself said that to believe was the *work* of God (John 6:29). We hear the word of God say "repent" (Luke 13:2-5; Acts 2:38). Therefore, when we "repent," this is an *act of faith* (Rom. 10:17). We hear the word of God say, "confess" (Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9; Acts 8:37). Hence, since faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17), and we "confess," it is an *act of faith.*

We hear the word of God say, "be baptized" (Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-6; I Pet. 3:21). Therefore, when we believe those statements, that is *faith;* but when we obey those statements by being baptized, that is an *act of faith.* Paul brings this out beautifully in Gal. 3:26, 27. "For we are all the children of God *by faith* in Christ Jesus" (verse 26); then he tells us at the exact point that we become "children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." "For as many of you as have been *baptized* into Christ have put on Christ" (verse 27). Isn't that plain? The following is additional proof that we *obey faith* and faith is made perfect by works: A great company of priests were *obedient to the faith* (Acts 6:7). *"Faith is obeyed"* among all nations (Rom. 1:5). Again: "For the *obedience of faith,"* (Rom. 16:26). "Faith works by love" (Gal. 5:6). The Thessalonians had a *work of faith* (I Thess. 1:3). Noah *built* an ark *by faith* (Heb. 11:7). Abraham *obeyed* and sojourned by faith (Heb. 11:8, 9). Faith is dead without works (Jas. 2:17). Our faith is "shown" by our works (Jas. 2:18). Faith without works is like devils faith (Jas. 2:19). Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:20). Abraham's faith was made perfect by works (Jas. 2:21-23) . We are not justified by faith only (Jas. 2:24), because faith without works is as dead as a body without a spirit (Jas. 2:25).

Friend, won't you *obey faith,* by hearing, believing, repenting, confessing and being *baptized* into Christ (Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:27) ? May God Bless you to do it is my prayer.

Box 767
Bryte, Calif.

NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Vacation time is here. Don't forget GOD on your vacation. Plan your trip so that you can attend services and worship with the faithful brethren while you are away from home.

Brother and Sister Roy Dabbs and daughters, Carolyn and Flora R u t h, from Aztec, N. M., visited with us at Magdalena last week end, also our son, Jay. We enjoyed having them with us very much. Brother Dabbs reports that all is well with the church at Aztec. Two weeks ago he baptized his daughter, Mrs. Betty Thompson. That makes all four of their daughters members of the church and all worshiping at Aztec. Congratulations, Roy and Myra, for a job well done. Now you can start on those grandchildren.

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1. The disciples drank of a cup containing the fruit of the vine, when Jesus instituted the Supper. (admittted.)
2. But the disciples drank The Cup of the Lord when Jesus instituted the Supper. (admitted.)
3. Therefore, in the Lord's Supper, to drink of a cup containing the fruit of the vine is to drink the Cup of the Lord.
1. The disciples did not drink from a plurality of cups when Jesus instituted the Supper.
2. But the disciples drank the Cup of the Lord when Jesus instituted the Supper.
3. Therefore, to drink of a plurality of cups is not to drink the Cup of the Lord.

Brethren, the paper is small this time, as there was not much time or material on hand, and I did not want to delay any longer about going to press, but next month I think I can promise you a paper that you will approve. I will have more time to devote to it next month, and we will have some new writers and some of the older ones back. So Brethren, let us all try together one more time and see if we can't do some good with this paper. Send in your articles, your news and your suggestions. I promise you that they will receive prompt and courteous attention.

While I am asking for news and articles for publication be sent to me, maybe I had better ask you to send Bro. Paul Ferguson (our business manager) some finances. He told me that we only inherited about $20 along with the paper, and we need more than that to send out this issue. We will make a complete financial report to the Brotherhood in each issue hereafter. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

—J. W. Bedingfield

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

It will be the policy of this paper to answer any Bible question, if we can find a Bible answer. If we can not find a Bible answer for you, we will so state.

—Editor

A Brother asks:

Q. What kind of cup did Christ use in the, or His, supper?

A. My Bible does not say what kind.

Q. What was it made of?

A. My Bible does not say what it was made of.

Q. Can you have a glass cup?

A. Why not?

Q. If you can, can it be used on the Lord's Table?

A. The Bible does not forbid the use of a glass cup, so I know of no reason why it could not be used.

Q. Is a coffe cup acceptable on the Lord's Table? If not, why not?

A. The Bible does not forbid the use of a coffee cup, so I know of no reason why it could not be used.

Q. When was the first coffee cup made, and shipped to this country?

A. My Bible does not tell me this, therefore I do not believe that it "pertains to life and Godliness."

Q. Did Christ ever specify just what kind of a cup to use in His Supper?

A. If so, it is not recorded in the divine pages of inspiration, which thoroughly furnish us to all good works.

If you have a Bible question, that you would like to have answered in the paper, send it to the editor, Box 441, Magdalena, N. M.