

# THE

# HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

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## PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Many of us today are always quick to judge others. We usually feel it is our responsibility to do so. But when those same people judge us in return, how much quicker we are to object to such treatment! "That isn't fair", we cry. Or is it? Just who is qualified enough to judge others?

*"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself*

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to God!" (Rom. 14:10-12) It is very plain, from verse 10, that we are to be very careful when we judge others because we, ourselves, will also be judged -- by someone greater than us! Notice also the phrases in our text: *ALL stand, EVERY knee, EVERY tongue, EVERY one.* This definitely implies that there will be no exceptions when it comes to the great Judgment Day. Therefore, we need to worry more about our OWN righteousness than that of others! A father cannot be baptized for his son nor can a daughter repent for her mother's sins. (Ezek. 18:20) Each individual has a personal responsibility for his own life because *"every one of us shall give account of himself to God!"* Now let us discuss a few of the things for which we are personally responsible.

First of all, each one of us is accountable for what we acquire. *"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."* (2 Cor. 9:6,7) The farmer who sows a million seeds is most likely to reap more than the farmer who only sows a hundred seeds. Therefore, the lesson of verse 6 is simple: Give Generously! *"He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor."* (Prov. 22:9) What we own and how much we own will determine whether we have sowed sparingly or bountifully. It will also tell whether we have sowed the right things or not. A man who is rich materially may be poor spiritually. *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God!"* (Luke 12:21) It is your personal responsibility to see that you become rich in the right things and in the right ways. *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!"* (Matt. 6:21)

Second, we must all be answerable for the things we say in our lifetime. *"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned!"* (Matt. 12:36,37) In verse 36, the Greek word for "idle" is defined as "inactive, lazy, useless, barren, or slow". I wonder how many of us are guilty of speaking "idle" words? Do we ever say things that we later wish we hadn't said? Now we can truly appreciate the wise saying found in Proverbs 25:11, *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver!"* In verse 37 of Matthew 12, we find that our words have a heavy influence on our eternal destiny. Those who confess Christ with the mouth shall be saved (Rom. 10:9); those who deny Him will be lost (Matt. 10:33). Because God takes notice of every single word we say, we have a personal responsibility to see that our speech is always pure and not "idle". *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man!"* (Col. 4:6)

Third on our list is the responsibility of the deeds we do here on earth. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad!"* (2 Cor. 5:10) We all realize that there are only two kinds of deeds that can possibly be done: good deeds and bad deeds. There are no "in-between" deeds nor "part-time" doers, either. If a man tries to do good works only 99 % of the time, he is not a Christian in the sight of God! *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all!"* (Jas. 2:10) See also Ezekiel 33:13. Likewise, there can only be two kinds of rewards which can be

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bestowed upon man: a crown of life for the doer of good deeds or a sentence of death for the doer of bad deeds. Therefore, if we want that incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:25) we must see to it that we always do good deeds. *"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men!"* (Titus 3:8)

Last of all, we are all accountable for what we know. *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin!"* (Jas. 4:17) The Word of God is very plain concerning those who "know better". If you do something that you know is wrong, the sin is that much greater on account of your knowledge. The reason is that you are sinning against your own God-given conscience. *"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men!"* (Acts 24:16) See also Romans 7:15-23. Hence, we are personally responsible to do that which we know is right.

As we grow older, we realize how much our responsibilities increase. *"For every man shall bear his own burden!"* (Gal. 6:5) We must all strive for spiritual riches, to say pure things, to do good works, and to know the right things to do. Then we shall all be judged according to how we have lived here in this

world "and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor" (1 Cor. 3:8)

RAY McMANUS  
(copied from July 1983  
issue of The Lifeline)

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Whose sons did God say would die on the same day?
2. Who bore many people's sins in his own body?
3. As a Christian, how should one treat strangers?
4. Who came first, Gideon or Samson?
5. The second temple in Jerusalem was ordered to be built by what Gentile king?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who did Saul ask the medium to conjure up from the dead? SAMUEL (1 Sam. 28:11)
2. In the book of Revelation, how long could the locust sting men? FIVE MONTHS (Rev. 9:5)
3. Who does the Lord discipline? THOSE HE LOVES (Prov. 3:12)
4. In what language did Paul hear the voice from heaven speaking to him on the road to Damascus? HEBREW (Acts 26:14)
5. What does Jeremiah tell the women of Israel to teach their daughters? TO WAIL (Jer. 9:20)

## SOMEBODY LIED TO US

We were told that if we would relax about sex, take our clothes off and not get all uptight about it, there would be no more sex crimes. So we let it all hang out and sex crimes and rape have doubled.

We were told that our children need to be taught sex education in the schools to stop the number of illegitimate births in America. So with all the sex education, the number of unmarried teenage girls having babies has more than doubled.

The greatest number of illegitimate births occur in areas where the Planned Parenthood organization is successful in teaching sex education unrestricted by the schools.

We were told that we were too tough on criminals and that if we would go easy on them and be nicer to them, the rate of violent crimes would decrease. So we did, and violent crimes have more than doubled. Crimes will be kept in check when the penalty is at least as severe as the crime.

We were told that our schools must boot God out and rely on enhancing Junior's intelligence. So we kicked God out of our public school system. Now our schools are plagued with crimes and dope.

The students are uncontrollable. The level of education is at an all-time low, and the dropout rate has never been worse. Officials do not know what to do.

Why should they be surprised? They got what they wanted. This is what you end up with in a godless school system. A godless system breeds godless citizens.

They told us we should not spank our children; that we should only speak to them and take away privileges. Yet we have raised up the most unruly, wild and rebellious generation America has known.

Our jails are full. Drug treatment centers are filled to capacity. Family crime has never been worse.

The Bible has the answer to man's problems. It says we should not be slothful in our business. In fact, it says he who does not work -- let him not eat.

It says women should dress modestly. It says do not steal anything -- ever!

It says you sleep only with your spouse. It says you do not do what you "want"; you do what you "ought".

The Bible is the inspired Word of God; but even if it were not, it is still the best book for an orderly existence.

Reprinted from Pulpit Helps  
Submitted by Buster Boyd

EVERY MAN IS ENTHUSIASTIC  
AT TIMES. SOME THIRTY MINUTES.  
SOME THIRTY DAYS. BUT IT IS  
THE MAN WHO IS ENTHUSIASTIC  
FOR THIRTY YEARS THAT GETS  
THE JOB DONE.

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
July 5 - 10	Temple Hill, MS	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
July 6 - 9	Hokes Bluff, AL 7:00 each evening	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
July 10- 12	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
July 10- 12	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
July 12- 17	Valley, AL 7:30pm E.S.T.	Miles Crouch (Dadeville, AL)
July 13- 17	Camp Meeting Sacramento, NM	Various speakers
July 19- 24	Oak Grove Church Woodland, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
July 26- 31	Rainsville, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
July 26- 31	Oak Valley Church Colquitt, GA	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
July 26 - Aug. 1 (Su-Sa)	Napolean Church Woodland, AL 7:00 p.m.	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

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*Sin is not hurtful  
Because it is forbidden  
But it is forbidden  
Because it is hurtful.*

-- Benjamin Franklin --