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MISSIONARY REVIVALIST SELECTIONS

**From the June, 1961 Issue of The Missionary Revivalist
Official Organ Of The Bible Missionary Church, Inc.**

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Digital Edition 08/14/2000
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THE NIGHT COMETH
Elbert Dodd

(John 9:4) "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." The day is far spent, the night is at hand, we do not know when or where but there is a stir in the air. We hear the footfalls of coming events. Presently some great crisis must intervene. Expectation has been exciting. This event may occur at any moment giving new direction and momentum to human history. It is so today and every day until Jesus comes.

Always there have been men who hear and see the sign of the coming age, men who put things together, who know that the night draweth nigh. The summer is here, the harvest cannot be long in whitening. Hear the firm, soft footfalls of prophetic fulfillment. Human history is not all past nor is it all future. There is a middle quantity. Are we slow to know the meaning of the signs? Today is the day of salvation. God knows no tomorrow. All ages are looking down on us. We must face the time of the end. No generation has ever known a greater illumination. We are not ignorant unless, we are willfully so, but that day will come. Let not insincerity dare God. There is a generation destined to suffer. The great tribulation: night is upon us, and we must work while we have the opportunity to work. The evidence that the night is near is the great testimony of the heavens, (Luke 21:25-26) "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth " Certainly we are living in that day of fear. Nature declares it and all the heavens testify to the fact.

Then there is great confusion in the political world. Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. Surely we are living in a day of rumors and confusion. It seems that Communism's great weapon is a weapon of confusion, and our people are blinded by the fact that this is the end or near

the end of this age; therefore they are in great confusion. Our politicians are confused, they know not which way to turn.

There is great exalting of the physical and material world. As it was in the days of Noe so shall it be at the coming of the Son of man. (Matthew 24:38-39) "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." We are living in the day of great buying and selling, and we are living in a day as it was in the days of Lot. They did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted and builded. Surely this is the time of the end and near the midnight hour. There is great destruction in the moral world. The destruction of womanhood, the destruction of the home, the destruction of everything that is worthwhile. Why would our people who profess to be holy not see these things? There is great deterioration in the spiritual world as it was in the days of Noe. There was the religion of Cain, no blood, no sacrifice, no separation; and the religion of Abel, the religion of blood and sacrifice and separation. We have the two great religions today, but the tragedy is, so many who one time could recognize the religion of Cain and run from it, are today swept in the great onslaught of this false religion. They have given in to it, They've given in to world entertainment and world dress and world fashions and fads and world sports while the world rushes on to hell.

There is great deterioration on one hand while God is revealing to His saints on the other hand. Surely this is the time of the approaching night. Even the best people are asleep. The wise virgins along with the foolish virgins have all slumbered and slept. Warnings are sounded, but few there be that take heed. Listen to the words of Jesus, "In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 24:44) Let us not sleep as do others, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep. The night is far spent, the day is at hand -- the day of reckoning. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, let us put on the armor of light so saith the Apostle Paul. The world is on fire, men are perishing in their sins and it is getting so late. Oh, sanctified, holy people arise today, man the life boats, cast out to sea, let nothing hold you back; reach, throw out the life line, hurry, hurry, the night cometh when no man can work!

I am praying every day that God will wake us up and help us to be ready for that hour when Jesus comes in the night and catches the bride away and the night of the tribulation settles down upon this earth. May we be ready for His coming; may we get everybody ready that we possibly can!

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EDITORIAL

By Spencer Johnson

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (I Chron. 16:29)

Julia Ward Howe wrote, in the Battle Hymn of the Republic, "In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea; With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me." The glory in his bosom that transfigures men and women is the blessed nature of holiness that Christ, through the power of the Holy Ghost, imparts to the souls of men. Holiness is beautiful because it is Christlike. The whole aim and purpose of salvation is to make men and women like Jesus Christ. To be made like Christ is to have all the things in the heart that are not like Him purged away and to possess the glorious liberty and freedom of His strength and virtue. The secret of living the Christlike life in the beauty of holiness is "Christ in you the hope of glory."

Holiness is beautiful because it is a life of love. There is no quality that is more godlike than love. The biggest word in the Bible outside of God is love. Love is both negative and positive. Love has both restraints and permissions within its bounds. No one can love the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength and his neighbor as himself without God's best enablement and God's best for humanity is holiness of heart and life. Holiness begets that love in us which is the fulfilling of the law. Wesley wrote: The heaven of heavens is love. There is nothing higher in religion; there is, in effect, nothing else; if you are looking for anything but more love you are looking wide of the mark." No wonder the song writer wrote: "O love that will not let me go, I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer fuller be."

Holiness is beautiful in its unselfishness. Sin causes one to be selfish and stingy. Holiness makes one utterly unselfish. Christ is first, others second, and self last in the holy life. Holiness produces real self-denial, self-forgetfulness, and self-effacement. In this selfish and grasping age, how bright does the unselfish life of holiness shine!

The beauty of holiness is the beauty of purity. Purity is both an inward and an outward virtue. It is a cleanliness of desire, motive and intention and as such it works its way out in every phase of living. The Holy man thinks clean thoughts and speaks clean words. Dirty stories, suggestive tales and slang expressions have no place in his life. The holy person is modest in his or her dress and appearance. The decorations and tinsels of the world are not needed nor desired in a holy life. A slovenly person is a poor example of godliness. Holy people are free from filthy habits. They are clean in desires, appetites, affections, habits and in every detail of life. The beauty of holiness is seen in clean thoughts, clean conversation, clean associations, clean hearts, and clean bodies. Holiness has always been a beautifier. Daniel and his companions were fairer than their heathen competitors. "He will beautify the meek with salvation."

Holiness is beautiful in its harmony. When one is sanctified holy he is in harmony with Heaven and his heart is attuned to the heart of God. Sanctification restores the harmony and fellowship between man and his Creator which was disrupted and broken in Eden. A holy heart does not run cross grain to the will of God.

Holiness harmonizes the people of God. It enables the existence of unity in diversity. There is a great variety of personalities all creations of God. All these personalities can be correlated and harmonized only when they are sanctified that they might be one. Holiness is the mortar that makes all the "lively stones" cling together into "an holy temple unto the Lord." "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." (Heb. 2:11)

Holiness is beautiful in its humility. "Be clothed with humility." What beautiful clothing! Holiness is that "charity that vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly."

Holiness supplies the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted, and he that exalteth himself shall be abased." This is altogether foreign to the wisdom and philosophy of the world. It is that wisdom that cometh down from above which is first pure then gentle and easy to be entreated. It is full of mercy and good works.

Holiness is beautiful in its heavenly-mindedness. The holy man's affections are set on things above. He has an atmosphere that reminds one of a better world and it diffuses such a fragrance and blessing that it lifts all who come within the sphere of his influence. Recently I heard a man tell how hungry he was in his spirit and how that when he first came to the church services the pastor looked on him with such a look of compassion that it made him think of Jesus. There is nothing any more beautiful in this world than the life of a saint of God, whose very presence and personality cause you to think of holy things. Holiness is the only hope of this lost world. Holiness beautifies Heaven. The church is beautiful. The redeemed of the Lord are beautiful. The bloodwashed host singing the song of Moses and the Lamb, the harpers of heaven, the millions of creation giving glory to God and the Lamb will furnish a scene of sublime beauty but Holiness is more beautiful than them all. It was the beauty of holiness that made them all attractive.

Holiness is beautiful in its quality of endurance. Man low and fallen, mean and wicked, can be saved and sanctified and live forever in the beauty of holiness! Greater than man, greater than the church, greater than any movement -- holiness is greater than all. Men and movements will perish and decay but Holiness will live on forever!

"I worship Thee, Sweet Will of God,
And all thy ways adore;
And every day I live, I seem
To love Thee more and more."

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WHY A CHRISTIAN SHOULD NOT WEAR A RING

By Spencer Johnson

The wearing of rings and jewelry in general has become such a common practice among professed Christians until many even in holiness churches have come to look upon the practice as non-essential or at the worst an "innocent vice." We believe there are many honest hearted people, who would shun it as they shun any other sin if they were given opportunity to look at it in the light of Scripture, influence and reason.

First consider what the Bible has to say concerning the wearing of rings and jewelry. "Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments And they gave unto Jacob all the

strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem. And they journeyed; and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob." (Genesis 35:2, 4, 5) Here we see the power of God coming upon them because they obeyed God in putting off their jewelry. The power of God would come upon many churches today if they would humble themselves in such a manner. In the book of Exodus we read of the children of Israel's disobedience in the matter of the golden calf. God had commanded them to bring the jewelry out of Egypt that they might use it in the decorating of the tabernacle but they had made them a golden calf and God was about to destroy them. "Therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee. And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb." (Ex. 33:5-6)

The stripping of themselves of their ornaments was considered as an act of repentance and God did not destroy them. In the book of Isaiah again we find God condemning it. Isaiah declares that it is an occasion of pride to the vain daughters of Zion. He is bold and names the instruments of their vanity. He names "Tinkling ornaments, bracelets, chains, earrings, nose jewels, rings, ornaments of the legs, head bands, etc." (Isa. 3:16-20) He names rings along with all other heathen jewelry without any exception for wedding bands. The prophet was preaching to married women who had sons and husbands in the war at that time. He declares that their vanity was the cause of the wars. The prophet Hosea states that the wearing of jewelry led Israel away from the Lord. (Hosea 2:13)

In the New Testament there are specific-instructions against the wearing of rings and jewelry. "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;" (I Timothy 2:8-9) Praying men and modest women without vanity make a great team for the advancement of God's cause. If one reads the rest of the chapter he will discover in verse 15 that the apostle is writing to married women and mothers and that he makes no exception for the wedding ring. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 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 to their own husbands." (I Peter 3:1-5)

The wearing of rings is a heathen custom. G. F. Owens says a ring denotes ownership. It denotes enslavement in heathen countries. The heathen would tie his bride with long water grass. He bound her hand and foot, then later he just tied her hand and now the modern heathen only use the ring. His purpose was to tame her and make her his slave. A Christian marriage is a companionship, not a relation between Master and slave. A Christian man and his wife are to be partners and heirs together of the grace of life.

The best spiritual people through the ages have not worn rings of any kind. There was a time when the wearing of Jewelry was not permitted in the holiness movement. There was no

question about it, not even the wedding ring was accepted. The early Methodists did not permit the wearing of rings. One of the reasons that the Puritans left the Anglican church and eventually came to America was that they did not believe in the wedding ring. We quote the following from United States history.

"The colony of Plymouth, which was the first permanent colony set up in New England, was sent out neither by the Plymouth Company nor by the Council for New England. It owed its origin to religious persecution. Such was the intolerant spirit common in England of the seventeenth century, that thousands who could not follow the majority in their religious beliefs and practices fled for freedom to the frontier in America as to a place of refuge. As has been said, 'Ever since the age of stone hatchets, colony planters have been drawn from the ranks of the uneasy.'

"After Martin Luther broke away from the Roman Catholic Church in Germany in the early part of the sixteenth century and formed the beginning of the Protestant group of churches, a quarrel arose between King Henry VIII of England and the Pope, which ended in the formation of the present Church of England quite independent of the Pope at Rome. Dissension arose as to what should be the nature of the new church.

"King Edward VI, 1547-1553, was in general loyal to the new church, as his father had established it. His sister, Queen Mary, 1553-1558, on the other hand, was an ardent Roman Catholic and sought to reinstate the power of the Pope throughout the realm. Her efforts failed, though she sought to enforce them by bitter persecutions and even burnings at the stake. Under Queen Elizabeth, 1558-1603, the third and last of the children of Henry VIII to ascend the throne, the Act of Supremacy was passed by Parliament, definitely divorcing the English Church from Rome, and requiring all the clergy and all holding political office to recognize the Queen as 'The Supreme Governor' of the Church. The Act of Uniformity provided for uniformity in worship, requiring the use of the Book of Common Prayer and enacting that the ornaments of the church and the vestments of the clergy should be those sanctioned under Edward VI.

"These arrangements did not satisfy all the reformers. The Puritans originated in the class of Protestants, who fled for temporary refuge from the persecutions of "Bloody Mary" to various German, Dutch and French towns, and to Geneva, Switzerland, where they imbibed the religious views of John Calvin. Returning to their English homes at the accession of Elizabeth, they contended for a purer prayer book and a purer form of worship as they expressed it. Though willing to accept a state church and to pay taxes for its support, they desired to purify it of ceremonies that reminded them of the Roman Church; they opposed the use of the cap and surplice in the church services, the making of the sign of the cross, the use of the ring in the marriage ceremony, and kneeling at the sacrament. The Queen and the majority of the nation clung to these forms because they loved them as a part of the church worship. Most of the Puritans in Elizabeth's time had not reached the point of separation from the established church. That branch of Puritans, however, called Independents, or Separatists, not only contended for a purer form of worship, but went farther and insisted that each congregation should be complete in itself and govern itself, independent of outside control. Unlike the majority they were not willing to be included within the Established Church, but wished to separate from it entirely and form a new church.

"Only the strongest-minded and the stoutest-hearted took the radical separatist position, and faced the fines, imprisonment, and even death which such a course often entailed "The procession of exiles from England for conscience sake started in the early days of Elizabeth's reign, when individual Separatists from time to time sought refuge in Holland, then the most tolerant of civilized countries in matters of religion " Although they enjoyed complete freedom of worship in their new home, as true sons of Old England the refugees saw with regret that their children were turning from their native language to that of the Dutch and were losing the manners and customs of England "Some of them too, who were not prosperous in business, desired to try their fortune elsewhere, and some were eager to spread the Gospel to the heathen in America. So they decided to become pilgrims again and seek a new home across the seas." (Pages 42, 43, 44. HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, by Emerson David Fire, Ph.D., Henry Holt and Company, New York.)

The fact that the wife of some founder or leader of a modern holiness church wore a wedding ring does not prove anything except that she was not what she should have been. History attests the fact that John Wesley's wife cursed and swore but that does not mean that the Methodist Church ever put its approval on cursing and swearing. Consider the weak and shallow arguments that people put up in defense of the wedding ring. There are those who claim that it reminds them of their love and loyalty to their husbands or wives. But a woman who really loves her husband needs no metal band to remind her of her deep devotion to the man to whom she has given her heart. Does a mother have to wear a ring for each one of her children to remind her of her love for that child? A. L. Vess comments, "If the wife must have a constant and outer reminder of her love to her husband it cannot be said, 'The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her so that she shall have no need of spoil.'"

There are those who argue that the ring protects them from insults from other men. A Modestly dressed woman who conducts herself properly will be respected more than one who depends on a ring for protection. It has been my observation on trains and buses that many women who wore rings commanded no respect from lewd and lustful men. If rings are necessary to protect the virtue of womanhood -- then what about the pure single women? A ring can be taken off or put on at will. It proves nothing. In 1955 there were 10 million rings sold and only 4 million marriages. If a woman wants real respect and protection let her dress modestly, and conduct herself properly. If she needs other protection why not carry the Bible?

Again we quote from A. L. Vess, "Some even argue that the wedding ring is so sacred that all should wear it. Chapter and verse please. The Bible only enjoins two sacred ordinances in the New Testament. But you say, 'My husband is so sacred.' Then why not worship him instead of his symbol? Is he so unreal that he must be symbolized to be realized? So is the Ox sacred in one country, the cat in another, and the ring in another. Which do you worship? Amusing?"

Still others argue that the wedding ring must be worn by all who are British subjects. But we happen to know some very devout married women who live in British territory who do not wear rings.

"Let us explode a few more bubbles of folly by good sound reasoning. If wedding rings are essential for the women, the men who are out in the world and exposed more than the women,

should have at least one or more rings. From physiological reasons and customs, a man can cover his sins much easier than the woman. Custom makes it easier for men to escape punishment and embarrassment. Therefore all men everywhere should be protected with rings so large and conspicuous that all women will sit up and take notice of their virtue, radiating out through their rings instead of their personalities? What wonderful protection. (?) Yes, yes, all men who may stray from home and virtue, should be "ringed," just as the hog which chances to stray from his pasture must be ringed to keep him from rooting up his master's crop or lawn. You say, "such folly." We say 'Amen,' for hogs and men." (A. L. Vess, *The Loophole*, page 28.)

Consider the waste of money on the wedding ring in professed holiness churches. One reason why the little Bible Missionary Church can do as much as it does for missions is the fact that none of its members wear rings of any kind and its ministry is forbidden to perform wedding ceremonies using the ring.

"Think of the churches and schools which could be builded and maintained with money spent on our own vanity. Think of the missionaries who could be supported around the world with cash wasted on vain professors Is there not some power to keep our husbands and wives pure, other than heathen charms, in order that this money might be spent for starving souls and bodies of multitudes the world around?"

"Why not inform the poor heathen that they are making an awful mistake in giving up their rings and other idols, and exposing themselves to lust and vice? But our most faithful missionaries tell us that the heathen do not know any better than to give up their rings and low morals when they get saved. Why not send them more rings and teach them to be broad and liberal like many of their American brothers and sisters? Or, better, have them come over and teach us, while we pay the bill with ring money? Of course, the heathen might reply, "We have tried rings and all such things, and we only fell into deeper immorality and sin; so we have decided to give up all and try Christ in His simplicity and holiness. Give us Christ and you may have the rings and all such things"

"The salvation we offer to all men cost the blood and suffering of the Son of God. Can we not give up the trifling things of time in order to invest all in the salvation of men?" (A. L. Vess, *The Loophole*, pages 29-30) Editor's note: The Book, "The Loophole" by A. L. Vess may be ordered from: The Bible Missionary Book Store, Box 696, Rock Island, Ill. The price is 35 cents.

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THE DANCE -- HAS THE LEOPARD CHANGED HIS SPOTS?

By H. F. Gilbert

"Oh! Can God ever forgive me? Can God ever forgive me?" These words were wrung from the bleeding heart of a girl, as she continued, "Oh! If I just had never learned to dance." In an unguarded hour she had sacrificed her virtue, and she poured out her heart to her teacher.

This true incident has been duplicated in the experience of many a leader of our youth, and yet the dance has steadily gained in favor in our churches and church-related schools.

The author determined upon a survey of denominational Colleges. Where can one better feel the pulse of the church than in these, fostered and maintained by the church, and to which, the loyal churches send their children and ministerial students to be educated, trained, and molded? If the colleges sanction dancing, then so do the churches which maintain them, or, if not today, then tomorrow. The conclusion is inevitable.

I secured a total of forty-one (41) catalogues and bulletins of denominationally-related colleges. I received also twenty-nine (29) personal letters from officers of administration of as many colleges, in reply to my inquiries on the dance question. My own denomination was covered by a complete survey, and a spot-check of colleges of three classes gave definite information. In the following report, dancing is understood to refer to the dance as a part of the social life with the approval of college authorities.

When I prepared to read the accumulated letters from the colleges of my own denomination, I selected first a bunch of letters from our "home mission colleges," for the most part, founded by our Home Mission Society, with an emphasis in education for ministers, and largely supported by that society during the years.

I was due for a shock. Every one of the "home mission schools" whose letters I opened has dancing!! I am a Rip Van Winkle. While I have slept, the leopard has changed his spots. The dance is no longer a part of "this vile world," Buddhas become "a friend to grace to help me on to God"! The completed survey shows that of the seven "home mission colleges," all have dancing.

The rest of the colleges of my denomination ran as I had thought they would. Eleven of the thirteen colleges have dancing.

The spot-check of the colleges of the other old-line denominations showed that most of the colleges checked (except those of one denomination) have dancing.

The similar check of the colleges of the smaller and off-shoot denominations showed definite rules against dancing in some schools.

A like check of the colleges of the "holiness-type" denominations showed definite rules against dancing in all of the schools checked.

This study indicates that a great change of attitude toward the dance has been, and is, taking place in our churches. The rules and regulations laid down by the "founding fathers" of our older colleges reflect the prevailing standards of the churches of their day. As revealed by this survey the college rules were strict, and the standards high. One quotation expresses the general thought of the founders: "To produce a maximum spiritual benefit to a perishing world."

Finding myself out of step with the apologists for the dance, I ask: "Has the leopard really changed his spots? Has human nature changed, or is the change due to the lack of conviction and spiritual insight in the membership of our churches today?"

Let us look at the arguments, which in the past, were advanced against the dance, when the evangelist devoted one of his sermons to the evils of the world, of which, the dance was a major one. There were three main lines of thought: Dancing is based on sex and awakens sex passions; Dancing is opposed to Scripture teaching; Dancing is inconsistent with the Christian life.

Accepting these arguments as valid, the church expected one who claimed "conversion," to refrain from the dance. The growth of the church in popularity and wealth in large measure accounts for the great change that has taken place. As the line between the church and the world has become more and more dim, it has become easier to accept the dance than to purify the church.

But how has the church disposed of these arguments to which it once subscribed? Largely by silence. Neither pastor nor evangelist mentions the dance. It is assumed that without instructions, a "convert" will satisfy his conscience and his God.

But where opposition to the dance has been insistent, the arguments have been met point by point, by the proponents of dancing. "True," say they, "both sexes participate in the dance, but positions taken in the dance are not 'vulgar, tempting, indecent, arousing passions,' if participants and observers are pure in thought. If chaperoned, all possible evils of the dance are avoided." "A reinterpretation of the Scriptures quoted against the dance, say the dance advocates, shows that the world is really good, not bad, that the dance, instead of being part of a 'vile world,' is essentially good, not only harmless, but positive in its goodness."

"And," they continue, "the dance is not inconsistent with the Christian life. It is only inconsistent with the 'blue laws' of a narrow church. Unreasonable rules have made it appear bad."

But my mind refuses to thus dispose of the question. I cannot go along with those who refuse to see harm in the dance. Let us reconsider the points once accepted by the church against it.

That the dance is based on sex cannot successfully be denied. No other institution, outside of marriage, depends on the participation of both sexes, and while human nature is human nature, such positions as the dance allows will tend to arouse sex passions. These positions would, in any situation, other than family relationships, be taken only for the sex thrill. By what mental alchemy does this physical juxtaposition of the sexes become harmless in the dance?

And here we may ask: "What part might this institution -- the dance -- have in the sex debacle of this generation? This debacle may be shown by one quotation from a news item: 'Pregnancy among unmarried adolescent girls is increasing, possibly influenced by teen-age tolerance toward sexual activity,' a government social worker, Mrs. Katherine Brownell Oettinger, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau said. "The rate of motherhood per 1000 unmarried women tripled between 1940 and 1956" (quoting from an item in the Progress-Bulletin of Pomona, Calif.).

Statistics attest: that we are living in a constant sex-atmosphere in the social life of America today. In checking all possible causes of this sex-atmosphere, I would name as an A1 cause the dance -- an institution depending for its very existence, on the pairing of the sexes with physical contact.

Let us quote some of those Scripture passages against which, the dance has opposed itself: Come ye out from among them and be ye separate; Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof; Whosoever therefore is a friend of the world, is an enemy of God; Follow holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; To keep himself unspotted from the world; But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified.

These Scripture quotations, with large numbers of others, and the great teachings embedded in them, with an honest interpretation, give nothing but condemnation for the dance. That divine institution in the church -- must not tolerate this institution of the world -- the dance.

Dancing is inconsistent with the individual Christian life. If I am a dancing church member, I profess that I am born again, and yet I dance. I know that I must strive after holiness -- and yet I dance. I profess to follow Christ and yet I dance with the world that crucified Him. This inconsistency escapes criticism in large measure, for worldliness is a theme not used in the pulpit today.

I cannot change the convictions, which as a Christian, I have always held against the dance. I cannot look upon the dance floor without saying, "Here is a battlefield upon which many a Christian character has been wounded, even unto death, with the odds all against the Christian. I cannot stifle the agonized cry of the girl with whose story I began this article, "Oh! If I just had never learned to dance."

Standards of churches have changed; rules of their colleges have changed; the leopard's Spots have been painted over: but human nature has not changed; the dance is still evil; the leopard has not changed his spots.

EDITOR'S NOTE: None of our people in the Bible Missionary Church dance, The dance is forbidden in the Manual, paragraph 30, number 7.

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DEMONS

By W. M. Tidwell

The study of demonology is a mysterious subject. "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us " Deut. 29:29. Where the Bible is clear we may be, but if not better be careful. If they get us up a tree, if we can descend on the plain word of God it will be a graceful descent, but if on some of our quack notions it may be quite embarrassing.

The Bible is positive as to the FACT of demons, but as to who or what they are and the origin, not so clear. There are three theories on this subject which are as follows: FIRST -- DEMONS ARE THE SPIRITS OF WICKED MEN WHO HAVE DIED. SECOND -- THEY ARE FALLEN ANGELS. THIRD -- THE DEMONS ARE THE SPIRITS OF THE PRE-ADAMIC RACE. (Some think there was a race on this earth before Adam, and when Lucifer fell God cursed

the earth and the demons are the spirits of the Pre-Adamic race.) We will notice each of these briefly.

I. SPIRITS OF WICKED MEN ARE THE DEMONS. But this can't be true. When a wicked man dies he drops immediately into Hell, which is in the center of the earth, and shall remain there till the great White Throne Judgment when his body shall be brought from the grave and his spirit from Hell, and he shall there be sentenced, in his damnation body, to the lake of fire where he must remain through eternity. Rev. 20:11-15.

II. THE DEMONS ARE THE FALLEN ANGELS. This is quite generally taught, but if carefully studied will find this can't be true. But why? First, angels are spirits. All angels both good and bad, fallen and unfallen. "Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire." Psalms 104:4. (Here is God's definition of a minister; a flame of fire, not an iceberg). Angels are spirits. Have never had material bodies. These demons or evil spirits seem to have dwelt in material bodies and cannot operate outside of a body. "When the unclean spirit (demon) is gone out of a man, he (the demon) walketh through dry places (inconvenient, can't operate), seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return unto my house from whence I came out" Matt. 12:43-44. He must operate through fleshly bodies.

Then you remember when Jesus came in contact with the demoniac, the demons knew Him. "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Matt. 8:29. These demons had more respect for Jesus than the modernists. They confessed His Deity. But when they knew Jesus would cast them out of the man they requested Jesus that they might enter into the great herd of swine, the number of swine being about two thousand. More demons in one man than two thousand hogs could stand. If these demons must be cast out of the man they desired to enter the hogs. Someone said the demons attacked the swine. No, they sought refuge in the swine. Now the proof that demons are not fallen angels is that fallen angels were spirits, never having dwelt in flesh; therefore would not seek to inhabit hogs. Certainly a fallen angel never so desires. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12. (Against wicked spirits in Heavenly places.) Wesley said of these fallen angels, "Angels (fallen angels) our march oppose, who still in strength excel; our secret, sworn, eternal foes, countless invisible: from thrones of glory driven, by flaming vengeance hurled; they throng the air and-darken heaven and rule this lower world." This picture is fallen angels. These are not the flesh dwelling demons.

III. Then we have the third theory as to the origin of demons, and that is, THEY ARE THE SPIRITS OF A PRE-ADAMIC RACE. This not clear. Dr. J. B. Chapman and many others not sure about this. We do remember God said to Noah, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH THE EARTH." Refill. "Re" means again. God said to Adam the same thing. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH THE EARTH." Refill. Thus implying it had been filled with creatures. There are other such implications, but may not be positive proof.

Now for a few practical thoughts. Sin is a fearful thing. It made a devil out of an angel. I am afraid of anything that will make a devil of an angel. Will find an account of the fall of Lucifer

in Isa. 14:13-15. Here he said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God I will be like the most High." He had a throne and it was beneath the stars. May be on this earth. Seems he was not in Heaven when he said this. He seeks to ascend above the stars and dethrone God and take over. But the curse of God fell upon him and his throne and his diabolical rebellion failed.

Yes, sin is worse than Hell. Sin made Hell a necessity. There is a difference between an ordinary sinner, as fearful as that is, and a demoniac. You say are people possessed with demons now? Unquestionably so. Demon possession more marked in heathen lands, but doubtless have it right here. In the days of Christ the demons would take charge of the vocal organs of the person and speak through the person. "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come to torment us before the time?" Requested to go in the swine. Epilepsy and demon possession not identical, while the symptoms at times similar. We know some saved and sanctified people with epilepsy. Very sad. But demons do not inhabit Christians. A lot of teaching to the contrary, but this is dangerous. No, Jesus would cast the demons out and save the soul. When Jesus came in contact with "Legion," the Gadarene, and cast the demons out of him he was gloriously saved at the same time. Previously he dwelt in the mountains and in the graveyards crying and cutting himself with stones. No man could bind him, but when he saw Jesus he ran to Him. Jesus said, "What is thy name? and he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many." Here Jesus cast out the demons and saved him. Then they found him clothed and in his right mind. Mary Magdalene had seven devils (demons) in her, but Jesus cast them all out. Thank God! He is the devil expelling Jesus!

It may be difficult to determine whether a person is an ordinary sinner or possessed with demons. One may differentiate often by actions and the .voice. The demons seem to act and speak through the vocal organs of the person, which may help to determine. There is often a strange look in the eye, a shrill or unearthly tone that is demoniacal. Shuddering! We knew a woman, long since left this world, who would denounce people with the strangest utterances, would laugh, cry and shout with a spirit that made one shudder.

So, while there are mysteries concerning demons, they are a reality. Christ, our glorious Emancipator can save from sin and deliver from demons, enthrone Himself in the soul and give victory till death or He comes, and then bring us to a better world where sin, demons, and the Devil can never molest.

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FOREIGN MISSIONS

Rev. Carl Dillard, Secretary
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AWAKE THE HEATHEN

By Billie Holstein

[To view a picture of Billie Holstein, open the Graphics\hdm1706.jpg file.]

"Let the HEATHEN be AWAKENED, PUT ye in the SICKLE," FOR THE HARVEST IS RIPE: . . . for the PRESS is full for their WICKEDNESS IS GREAT MULTITUDES, MULTITUDES in the valley of DECISION: for the day of the LORD is NEAR in the VALLEY of DECISION" (Joel 3:12-14).

I am glad that I came back to India to suffer a little more for Him and with Him for the 439,000,000 souls of India. Less than 2% are Christians. India is the most needy country in the world. The task is not easy; the burdens are many as we look about us and see the great need of souls being saved. 24,000 die from India's shores every 24 hours, most of them without Christ. There are 6,000,000 wives under nine years of age. 333,000,000 idols are worshipped in India. 85% of the people are illiterate. Girls marry in infancy; motherhood filled with horror. Temples' bells ring morning and evening; they ring them to put their gods to sleep; they ring them to awaken them. They bathe in Mother Ganges to take away their sins. But friend! Nothing can wash away their sin but the precious blood of Jesus Christ Whom they do not know! Millions have never heard His sweet name.

I have spent 34 years bringing them in from the fields of sin, rescuing them from bowing to idols made Of clay, wood and stone. Jesus called me to RESCUE the BROWN BABIES. Some of these children are now ministers and Bible women. Others are in training for the evangelization of India. God is with us, and has given us a good revival. We need your prayers. We live by faith. I have not had a salary in these years, or known where the money would come from to carry on the work, but Jesus never fails us. Sometimes we suffer hunger; just now my blood pressure is low and my vitality is at a very low ebb. But none of these things move me! I am determined to take His way and suffer reproach for His kingdom in India.

Have you prayed for INDIA TODAY? Who are the future church of India? the children of today. Pray for our fine boys and girls that God will use them to get the Gospel to a LOST NATION. Communism is on every border threatening to take 50,000 miles of India's territory. We do not know what minute India will be turned to the Congo. But Jesus will see us through. Our faith is in Him! He has never failed us ONCE. Please PRAY! PRAY! and OBEY GOD. YOUR FAITH BIBLE MISSIONARY OF THE CROSS, Sister Billie Holstein.

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LITTLE BROWN BABIES

By Billie Holstein

Little Brown Babies, in India's night.
Dying in darkness! Oh where is the light?
Jesus said, "Tell them" the story repeat,
Bring them as trophies to lay at His feet.

Little Brown Babies, the Father on high,
Bends low to listen, and answer your cry.
You shall not die, there in India's night,
See, I am sending a herald of light.

Heralds of Jesus, Oh hasten away,
Tell them He's waiting to save them today.
Tell them the story of Calvary's Cross.
Oh speed the message before they are lost.

Millions are groping in India's night,
Would you deprive them forever the, light?
Are you content to enjoy it ALONE,
FEEDING ON BREAD, while they have but a STONE?

Do you not hear HIM? He calleth to thee.
Go to my little ONES over the sea!
Precious Brown Jewels, His crown to adorn,
Oh! it will pay on eternity's morn.

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CHILDREN'S PAGE

By Mrs. Paul King
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A FRIEND WHO CARES

It was a brilliantly sunny afternoon with soft fleecy clouds skipping across the heavens like woolly, white lambs. Johnny had just finished gathering the eggs and cleaning the henhouse when Daddy stood inside the doorway inspecting the job.

"Nice job you did today, son," he said, then quickly asked, "How'd you like to take the rest of the day off and go fishing?"

"Would I ever!" Johnny exclaimed excitedly and happily. "You're great, Dad. You really are! Can you go along too?" he asked boylike. "After all, we are pals, aren't we?"

"Sure are!" was Daddy's immediate reply, "But today it's impossible for me to go along. Mr. Smith needs some help in getting his second crop of alfalfa in and he's not able physically to do it since he broke his hip so all the neighbor men are doing it for him. However, you may ask Wayne Long to go. They're poor people and I doubt if Wayne ever goes fishing since his father died."

"But, Dad," Johnny began, "he curses and swears when he gets mad and it seems he's always cross. He's not good company! Why -- he -- he -- even doesn't believe in God, says that's all a myth and -- and -- such, and he's -- he's -- always laughing at me for being so 'religious' as he calls it."

"Son, what was it Jesus said? Whom did He come to save?" Daddy asked. "Was it those who already are saved?"

"Well -- No," Johnny stammered, then brightly he said, "You're right, Dad. I'll take Wayne and you pray for the Lord to make me a special blessing to him today."

Johnny left the big clean henhouse and went to the garage where all the fishing tackle and equipment was kept, then getting his very best rod and reel for Wayne and an old cane pole for himself he told Mother what Daddy had allowed him to do, then placing a kiss upon her rosy cheek he headed toward the lake.

Wayne lived only a short distance from Johnny's place and, when Johnny saw him out in the cornfield gathering corn for the pigs, he called cheerily, "Wayne, I'll help you feed those ever hungry pigs, then ask your Mother if you may go fishing on Piney Lake with me. I hear the bass are really biting just now. Must be this cool fall air and see," he said as he proudly held up his best rod, "you may fish with this all afternoon."

"That's great," said Wayne who seemed to be in a better mood than usual.

The two boys worked feverishly at their task and soon had Mrs. Long's permission for Wayne to go.

Johnny's heart kept breathing a prayer all the way to the lake and it surely helped, for Wayne wasn't cross and irritable as was his usual custom, but Johnny noticed how light and boyish he really was. Perhaps losing his father has made him feel the responsibility of the family, Johnny thought, and that would trouble a boy indeed. His heart went out in love and pity for this poor unsaved neighbor boy as they walked together. "Oh, God! At any cost, please help me to lead him to you!" Johnny prayed.

In a little while they reached the lake. The pines were whispering soft music all around them and Johnny saw his father's boat safely anchored at his dock.

"Climb aboard!" he said cheerfully, and Wayne settled down on the broad seat in the boat, proudly looking at and holding the beautiful new rod and reel.

"Some rod you have here, Johnny," he began. "When Dad lived, we used to have such things too, but after he died we had to sell everything except the strict essentials to keep soul and body together;" and he sighed a deep sigh and Johnny saw a dark shadow creep over his boyish face which made him look like an aging man.

"Do you like it, Wayne?" he asked. "Really like it?"

"Like it? I guess I do, but that's all the good that'll do me," was Wayne's reply. "It seems God hates us."

"Oh, no, no, Wayne! Please never say that," said Johnny. "He loves you. He really does. He didn't make your father die and he didn't cripple Sandra! These things happen to saved as well as unsaved. God is love and really loves you, Wayne. I wish you'd let Him save you and then you'd know I'm telling you the truth; and, Wayne," he hesitated, then quickly went on, "you may keep my rod and reel for your very own."

The boy's mouth opened wide and he uttered a cry of delight as he said, "You really are different, aren't you, Johnny? Thanks a lot. It's the nicest thing I've had since Dad died."

Johnny saw the glistening tears of happiness in the other's eyes, and after anchoring the boat near a weed bed he said, "Try it out now, Wayne, and good fishing to you."

The boys fished for several hours and were so intent on their fishing that they failed to notice the sky growing darker by the minute, and not until a fierce wind began rocking their small craft in the sea troughs did they realize their imminent danger.

Johnny pulled the anchor up into the boat and began rowing with all his might and strength, but try as he would, the fury of the wind seemed to be propelling them farther and farther out into the choppy waters. The rain began spilling down in torrents and Wayne became panicky.

"Johnny, Johnny! We'll be lost. We'll be drowned," he kept saying. "Please do something, Johnny! Row hard! Johnny! Row hard!" and then another huge wave rolled in and spilled inside the boat.

"Bail water," Johnny called through the howling wind to his companion. "Bail, Wayne! Bail while I row."

Finally Johnny's strength was exhausted and he simply looked heavenward and prayed:

"Dear Father, in Jesus' Name I come to Thee for help, and as the disciples called out years ago 'Save us or we perish,' so I call to Thee. Please, dear Lord, save Wayne and forgive him his sins. Don't let the boat go down and him unprepared to meet Thee. All these things I ask in Jesus' Name. Amen!"

"How can you be so calm," Wayne almost hissed, "when there's no help in sight. I'm scared! Scared! Scared!" he hollered. "I'm not ready to die. I'm afraid. Oh, God help me!" he called.

"Do you really mean that," Johnny asked as he sat by Wayne's side and put his arm around the trembling boy's body.

"Oh, yes, I mean it, Johnny. I need Jesus and I really want Him," and he was weeping bitterly as he continued. "All my life since Dad's died I've been in this kind of a storm inwardly and I've been helpless and -- and Johnny," he added, "I've been bitter and -- and unkind with you. Can you forgive me? I do want Jesus. Oh, I want Him!"

As the storm raged the two boys knelt side by side at the wide board in the boat and prayed.

Suddenly Wayne threw his arms around Johnny and said, "Thank God, Johnny, Jesus has come. My heart has a great calm inside."

Just as the boys opened their eyes the waves became a great calm and the sun began shining through.

"It's just like my heart," Wayne sighed prayerfully. "Thank you, Lord! Thank you for saving my soul," he whispered as the tears glistened like rare gems on his brown tanned cheeks and the pines seemed to take up the refrain as they softly whispered, "Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!"

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THE END