

# *The Southern* **PRESBYTERIAN** *Journal*

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## **The Unchanging Gospel**

WE WELCOME ANY CHANGE OF METHOD, TECHNIQUE OR APPROACH WHICH MAY BE USED TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CHRISTIAN WORK AND WITNESS IN A HOSTILE WORLD.

BUT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD RECOGNIZE AND VIGOROUSLY REJECT ANY CHANGE IN THE BASIC MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL ITSELF.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS AN UNCHANGING MESSAGE FOR A CHANGING WORLD.

WORLD CONDITIONS CHANGE BUT THE HEARTS OF MEN REMAIN THE SAME — THEY ARE DESPERATELY WICKED. THE CONDITION OF UNREGENERATE MAN IS ONE WITHOUT HOPE. HE NEEDS TO BE COMPLETELY CHANGED, TO BE MADE A NEW CREATURE, AND THIS IS A SUPERNATURAL WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

EXAMINE CAREFULLY ANY PHILOSOPHY WHICH CHANGES THE CLEAR TEACHINGS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE. HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH A NEW GOSPEL WHICH REJECTS THE SINFUL AND LOST CONDITION OF MAN AND BY-PASSES THE SHED BLOOD OF CALVARY AS OUR ONLY HOPE OF REDEMPTION.



ing with the enemy; a child of God accepting the ideals of His enemies.

To accept and live by God's standards is a matter of regeneration and of sanctification. It is a matter of growing in our love for the Lord and the things which please him. He wants us to be wise — but not sophisticated.

—L. N. B.

## What God Censors Let Not Man Promote

During the last few weeks there have appeared in the book stalls across America tens of thousands of copies of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. These are in a cheap edition and unquestionably will be read by a widening number of individuals, many of whom will be boys and girls in their late teens.

Those who have read the book state that it is a story of adultery; a story which pictures the breaking of the Seventh Commandment as normal, right and attractive.

Permission to send this book through the mails and to sell it in stores was refused by the state of New York. The Supreme Court ruled that such restriction was an unwarranted restraint on the freedom of the individual. Result — more salacious literature for public consumption.

That those interested in the sale of the book contrived to have this litigation, with attending advertising publicity is reasonably certain. That the Supreme Court should have denied to a state the right to control literature within the bounds of the state seems to many the denial of powers given the states by the constitution.

Christians are concerned with the legal ruling which has permitted the general transportation and sale of such literature, but they should be even more concerned with the moral and spiritual implications which classify adultery as an optional matter, without reference to the law of God.

—L. N. B.

## The Apostolic Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." The very order of the clauses here is significant. This is a transcript of Paul's own experience. He who deserved wrath and rejection was confronted by the risen Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. Through this meeting with Christ who was all

grace to the graceless one, Paul entered upon the knowledge of the love of God. Through the manifestation of grace in this encounter with Jesus, in the Cross of Christ, and in the Incarnation of the Son of God, the Apostle came to realize the Divine love. It was in the Sonship of Christ that the Fatherhood of God was made known to Paul. And the experience of the grace and peace which come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ was for Paul the communion of the Holy Spirit.

The Andover motto is the old Latin adage, *Finis origine pendet*,\* the End hangs at the Beginning. A slow reading of a careful study of the religious and intellectual situation for the last two and a half centuries sharpens the value of this order of thinking. About 1700 the Deists began with the world without, while the enthusiasts started with the world within. The one treated God as an inference from a study of the physical universe, the other as an intuition from man's own heart. On the one side were Locke and Tillotson, on the other the Ranters and the more refined Quakers.

The Deists and their "orthodox" opponents both thought of Christianity as a mere republication of natural religion with a few duties added. They held to two books, one of natural religion written by man and the other of revelation written by God. Of the two, they regarded the first as a great tome and the second as a tiny pamphlet. Perhaps the "German-Christianity" of the Dritte Reich whereby leading Nazis rejected Christ and the Church while still professing to be theists was the recrudescence of this old English Deism. So also Ritschl's use of religion to give man lordship over the world. And Americans who glory in a philosophical liberalism which affirms theism, while it treats the Person, the Work and the mighty acts of God in Christ as of secondary significance may well ask itself if the same view is having a resurgence in its priorities.

On the other hand, the current psychologists of religion, the masters of religious psychiatry who fancy that their conferences with disturbed persons are more vital than the preaching of the Gospel, who minimize the Bible and the Church while they insist that one meets God *within* may inquire as to whether they are following the path of the English enthusiasts. Some of these seem more concerned to be expert counsellors in religious psychiatry than to be good ministers of Jesus Christ.

"In Christ God did not simply countersign the best intuitions of the heart or the highest productions of reason." We do not start either with the World without or with the World within, but with Christ the Word. We may not answer Job's question, "O that I knew where I might find him?" by glibly replying "within one's own heart." God did appear

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to Job in the whirlwind—not in his own heart. God did appear to Paul on the Road to Damascus in the Lord Jesus. God finds us as and when and where and how He sees fit, for He is the Lord of every Divine-human encounter.

Those who would substitute either the inferences of reason based on a study of the world, or the intuitions of mysticism based on their attainments in psycho-analysis for the Lord Jesus Christ have not realized that Jesus Christ and the Gospel of faith in HIM are God-given. Christ is God's way of meeting with men. Here in the Incarnation God intervened for us and for our salvation. In the Cross on Calvary He Who knew no sins was made sin for us. Having paid our whole debt, God raised Him in the blessedness of pure righteousness for our justification. As His Word is preached, He the risen Lord, the Lamb Who was sacrificed for us, meets us in His mercy and brings us by the way of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ into the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts as He focuses our eyes upon Christ dying for the ungodly.  
—W.C.R.

\*H. D. McDonald, *Ideas of Revelation*, 1700-1860, NY, 1959.

## Dr. Sprunt Inspires Conference

In an inspiring series of Bible studies last week, Dr. James Sprunt of Staunton, Va., led the Church Extension Conference at Montreat into a deeper understanding of the meaning and power of prayer.

Evening devotional messages were brought by Dr. Arthur W. Hewitt, Methodist minister of Riverton, Vt. Dr. Hewitt pled with his hearers to consider that salvation is not by character, for Christian character is the work of the Holy Spirit after man has been saved by Jesus Christ.

Dr. Sprunt's lectures, which were the highlight of the Conference, centered about five great Biblical personalities: Hannah, a praying mother; Elijah, a praying prophet; Nehemiah, a praying patriot; Paul, a praying apostle; and Jesus, our praying Lord.

The impact of the messages was not lessened by one notable, inadvertent slip of the tongue: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and endure Him forever!"

Preacher to the Conference on Sunday morning was the Rev. John W. Lancaster of Austin, Texas, who told a full audience, "The greatest task of the Church in our day is the evangelization of itself: the Christianizing of the Christians." One thing Mr. Lancaster need not have said: "We do not believe, of course, that our Lord understood from the very outset that His messiahship would entail the Cross itself."

### McGUFFEY'S READERS

After a long and costly search reprints of the original 1879 revised editions of the famous McGuffey's Readers have been completed and you can now purchase exact copies at the following low prices POSTPAID:

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Rev. Wade Smith, Associate Editor of the *Journal*, and a man greatly beloved across our church, has been ill for some weeks. He has just returned home from the hospital and is recuperating at home.

It has been the joy and privilege of this staff to have Dr. Smith as one of us for a number of years. The author of the "Little Jets", the "Fishers of Men" edition of the New Testament, and many articles in religious Journals over the years, we know that his many friends will remember him in their prayers and may wish to express their love by a letter or card.

—The Editor

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