A SWARM OF B'S
THE B OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION

GLEN E. TROPPE

The study of the Word of God is one of the most fascinating and fulfilling activities of life. It is also very fruitful when we allow the Spirit of the Lord to make these truths real to us. We should be fully persuaded that the Bible is the Word of God. II Tim. 3:16-17 states, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." We should also heed the admonition of II Tim. 2:15 which declares, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the work of truth." The Word of God has the answer to all of our ills. This applies to the spiritual as well as the physical. The problem many times is that we have "Head Knowledge" and not "Heart Knowledge." It's true that we must have the accumulation of the data of material in our heads first, but unless we submit to the leadership of the Spirit of the Lord and become doers of the Word, we are not acquiring Heart Knowledge and thus we are deceiving ourselves. It is the Heart Knowledge of Truth that moves and motivates us to become doers of that truth.

I would like to illustrate this reality in the next few messages as we notice the General Subject, A SWARM OF B'S.

Years ago, as a boy, a friend of mine, whose name was Bruce, and I were playing around down at a place called Waterloo Lake. We had found an old boat and were inside of it fixing it up. All of a sudden I looked up in this tree over us and noticed that there was a Bee Hive with a bunch of bees swarming around it. Now, I want you to know that I knew they were bees but the reality of their true existence came a little later. After I mentioned to Bruce about this hive of bees, both of us, without thinking, reached up with a boat oar and knocked the Hive out of the tree. Yes, you're right, the Hive fell right into the Boat. Needless to say we were stung with the reality that they were truly bees and knew how to do their work. We decided real quick, to let them have the boat.

Now, the thought that I wish to convey is this. We had head knowledge of the fact that they were bees. We had heard about them and what they could do. But the main thought is, that we never experienced the reality of their ability. We had a first hand experience with the bees. We not only knew, by accumulation of the data of material about them, but we knew because we had an actual experience with them.

There are many truths of God's Word that I'm afraid we just have head knowledge about. The problem is not the accumu-
lation of the material that's found in the scriptures but rather the application of it to our every day lives and experiences. Let us notice some of these truths. We'll call them, "A Swarm of Be's," and it shall be our prayer that we'll allow the Holy Spirit to sting us with the reality of these truths. Let's notice in this message, THE "B" OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

The passage of scripture which presents this "Be" is found in Acts 16:30-31. "And brought them out, and said Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." You need to be stung with the reality of this truth. Jesus, some two thousand years ago, came to this world for the express purpose of providing Salvation for all men. You see, man had sinned against God. This includes all men. Notice these verses.

ROMANS 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God."

PSALMS 51:5 "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

ROMANS 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

ECCL. 7:20 "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doth good, and sinneth not."

The Word informs us that the wages of sin is death. Notice Romans 6:23. We are also told that the life of the flesh is in the blood, (Lev. 17:11), and that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. (Heb. 9:22) So we certainly see the necessity for someone to help us.

Jesus Christ, the pure and spotless Lamb of God came to this World and lived a perfect life. Then, He went to the Cross and there gave His life for the sins of all the world. He tasted death for every man. Hebrews 2:9. After 3 days, He arose from the grave and became victor over death, hell and the grave. He led Captivity captive and became the captain of Salvation. The reason for the fact that He accomplished this was because this was God the Father's way of making a way for men to be brought back into a vital relationship with Him and at the same time maintaining His characteristic of being a Holy God. Sin must be paid for. The individual must either accept God's Way for the payment of their sins or make the payment themselves. If one decides their way instead of God's Way they must spend an eternity in Hell, to forever be separated from God, in order to make payment.

Now the Lord has done His part. He has sent the Holy Spirit into the world to convict men of their sins, convince them that they can't save themselves, convince them that Christ is the only way, (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, & I Tim. 2:5), and compel them to repent of sin and receive Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. He accomplishes this as Christians present the Word through lip and life. The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit. When an individual yields to the convicting, drawing, and moving power of the Holy Spirit and repents of sin and places his total trust and Belief in Christ as personal Saviour, that individual becomes converted - saved - redeemed - born again.

Now, let us notice this in connection with my experience with Christ. I was raised in Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Denison, Texas. I thank God for a Christian mother who kept me in church and under the sound of the Word of God. As a very young fellow, I knew the story of Jesus Christ. The Sunday School Teachers in that Church had been true to God, in presenting this old, old story. I knew that Jesus had died on the Cross for the sins of all the world. I knew that I was a sinner but yet, I was not saved. You see, I had head knowledge of all of these truths, but yet, still not saved. There was a dear saint of God in that church, whose name was Sister Beulah Lark, who was first used by the Lord to truly make me realize my need of Christ. One day, during Vacation Bible School, she placed her hand on my shoulder and said, "Glen, I'm praying for you." The Holy Spirit used those words from that dear saint of God to truly make me begin to realize that I needed Christ. How I thank God for a God called and Christ honoring preacher that faithfully declared the unspeakable riches of Jesus Christ as did Bro. George Crawford. One Sunday night as he preached, the Holy Spirit of God got a hold of my heart. I felt that Bro. Crawford was preaching right to me and to me only. I felt convicted that I truly was a sinner and was scared because I felt like that if I died, I would go to hell. That night, during the invitation, I bowed my head and asked God to save me and forgive me of my sin. Thank the Lord, He did exactly that. You see, that knowledge of my condition and need moved from my head to my heart through the ministry of the Spirit and as a result moved me to action. I placed my trust totally in Jesus Christ. It was such a joy and relief that the tears began to flow. I remember walking down the aisle, but I don't believe that I was able to say anything to Bro. Crawford. He finally started asking me questions and I would nod my head. Something happened to me that night and I praise God, I'm still enjoying it. Thank God that I was STUNG with the reality of Salvation.

Are you saved? If not, dear friend, please bow your head right now and admit to

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PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

JOHNNY WILLIAMS

In this issue of our publication, we will begin a series of studies in the Book of James. I think this book can be best described as "Practical Christianity." In this study we will be noticing how we can take the truths we learn as Christians and apply them to our daily living. I know of no subject that is so badly needed in our time for those of us striving to live a life that is dedicated to the service of God.

I. THE AUTHOR.

James 1:1 states, "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, Greeting." There are three men mentioned in the New Testament whose name was James. First, there is James, the son of Zebedee who was John's brother, then there is James the son of Alphassus, and last there is James, the half brother of our Lord. His father was Joseph, but the father of our Lord was the God of Heaven. Most Bible students agree that James the half brother of our Lord was the James who wrote this book in God's Word.

Besides being the half brother of our Lord, James was also the Pastor of the First church in Jerusalem. Also, in about 47 A.D., when the controversy arose over whether or not it was necessary to keep the Jewish law to be saved, it was James who was presiding over the Jerusalem conference, Acts 15. Truly he was used of God in many ways in the Lord's work.

Although James was used greatly in the work of the Lord, especially being inspired of God to write this book, we see in this first verse an example of his humility. James called himself, "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." The word servant as used here actually means "slave." So, James is really calling himself a slave of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. I know of no greater expression of humility and surrender to God found anywhere in the Word of God.

II. THE ANALYSIS.

The book of James is addressed to the "Ten Tribes which are scattered abroad." This evidently refers to the Christian Jews dispersed throughout the Roman Empire. However, we can rejoice in the fact that the Bible is written to all who will read and study it in the household of faith. So as we glean the truths of this portion of God's Word, let us apply it to our lives to better prepare us to be the servants of the Lord that we should be.

The theme of the Book seems to be Practical Christian Living, or as I have called "Practical Christianity." The subjects that James will address himself to are: Temptations from Within, Trials from Without, Testing of Faith, Testing of Obedience, and Testing of True Religion. May we rejoice together because of the truths we will discover as we study this book together, and may we be better servants for the Lord as we apply them to our hearts. Next month we will begin our study with a lesson on the "Trials From Without."

YOU TOLD ME

BY

BRENDA COOPER

You're gonna wake up one mornin', only to see,
Jesus has come and taken me.
You'll turn your head and cry
in shame, "I should have called on Jesus' name."

You told me that a day would come when God would decide
His work had been done.
A day when God would send His Son back to man,
To claim those who had accepted Salvation's plan.
But now it's too late, Jesus has come;
I guess God decided His work had been done.
Now here on this earth I am doomed to stay,
To await the judgment of God's judgment day.
You always told me the story of old,
And how someday you'd live in a city of gold.
You told me of Eve and the forbidden tree,
You told me of Jesus and His love for me.
You told me now to accept Jesus into my heart,
But I always thought, "there will be a tomorrow when I can start."
I had many chances when I could have been saved,
But I always grumbled, griped, and raved.
For I knew then I was a sinner,
And by accepting Christ I could become a winner;
But I was afraid of what people would say,
And now I've got the price to pay."

So, my friend, you'll accept Christ, I pray,
And not be on earth for God's Judgment day.
Now my friend while I pray and wait,
Accept Christ and be saved before it's too late.

This Poem was written by one of the teenagers of Grace Missionary Baptist Church.
THE POWER OF JESUS

TEXT: MATTHEW 28:18

INTRODUCTION:
If Jesus' salvation is questioned, or His mission to save, then His power comes into question.

I. HIS POWER IS ETERNAL.
A. Before anything was—He is. 1 Chron. 29:11-12
B. He made everything that was made. John 1
C. He is the creator, we are the creatures.
D. The Devil, Satan, Lucifer, and all his evil angels are creatures of Jesus Christ.
E. He will control and rule over all things forever.

II. HIS POWER IS INDOMINUS.
A. His power divided the Red Sea. Psalms 106:8-11
B. His power brought down the walls of Jericho. Joshua
C. His power brought the dead back to life. John 11
D. His power put whole armies to flight. Judges

III. HIS POWER IS EARTHSHAKING.
A. At Sinai, He shook the earth.
B. At the Death of Jesus, the earth shook.
C. At the end of time, the power of His wrath will again shake the earth.

IV. HIS POWER IS EFFICIENT.
A. The power of God was what it took to accomplish Salvation.
B. It was efficient, in the miracles that were done to convince the disciples.
C. It was efficient and sufficient in inspiring the Holy Scriptures.
D. It was efficient in His coming for us as it was in His resurrection.

SOUNDING OUT THE WORD MINISTRIES

THE DAYS OF NOAH

TEXT: GENESIS 6:1-8 MATTHEW 24:36-39

INTRODUCTION:
Do you feel as if you are living in a time similar to the time which Noah lived in? If you answer, yes, then you are saying that you believe that the Return of the Lord is near. Let's search the scriptures and see how close the parallel is between the days of Noah, and our days, the days which precede the coming of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ.

I. THE DAYS OF NOAH.
1. The world went on - events of life distorted as God was left out of their lives.
2. Two lineages began to mix - the godly with the ungodly. This is displeasing to God. Amos 3:5
B. Days of Spiritual Declining.
1. Giants in sin found in these days.
2. Wickedness great. - v. 6 "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
3. Jos. 1:3-5 "I will destroy man whom I have created."

II. THE DAYS OF THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN.
1. Described as the day when folk shall be marrying and giving in marriage. God left out in the process.
2. God's people not separate from lost world.
B. Days of Spiritual Declining.
1. Giants in sin are here today as well. Wickedness, violence abound everywhere.
2. Thoughts on evil continually. Remember verse 37?

CONCLUSION:
In spite of sin and ungodliness present, Noah's day was a day of some personal dedication. The scripture says of Noah himself, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Our day can also have some of this personal dedication from those who find grace in the eyes of the Lord. If we really believe that the Lord is indeed coming soon, we should not waste a moment of the time God is giving us.

ETERNAL SALVATION

TEXT: EPH. 3:8-12

SCRIPTURE READING: EPH. 3:8-12

INTRODUCTION:
Everything seems to be changing so rapidly these days that it is especially reassuring to find something that is lasting. Salvation is.

I. THE ETERNAL PLAN.
A. Jesus stood as a Lamb slain before the foundation of the World. Rev. 13:8
B. The plan was in effect in the Salvation of Abraham. Rom. 4:3
C. The same plan was still in effect in the Salvation of the Philippians jailor. Acts 16:31

II. THE ETERNAL SAVIOR.
A. He is a Savior with all authority. Matt. 28:18
B. He is a Savior with all power. Rev. 1:8
C. He is a Savior who has all compassion. Matt. 9:36
D. He is a Savior who has made all the sacrifice for sins. Heb. 7:27

III. THE EVERLASTING SALVATION.
A. It is everlasting because of our new relationship to God. John 1:12
B. It is everlasting because of our new relationship to Christ. Romans 8:17
C. It is everlasting because of our new nature. II Peter 1:4
THE BIBLE AND ASTROLOGY

#4 TAURUS

In Greek mythology, it represented the white bull transformation of Zeus. The Egyptians named it Apis, after the sacred bull of Osiris. In the Hebrew Zodiac, it was called Aleph, from the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet, which resembles the triangular face and horns of a bull.

Astrologers credit those born under the sign of Taurus with boldness, strength, courage, and leadership - the characteristics of the bull. The name of those under this sign is "boull" where you're planted." And the keynote is "I have," which means "nothing is impossible if you try."

In the Bible, the bull has various symbolic usages. Negatively, it represents powerful, fierce, and insolent enemies (Psalms 22:12). Positively, it is connected with offerings (Ex. 29:36; Num. 15:9); washing (Jer. 52:20); cleansing (Ezek. 45:18); consecration (II Chron. 13:9); dedication (Ezra 6:17); and, sanctification (Heb. 9:13).

What we find represented positively in the bull, we see fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:13-14). It is this fulfillment in Christ that becomes "the most potent force on the face of the earth," a force that is astrologically attributed to "Taurus." It is Christ that moves the saved to "serve the living God," not the predictions or suggestions of astrology. It is Christ that gives the believer "boldness, strength, courage, and leadership." It is the Spirit of Christ that causes the child of God to "blossom where they are planted" (John 15). And in Christ, "all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26).

In the Christian's life, the bull (oxen) becomes at once a double symbol of sacrifice and service, altar and table. Like the old peasant farmer who sold his plow oxen so he could give the money to the Lord's work, and thus had to pull the plow himself while his wife guided the plow through the furrows - so Christians in this generation need to be moved to a greater spirit of service to a living Christ. THAT is the "sign" the lost world needs to be able to see, not the "bull" of astrology, but the "spirit of service and sacrifice" in the lives of professed Christians.

JERRY COFFMAN

TEXT: PROVERBS 3:5-10

Taurus, the Bull, is the second constellation in the Zodiac, coming between April 21 and May 20. Its name is derived from the Latin "taurus," meaning "bull."

In Sumerian-Babylonian legend, it was the figuration of a monstrous bull created by the legendary sky god, Anu, to fight the folk hero Gilgamesh.

(A Swarm of B's" Continued) yourself and God that you've sinned and repented, and then receive Jesus Christ into your heart. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Remember, with the HEART man believeth unto salvation and then, with the mouth confession is made.

In our next lesson, we'll notice THE "B" OF THE POWER FILLED LIFE.

Help SPREAD "THE WORD"

Short Sermon Outlines

SUBJECT: THE GLORIES OF JESUS
TEXT: Hebrews 1

I. The Glory of His Sonship.
II. The Glory of His Heirship.
III. The Glory of His Relationship.
IV. The Glory of His Mediatorship.
V. The Glory of His Lordship.
VI. The Glory of His Dietyship.
VII. The Glory of His Kingship.

SUBJECT: HOW MAY WE FIND PEACE?
TEXT: Romans 5:1

I. By Accepting the Gospel of Christ. - Eph. 6:15
II. By Receiving the Prince of Peace. - Eph. 2:13-15
III. By Walking With the God Of Peace. - Phil. 4:8-9
IV. By Following Those Things That Make For Peace. - Romans 14:19
V. By Cultivating The Fruit Of The Spirit. - Gal. 5:22
VI. By Living A Life Of Prayer And Supplication. - Phil. 4:6-7
VII. By Minding The Things Of The Spirit. Romans 8:4-6

PRAY for this MINISTRY
THE KING OF KINGS IS ALIVE

Charles Swilling


INTRODUCTION:

Easter is a special time of year. The world thinks about bunny rabbits, new clothes, flowers, colorful eggs, etc. The child of God is reminded of the Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified. He was dead, but He is alive forevermore. He is most assuredly the King of Kings and He is alive.

I. THE KING OF KINGS IS CONDESCENDING.
   A. He had glory with the Father.
      John 17:5; Heb. 2:9
   B. He was and is God. John 1:1-3; 10:30
   C. He condescended.
      1. He was willing to step down in position and glory and be made flesh.
      2. He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor that He might make us rich. II Cor. 8:9

II. THE KING OF KINGS IS COMPASSIONATE.
   A. He knows the weakness of the flesh.
      1. He lived in a mortal body. He understands and knows the flesh is weak.
      2. He was made like unto His brethren that He might be a merciful and faithful High priest. Heb. 2:17.
   B. He was also tempted.
      1. He suffered being tempted. Hebrews 2:18
      2. He was tempted in all points like as we are. Heb. 4:15
   C. He is compassionate.
      1. We are invited to come boldly unto the throne of grace. Heb. 4:16
      2. He receives one and all. Many sinful harlots and crooked publicans were saved before the self-righteous Pharisees.

III. THE KING OF KINGS IS CONCILIATING.
   A. Man is in an awful condition.
      1. He is dead in sin. Eph. 2:1
      2. He is deprived and bent toward straying. Eph. 2:2,3
      3. He is deceived and unheeding. Jn. 8:44; Jer. 17:9
      4. Jesus wants to make man agreeable with Himself.
         1. The leader of Iran right now is executing many of his opposers.
         2. Jesus wants to be at peace and harmony with all mankind.
         3. He isn't willing that any or even one perish. II Pet. 3:9
         4. He was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. II Cor. 5:21

IV. THE KING OF KINGS IS COMMANDING.
   A. He has the authority and right.
      1. We are His creatures. We are created in His image. Gen. 1:26,27
      2. He sustains us and we belong to Him.
   B. He doesn't make us obey.
      1. Lost people are not made to obey. They can reject Him.
      2. Saved people are not forces to obey the Lord. Joshua 24:15
   C. He will require of us an answering day. II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15.

V. THE KING OF KINGS IS CONQUERING.
   A. He is conqueror at Armageddon.
      1. Rev. 19 describes the kings of the earth gathered against the rider of the white horse called the Faithful and True. Rev. 19:11
      2. The birds feed upon the horses and men who fight this battle.
      3. The beast and false prophet are to be cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 19:20
   B. He is conqueror at God and Magog.
      1. At the end of the 1,000 year reign the devil will deceive the nations and gather himself against the beloved city.
      2. Jesus will take the devil and cast him into the lake of fire also.
   C. He will be the conqueror acknowledged by every human soul.
      1. Every knee shall bow to Him. Phil. 2:10
      2. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father, Phil. 2:11.
      3. The King of Kings is alive.
THE LORD'S PROMISE TO BLESS

D. B. WRIGHT

TEXT: II CHRON. 7:14
II COR. 6:17-18

INTRODUCTION:
A. The Lord's Promise to be "with"---
   1. His Child.......Heb. 13:5
   2. His Church.......Matt. 28:19-20
B. Let it be observed that SIN CAN HINDER
   God blessing His child and His Church.
   Isaiah 59:1-2

I. THE LORD'S PROMISE TO BLESS HIS WORD!
   A. Isaiah 55:11
   B. Remember, THE WORD IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S
      SWORD. Eph. 6:17 Heb. 4:12
   C. Examples of the Lord BLESSING HIS WORD!
      1. Acts 2:37
      2. Acts 16:14
      3. Acts 17:32-34
   D. The Challenge. Isa. 32:20 Eccl. 11:4-6

II. THE LORD'S PROMISE TO BLESS HIS WITNESSES.
   A. The Holy Spirit was given us for this
      purpose. Acts 1:8
      2. The Holy Spirit gives holy boldness.
         Acts 7:54-56
      3. The Holy Spirit gives DIRECTION to the
         Lord's witnesses!
         a. Acts 9:26
         b. Acts 9:29
         c. Observations.
            1. Philip had made himself available.
               Rom. 12:1
            2. Philip was obedient to the angel
               of the Lord. v-27
            3. Philip was equipped to teach.
               Acts 8:35
   B. The Lord's Promise to the witnesses.
      1. Psalms 126:5-6
      3. Those who heard the things that happened
         in Jerusalem on Pentecost had told it unto thousands throughout the city.

III. THE LORD'S PROMISE TO BLESS OUR PRAYERS!
   A. The Lord is able to bless.
      Psa. 50:10 Psa. 62:11 II Cor. 9:8
   B. His promise to bless our prayers.
      Matthew 7:7-8,11

IV. THE LORD'S PROMISE TO BLESS OUR FAITH!
   Matt. 21:22 Prov. 3:5 Psa. 37:5,7a

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THE PERSONNEL
Director...................Glen E. Tropp
Treasurer..................Ellis Goodwin
Asst. Treasurer...........John Skipper

THE PURPOSE
(1) Sound Out the Gospel with a Prayer that someone, somewhere may hear and be saved.
(2) Sound Out the Word to help Christians intake Spiritual Food which is so vital in their Growth Process in Christ.
(3) Serve as a helper in helping others find a Missionary Baptist Church of like faith and order in their area so that they can give God glory in and through her.

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