

native using a grinding machine to grind meal for their evening meal. As I reached home I discovered what it was, for then a whistle began to blow and the low vibrating sound grew louder. Voices were heard as a heathen engagement party came marching along the road. A white flag led the procession; three or four native girls dressed in heathen and christian dress were running and swaggering, and one was blowing a whistle. Following them came young men in heathen dress, also running at a slow pace, singing and shouting and also swaggering; it seems that they were trying to make a good show and noise. The rear of the procession was brought up by two or three heathen boys, one carrying the instrument which made the low vibrating sound which I had mistaken for a mealie mill—it was a native war horn. Not very long after going they returned, but now the gathering and threatening storm had broken and the jubilant party were being subjected to heavy rain driven by quite a strong wind. They passed and were gone. I wonder how many of that company of young people will spend eternity without God? Death's cold hand will soon be laid upon them and they will be removed beyond the possibility of being saved. Let us continue to work and pray for the lost souls in Africa.

Yours to do more for God,
C. D. M. SANDERS

THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

B. D. Price

The real purpose of Jesus' coming to this world was "to call sinners to repentance," a note missing these days. We hear message of God's invitation: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden," and exhortations to sinners to "believe" or to "decide" for Christ. But the gospel we have in the Word is for those who see their need of His grace and realize their sin and helplessness, those who are awakened to their sinful condition. How is this to come about? Christ has given us an example, also His Apostles; likewise our Lord's forerunner, John the Baptist: "Repent," the gospel calls **all** men to repentance. Also, in the Old Testament we find the call to repentance, not only to the individual, but also to nations.

We can rebuild, reform, re-organize, rehabilitate, etc., but if we do not repent, we will never be redeemed. We do not find in all texts pertaining to salvation the call to repentance, but we do find the first call to sinners is "repent," then call on Him, believe on Him, trust in Him, etc., in order to receive salvation.

Now the penalty of this missing note creates an impression that the gospel is not only free, but cheap, tho' when we recall the sacrifice made for this message of grace, it is a pearl of great price; the only sufficient ransom for man's soul. Again, we see a risk of creating the impression that surrender saves, something we do, rather than what is done for us in Christ, and again overlooking the keeping power which alone can make any decision of ours effective and permanent. This matter is connected very closely with the subject of repentance, for a decision which looks to the future without taking account of our past sin causes us to lose sight of our depravity and the power of God to not only forgive us of our sin, but also to forget them. A sin repented of is a sin forgiven and if we then "walk in the light as He is in the light," the blood of His Son will cleanse us from all sin. It is not

only the unconverted who need the call to repentance—it is also a call which had to be sounded frequently to members of the early church.

Many wonder why revival tarries. It is because the professors of the church need to repent. Many are the calls to more prayer for revivals and more believing. Have we forgotten that sometimes prayers cannot be answered because of the trespasses of those who offer them. We have in the Word two searching reminders of this fact, one to the individual and the other as reference to united prayer. Psa. 66:18: "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." This covers symptoms of many, including ill-feeling, inconsistency, lack of real devotion, etc. Then again in Isaiah 1:15, because of their shallow religious service, and the inconsistency of their living, the Lord declares to Israel: "When ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; when ye make many prayers I will not hear." Then in verses 16 and 17 He sounds the call to repentance: "Was you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes, cease to do evil, learn to do well."

What is it that the church needs to repent of in order that Blessing may come?

We are all members. Let us search ourselves individually and repent of any spiritual lack or wrong act.

This same prophet Isaiah has in the latter part of his prophecies (ch. 55) a twofold message: "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thought, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." The second is in Ch. 57: "For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy. I dwell in the high and holy place with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

May God awaken us one and all to the awful reality of sin and its inroads in the very heart of our Nation and Christian civilization, and our need of repentance and returning to God with a contrite faith that He may receive us and hear our cry as a church and nation. Amen.

THE DIARY OF A BIBLE

January 15—Been resting quietly for a week. The first few nights after the first of the year my owner read me regularly, but he has forgotten me, I guess.

February 2—Clean-up. I was dusted, with other things, and put back in my place.

February 3—Owner used me for a short time after dinner, looked up a few references. Went to Sunday School.

March 7—Clean-up. Dusted and in my old place again. Have been down in the lower hall since my trip to Sunday School.

April 2—Busy day. Owner led C. S. meeting and had to look up references. He had an awful time finding me, although I was right there in my place all the time.

May 5—In grandma's lap. She is here on a visit. She let a tear drop on Colossians 2:5-7.

May 6—In grandma's lap again this afternoon. She spent most of her time on I. Corinthians 13, and the last four verses of the 15th chapter.

May 7, 8 and 9—In grandma's lap every afternoon now. It's a comfortable spot. Some-

times she reads me and sometimes she talks to me.

May 10—Grandma gone. Back in the old place again. She kissed me good-bye.

June 4—Had a couple of four-leaf clovers stuck in me today.

July 1—Packed in a trunk with clothes and other things. Off on a vacation, I guess.

July 2—Still in the trunk, though nearly everything else has been taken out.

July 10—Home again and in my old place. Quite a journey, though I do not see why I went.

August 1—Rather stuffy and hot. Have two magazines, a novel and an old hat on top of me. Wish they would take them off.

September 10—Clean-up. Dusted and set right again.

September 12—Used by Mary a few moments today. She was writing a letter to a friend whose brother had died, and she wanted an appropriate verse.

If your Bible could talk, what story would it tell?—Sci.

THAT BLESSED HOPE

R. Barclay Warren

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

The Christian, having renounced sin and walking in the light of God's grace, lives in readiness for the appearing of Jesus Christ.

There is substantial ground for this blessed hope of the return of Jesus Christ. He definitely promised, "if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself."

Angels also affirmed it: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

The writers of the New Testament as they were moved by the Holy Ghost frequently gave expression to this blessed hope.

This hope is blessed because at His appearing all who are in Christ will receive an incorruptible, immortal body. Sickness will be no more. We shall have a perfect adaptation to dwell forever with God in His holy heaven.

This blessed hope affords a stimulus to the Christian. "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure."

We want to be ready to meet Jesus when He returns to receive His own. We want to be among the redeemed and purified when Jesus comes. What a blessed hope!

William Lyon Phelps of Yale University called the most beloved professor in America—has on more than one occasion stated: "I thoroughly believe in a university education for both men and women, but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible.—Selected.

In love and friendship it is better to make small steady payments on a gold basis than to give large promissory notes.—Henry Van Dyke.