

FRONT COVER:

FROM MELITA TO MILETUM

WHAT ABOUT THE SIGNS
OF MARK 16:17 AND 18:

HEAL THE SICK, WHO? HOW?

FIRST PAGE TITLE:

FROM 'MELITA' TO 'MILETUM'

A TRIP WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL FROM
ACTS 28:1 to 9 TO II TIMOTHY 4:20

What about the 'Signs' of Mark 16:17 and 18
and Divine Healing?

Quite a variety of religious 'HEALING' movements are moving right along. Public healing meetings are increasing at an alarming rate. Some splendid, sincere, religious Christians are sponsoring and supporting some of these meetings with real zeal and enthusiasm. In other healing movements metaphysical 'MIND' healers, by means of their practitioners and literature, are healing many sick people. Some of these 'MIND' healing movements are well organized, and operate in the name of Bible Christianity, in the name of the Christ of 'Evangelical Christianity'. They practice 'Mesmerism' or 'Quinbyism', (mind over matter), and charge the Lord Jesus with having practiced the same 'MIND' healing. Of course the religious clause in our Bill of Rights permits them to teach and practice their camouflaged 'Mesmerism' or mental healing. However the infallible Holy Spirit and the infallible Word of God do not sanction their big 'masquerade' party. But Satan, the god of this age, who transforms himself into an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:13 to 15), is heartily in favor of the disguised delusion.

The London pastor, who said, "if the 'SIGNS' of Mark 16:17 and 18 are the 'credentials' of a Christian, no Christian has lived since the death of the last of Christ's first apostles," did not mean that God has not answered prayer in behalf of a great multitude of 'sick' people and restored to health many who were given up to die by physicians who had exhausted their medical knowledge and skill in their faithful service. Of course that pastor agreed with all intelligent, sane, thinking people that Benjamin Franklin did not express the full truth when he said, "God does the healing, but the physician collects the fees." Of course when almighty God makes the final call and decides that it is time for sinner or saint to say with David, "I go the way of all the earth," medical science is helpless to prevent death. But at this time there are millions of grateful people who are alive because of the skillful knowledge and ministry of some faithful physician. All of us should know that, because the death-rate of the human race will continue 'one-apiece'

until the realization of I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 and Philippians 3:20 and 21, the 'farewell-to-earth' hour for all will arrive and the medical experts will be helpless.

ALL SAVED PEOPLE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Whether or not we agree with the Bible-teacher, who said, "in the matter of Bible study, with more than ninety percent of saved church members, to say nothing of the millions of unsaved church-members, sanctified common sense is an unknown quantity," even a babe in Christ or any superficial student of the Scriptures should know that in the midst of the awful, disgraceful 'sectarianism' in Christendom, and even in the mission work among the faraway heathen, God has one true 'BIBLE' Church in this present age and dispensation of grace, and that that Church is not primarily a religious organization, but a spiritual 'ORGANISM', called 'THE BODY OF CHRIST'. (Ephesians 1:19 to 23 . . . 4:4 and 5 . . . Colossians 1:24 to 26). This CHURCH, in Ephesians 3:6, is called 'THE JOINT-BODY', because all regenerated 'CHURCH-MEMBERS' are joined together with Christ, the risen HEAD (Ephesians 2:21 and 22 . . . 4:15 and 16), and they have been raised up and made to sit down with Christ in the heavenlies. (Ephesians 2:5 and 6). They have all been baptized by One Spirit into ONE BODY (I Corinthians 12:13), "reconciled in 'ONE BODY' by the cross." (Ephesians 2:16).

What a pity, after about 1900 years of Christianity, that every rational, intelligent, thinking person living in this land of Bibles and religious liberty does not know that, with respect to salvation, the adults of this world are divided into just two groups (not three or more), "dead sinners" and "living saints"; and that every member of the BODY OF CHRIST is already 'alive from the dead' (Romans 6:13); and that 'dead sinners' do not become 'living saints' by what man does for God, but by what God, in His sovereign grace, does for the believing child of Adam! (John 11:25 and 26 . . . Titus 3:5 to 8 . . . II Thessalonians 2:13 . . . Ephesians 2:1 to 10).

All of the members of the ONE TRUE BIBLE CHURCH, the 'ORGANISM', are exhorted and instructed to pray for one another, with all prayer and supplication (Ephesians 6:17 to 20). This true BIBLE CHURCH, Which Christ will present to Himself as a glorious, spotless, blameless, holy Church (Ephesians 5:25 to 28), is to be with Christ 'ONE FLESH' (Ephesians 5:31 and 32). The members, in Ephesians 4, are to endeavour to keep the unity, the 'ONENESS' of the Spirit. They are instructed, in I Corinthians 1:10, to think the same things and speak the same doctrine. Every member of the BODY OF CHRIST should always manifest a spiritual, prayerful interest in every other BODY-member. Therefore, every saved person should pray the prayer of 3 John 2 for every other BODY-member, "Beloved, I pray, that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (R.V.)

Moreover all BODY-members should constantly and continuously remind themselves, and others, of the truth of II Corinthians 4:16 to 18: "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish ('rot thoroughly'), yet the inward man is renewed day by day: for our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory . . . While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Because of this all-important truth, and because even the most faithful, consecrated, and spiritual saints groan within themselves, waiting for the redemption of the body (Romans 8:23), Peter exhorted the Christian women to go easy on the 'cosmetics'. The word 'adorning' in I Peter 3:2 to 4 is the Greek 'cosmos', from which 'cosmetics' is derived. But the great tragedy of

today is that Satan is persuading many religious people to use ‘religious cosmetics’ for soul salvation, and his deluded victims seem to be very happy in their delusions. (II Corinthians 11:13 to 15).

MR. A. E. BISHOP’S BOOK CONCERNING SIGNS AND MIRACLES

We shall quote more than a few of the statements in a book containing the messages of Mr. A. E. Bishop. But here we quote two of these statements. Every sane, intelligent thinking person should heartily agree with the first statement, and then try to carefully and prayerfully decide whether or not the second statement is truth or error:

“Some of the choicest of saints, by the elective will of God, have been patient sufferers for years upon sick beds.”

“Deceived by Satan are those who contend that the ‘SIGN-GIFTS’ are still in the Church, and would be in manifestation everywhere, if God’s people were in a healthy spiritual state and exercising faith to that end.”

According to this last statement, several million sincere, devout, consecrated Christians are today being deceived by Satan, as to ‘SIGN’ healing of sickness. Of course all of the ‘MIND’ healers, who call their healing ‘Christian’ healing, are deceived by Satan. When we think of the millions of religious people, who are frustrating the grace of God with ritualism and Old Testament sacraments and ordinances, and other splendid Christians who call the Body of Christ ‘ISRAEL’, and others who do not know the difference between the kingdom of heaven and the Body of Christ, who do not know the difference between Peter’s message, ‘before the FALL of Israel’, and Paul’s grace message, ‘after the FALL of Israel’, we might well believe Revelation 12:9. In this verse Satan is accused of deceiving the whole world.

What would be your answer to this very important question copied front the ‘Bishop’ book: “Is it the Spirit of God or Satan who turns the eyes of sincere Christians ‘BACK TO PENTECOST’, and away from the ‘GOAL’ placed before them in Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians?”

The ‘SIGN’ Christians in the ‘Full Gospel’ assemblies have certainly turned their eyes ‘BACK TO PENTECOST’, and apparently have no desire to be established according to Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 4:9 to 16. They seem to be apathetically indifferent as to the statement in Romans 11:11, that when and because of the ‘FALL’ of Israel, salvation was sent to the Gentiles in a manner never before sent to them, and that that ‘FALL’ marked the historic beginning of the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles’ (Ephesians 3:1 to 3).

The religious leaders and teachers, who teach that the ‘FALL’ of Israel, God’s ‘SIGN’ nation, happened before Peter and the Eleven stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached to all the house of Israel, do greatly err, not knowing the Scriptures. This faulty ‘dispensationalism’ has so influenced many faithful, spiritual members of the BODY of Christ, that they do not know or make known the truth of Ephesians 3:9. There is a great difference between God’s ‘good pleasure’ in Luke 12:32 and 33, and His ‘good pleasure’ in Ephesians 1:4 and 5 and 11. In Acts 5:29 to 32 we learn that the Lord Jesus was raised up ‘twice’ to be Israel’s Saviour, once in ‘incarnation’ (Acts 13:23 . . . Matthew 15:24 . . . Romans 17:8 . . . John 1:11), and again in ‘resurrection’. After reading these verses and Acts 2:36 and 10:28 and 11:19 we should know that believing Gentiles were not baptized by the Holy Spirit into the BODY of Christ (the

‘JOINT-BODY’) of Ephesians 3:6 during the years after the resurrection of Christ; that Peter was using the keys of the kingdom. More quotations from the Bishop book later on in this message.

SAVED AND UNSAVED RELIGIOUS HEALER

The saved ‘SIGN’ healers, who often quote Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today and For Ever,” as well as the unsaved ‘metaphysical’ ‘MIND’ healers, who claim that their ‘MIND’ healing, is ‘Christian’ healing, are sure that they have in Mark 16:17 and 18 Divine authority for carrying on their ‘religious’ or ‘spiritual’ healing of physical sickness, including broken bones, blindness and insanity.

Between the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus He met with eleven of His twelve apostles (Matthew 28:16 and Mark 16:14). After telling them that all power was given unto Him in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18), He instructed them to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, adding: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,”

“And these ‘Signs’ shall follow them that believe: In My Name shall they cast out demons . . . they shall speak in new tongues. They shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

More than twenty-five years after the resurrected Christ spoke these words to the ‘ELEVEN’ apostles, another ‘very special’ apostle, one born out of due time (I Corinthians 15:8), the apostle Paul, together with 275 other persons, was shipwrecked near the island called ‘MELITA’. The ‘Miracle-Working’ God ‘MIRACULOUSLY’ saved the 276 shipwrecked passengers and crew. (Acts 27:37 to 44). “And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called ‘MELITA’. (Acts 28:1). In Acts 28:2 to 6 we find Paul in the midst of a company of ‘barbarians’. A poisonous beast fastened itself on Paul’s hands, and when the ‘barbarians’ “saw that no harm came to him,” the ‘barbarians’ called Paul, a god.

The father of the chief man of ‘MELITA’ was a very, very sick man. “Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid hands on him, and healed him.” (Acts 28:8). Others on ‘MELITA’, who had diseases, were also ‘MIRACULOUSLY’ ‘INSTANTANEOUSLY’ healed by Paul.

As we read of the poisonous beast and the healing of sickness by Paul’s hands on ‘MELITA’, we think of Mark 16:17 and 18. We also think of Romans 15:18 to 20 and II Corinthians 12:12, the testimonies of the apostle Paul after his two or three missionary journeys, “from Jerusalem to Illyricum,” of those things which Christ wrought by him to make the Gentiles obedient:

“Through mighty ‘SIGNS’ and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God.” (Romans 15:19).

“Truly the ‘SIGNS’ of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in ‘SIGNS’ and wonders and mighty deeds.” (II Corinthians 12:12).

The ‘SIGNS’ which Christ wrought by Paul, by the power of the Spirit of God, were ‘CREDENTIAL’ ‘SIGNS’; the ‘SIGNS’ of an apostle. The ‘SIGNS’ which Christ and the Holy Spirit wrought by the ‘TWELVE’ apostles were ‘CREDENTIAL’ ‘SIGNS’. (Hebrews 2:2 to 4). The ‘SIGNS’, which the Father wrought by Christ, Who was the FATHER’S APOSTLE (‘SENT-ONE’) (Hebrews 3:1), (John 6:57 . . . 12:49 . . . 17:18), were ‘CREDENTIAL’ ‘SIGNS’. (John 5:36 and Acts 2:22) (Acts 10: 36 to 39).

As we carefully study the record of the ‘MIRACULOUS’ works and ‘SIGNS’ of the Lord Jesus in the midst of Israel, of the ‘TWELVE’, and of the apostle Paul, we do not find that they told the ‘SICK’ and lame and blind and demon-possessed whom they healed, that they had

to be born again before they could be ‘MIRACULOUSLY’ ‘INSTANTANEOUSLY’ healed, or that they would, in turn, heal other sick people after they were healed. There is no record in Acts that any one of the ‘TWELVE’ performed one ‘MIRACLE’ or did any ‘SIGN’ healing after the statement in Acts 12:19, that Peter abode at Caesarea. Neither is there one statement that any one of the ‘TWELVE’ healed one Gentile while they were with Christ on earth (Matthew 15:23 . . . Matthew 10:5), or after Christ was raised from the dead.

Then another all-important fact: there is no mention of any ‘SIGN’ healing, by the apostle Paul after the ‘MIRACULOUS’ ‘INSTANTANEOUS’ healing of the idolatrous heathen on the island called ‘MELITA’. As we read of the sickness of three of Paul’s faithful helpers, Timothy in I Timothy 5:23, Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:25 to 29, and Trophimus in II Timothy 4:20, it seems that the apostle Paul was utterly helpless to do anything for his ‘SICK’ friends except to prescribe a physical remedy and to pray for them.

Because a great change must have taken place, by the will of God, between the time that Paul miraculously healed ‘barbarians’ on ‘MELITA’ and the time he wrote, “Trophimus have I left at ‘MILETUM’ ‘SICK’ (II Timothy 4:20), we should give the ‘BEREAN’ test (Acts 17:10 and 11) to two more statements copied from the ‘Bishop’ book:

“In the latest Epistles of Paul not only is it noticeable that the ‘SIGNGIFTS’ are nowhere in manifestation, but a ‘DIFFERENT’ order is brought forth by the Holy Spirit for the correction of prevailing hobbies and fanaticisms.”

“The fact that the Bible does not give a hint of the manifestation of the ‘SIGN-GIFTS’ after the close of the Book of Acts, must carry convincing evidence to the careful student, who compares Scripture with Scripture, that they have been retired.”

Mr. Bishop did give these statements the ‘BEREAN’ test before he put them in print. You and I should do the same thing, which we can do by carefully studying Philippians, Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians and Timothy, and also I Timothy and Titus, which Epistles according to Mr. Bishop give the ‘normal course of the Church’. By comparing Scripture with Scripture, and by learning that there is not one mention or suggestion in any of these Epistles that the apostle Paul, or any other servant of the Lord, exercised ‘THE GIFT OF HEALING’ (I Corinthians 12:9), or than any ‘SICK’ saint or sinner received miraculous ‘SIGN’ healing by the laying on of hands or in any other way, we should acknowledge that for some reason the ‘SIGNS’ and miracles and wonders, which had their God-given place in God’s spiritual program before God, through Paul, pronounced His awful, terrible judgment upon His ‘SIGN’ nation, (Acts 28:25 to 28), had no place in Paul’s ministry thereafter. This is why our title. “‘FROM ‘MELITA’, Acts 28:1 to 9, TO ‘MILETUM’, II Timothy 4:20.”

SIR ROBERT ANDERSON AGREED WITH MR. BISHOP

At this time when both saved and unsaved church-members are wondering whether or not the reported healing of divers diseases by ‘SIGN’ and ‘MIND’ healers is Christian healing, every living Christian should read three books; two by Sir Robert Anderson, and the one by Mr. A. E. Bishop. The two ‘Anderson’ books are, “The Gospel And Its Ministry” and “The Silence Of God.” The Bishop book is entitled “Signs . . . Tongues . . . Visions . . . Not God’s Order For Today.” The positive, definite, fixed ‘dispensationalism’ presented in these books is the only intelligent sound doctrinal answer to the present-day healing delusions.

Note this statement in the Bishop book; “if we fail to see the hand of Satan in the present eccentricities and fanaticisms prominent in the ‘Tongues’ and ‘Pentecostal’ movements, we will

dishonor the Lord, and nor be able to serve Him in the deliverance and protection of His own from these delusions.”

Mr. Bishop’s book was endorsed without reservation by Dr. C. I. Scofield, the author and editor of the Scofield Reference Bible, and was published and distributed for more than thirty years by Moody Colportage Association of Chicago. It is now published and distributed by BIOLA BOOK STORE, 536 So. Hope St., Los Angeles.

As we thoughtfully and intelligently consider Sir Robert Anderson’s ‘curative’ ‘dispensationalism’, let us keep in mind I Corinthians 2:14 and I John 2:26 and 27, the truth that no matter how religious and conscientious and earnest and sincere a person may be, if not saved by grace through faith in the perfect redemptive work of the perfect Christ, that person has not received the Holy Spirit, the ‘Anointing’ (II Corinthians 1:21); and therefore cannot understand spiritual truth as revealed by the Holy Spirit in the Bible. But even unto saved people, who have received the Holy Spirit, this admonition is written: “these things have I written unto you, concerning them that ‘seduce’ you . . . The ‘ANOINTING’ which ye have received abideth in you . . . the same ‘ANOINTING’ teacheth you of all things.” Then the Lord would have all of His ‘ANOINTED’ ones, or ‘CHRIST’ ones, to be like the noble Bereans of Acts 17:10 and 11. So give these statements of Sir Robert Anderson the ‘BEREAN’ ‘BIBLE’ test:

“As there were no miracles in Jerusalem after the stoning of Stephen, there were none in Rome after that solemn Ichabod (Acts 28:25 to 28) had been pronounced by the apostle (Paul). For the age of miracles was passed, with the ‘dispensation’ to which they belonged. The apostle (Paul) himself entered upon the life of faith beneath a silent heaven. Such is the character of this Christian ‘dispensation’; for ours is the blessedness of those who have not seen but yet have believed.” (John 20:29 . . . II Corinthians 5:7 . . . Hebrews 11:1 and I Peter 1:8).

As we think of the words of Christ, in John 20:29, the blessedness of those who, having not seen, do believe, let us think also of His words in Matthew 12:39 and 16:4, “a wicked (evil) and adulterous generation seeketh after a ‘SIGN’.” Let us not be ‘SIGN-SEEKERS’. Sooner or later the religious people who walk by ‘SIGNS’ and ‘SIGHT’ will have their faith shaken.

Sir Robert Anderson, in his book “The Silence Of God,” wrote that no one dare limit what God will do for a saint. He and Mr. Bishop and Dr. Scofield believed, what every intelligent, informed Christian today should believe, ‘Divine Healing’ patterned after the healing of Epaphroditus, who was ‘SICK NIGH UNTO DEATH’, upon whom God had mercy and raised him up. (Philippians 2:25 to 29). This healing is quite different from the ‘credential’ and ‘SIGN’ healing from Matthew 4:23 to Acts 28:9, covering a period of more than thirty years. Beware of ‘Divine’ healers!

COMMENTS OF METAPHYSICAL HEALERS, MORMONS AND ‘FULL-GOSPEL’ HEALERS CONCERNING THE ‘SIGNS’ OF MARK 16:17 AND 18.

Some of the ‘metaphysical’ ‘MIND’ healers do not claim that their healing of sicknesses is Christian healing. Some of them do, and contend that they are following in the footsteps of Christ and His apostles in their ‘MIND’ healing.

A very religious lady, who was a student of Mesmerism, Quinbyism and Mrs. Lee’s ‘Shakerism’, claimed that, in 1866, she discovered ‘Divine Science’. She has provided for her disciples a text-book containing more than 700 pages, explaining her discovery in detail. She was very sure that those who desire to be healed of sickness or to heal others, in the manner that Christ and His apostles healed, must have her text-book, for it is the voice of truth for this age.

She and her followers do not preach or practice Mark 16:16, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." But they are sure that what Christ said in Mark 16:17 and 18, concerning 'SIGNS' which should follow those who believe Mark 16:16, fully authorizes every Christian from the day of Pentecost down to this very day to 'heal' the sick. In her text-book the discoverer of 'Divine Science' suggested that if the missionaries who have gone to India had obeyed Mark 16:17 and 18, hundreds of serpent-bitten natives of India would not have died every year. Note several of her printed statements concerning Mark 16:17 and 18:

"Jesus said, These 'SIGNS' shall follow 'THEM' that believe. He did not say 'YOU' (eleven apostles) who believe." 'THEM' that believe 'in all time to come'."

"The demonstration of 'healing' was early lost; about three centuries after Christ's crucifixion."

"Why does this command, "heal the sick," have so little inspiration to stir mankind to Christian effort? Because men are assured that the 'SIGN' command was intended only for a particular period, and for a select number of followers. This teaching is error more pernicious than the old doctrine of foreordination."

Here you will note that this religious lady has accused God of revealing to the human race a 'pernicious' doctrine in I Peter 1:18 to 23 and Ephesians 1:4 and 5. You will see that she most heartily disagreed with Mr. Bishop and Sir Robert Anderson who have submitted Scriptural proof that the 'SIGN-GIFTS' were retired after the close of the period covered by the Book of Acts, which was long before the third century after the death of Christ; in fact only about thirty years after that death.

We learn, in Matthew 4:23 and 25, 8:16 and 17 and in Luke 7:19 to 23 and 17:11 to 19, that the Lord Jesus healed the sick. We learn in Matthew 10:8 that twelve apostles were instructed by Christ to heal the sick. We are told in Luke 10:9 that SEVENTY other disciples were instructed by Christ to heal the sick. In Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we do not read of any healing of the sick by others than Christ, the TWELVE and the SEVENTY. In Acts 6:8 and Acts 8:6 we learn that Stephen and Philip performed 'MIRACLES'; in the land of the Jews, including the city of Samaria. We read in Acts 5:12 to 16 of the 'SIGNS' and 'MIRACULOUS' healing by the hands of the TWELVE, and special healing by Peter. In Acts 19:11 and 12 we read of 'MIRACULOUS' healing of the sick by the handkerchiefs and aprons which touched Paul's body. Both Peter and Paul spoke in tongues. Both Peter and Paul were 'MIRACULOUSLY' delivered from jail. Both Peter and Paul were directed by visions, trances and the angel of the Lord. Both Peter and Paul pronounced judgments upon those who interfered with their ministry. Both Peter and Paul raised the dead. But aside from Stephen and Philip, we learn by diligently and thoroughly studying the Book of Acts that either Peter or Paul was present when sick people were 'MIRACULOUSLY' healed. We learn that not one of the TWELVE healed any Gentiles; and that not one of the TWELVE healed any Jews after Acts 12:19. We learn that not one of Paul's faithful fellow-missionaries, including Timothy, Luke, Andronicus, Trophimus, and Aquila healed a single person.

We do learn, however, in I Corinthians 12:9, that some Christian, whose names are not mentioned, had the gift of healing. By carefully and prayerfully studying from Acts 13:2 to Acts 28:9, and comparing with Galatians 3:2 to 5 and Romans 15:18 to 20 and II Corinthians 12:12, we may learn that Paul, during the period covered by the Book of Acts, exercised all of the 'SIGN-GIFTS' mentioned in I Corinthians 12:8 to 11. Then by traveling with Paul from Acts 28:25 to 28 to II Timothy 4:20 we may learn that Paul, after the close of the period covered by the Book of Acts, did not exercise any of the 'MIRACULOUS' 'SIGN-GIFTS'. Concerning

these 'SIGN-GIFTS', we read in Mr. Bishop's book: "in contrast with the 'SIGNGIFTS' of I Corinthians 12, limited to a portion of the believers and 'OPERATIVE ONLY DURING THE BOOK OF ACTS PERIOD', let us note the 'NON-SIGN' gifts of Ephesians 4:10."

SHOULD ALL CHRISTIANS HEAL THE SICK? HOW?

While it may be true, as has been said, that there are more unsaved church-members in this country than saved members, it does seem that there are more than fifteen million really saved people in this country, ranging from ten years to ninety or more. According to the discoverer of 'Divine Science', every one of these millions should be performing the 'SIGNS' of Mark 16:17 and 18, especially 'healing the sick' and people with broken backs arms and legs, giving sight to the blind and curing the insane, all of which she claimed that she and her students have done, and her disciples are now doing. The more than fifteen million Christians, obeying Mark 16:18, should require less than thirty days to empty every hospital, every deaf-and-mute asylum, every blind institute, every insane asylum, and to heal every disabled war veteran in this country.

Note the very important instructions for those who want to be successful 'metaphysical' 'MIND' healers, instructions copied from the text-book, which the author claimed to be the voice of truth for this age. See how the healing Science operates:

"Both sin and sickness are error, and truth is their remedy. The truth regarding error is, that error is not true: hence it is unreal." "To prove scientifically the unreality of disease, you must mentally unsee the disease. Then you will not feel it: and it is destroyed," "The permanent remedy for fatigue is to learn the power of mind over the body, or an illusion of physical weariness." "Treat a belief in sickness, as you would 'sin', with sudden dismissal."

"The author removed the saline property from salt"

"The salt had lost its savour, and yet with a goblet of water and one drop of that 'savourless' salt she cured a patient sinking in the last stage of typhoid fever."

"From this it may be learned that there is no efficacy in a drug."

"It is related that Sir Humphrey Davy once apparently cured a case of paralysis simply by introducing a thermometer into the patient's mouth. The sick man thinking the thermometer was supposed to heal him, recovered accordingly."

"Your child may have worms, if you say so."

"A man was made to believe that he occupied a bed where a cholera patient had died. Immediately the symptoms of the disease appeared, and the man died."

As we read this last statement you and I might wonder what would have happened to the deceived man, if he had been told that a man had died in that bed from a gun-shot or had died in that bed as the result of an auto accident.

If it were not for the deceiving power of Satan, the god of this age, it would be impossible for any rational, intelligent, informed person to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ taught concerning sin and sickness what is taught in the text-book we have mentioned. Concerning the reality of sin in I John 1:7 to 10 the Scriptures call the author of this book a liar. Christ and His apostles did not tell any sinner that he could 'THINK AWAY' his sin. Christ said, "This is My blood, which is shed for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28). Then note what is stated in the last Book of the so-called New Testament Scriptures, as the apostle John saw the resurrected Christ: "unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5) . . . "Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood." (Revelation

5:9). In Leviticus 17:11 we read, "it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." In Hebrews 9:22 we read, "without the shedding of blood is no remission." Now Romans 5:8 and 9 . . . "Christ died for us . . . being now justified by His blood." "Jesus, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood suffered without the gate." (Hebrews 13:12).

It is almost beyond human reason and comprehension that this religious leader would ask her followers to accept her religious concoction as 'BIBLE CHRISTIANITY', and to understand how they could accept it and believe that the sick and sinning can be relieved of sickness and sin by sudden dismissal. While our Bill of Rights gives them the right to believe anything religiously that they want to believe, the Bible plainly teaches that the preaching of the cross and Christ crucified is foolishness to them that perish; that Christ died on Calvary's cross to deliver believing sinners from the wrath to come, from the sorrows of the second death.

THE BELIEF OF MORMONS (LATTER DAY SAINTS) CONCERNING MARK 16:17 AND 18

I have just read several times a very interesting book entitled 'MORMON DOCTRINE'. The author of this book called himself "President" "Charles W. Penrose." I spent several months comparing the contents of this book with the text-book of the religious lady who discovered 'Divine Science' in 1866. During the same several months that I was comparing these two books I read several times a book by a 'FULL GOSPEL' healer, a book entitled "The Father And His Family." I marked more than 700 pages in the 'Divine Science' textbook, which I had read many, many times during the past thirty years.

As to Evangelical Christianity, as taught in the Bible, the Mormon president and the 'Full Gospel' evangelist, radically disagreed in more than fifty percent of their teachings. But they agreed concerning Mark 16:16 to 18. The doctrinaire Mormon agreed with the Divine Science discoverer that the 'SIGNS' of Mark 16:17 and 18 were lost several centuries after the death of Christ, because the Christian Church became faithless and corrupt. But as to Bible Christianity, according to the beliefs set forth in the two books, there is as much difference between 'Mormonism' and 'Divine Science' as there is between Judaism and Mohamedenism. Think of this when each these religious systems claims to present the one genuine interpretation Bible truth concerning Christ and His Church. All three of the author mentioned, representing three very different conceptions of Bible Christianity, were in enthusiastic and whole-hearted agreement that the 'SIGNS' Mark 16:17 and 18 should have a very definite place in God's present-day; spiritual program.

Note these statements copied from:

MORMON DOCTRINE

After relating the wonderful visions which Joseph Smith received when Elijah and Peter and James and John and Gabriel and John the Baptist appeared to him, and, by special revelation, authorized him to recover lost truth and to reestablish the true Christian Church, note what followed as cording to President 'Latter Day Saint' Penrose:

"So the church was set up in these latter times. Humbly believers received the word with gladness, obeying it, obtained from God the witness of His truth. The 'signs' promised to believers followed them. They spoke in tongues, prophesied, saw visions, dreamed divine dreams, and enjoyed all of the 'gifts', as did the saint of old. The 'sick' were healed by the laying

on of hands demons were cast out, the deaf heard, the eyes of the blind were opened, the lame leaped for joy, the tongue of the dumb was loosed. The heavens were opened to human view, and the Holy Ghost, as on the day of Pentecost, rested down in power upon the saints of the 'new dispensation'.

President Penrose wrote that every child of Adam will ultimately be saved; but that the dead who were not Mormons should receive 'vicarious baptism', water baptism by a living substitute or sponsor. He said that only the disciples of Joseph Smith had the Christ-given authority to immerse or to impose hands for the gift or baptism of the Holy Spirit.

If the several hundred thousand members of the Reorganized Church of Latter Saints are not in good 'doctrinal' standing with the 'LATTER DAY SAINTS' (MORMONS), then according to President Penrose, there are not more than one and one half million genuine Bible Christians, whose teaching and practice have the full approval of Christ, the Head of the Church Which is His Body. All others are not real 'SAINTS OF THE NEW DISPENSATION'. Of course, President Penrose ruled the apostle Paul out of the Church of the 'NEW DISPENSATION', for the apostle Paul, in his Epistles, repudiated at least eighty percent of what the 'LATTER DAY SAINTS' believe and practice according to Mr. Penrose's book.

If you would read carefully and thoroughly the three books which we have mentioned, the text-book of the discoverer of "Divine Science," President Penrose's "Mormon Doctrine," and the 'Full Gospel' evangelist's "The Father and His Family," and examine all of their teachings in the light of what Mr. Bishop calls 'the Christian's goal', Paul's Epistles written after God's judgment in Acts 28:25 to 28 on His 'SIGN' nation, you would find that all of them were as ignorant of the meaning of "the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles" in Ephesians 3:1 to 11 and Colossians 1:24 to 27, and the 'MYSTERY' of Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 6:19 and 20 and Ephesians 3:9 and Colossians 4:3 and 4, as though they were never mentioned in the Bible. Christians, who are not established according to Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 4:3 to 13, will be children tossed to and fro by every kind of doctrine. (Ephesians 4:14).

Since the time President Penrose wrote his book he and all of the 'Latter Day Saints', who witnessed those wonderful supernatural manifestations, later on had to say, with David, "we go the way of all the earth." As to how many of them experienced the after-death judgment of Hebrews 9:27, or are to experience the judgment described in Revelation 21:8, only God knows. (II Timothy 2:19). Only God knows how many of them experienced II Corinthians 5:8, "absent from the body present with the Lord." The real saving gospel of grace was not once presented in President Penrose's 'Mormon Doctrine'. He did indeed frustrate the grace of God.

The Bible does not say that all of the children of Adam have 'sinned alike'; but it does say that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23). And we do know that until the members of the Body of Christ are changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians 15:51 to 54), the death-rate of sinners and saints will be one-apiece, regardless of the method of physical healing we employ. The lady, who provided her disciples with her 'Divine Science' text-book, really sinned; she really died of real sickness. Moreover, if she did not repent on her death-bed of her awful satanic vagaries which she propagated in the name of the Christ of the Bible, her worst is yet to come. To pervert the 'grace' gospel is not only a sin, but a real spiritual crime. (Galatians 1:6 to 11). She and President Penrose and the 'Full Gospel' evangelist, as do many 'SIGN' Christians today, carried on their 'SIGN' ministry, with Mark 16:17, and 18 as their authority, and also claim to be authorized by the words of the Lord Jesus in John 14:12:

“Verily, verily, I (Jesus) say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto My Father.”

LET US HERE CONSIDER THE GREAT WORKS OF THE LORD JESUS

In Luke 4:36 we read that the people who saw the mighty works performed by the Lord Jesus were amazed at His authority and His power. In Mark 1:22 they said the Lord Jesus spake as one who had authority. In John 7:46 they said that the Lord Jesus spake as never man spake. They asked a good question in John 7:31, “when the Messiah cometh, will He do greater works than this Man hath done?” The mighty works and ‘SIGNS’ of the Lord Jesus were to convince Israel that He was their promised Divine Messiah, the Saviour of the world. (John 20:31 and John 5:36) . The mighty works and ‘SIGNS’ of the Lord Jesus in Luke 7:19 to 24 were to convince Israel that He was ‘GOD INCARNATE’, promised in Isaiah 35:3 to 6.

Israel tried to stone their Messiah to death, as they said to Him, “because that Thou, being a man, makest Thyself GOD.” (John 10:33). This was after the Lord Jesus said, “I have power to lay down My life; and I have power to take it again.” (John 10:17 and 18). Then He added that He gave to His sheep eternal life; that they would never perish; and that no one could pluck them out of His hands. (10:28 to 31). In John 17:2 and 3 Christ said that He had Divine power to give eternal life to believers; that He had power over all flesh. In John 1:11 and 12 we read that Christ had Divine authority and power to transform sinners into sons of God. The Lord Jesus had power on earth to forgive sins. (Mark 2:10). With three words He INSTANTANEOUSLY changed a ‘great storm’ into a ‘great calm.’ (Mark 4:37 to 41). He walked on the water. (Mark 6:48 and 49). He fed 5000 hungry people with perhaps less than one pound of fish and bread. (John 6:5 to 14). He raised to life a man who had been dead for four days. (John 11:43 and 44). He gave sight to a man born blind. (John 9:1 to 8). He spoke many fish into the net of Simon. (Luke 5:5 and 6). When the Lord Jesus put back the ear of the servant of the high-priest, which one of His disciples cut off (Luke 22:50 and 51), we are sure that it was ‘instantaneous’ healing, and that there was no scar.

In Colossians 2:3 and 9 we read that in Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; that in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. He is before all things and by Him all things consist; that by Him and for Him were all things created. (Colossians 1:15 to 18). So we are not surprised that the eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, sinless, Divine Son of God was able to predict with exact accuracy future events; and that He had power to breathe upon His disciples and give them the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22 and 21:18 and 19 and II Peter 1:14).

Many years after the resurrected Christ showed Himself alive after His death, by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3), after He ‘MIRACULOUSLY’ appeared to Saul of Tarsus, He met the apostle John on the isle of Patmos, as Alpha and Omega with the keys of death and hades, alive for ever more, as we read in the first chapter of The Revelation. Let us join with Thomas in his Confession of Christ, “My Lord and My God.” (John 20:28).

Surely we should pity the poor, deceived ‘SIGN CHRISTIANS’, who quote I Corinthians 14:12 when they testify of visions, speak in tongues and carry on their ‘hit-and-miss’ (principally miss) ‘SIGN’ healing. The ‘MIND’ healers need much more than human pity. They believe no Divine truth that will save them from the wrath of God.

THE FULL GOSPEL EVANGELIST AND HIS HEALING MINISTRY

In the last part of the text-book of the discoverer of Divine Science, under the heading 'FRUITAGE', I read more than sixty testimonials from people in many different parts of this country, who, by believing what the author of the book taught concerning 'MIND' healing, had been healed of almost every imaginable disease, such as ulcers, liver and kidney disorders, fractures, consumption, blindness, chronic stomach ailments, sprains and bruises, deafness and insanity.

As I compared the testimonies of these sincere, grateful, devout, religious people, who had been healed by 'thinking-away' sickness, ninety percent or more of whom have since died of sickness (my edition of text-book was published more than thirty years ago), with the testimony of the 'FULL GOSPEL' evangelist who published 'The Father And His Family', I learned that he healed as large a variety of diseases as were healed by 'MIND' healing. I mention this because, aside from Mark 16:17 and 18 concerning the 'SIGNS' that were to follow believers, the 'Full Gospel' evangelist did not agree with a single interpretation of a Bible doctrine as presented in the 'Divine Science' text-book. We shall explain this after quoting from the evangelist's book:

"You have as much right to demand healing as you have to demand the cashing of a check at a bank where you have a deposit." "If ye shall demand anything in My (Christ's) Name, that will I do." "In His place we demand sickness and demons to leave in the authority of His Name, and He is there to confirm by His power the word that we speak." "The legal rights are yours as much as the clothes you wear."

(Then pages 256 and 257) . . . "You can set diseased men free . . . You can set demon-bound men free." "We can bind demons, bind disease, or use fearsome power to deliver souls over to Satan for the destruction of the body."

(Then again on page 260) . . . "The writer has seen hundreds healed: soreness from sprains while prayer was being offered, swelling reduced instantly, ruptures healed like a flash from glory, and consumption in last stages healed, all soreness and coughing leave at once, broken backs instantly healed, cancers instantly healed." "We have seen demons cast out." "We have legal rights, legal authority, let us live in Him."

"In the authority of His Name: knowing that the 'legal' rights are ours." "You can set diseased men free. We are doing it 'daily' in our work." "We can bind demons, bind disease and habits, so they cannot go on in the will of Satan . . . deliver souls over to Satan for the destructive of the body." "We see the sick healed and the dead raised in the ministry of Paul." "These men, (Paul and others), made mistakes as we do: yet they wrought miracles."

(Then page 302). "We are taking Jesus' place. We have taken over his work . . . we hear Him say, greater works than these shall ye do because I go unto My Father." (John 14:12).

In the language of the Bible, "what shall we say to these things?" If an unhappy, miserable 'sick' person has been made happy and healthful by accepting the 'healing' teaching of either the 'MIND' healer or the 'Full Gospel' healer, he is enjoying the experience, and cares little for any 'dispensational' explanation offered to prove what the London pastor said, "if the 'SIGNS' of Mark 16:17 and 18 are the credentials of a Christian, no Christian has lived since the death of Christ's first apostles; for 'SIGNS' since that time have been in the counterfeit."

Now remember that that London pastor believed that God, in His sovereign grace, in response to the fervent prayers of the righteous, has restored many sick people to health. He also

believed that, since the days of Christ and His apostles, any sickness or bodily injury, that has been healed by 'MIND' healers or in answer to the prayers of faithful Christians, has been a disease or fracture similar to those which have been healed by medical science. He of course believed that God has healed many of His children after doctors and their physical remedies had failed.

We have referred to the evangelist's statement concerning the promise of Christ in John 14:12, "greater works than these shall he do." The book of this evangelist contains some blessed Bible truths. He certainly did exalt the Lord Jesus. He preached too much grace to please many 'Full Gospel' preachers. He emphasized 'grace salvation' as recorded in Ephesians 2:8 and 9 and in Romans 6:23. He most heartily and dogmatically disagreed with every one of the following statements copied from the text-book of the religious lady who discovered 'Divine Science' in 1866. Remember, as you read these quotations, that 'percentage-wise', as to the number of 'sick' people healed, the 'MIND' healers have the 'Full Gospel' healers beat two to-one. As we consider the following quotations, answer this interesting question, "can a person, who believes a lie, claim Christian healing and receive Christian healing?" Keep in mind the testimonies of the healed people in the metaphysician's text-book as you read these quoted statements, every one of which is contrary to sound Bible doctrine:

"Man has never lost his spiritual estate and his eternal harmony." "Man is incapable of sin, sickness and death." "in Divine Science we have not as much authority for considering God masculine as we have for considering Him feminine." "Our Father-Mother God." "The beast and false prophet of The Revelation are lust and hypocrisy." "Moral courage is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah." "Angels are exalted thoughts." "Heaven is harmony; but not a place." "The eternal Elohim includes the forever universe." "God accepted Abel's offering (rejecting Cain's) because Abel's lamb more nearly resembled a 'mind-offering.'" "The one offering of Christ on the cross was not sufficient to put away sin; and His blood shed on that cross was no more efficacious to put away sin than when that blood was flowing in His veins as He went about His Father's business." "The Christian agrees with the Jew that Jesus was not God." "Divine Science, discovered in 1866, was the promised Comforter, or Holy Spirit, of John 14:17 and 16:7 to 12." "The eternal Christ, His spiritual selfhood never suffered." "Material pains are unreal." "Death will be found at last to be a mortal dream." "Man has existed forever." "Sickness, sin and death are the vague realities of human conclusions." "When you have once conquered a diseased condition of the body through MIND, that condition never recurs." "I plant myself unreservedly on the teachings of Jesus, of His apostles and prophets." "People think sickly thoughts and so become sick." "All that we term sin, sickness and death is a mortal belief." "We must conquer sin, sickness and death, either here or hereafter." "Leprosy is the creation of mortal mind, not a condition of matter." "Medical Science treats disease as though disease were real." "After death mortal man through probation and growth shall change." "One should not tarry in the storm, if the body is freezing, nor remain in devouring flames. Until one is able to prevent bad results, he should avoid their occasion." "Christ existed before the Christian era as the spiritual 'IDEA'." "My discovery heals the sick as no other system can." "To admit that you are sick, renders your case less curable." "Treat a belief in sickness, as you would sin, with sudden dismissal."

There are some splendid, sincere, devout, conscientious, zealous, religious people, who heartily and enthusiastically endorse the above statements quoted from their text-book, and they agree with their human leader who dogmatically affirmed that her '1866' discovery and Christianity are one. No Christian, identified with any of the 'FULL GOSPEL' 'healing' movements, agrees with even one of the above statements. No evangelical Bible Christian agrees

with any one of the quoted statements. The Lord Jesus and His apostles and other disciples did not agree with one statement quoted above except the good advice concerning freezing rains and fire, with which even sinners agree.

GOD'S INSPIRED WORD PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE AND CORRECTION

In II Timothy 3:16 we read that God's Inspired Word is profitable, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, and also for 'correction', that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly 'furnished' unto all good works. 'Thoroughly' 'furnished', or 'fully equipped'. In II Timothy 2:15 God's workman is instructed to "study and rightly divide the Word of Truth," if he is to be a workman approved of God.

In the 'Bishop-Scofield-Moody' book we may read what the careful student of the Scriptures will learn concerning the 'SIGN-GIFTS' during the period covered by the Book of Acts and the 'Non-SIGN-GIFTS' in Paul's last Epistles, which give the normal course of the Church, if that careful student compares Scripture with Scripture. How many 'comparing' 'careful' students of the Scripture are there today? The pastor spoke the truth when he said that more than ninety percent of even the really saved church-members in this land of Bibles do not know who lived first, Abraham or Moses, and could not name six of the twelve apostles.

The great majority of church-members are apathetically indifferent as to the awful spiritual condition of both saved and unsaved church-members, and the disgraceful 'sectarianism' which prevails today. They seem wholly unconcerned as to the 'Ritualism', 'Modernism' and 'Fanaticism' which are being propagated in the name of Bible Christianity, and as to the false doctrines and fantastic vagaries which are being taught by the various religious cults.

On the other hand the majority of the zealous, aggressive, devout, active members of the old established denominational churches and the very religious people affiliated with some of the comparatively new sects and cults are so prejudiced that they cannot be like the noble 'Bereans' of Acts 17:10 and 11. If you should find here and there a 'one hundred percent' Seventh Day Adventist, or a Jehovah Witness, or a Mormon or a Christian Scientist, who is willing to listen and give careful and prayerful consideration to the 'corrective' Bible message of a 'dispensational' 'grace' Bible teacher, you would perhaps be utterly surprised.

In the 'Bishop-Scofield-Moody' book we read this statement:

"There is a corrective passage in God's Word for every error, ever heresy, every delusion, every hobby, every fanaticism, and every 'unbalanced position'."

Every zealous, aggressive, active member of a group of saved or unsaved religious people, who contends earnestly for the established creed and for all of the doctrines taught by the theologians of the sect or cult to which he belongs, is certain that, to some extent, the doctrinal position of some other religious group or sect is 'unbalanced', to say the least.

Several different groups of 'Jehovah's Witnesses' have told me lately that they have the only true interpretation of Bible Christianity, the present and future spiritual program of God. The Mormons are sure that every other denominational church holds positions that are worse than 'unbalanced'. The Seventh Day Adventists claim to be true Israel of God, the one religious group that includes the keeping of all of the ten commandments, including the seventh day Sabbath. They feel sorry for all other supposed-to-be Christians who do not know the truth of the cleansing of the sanctuary (Daniel 8:14), and the doctrine of 'scape-goat' remission of sins, that

sins will not be fully forgiven until they are laid on Satan, the 'scapegoat'. The Epistle to the Galatians is the refutation and negation of these 'LAW' religious church-members, even two verses, Galatians 3:24 and 25.

A person, Who is a one hundred percent Christian Scientist, is not a one-percent Bible Christian. If you have carefully read their text-book, you have learned that the author of that book was uncompromisingly, dogmatically opposed to all of the teachings of evangelical Christianity. You will find in that book several thousand times the word 'mind', 'MIND', 'disease', some form of the word 'sick', 'heal', 'principal', 'Science'. But you will find nothing concerning the great fundamental Christian doctrine of justification by grace through faith in the shed blood of the eternal, Divine Christ, the truth for which God's saints have earnestly contended, some of them even unto death. If you endeavor to correct the one-hundred-percent Scientists with the truth for this age concerning 'the dispensation of the grace of God' (Ephesians 3:1 to 3), even the small percentage, who might understand you, would not care to give your 'corrective' respectful and thoughtful attention.

The members of the Body of Christ are instructed to keep the 'ONENESS' of the Spirit, recognizing the all-important truth that there is in this age and dispensation of grace 'ONE' and only one TRUE BIBLE CHURCH, into which believers have been baptized by ONE SPIRIT (Ephesians 4:3 to 7, and I Corinthians 12:13) , and that these BODY-MEMBERS are to contend for 'ONE FAITH', 'ONE HOPE', 'ONE BAPTISM', even as they contend for 'ONE CHRIST' as the Head of the 'ONE BODY'. (Ephesians 4:3 to 7 . . . 1:19 to 23). In I Corinthians 12:25 we read the will of God concerning the unity of faith, doctrine and practice among members of the Body of Christ: "that there be no 'DIVISION' in the Body." In I Corinthians 1:10 the Body-members are instructed to think the same thing and have the same judgment. The members of the more than two hundred sectarian churches do some very 'different' thinking, and in much of their teaching their judgment is anything but the 'same'. In many of these church organizations saved people are unequally yoked together with unsaved religious people. Thinking, praying, Spirit-led, Bible-taught, spiritual members of the many different sectarian churches know that Christians should present to this confused world a united front; but they know not how or where to begin to take Ephesians 4:3 to 7 seriously and endeavor to keep the Unity of the Spirit.

There are at least twenty-five million Lutherans in this world today. The saved Lutherans agree with the saved Baptists in many of their Christian doctrines, but in many interpretations of the Scriptures they are so far apart that Christian unity in a 'get-together' time of real spiritual fellowship and honest-to-goodness Bible study can neither be realized nor expected. When we agree that this is a sad state of affairs, and then think of the unholy divisions, the ungracious controversies, and the utter lack of unity and Christian fellowship which exists today among members of the many, many sectarian groups, especially among those members who are also members of the Body of Christ, we wonder how much longer the risen, glorified Head of the Church will permit the utter confusion of the divided house to continue.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, BAPTISTS AND PENTECOSTALISTS

During the past ten years I cannot remember but two Sundays when I did not preach. One of these was last month. I spent the Sunday in San Antonio, Texas. Much of the day I spent listening to what most people call 'religious programs'. Some faithful servants of the Lord

clearly proclaimed the 'saving' 'grace' gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. From what I heard, and what I was told by a friend in that city, I would say that from eight o'clock in the morning until after ten at night I could have heard over that radio the broadcasts of at least fifty 'Church of Christ' preachers, the broadcasts originating in different cities in Texas and neighboring states.

Those 'Church of Christ' preachers spoke with real deep-rooted conviction. They were earnest and sincere and were more than concerned that their hearers should understand and believe the real message of salvation, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). They had no interest in the healing 'SIGNS' and other 'SIGNS' of Mark 16:17 and 18. However they were honest and consistent, in that they did not transpose the words in Mark 16:16 and change Christ's words to read, "he that believeth and is saved by grace should be baptized with, or in, water as a testimony, or as a witness to the world, or for membership in the local assembly." They quoted John 3:5, "born of water," and Luke 3:3 and Acts 2:38, "baptism unto repentance for the remission of sins," and Romans 6:3 and 4 and 5 and 17, "baptized into the death of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, planted in water obeying from the heart that form of doctrine." In the eighth chapter of Acts they prove that the people who heard Philip in Samaria did not receive the Holy Spirit until after they had received water baptism; and that Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water. Most of those 'Church' of Christ' preachers, if not all of them, did not alter the wording of the verses which they quoted.

As I listened to some of those radio messages and was impressed with the sincerity and zeal of those earnest messengers, who emphasized the absolute necessity of immersion in water for 'the remission of sins', for 'regeneration', for 'salvation', I thought of Apollos and Aquila, the two 'certain' Jews of Acts 18:2 and 24. Apollos was 'mighty in the Scriptures' Apollos was 'instructed in the way of the Lord'. Apollos was 'fervent in Spirit'. Apollos 'spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord'. Apollos 'spoke boldly in the assembly'. What more could be expected of any aggressive, active, devout, zealous messenger of the Lord? Some of the 'Church of Christ' radio speakers were like Apollos, as he is described in Acts 18:24 to 26.

However every one of them was like Apollos as to his ignorance of the principle of progressive revelation. With all of the wonderful qualities and qualifications of Apollos, we read, in Acts 18:25, he was apparently ignorant of the fact that the risen Lord had revealed to and through the apostle Paul a message and program that not only supplemented the 'kingdom' message and program' proclaimed by Peter and the Eleven, but had superseded what the 'twelve' preached in the first chapters of Acts. Apollos knew only the baptism of John. (Acts 18:25). Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, with whom Paul had resided in Corinth, took Apollos unto them and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. When the Holy Spirit had used Aquila to bring Apollos up to date and show Apollos the difference between Peter's message on the day of Pentecost and Paul's 'grace' message, we read concerning that eloquent preacher, "he helped them much who had believed through grace."

The 'Church of Christ' preachers, like the Pentecostal preachers, who are like Apollos in many respects, are very much unlike him in the matter of permitting a 'grace' preacher to expound unto them the way of God more perfectly and to lead them away from water regeneration, water baptism for the remission of sins. Most of them are like a very splendid, devout; spiritual, sincere, religious lady, who was helping a Pentecostal preacher in an after-meeting, a tarrying-meeting, helping the preacher and helping the 'tarryers' to receive the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28 and 29) . All over the room there was confusion and moaning and speaking in tongues, and many, many times the chanting, "this is that." (Acts 2:16 and 17). I tried to do for that lady what Aquila did for Apollos. I shall never forget her rejection

of 'grace' truth with this statement, "I do not want to hear any interpretation of the Scriptures which is contrary to my experience." She might have been edified by I Corinthians 14:33 and 34, "God is not the author of confusion . . . Let your women keep silence in the churches."

It is indeed difficult for a zealous, active, aggressive, sincere, religious Christian, who is 'set' in his ways, to be a 'Berean'. The 'Church of Christ' preachers are steadfast and unmoveable in more ways than one. They pay little or no attention to the exhortation in Hebrews 5:11 to 6:3 in the matter of 'going on'. They have no desire to be established according to Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 4:7 to 14, or to "make all see what is the dispensation of the mystery which from the beginning of the world was hid in God." They have a religious mold into which all the Scriptures must be put for interpretation and application, "he that believed and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16), "ye see then how by works a man is justified." (James 2:24). They prefer God's message to Israel and the twelve tribes, in Acts 2:38 and James 2:24, to "the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles" (Ephesians 3:1 to 3), which was ushered in after God, by the message given to Paul, had cast away His 'kingdom' 'religious' nation. If they happen to refer to Romans 4:16, where we read that Abraham is the father of us all, and to Galatians 3:6 to 8 where we read that members of the Body of Christ are called "the children of father Abraham," and learn that Abram, in uncircumcision, was justified by faith alone, and received no water baptism (Romans 4:1 to 11 and Hebrews 9:10), they have no desire to learn that Abram, declared righteous in uncircumcision without water works or any other kind of works, is a pattern of the salvation of Gentiles by grace, through faith, without water or any other kind of religious works or good deeds. "If by grace, it is no more of works." (Romans 11:6). "To him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not but believeth in Him Who justifieth the ungodly his faith is counted for righteousness." (Romans 4:4 and 5).

The 'Church of Christ' preachers, the Pentecostals and all of us should find some profit in this written statement from the pen of Dr. M. R. DeHaan of Grand Rapids, Mich.:

"Concerning Acts 2:38, in the second chapter of Acts, there were no Gentiles, only Jews and Proselytes. The baptism Peter here offers (in Acts 2:38), is the baptism of 'Regeneration', which belongs to the 'kingdom' age, and not to this age of grace. After Israel 'rejected the offer of the kingdom' in Acts 7, the Gospel goes to the Gentiles, and Christian baptism comes in, as we find in the household of Cornelius, Lydia and the Philippian jailer. The baptism of Acts 2:38 was 'essential to have sins forgiven'. Christian baptism is a testimony that our sins have been forgiven."

Because of his wonderful, nation-wide radio ministry, it is doubtful if any man of God at this present time is doing a better job for the Lord than is Dr. M. R. DeHaan of Grand Rapids. He is a splendid Bible-teacher and preaches the gospel of grace to sinners with power, blessing and success. He also is establishing many 'hope-so' Christians in a real 'know-so' 'GRACE' salvation. In his preaching he puts 'good works' where 'good works' by believers belong, not a factor or help in being saved by grace, but the evidence and fruit of salvation according to Ephesians 2:8 to 10. He is not afraid to preach and teach the 'hell' of the Bible. He is a sincere, faithful, fearless preacher of the gospel. He heartily disagrees with religious preachers who contend that water baptism is a requirement for salvation or regeneration. With him water baptism is a testimony.

Dr. DeHaan would agree with this statement in the 'Bishop-Scofield-Moody' book:

"I am convinced that those who contend for a purely 'kingdom' dispensation covering the Book of Acts period are as much deceived by Satan as are those who contend that the 'sign-gifts'

are still in the church and would be in manifestation everywhere, if God's people were in a healthy spiritual state and exercising faith to that end."

In this quotation from "Signs . . . Tongues . . . Visions Not God's Order For Today," you will observe that the author, Mr. Bishop, is very definitely opposed to the 'ultra dispensationalism' of Dr. E. W. Bullinger and Mr. Charles Welch, as he is opposed to the 'Back to Pentecost' 'Sign' preachers.

Dr. DeHaan has taken a step in the right direction. He agrees with Sir Robert Anderson, that the stoning of Stephen, in Acts 7, marked a 'crisis' in God's religious dealings with His 'SIGN' nation, Israel. (I Corinthians 1:22 . . . John 4:48 . . . Judges 6:13 and 17). Although Dr. DeHaan's 'dispensationalism' does not clear up the matter of 'SIGNS or NO-SIGNS' in the dispensation of grace, in his statements that the 'kingdom' age did not end with Matthew 23:38 and 39, as is taught by ninety-eight percent of the Fundamentalists, who are Premillenarians, and that water baptism for regeneration and the remission of sins was God's message until the seventh chapter of Acts, but not thereafter, he has presented a 'dispensationalism' which will produce a spiritual revolution in Bible teaching, if accepted by the 'Church of Christ' and 'Lutheran' pastors and teachers. It will do the same thing for the Baptist Fundamentalists, the majority of the so-called Independent Fundamentalists, the Pentecostalists and others.

Some questions immediately come to the minds of the Fundamentalist, who are messengers of grace. Did Peter and many other saved Jews become members of the 'Joint-Body' of Ephesians 3:6, during the 'kingdom' age when they were regenerated by faith in Christ plus water baptism for the remission of sins? Is the order in Acts 8:5 to 15, after Dr. DeHaan's close of the 'kingdom' age God's order in this dispensation of grace? In these verses we learn that a few days after the people in Samaria believed what Philip preached and were 'water-baptized', they received Holy Spirit baptism by the laying-on of hands. The 'grace' Fundamentalists do not teach or practice this order. The Pentecostalists do.

WERE PETER AND PAUL PENTECOSTALISTS?

Presently we shall carefully and prayerfully consider Paul's 'SIGN' ministry in Ephesus, as recorded in Acts 19:4 to 12, and, if we are honest in our appraisal, we shall have to acknowledge that the apostle Paul, in the nineteenth chapter of Acts, was very much a Pentecostalist. But look out, and go slowly, and do not search the Scriptures too thoroughly or you might have to be honest and answer the question of a Pentecostalist which got me into real, serious trouble. Even if you are afraid to be honest in answering his most interesting question, make a mental note of it. "Inasmuch as with every mention of the 'water-baptizing' of Jew or Gentile a Jewish ceremony or feast, or a vision, or a two-way conversation with a Divine Being and a human being on earth, or a 'miraculous' jail deliverance, or raising the dead, or a 'instantaneous' 'SIGN' healing of sickness, or tongues or trances or a 'kingdom' communism is mentioned, and inasmuch as the last record of the 'water-baptizing' of any person is mentioned in Acts 19, if indeed the twelve were rebaptized, how can any sound doctrine or 'dispensational' 'corrective' be offered to eliminate 'SIGN', 'TONGUES', 'VISIONS' and 'MIRACLES' from God's program in the age and dispensation of grace, that will not eliminate water baptism, whether it be for the remission of sins or as a testimony?" That Pentecostalist preacher did indeed get me into trouble with his challenging question. You had better not give it very serious intelligent consideration, if you want to enjoy the fellowship and endorsement of the confused Fundamentalists, whose indefinite, uncertain, flexible 'dispensationalism' offers no corrective to

the 'BACK TO PENTECOST' 'SIGN' preachers, who are agreed with the other confused Fundamentalists that Matthew 23:38 and 39 marked the end of the 'kingdom' age, the 'FALL' of Israel, and that Acts 2 marked the beginning of the age and dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles.

As the 'FULL GOSPEL' 'SIGN' 'healers' encourage the 'MIND' healers to carry on their nefarious traffic in human souls, so the confused Fundamentalists, with their faulty 'dispensationalism' and with their 'scare-crow', 'the cry of BULLINGERISM', who have nothing but pity and ridicule for the fanatical healers, encourage them to carry on with their fanatical 'healing' campaigns. They should at least insist that the 'BACK TO PENTECOST' healers sell their earthly possessions and establish a Pentecostal 'kingdom' communism. (Luke 12:32 and 33 and Acts 4:34 to 36). Acts 2:38 and the 'kingdom' communism stand or fall together. Also 'SIGNS' and 'WATER-BAPTISM'.

QUITE A VARIETY OF 'FULL GOSPEL' ASSEMBLIES

Not all of the people who are members of the various 'Full Gospel' assemblies call themselves 'Pentecostals', but most of the Pentecostals emphasize the fact or fiction that they preach and practice the 'Full Gospel'. They see no difference between the gospel of the kingdom, which the Lord Jesus and the twelve apostles preached to Israel, 'before the 'FALL' of Israel', and the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles, which was given by the risen, glorified Christ, to and through the apostle Paul, by special revelation. They ignore or repudiate the statement of Paul in I Corinthians 3:10, that as the Lord's 'chief-carpenter' he laid the foundation, or his claim in I Timothy 1:16 that the Lord Jesus chose him to be a pattern for believers.

They do not seem to know as much as did the unsaved Jewish rabbi, who said to one of the leading 'GRACE' preachers in his city, "Pastor, it was not your Jesus who gave to you evangelical Christians the 'grace' gospel which you preach; it was the apostle Paul. Your Jesus was a Jew who ministered to Israel, in their land, by word and deed. Much of what Jesus preached was Old Testament Judaism and there was much in His message and program which differed from Paul's message and ministry." Note that the rabbi did not say, "it was Peter who gave you evangelical Christians the 'grace' gospel that you preach." There is much grace and the glorious gospel of redemption in Peter's First Epistle, but in the kingdom message and program of Peter and the Eleven, in the first chapters of the Book of Acts, there is not even a hint that the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles would be ushered in later on when and because of the 'FALL' of Israel. (Romans 11:11).

Even a babe in Christ should know that there is almost as much difference between Peter's message to Israel in Acts 2:38, "before the 'FALL' of Israel", and Paul's message to Gentiles in Titus 3:5 to 8 and II Corinthians 5:17 to 21, 'after the 'FALL' of Israel', as there is between 'LAW' and 'GRACE', between 'JUDAISM' and 'CHRISTIANITY'. The apostle Paul never preached, in the dispensation of grace, to Gentiles, "repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT THE BAPTISM OF I CORINTHIANS 12:8 TO 13

The great majority, if not all, of the religious saved and unsaved people who specialize in what we might call the 'spiritual' healing of physical diseases, teach error concerning the Holy Spirit and Holy Spirit baptism. The religious lady, who discovered 'Divine Science' in 1886, stated in her text-book, that 'Divine Science' is the promised 'Comforter' of John 14 and 16. The Lord Jesus referred to the 'Comforter' as 'Another Paraclete', the Holy Spirit, 'The Spirit of Truth', the same Holy Spirit, who said, in Acts 13:2, "separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Note the pronoun 'ME' and 'I' used by the Holy Spirit in speaking of Himself. We are told in I John 2:1 that the risen, glorified Christ, Who appears in the presence of God for believers (Hebrews 9:24) (Hebrews 7:25), is our 'PARACLETE'. Is the Lord Jesus Christ a Person? Certainly. So is also the Other Paraclete, the Holy Spirit. God is a Spirit, and God is a Person. (John 4:24). Read Acts 5 :1 to 11.

After the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead, during the time He was showing Himself alive after His death (Acts 1:3), and before His apostles saw Him as a MAN ascend up to heaven, He said unto His apostles: "John (the Baptist) truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with, or in, the Holy Spirit 'not many days hence'." (Acts 1:5). At the time John was preaching baptism unto repentance 'for the remission of sins' (Luke 3:3), the same message which Peter and the Eleven preached on the day of Pentecost to God's 'kingdom' nation, John said, "I indeed baptize you with-water . . . He (Christ) shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Luke 3:16). Then later on the Lord Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit after He had died and had gone back to heaven. (John 16:7 to 12) . He said to His apostles that the filling of the Holy Spirit would be rivers of living water flowing out from within. (John 7:38). Then these words were added, "The Holy Spirit was not yet, because that Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:39).

According to Acts 5:32, the mission and ministry of the Holy Spirit, up to that time not received by Gentiles as we may learn by reading Acts 10:44 and 11:15, was to witness to God's 'kingdom' nation that their Messiah was raised up 'twice' to be their Ruler and Saviour, first in 'incarnation' (Acts 13:23 and Luke 1:68 and 69) and again in 'resurrection'. (Acts 5:31 and 13:34 to 36). The apostles and the Holy Spirit witnessed to Israel concerning Acts 5:31 and Acts 13:34. But very few of our present-day 'Fundamentalists' teach that Christ was raised up in 'resurrection' to be Israel's Saviour. With the exception of a few Bible teachers, like Dr. DeHaan, they teach that Israel, and the prophesied 'kingdom' were set aside with Christ's 'Matthew 23:38 and 39' pronouncement, and that, beginning with the day of Pentecost believing Jews and Gentiles were baptized by ONE SPIRIT into ONE BODY (I Corinthians 12:13), reconciled in One Body by the cross. (Ephesians 2:15 and 16) .

The 'FULL GOSPEL' 'SIGN' preachers tell those, who follow their erroneous teaching, that because the twelve apostles and other disciples were saved several years before they received Holy Spirit baptism (Acts 1:5 . . . John 7:38 to 40), that saved people in-this age and dispensation of grace should tarry, for Holy Spirit baptism, generally by the laying-on of hands, after they are saved and become members of the Body of Christ. They seem to be altogether unmindful of the fact that members of the Body of Christ, who are now saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8 to 10), received all of the Holy Spirit at the very moment they were saved and became members of the Body of Christ (Galatians 3:14 . . . 3:1 to 4 . . . Ephesians 1:12 to 14). Otherwise they would not be members of the Body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:13).

To teach that believing sinners are baptized by One Spirit into One body at the time they are saved, and that they must then tarry for Holy Spirit baptism is rank heresy. The twelve apostles were saved in the days of the Son of Man, before the Holy Spirit was sent down from

heaven, before the Lord Jesus went to the cross of Calvary (John 17:2 and 10 and Luke 10:20). They could not have received the Holy Spirit baptism in those days, “because the Holy Spirit was not yet given.” (John 7:38 to 40). In this age and dispensation of grace we are not living the other side of Calvary, in the days of the Son of Man. Now saved people are not instructed to tarry for Holy Spirit baptism; for “God hath from the beginning chosen you unto salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the Truth.” (II Thessalonians 2:13).

Every member of the Body of Christ is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and has been sealed and anointed by the Holy Spirit and baptized by the Holy Spirit. (II Corinthians 1:21 and 22 and I Corinthians 6:19). In I Corinthians 6:11 we learn that justification is mentioned after sanctification. In this age and dispensation of grace no Christian receives the anointing or the baptism of the Holy Spirit after experiencing the transformation described in I Corinthians 6:11, “washed, sanctified and justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

All Christians should walk in the Spirit, and be filled with the Spirit, and thus fulfill the righteousness of the law, and manifest the fruit of the Spirit. (Romans 8:4 . . . Galatians 5:22 and 25 . . . Ephesians 5:18).

By reading I Corinthians and II Corinthians we learn that the people addressed in those Epistles were all saints, all sanctified (I Corinthians 1:1 and 2) , all anointed (II Corinthians 1:21 and 22), all baptized by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13). But some of them defrauded other saints (I Corinthians 6:3 to 8), were carnal and behaved very much like unsaved people. (I Corinthians 3:1 to 3).

So when the Corinthians exercised the several ‘SIGN-GIFTS’ of I Corinthians 12:8 to 11, it was not because they were of ‘great faith’, or ‘super-spiritual’, or unusually consecrated. It was because they lived in the transitional period when those ‘SIGN-GIFTS’ were included in God’s spiritual program. As we have mentioned, during that transitional period, up to Acts 28:25 to 28, Paul exercised every one of the ‘GIFTS’ mentioned in I Corinthians 12:8 to 11. But after the close of the period covered by the Book of Acts we find no evidence that Paul performed any miracles or did any miraculous ‘SIGN’ healing of physical diseases. (I Timothy 5:23. . . Philippians 2:25 to 29 . . . II Timothy 4:20).

Before we turn to the nineteenth chapter of Acts and examine the Divine Record of Paul’s ‘SIGN’ ministry at Ephesus, let us keep in mind, from what we have learned in John 7:38 to 40 and Acts 1:5 and other Scriptures, that when the twelve apostles and the other seventy disciples of Christ (Matthew 10:5 to 8 . . . Luke 10:1 to 19) were performing their miracles of healing while Christ was with them on earth, they had not received Holy Spirit baptism. They did not tell the ‘sick’ whom they miraculously healed that they had to be born of the Spirit or saved by grace before they could be healed. According to the Record, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the ‘miraculous’ ‘SIGN’ healing was done by Christ and the Twelve and the Seventy, none of whom told those whom they healed that they, in turn, would be able to heal others.

PAUL’S ‘SIGN’ MINISTRY AT EPHESUS

There must be some good and sufficient reason why we are told in Acts 19:7 that there were ‘twelve’ men, and in the next verse Paul went into the synagogue. To begin with, we should understand that, according to the Greek text, the apostle did not asked the disciples at Ephesus, “have ye received the Holy Spirit ‘since ye believed?’” He asked them, “Pisteusantes did ye receive the Holy Spirit?” “Believing, did ye receive the Holy Spirit?” The meaning of the question was, “did you receive the Holy Spirit at the time you believed?” They did not.

Therefore, they had not heard and believed the gospel of the grace of God. The same Greek word 'PISTEUSANTES' ('BELIEVING') is used in Ephesians 1:13, and is there mistranslated 'after that ye believed'. The meaning was the same as in Acts 19:2, "at, the time you believed." In Ephesians 1:13 and 14 the believers did receive the Holy Spirit at the time they believed the gospel of the grace of God.

But now let us carefully note what happened at Ephesus, according to Acts 19:4 to 6:

"They were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus" (or having been baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus). And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied."

It is interesting to compare this experience of the twelve men at Ephesus with the people who believed Philip's message at Samaria. They were 'water-baptized' and received the Holy Spirit later on by the hands of Peter and John. (Acts 8:5 to 15). And again we find quite a different order in the case of Cornelius and his loved ones, who received water baptism, after they had received the Holy Spirit, without laying-on of hands. (Acts 10:44 to 48 and 11:15 and 16). All of this seems quite confusing. But it should convince us that both water-baptism and Holy Spirit baptism must be studied 'dispensationally'. Surely we have learned by this time that this is also true concerning the study of 'SIGNS' . . . 'TONGUES' . . . and 'VISIONS', which Mr. Bishop and Sir Robert Anderson taught were not of this present age and dispensation of grace.

WATER BAPTISM - SIGNS - MIRACLES

Not only must water baptism, 'SIGNS' and miracles be studied dispensationally, but they must be studied together. They are inseparably linked together in the New Testament Scriptures. There are plenty of 'SIGNS' in the last Book of the Bible; but the last 'SIGNS' and miracles in Paul's ministry are recorded in the last two chapters of the Book of Acts. The last mention of the 'water-baptizing' of any person is in the nineteenth chapter of Acts. Even a babe in Christ should know that there is no water in the sixth chapter of Romans, where we read of the believer being baptized into the death of Christ. In Luke 12:50 the Lord Jesus was experiencing or anticipating the sorrow which He expressed in Mark 14:34. In Mark 14:34 He said, "My Soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death."

In Luke 12:50 Christ said, "I have a 'baptism' to be baptized with; and how am I 'straitened' ('compressed') till it be accomplished." Little did James and John understand the Lord Jesus, when, referring to their 'martyr' baptism' He asked them if they were able to be baptized with the baptism wherewith he was to be baptized on the cross, and able to drink with Him the cup of sorrow which His Father gave Him to drink. (John 18:11). With these statements we should read I Corinthians 1:17 and Galatians 6:14, the testimonies of Paul, "Christ sent me not to baptize," "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross (the baptism on the cross) of our Lord Jesus Christ." The preaching of the 'DEATH BAPTISM' (Luke 12:50) of the Lord Jesus Christ was to believers the power of God. (I Corinthians 1:18). It is such power up to the present moment that at the time the most respectable religious sinner, or the vilest reprobate, meets God at Calvary, where God can be just and the Justifier of any and every sinner who confesses Christ as Saviour and truly, with penitent heart, trusts in His precious shed blood, is immediately baptized into the death of that Saviour, is immediately raised from the dead to walk in newness of life, and is raised up and made to sit down in the heavenlies with Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4 to 9 . . . Romans 3:24 to 28 . . . Romans 6:3). This is all by grace.

The baptism 'burial' does not follow the Spiritual resurrection of the believer, who is "alive from the dead." (Romans 6:13). Neither can the transformed believer convince witnesses that he is alive from the dead and is sitting down in the heavenlies by being buried in water. We are told in the third chapter of Colossians how the Lord expects the dead, buried and resurrected believer to prove to the world that he is risen with Christ. Try for a few weeks or a few days or a few hours, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, to regulate the new creation by the instructions in the third chapter of Colossians and thus convince others that you are risen with Christ. You will find this a large order, but it is the Lord's order. The 'baptism' 'burial' of Romans 6:4 must of necessity take place simultaneously with the Divine transformation mentioned in Ephesians 2:4 to 8, and must therefore be a Divine baptism.

God does not want believers to be religious. He wants them to be spiritual. They are called to salvation, separation and service. They are also called to be "of love and of power and of a 'sound mind'," unashamed workmen, "rightly dividing the Word of Truth." (II Timothy 1: 7 and 2:15).

As we learned in the case of eloquent, sincere, zealous Apollos (Acts 18:24 to 28), "rightly dividing the Word of Truth" very definitely means observing in our Bible study the principle of progressive revelation. Peter learned this in his experience with Cornelius (Acts 10 and 11). All of those who were apostles before Paul learned this when Paul went to Jerusalem by revelation and taught them truth which they have never known. (Galatians 2:1 to 7). As we read Paul's testimonies in Acts 26:16 and II Corinthians 12:1 to 12, we may receive further light concerning the principle of progressive revelation. And may God grant that we shall all progress until we confess our sin in not having obeyed Ephesians 3:9, "make all see what is the dispensation of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been 'HID IN GOD'," and may every Christian receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of the Lord, to be established according to Romans 16:25, by preaching Jesus Christ in the revelation of the mystery; "going on to perfection" (Hebrews 5:11 to 6:3), and not 'BACK TO PENTECOST'. We repeat that the indefinite, uncertain, flexible 'dispensationalism' of the great majority of the Premillennial Fundamentalists, who teach that Matthew 23:38 and 39 marked the end of the 'kingdom' age and the 'FALL' of Israel, and that "the dispensation of the mystery" and "the Church of the Mystery" began on the day of Pentecost, can never show the 'BACK TO PENTECOST' 'FULL GOSPEL' Christians the error of their teaching and healing program.

The only intelligent, Scriptural answer to the zealous, sincere, religious preachers, who insist that God's true, spiritual, Spirit-led servants should contend for all of the message and program of Mark 16:16 to 18, or even a part of it, is the definite, positive, fixed 'dispensationalism' of Sir Robert Anderson, also contained in the 'Bishop-Scofield-Moody' book. The explanation in this 'dispensationalism' is, that 'SIGNS' and DIVERS MIRACLES were included, by the will of God, in the messages and programs of both Peter and Paul, and others, during the period covered by the Book of Acts; but, by the will of God, they were no longer included after the Lord directed Paul to pronounce the awful, terrible judgment of Acts 28:25 to 28 upon His 'SIGN' nation, Israel. If you will read several chapters Of Exodus, closing with the fourteenth chapter, and compare with John 4:48 and John 2:18 and Matthew 12:38 and I Corinthians 1:22, you will see why we refer to Israel, as God's 'SIGN' nation. The Holy Spirit foretold the coming of Israel's GOD, with great 'SIGNS' (Isaiah 35:3 to 6) . He came with great 'SIGNS'. (Luke 7:19 to 23). "But though He (Christ) had done so many 'MIRACLES' before them, yet they believed not on Him." (John 12:3 7) . (Acts 2 :22) . So Christ fully endorsed the

statement in Luke 16:31, “if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.” (Luke 16:31).

In ‘The Silence Of God’ Sir Robert Anderson presents some sound reasoning and intelligent arguments to prove that the ‘hit-and-miss’ ‘SIGN’ preachers today will not convert thinking skeptics and cause them to turn to evangelical Christianity, but will rather confirm them in their skepticism. The gospel message and program of the so-called ‘FULL GOSPEL’ preachers is less than one-third ‘FULL’, when compared with the gospel and ‘SIGN’ ministries of Peter and Paul as recorded in the Book of Acts.

LET US CONSIDER TIMOTHY, LUKE AND TROPHIMUS WITH PAUL AT ‘TROAS’

In Acts 20:4 to 11 we learn that Timothy, Luke and Trophimus were with Paul at ‘Troas’ and saw Paul raise to life a dead man. Keep this in mind when you read I Timothy 5:23 and II Timothy 4:20. As we mentioned before, we find no record in the Book of Acts that any one of Paul’s eight or ten very faithful, spiritual, fellow-missionaries performed a single miracle of ‘SIGN’ healing of any ‘sick’ person. But the three fellow-soldiers, whom we mentioned, knew what Paul did at Ephesus, as we read in Acts 19:11 and 12:

“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul; so that from Paul’s body were brought unto the ‘sick’ handkerchiefs and aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and evil spirits went out of them.”

We mentioned in Acts 19:4 to 6 how Paul laid hands on the baptized disciples and they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied.

About the time of this ‘SIGN’ ministry of Paul at Ephesus he wrote to the Corinthians that he thanked God that he spoke with tongues more than all the others. (I Corinthians 14:18). Then in I Corinthians 14:39 Paul wrote, “forbid not to speak with tongues.” The ‘FULL GOSPEL’ Christians thought Paul went too far when he ordered the women, in the ‘tongues’ meetings to keep silent. (14:34). So they pay no attention to these instructions. It has been truly said that if the women were taken out of the tongues’ movement, the movement would slow up considerably. I Timothy 2:11 and 12 are still in the Bible. ‘BACK TO PENTECOST’ means ‘BACK TO TWELVE MEN STANDING UP’ (no women preachers). (Acts 2:14).

Let us all be honest and admit that in the nineteenth chapter of Acts the apostle Paul was very much of a Pentecostalist. But let the Pentecostalists be just as honest, and let them be like the noble Bereans of Acts 17:10 and 11, and search the Scriptures, that is, the Epistles of Paul, written after Paul’s last ‘SIGN’ ministry in Acts 28:1 to 9, and admit that Paul was never again a Pentecostalist after the pronouncement of Acts 28:25 to 28.

Let us all use a little sanctified common sense and sane reasoning. If the ‘SIGNS’ of Mark 16:17 and 18 and the ‘SIGN-GIFT’ of healing (I Corinthians 12:9) were included in God’s spiritual program until the time, Paul said, “the time of my departure is at hand” (II Timothy 4:6), what must have been in the minds of his faithful helpers, Timothy and Trophimus, who were ‘SICK’ (I Timothy 5:23 and II Timothy 4:20), the two faithful fellow-missionaries who knew of Paul’s healing ministry at Ephesus and knew that he had raised to life a dead man, when they perceived that Paul was helpless to heal their sicknesses? Then why did not Paul put his hand or a handkerchief on Epaphroditus, who was ‘SICK’ nigh unto death? (Philippians 2:25 to 29). Did Paul lose his Holy Spirit baptism after he and Luke reached Rome? (Acts 28:16). Was Paul or Timothy or Epaphroditus less faithful after the pronouncement of Acts 28:25 to 28 than

they were before? Do you have any explanation for I Timothy 5:23, Philippians 2:25 to 29 and II Timothy 4:20, other than the one by Mr. Bishop and Sir Robert Anderson, that 'MIRACULOUS' 'SIGNS' ceased with the judgment of God upon His 'SIGN' nation?

"Epaphroditus, my brother and companion in labour, an fellow-soldier, your messengers, he that ministered to my wants" . . . "For indeed he was 'SICK' 'nigh unto, death'." "But God had mercy on him (Epaphroditus) but on me (Paul) also."

As we think of the 'nigh unto death' sickness of this faithful, spiritual soldier of the Lord Jesus, Paul's helpful companion, we might well think of a very special friend of the Lord Jesus who was 'sick'. Jesus said; "this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." (John 11:14). Jesus loved Lazarus. (John 11:5). There is no hint as to whether the Lord asked Lazarus whether he would be willing to be 'sick nigh unto death', or all the way unto death, for Christ's glory. Surely not. Christ said plainly, "Lazarus is dead." (John 11:14). Christ wanted to completely convince His apostles and the two sisters of Lazarus that He was the Resurrection and the Life. (John 11:25 and 26). Therefore, He not only permitted Lazarus to die, but to be buried, so that He might prove that He was the God of Isaiah 35:3 to 6 by raising a man four days dead; which He did. So Lazarus was sick and was raised from the dead, for Christ's sake, and for the apostles' sake.

There was another man who was 'sick nigh unto death', the certain nobleman's son of John 4:46 and 47. In that case the Lord Jesus did some 'long-distance' healing. The Lord Jesus said to the father, "go thy way; thy son liveth." (John 4:49 and 50) . The man believed, went his way, and met his servant with the good news, "thy son liveth." (John 4:51 to 53). The Lord Jesus did some more 'long-distance' healing for a Gentile of 'great faith' who had built a synagogue for the Jews and who reached Israel's Messiah through Jewish elders. (Luke 7:1 to 7). That Gentile's servant was also 'sick nigh unto death' (Luke 7:2). The Gentile returning to his home found that his sick servant was well. (Luke 7:9 and 10).

The Lord Jesus healed also the child of another Gentile of 'great faith', in spite of the protest from the twelve apostles. (Matthew 15:21 to 27). We have no record in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Book of Acts, that any of the twelve healed any 'sick' Gentiles either before or after Pentecost. (Matthew 15:23 . . . Acts 10:28) (Matthew 10:5). There may have been some 'proselytes' among the 'sick' people of Acts 5:12 to 16.

The 'professional' 'MIND' healers and 'Full Gospel' healers, who quote for their 'healing' authority, John 14:12, "greater works shall he do," take note of the above. I saw one of the professional 'Full Gospel' healers on television a few weeks ago. In the closing moments of his telecast he pronounced his 'healing' blessing on the sick in his television audience, near and far. This was after he pronounced healing on two of the scores of sick people in his auditorium or tent audience. Do you suppose for one moment that the Lord Jesus would have sent the great majority of the 'sick' away without healing them, as that 'professional' healer did? We are told in Matthew 8:16 that many demon-possessed and sick people were brought to Jesus; and He healed 'all that were sick'.

The Man Christ Jesus, who was able to do 'long-distance' healing and raise the dead, was able to heal ten lepers at the same time, wholesale healing. Keep in mind that they were not men who had been regenerated at the time they were healed. Only one, a Samaritan, returned to worship and give thanks. (Luke 17:11 to 19).

Let us also ever keep in mind that the 'credential' 'SIGN' healing of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:22 . . . 10:36 to 39 . . . John 5:36 . . . 20:31. . Mark 2:10 to 12) was 'Miraculous', 'Instantaneous' healing of all manner of sickness, including physical deformities and diseased

members of the anatomy which could in no wise be healed or replaced by the greatest human physician on earth. If you would gather in one group a hundred of such cases and challenge one of the 'professional' healers to prove John 14:12, you would not only ruin the healer's racket, but you would prove what is stated in the 'Bishop-Scofield-Moody' book, "every widespread attempt to revive the 'SIGN-GIFTS' (the gift of miracles and of healing (I Corinthians 12:8 to 11), has, 'WITHOUT EXCEPTION', resulted in confusion, divisions, injury and disgrace. According to some other statements in this book, words of wisdom for healers, "on to Paul's 'prison' Epistles and the dispensation of grace" is greatly to be desired rather than 'back to Pentecost and 'disgrace.'" Grace is the cure for disgrace. In Hebrews 13:9, following the statement "Jesus Christ The Same Yesterday, Today And For Ever," we read, "be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines; for it is a good thing that the heart be established with 'grace'. Keep in mind the case of Apollos, who was shown the way of God more perfectly, the 'grace' way (Acts 18:24 to 28), also the 'grace' truth of Ephesians 4:8 to 13, which is designed to keep Christians from being "children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, by the 'sleight' of men, 'cunning craftiness', whereby they lie in wait to deceive." (Ephesians 4:14) .

NOW BACK TO THE HEALING OF 'SICK' EPAPHRODITUS

Note in Philippians 1:1 that Paul and Timothy joined their names in writing to the Philippians. They wrote concerning 'SICK' Epaphroditus. In the light of Galatians 4:13 to 15 and II Corinthians 12:10 and I Timothy 5:23, it is doubtful whether either Paul or Timothy was enjoying excellent physical health at the time they wrote to Philippi concerning their very 'SICK' friend. We do not know whether Paul's prescribed remedy for Timothy, 'a little wine' (I Timothy 5:23), together with the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man which availeth much (James 5:16), healed Timothy of his 'often sicknesses'. But we should know, by reading Acts 20:4 to 11 and Philippians 1:1 and 2:25 to 29 and II Timothy 4:20, that Timothy knew that the 'miraculous', 'instantaneous' 'SIGN' healing, which God wrought by Paul in Acts 19:11 and 12 and 28:8 and 9 and in Romans 15:18 to 20, was no longer included in God's spiritual 'GRACE' program.

It is interesting to read the many instructions which Paul gave to Timothy who was to carry on where Paul would leave off at death, as we may learn in Paul's two Epistles to Timothy. We may thus learn that there was no hint or suggestion that Timothy was to exercise any of the 'SIGN-GIFTS' of I Corinthians 12:8 to 11, or do any 'miraculous' healing of the sick. If Christians today would obey what Paul wrote to Timothy in II Timothy 2:15, and "rightly divide the Word of Truth," they would learn why the risen Lord had Paul mention in his very last words, "Trophimus have I left at 'MILETUM' sick." Remember that Trophimus was with Paul when Paul raised to life dead Eutychus. (Acts 20:4 to 11). Trophimus knew that Paul had done 'wholesale' healing of the sick in Ephesus, the city of heathen. (Acts 19:11 and 12). Why did not Paul bless a handkerchief and heal Trophimus, as well as 'sick' Timothy and 'sick' Epaphroditus? We are sure that all of these men, as did Paul, gloried in their physical infirmities believing that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28) and believed II Corinthians 4:16." Do you?

Timothy, Epaphroditus and Trophimus agreed with Paul's statements; concerning God, in Ephesians 3:20 and in II Corinthians 9:8: that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," and that "God is able to make all grace abound toward us, that always, having all sufficiency in all things, we may

abound to every good work.” They knew that if God had willed to do so, He could have ‘instantaneously’ ‘miraculously’ healed Timothy, Epaphroditus, Trophimus and Paul, just as He instantaneously, miraculously healed the man lame from birth in Acts 14:8 to 10.

As Sir Robert Anderson said, “no one dare limit what God will do for a saint.” But he wisely said, if a saint or several saints, since Acts 28:25 to 28, here and there, now and then, have been instantaneously healed of some physical disease, to make the exceptional experience of one or a few the general rule for all is heresy.

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said that if healing of physical diseases is in the atonement of Christ on the cross, that is, if a believer who looks to Calvary and receives the salvation of his soul and eternal life, can look there in faith and receive healing of sickness or injury, and can receive healing every time he looks to Christ and Calvary, immortality could be experienced by faithful saints without the return of Christ.

THE FOUR-FOLD GOSPEL SO-CALLED

Two very spiritual men of God, who were greatly used by the Holy Spirit in evangelistic work at home and a wonderful missionary work in foreign fields, were at different times presidents of that organized missionary society, which had for its slogan, “Christ, my Saviour . . . Christ my Sanctifier . . . Christ my Healer . . . and Christ my Coming King.” Shortly after the first of the presidents died I ministered for two weeks in his tabernacle. I learned what the teaching of ‘general healing in the atonement’ did to him and his faithful followers, his utter confusion in his final illness and how after his death scores of his followers went into Pentecostalism. His ‘healing’ teaching proved to be a theory that failed to work, notwithstanding many faithful saints had been healed in his ministry. I was at the bed-side of the other president when he was dying. He had healed many in his ministry, having carried on with his so-called ‘Four-fold Gospel’. He was in terrific pain and agony. He was a splendid man of God. He had a triumphant death. And he knew the truth of Psalm 116:15, and II Corinthians 5:8, “precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints,” and “absent from the body is present with the Lord.” He gripped my hand and looked into my face, and said, “stick to the ‘grace’ gospel, which you preach.” He was not only ‘SICK NIGH UNTO DEATH’, but all the way. Thousands of faithful saints were praying for him. I shall never forget how he exalted and praised the Lord during the time of his awful pain. But the prayer of faith did not save him. He was a true servant of the Lord; but he learned the truth of II Corinthians 4:16, “though our outward man ‘rot thoroughly’, the inward man is renewed day by day.” “We who have received the firstfruits of the Spirit groan within ourselves, waiting for the redemption of the body.” (Romans 8:23). The God who rained manna down from heaven, Who opened up the Red Sea for His ‘kingdom’ nation, Who raised Christ from the dead and set Him where He now is, far above all heavens, could have raised that man of God up from his sickness.

MY OWN EXPERIENCE . . . WHAT KIND OF DIVINE HEALING?

For more than twelve months in 1932 and 1933 I was very sick. I suffered excruciating pain for many months. Only God knows whether I was sick ‘nigh unto death’. A faithful Christian doctor, and a good doctor he was, did everything humanly possible for me. He sent me to medical experts. They prescribed very simple remedies. Though I had plenty of stomach trouble they did not prescribe a little wine. Hundreds of faithful Christians were praying for my

recovery. After more than twelve months of intense suffering my sickness left me within a few days time. Since that recovery I have enjoyed excellent health. During the past twenty-two years I have missed only one preaching engagement because of sickness. Now, at the age of seventy-eight, I am carrying on the same very active ministry, seven days a week, that I was carrying on before my 1932 sickness. I am rejoicing in the truth of Philippians 3:20 and 21 and Romans 8:28. I am alive and in good health, by the grace of God. Before the printer finishes this message, I may have to say with David, "I go the way of all the earth."

To live as long on this earth as did Methusaleh, and enjoy good health and material prosperity, might, or might not, be most desirable and wonderful, but I would prefer to know and experience the truth of Ephesians 1:6 and 7, and say with Paul, "to the praise of the glory of God's 'grace', wherein He hath 'graced' us in the Beloved, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, 'according to the riches of God's 'grace'."

We are told that nearly three thousand people die every twenty-four hours in this country. For many of them Hebrews 9:27 is still true, "it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment." Those, who by faith in the crucified and glorified Son of God passed out of death into life, having been raised up and made to sit down in the heavenlies in and with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:4 to 7), were alive from the dead (Romans 6:13). Although their bodies have gone to corruption, they have departed to be with Christ; and shall never die. (John 11:25 and 26). Until the resurrected, glorified Christ descends and corruption puts on incorruption, in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, the death-rate of saints and sinners, so far as physical death is concerned, will continue to be one-apiece.

When we compare Acts 7:59 and 60 with Acts 21:8, and learn how Stephen and Philip, in Acts 6, each entered his definite ministry for Christ at the same time, and learn that Stephen died almost immediately whereas God protected and preserved Philip for more than twenty years, we may be able to understand in some measure why God does hear and answer prayer in behalf of some faithful, spiritual 'sick' Christian and that Christian is restored to health, whereas more earnest, fervent prayers are offered in behalf of a more spiritual and faithful sick saint, whose services are so much needed, and that one, by the will of God, departs to be with Christ.

DID THE LORD JESUS BEAR OUR SICKNESSES IN HIS BODY ON THE CROSS?

In answer to the statement in the 'Bishop-Scofield-Moody' book, "it is not true that healing is as much the will of God for every Christian, as salvation is for the unsaved," many Christians, who believe in special healing, quote I Peter 2:24 and Matthew 8:16 and 17: "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree . . . by whose stripes ye were healed" . . . "He healed all that were sick, that it might be fulfilled (Isaiah 53:5), Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." They say that Christ, in Luke 13:16, explained that Satan caused sickness, and in I John 3:8 we are told that the Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of Satan. From the Scriptures we have quoted many sincere, consecrated, spiritual Christians, feeling rather certain that healing of physical diseases is in the atonement, believe that those who have sufficient faith can look to Christ and Calvary and be cured of physical sicknesses.

I am sure that any careful, Spirit-led Christian, who will study the context in the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah and the second chapter of I Peter, will learn that the healing has to do with sin rather than with sickness of the body. Then if that Spirit-led Christian will read every word spoken by Paul in Acts, and written by him in his fourteen Epistles, he will learn that Paul

expressed in different words the truth that, Christ died for our sins, that He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, that we have eternal redemption through His shed blood. But he never once intimated that Christ died to put away sickness by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross. Note Paul's own testimony; in II Corinthians 12:10:

"I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

"Though our outward man perish (rot thoroughly)." (II Corinthians 4:16).

"Ourselves who have received the first fruits of the Spirit groan within ourselves, waiting for the redemption of the body." (Romans 8:23).

"From heaven we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our 'body of humiliation'." (Philippians 3:20 and 21).

We read Paul's statement in I Corinthians 15:53, "this corruptible must put on incorruption." When will this take place? Not when some faithful, consecrated saint looks to Christ on the cross before the day of redemption. This will be experienced when the dead in Christ are raised and the saints living will, with them, be so changed that they will receive bodies like Christ's body of glory. We know, from carefully and prayerfully searching all of the Scriptures from the first chapter of Acts to the last verse of Revelation, that no saint of God, including Saint Peter and the mother of Jesus, has received the glorified, resurrection body which all Body-members will receive in a moment in the twinkling of an eye. (I Corinthians 15:51 to 55 . . . Colossians 3:3 to 5).

PLENTY OF SIGNS AFTER THE RAPTURE

After all of the members of the Body of Christ have received their glorified bodies, fashioned like unto Christ's body of glory, there will be on this earth and in the heavens plenty of 'SIGNS'. If, while the Church and the Holy Spirit are still here, we behold all about us the fulfillment of I Timothy 4:1 and II Timothy 3:1 and 4:3, "religious people giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons" . . . "perilous times; men lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, blasphemers" . . . not enduring sound doctrine, "but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, turned unto fables," what will happen to what we call 'civilization', including the Christ-rejecting, religious world, when Satan takes over for his short time? The man of sin, the son of perdition, under the complete control of Satan, will endeavor to prove to the deluded, religious people that he is GOD, and many will worship him, "whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and 'SIGNS' and lying wonders." To those worshippers of Satan's man, God will send the strong delusion, let them believe the liar and be damned. (II Thessalonians 2:1 to 12). Israel's Messiah, in John 5:43, foretold this. Then He told His 'SIGN' nation what to expect as He brought to an end 'the times of the Gentiles'. (Luke 21:24). Read II Thessalonians 1:7 to 11, with Christ's words in Luke 21:25 to 33: "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; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken: and then shall they see the Son of Man coming in cloud with power and great glory."

Surely the evil and adulterous generation which seeketh after a 'SIGN' (Matthew 12:39 and 16:3 and 4) will see something worse than flying saucers; "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Matthew 24:29). Too late will it be for those who here and now accept the teaching of the 'christianized agnostics' in our

pulpits and seminaries to learn that a 'Christian-infidel' is an impossible paradox. The unsaved religious people who crave 'SIGNS' will get their full. The present-day 'SIGN' people, who are really saved, should know that Satan has much to do with the 'MIND' and 'SIGN' healing movements of today. And do not forget, that percentage-wise in the platter of the number of people healed of divers diseases, the unsaved 'MIND' healers have the Christian 'SIGN' healers beat two-to-one. Nor is it true that the healings of the Metaphysicians are either the imaginary cure (if a real sickness or the real cure of an imaginary sickness).

Surely as we behold what's going on in the healing movements we can believe that for once Satan told the truth when he said, "all that a man hath will he give for his life." (Job 2:4). Any person, who is willing to reject and repudiate the sound doctrines of evangelical Christianity for the healing of a physical disease, may depend upon Satan's unlimited cooperation. You can well imagine what an easy time he has with the disciples of a religious lady who taught that health does not depend upon climate, air, food or recreation or inherited physical weakness. Beware of 'MIND' and professional 'SIGN' healers. Some of these 'professionals' are accumulating quite a fortune, paying no attention to Christ's command in Luke 12:32 and 33, "sell that ye have and give alms," in His 'kingdom' gospel which they claim is God's message for today. It does not take too long to be rather wealthy, if you can put on a good 'healing' show.

WE ARE QUOTING 12 PARAGRAPHS FROM A PAMPHLET BY A. E. BISHOP, ENDORSED WITHOUT RESERVATION BY DR. C. I. SCOFIELD AND PUBLISHED FOR 30 YEARS BY MOODY INSTITUTE.

1 "There is a corrective passage in God's Word for every error, every heresy, every delusion, every hobby, every fanaticism, and every unbalanced position."

2 "For some years after Pentecost the church was exclusively Jewish, clinging to their rites and ceremonies, the converts sometimes receiving the Holy Spirit subsequent to their

conversion, by the imposition of the apostolic hands.” (Acts 8:14-17.)

3 “There is no foundation in the Word of God for the prevailing popular doctrine of ‘divine healing’.” “It is not true that healing is as much the will of God for every Christian as salvation is for the unsaved. Some of the choicest of saints by the elective will of God, have been patient sufferers for years upon sick beds.”

4 “Also after careful restudies of the book of Acts and of the Epistles written before its close, I am convinced that those who contend for a purely kingdom dispensation covering the book of Acts period are as much deceived by Satan as are those who contend that the sign gifts are still in the church and would be in manifestation everywhere if God’s people were in a healthy spiritual state and exercising faith to that end.”

5 “In the latest epistles of Paul not only is it noticeable that the sign gifts are nowhere in manifestation, but a different order is brought forth by the Holy Spirit for the correction of prevailing hobbies and fanaticisms.”

6 “A careful study of the epistles especially of the latest epistles of Paul, which give the normal course of the church during the present dispensation, would dismount all from their hobbies, eliminate the last vestige of Judaism from their lives and teachings, and would adjust things in general, placing secondary things in their place and first things where they belong.”

7 “Is it the Spirit of God or Satan who attempts to revive the sign-gifts that were divinely retired after having fulfilled their purpose? Every widespread attempt to revive them, has without exception, resulted in confusion, divisions, injury and disgrace.”

8 “This was an overlapping of the former and present dispensations, AS SOME YEARS ELAPSED BEFORE THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE TOOK ITS NORMAL COURSE.”

9 “In contrast with the sign-gifts of I Corinthians 12, limited to a portion of the believers and operative only during the book of Acts period, let us note the non-sign gifts of Ephesians 4:10.”

10 “The fact, that the Bible does not give a hint of the manifestation of the sign-gifts after the close of the book of Acts, must carry convincing evidence to the careful student who compares scripture with scripture, that they have been retired.”

11 “If we give heed to this fact, it will be easy for us to see later on why God, who is sovereign in the giving of signs, afterwards retired completely the sign gifts.”

12 “It is the Spirit of God or Satan who turns the eyes of sincere Christians back to Pentecost and away from the goal placed before them in Ephesians. Philippians and Colossians?”

Give An Account of Thy Stewardship

Read the words of the Lord Jesus in Luke 16:1 and 2 concerning the ‘stewardship’ of the steward of a rich man. The Greek ‘stewardship’ is ‘oikonomia’. The Greek translated ‘steward’ is ‘oikonomos’. In Greek ‘oiko’ is ‘house’ . . . ‘nomos’ is ‘law’. Galatians 4:2 ‘oikonomos’ is translated ‘governor’. The ‘steward’ of Luke 16:1 to 2 was manager of the affairs of the rich man. That steward had been negligent and wasteful. He was ordered to give an account of his ‘stewardship’.

MINISTERS OF CHRIST ARE STEWARDS OF THE
MYSTERIES OF GOD.

In I Corinthians 4:1 to 4 we learn that ministers of Christ are expected to be faithful ‘stewards’ of the mysteries of God. In Romans 14:12 we read that every one of us shall give an account of himself to God. In II Corinthians 5:10 we learn that every Christian shall appear before the judgment-seat of Christ to give an account. In that day the Lord will say to every man who here assumes spiritual leadership over His people, “give an account of thy ‘stewardship’.” Thus it behooves every such leader to be a faithful steward of the mysteries of God.

The message the Lord sent to Archippus by Paul is God’s instruction to every member of the Body of Christ; “take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it (fill it full).” (Colossians 4:17). In order that every Body member may obey these instructions God’s Word is plain; that all Divine grace (II Corinthians 9:8), and all Divine power (Ephesians 1:19 . . . 3:20) are guaranteed. Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” (Ephesians 1:7).

PAUL’S DEPOSIT . . . TIMOTHY’S DEPOSIT . . . OUR DEPOSIT

In II Timothy 1:12 (in the Greek) Paul testified of “my paratheke’.” ‘Paratheke’ is a ‘deposit’. In II Timothy 1:14 the same word is used, ‘paratheke’ referring to the ‘deposit’, which Timothy received from Paul, or through Paul; and which Timothy was to keep by the Holy Spirit. Timothy was instructed to commit this deposit to other men, who in turn were to commit it to others, all of whom were to endure hardness good soldiers of Jesus Christ (II Timothy 2:2 and 3), and all of whom were to suffer persecution (II Timothy, 3:16), all of whom shall reign

with Christ, if they have been faithful stewards. (II Timothy 2:12) .

In II Timothy 2:8 and Romans 16:25 Paul referred to his ‘deposit’ as ‘my gospel’, the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the ‘mystery’.

In I Corinthians 9:17 Paul testified, “a ‘dispensation’ (‘oikonomia’) is committed unto me.” Thus we see that the Greek word translated ‘stewardship’, in Luke 2, is translated ‘dispensation’, in I Corinthians 9:17. It is also translated ‘dispensation’ in Ephesians 3:2 . . . 1:10 . . . Colossians 1:25 and Ephesians 3:9. A ‘dispensation’ is not a period of time.

The meaning of ‘stewardship’ or ‘dispensation’ is ‘administration’, the administration (Ephesians 2:19) of a household. This might be a business house or a political house. With Paul the reference was to a ‘Spiritual House’. (I Timothy 3:15 and 16 . Ephesians 2:19 to 22). This ‘Spiritual House’ is called ‘The House of God’, ‘The Church of The Living God’, without controversy a great ‘mystery’ (I Timothy 3:15 and), Christ and The Church, ‘ONE FLESH’. (Ephesians 5:31 and 32).

This ‘Church of the Mystery’ is called, in Ephesians 3:6, “THE JOINT-BODY”, and in Ephesians 2:22 we learn that every believing sinner, saved by the infinite grace God and God-given faith in the perfect redemptive work of Christ (Ephesians 1:6 11 7 and 2:8 to 10), is a member of that Body. In Christ the Building is being fitly joined together (Ephesians 2:21), “in Whom ye also are ‘builded together’ (‘sun . . . OIKO . . . domeo’) for a habitation of God through the Spirit.” (2:22). This Church was chosen in Christ from before the overthrow of the world (Ephesians 1:4 and 5), and Christ will present it to Himself as a glorious, spotless, holy Church without blemish,.

(Ephesians 5:25 to 28). Thus we see that the Christian Church is not a religious organization. But an ‘ORGANISM’.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD?

Paul declared himself to be the prisoner of Christ for Gentiles, suffering in jail as a ‘malefactor’, an ambassador in bonds, for ‘the ‘MYSTERY’. (Ephesians 3:1 . . . 4:1 . . . 6:19 and 20 . . . Colossians 4:3 and 4 . . . II Timothy 2:8 and 9). He wrote to Gentiles; “if ye have heard of the ‘dispensation’ (‘oikonomia’) of the grace of God which is given ‘me’ to youward; how by revelation He (Christ) made known unto we’ the ‘MYSTERY’. (Ephesians 3:2 and 3).

Paul was peculiarly a ‘grace of God’ man. That grace was given him to preach to Gentiles “the ‘unsearchable’ (past-tracing-out) riches of Christ,” and to make other Christians see what is the ‘dispensation of the mystery’, which was from the beginning of the world ‘HID IN GOD’, ‘hid from ages and from generations.” (Ephesians 3:8 and 9 . . . Colossians 1:26). This was Divine truth not prophesied by Israel’s prophets.

By God’s grace Christ appointed Paul to be ‘head-carpenter’, (‘architekton’) (I Corinthians 3:10). The expression ‘wise master-builder’ suggests that the risen Christ chose Paul to be His foreman.

Christ gave Paul His ‘grace’ message by revelation. (Galatians 1:11 and 12), In the face of any and all satanic and religious opposition Paul was determined to finish his course and preach the gospel of grace. (Acts 20:24). To Paul was committed ‘the gospel of the uncircumcision’ (Galatians 2:7),

and ‘the word of reconciliation’. (II Corinthians 5:20). Paul declared himself a faithful steward. (II Timothy 4:4 to 7).

The risen Lord did not commit to Paul, for Gentiles, that which he committed to Peter and the Eleven for Israel. (Acts 2:38 and 3:19 to 21). The risen Lord did not commit to Paul ‘the gospel of the kingdom’ to preach Gentiles into the Body of Christ. He did not instruct Paul to preach what Peter preached to Cornelius, in Acts 10:34 and 36 . . . ; or Acts 10:4.

THE FIRST MYSTERY . . . ISRAEL BLIND FOR A SEASON AND A REASON.

In Romans 11:25 and 11:11 to 15 we learn that God blinded Israel for a season and for a reason. God would not have His stewards ignorant of this. (Romans 11:25). Paul was instructed by the risen Lord to tell saved Gentiles that they were rich for two reasons; because the rich Christ became poor (II Corinthians 8:9), and because of the fall and diminishing of Israel. (Romans 11:12). Now compare I John 2:2 and Romans 11:30. Compare Romans 5:10 and Romans 11:15. We read in Romans 5:11 that “we have ‘now’ received the ‘reconciliation’” (not atonement). The Gentile believers were reconciled’ to God because of the death of Christ (Romans 5:10), and because of the casting away of Israel. (Romans 11:15).

The two great chapters containing foundation truth for the understanding of God’s eternal purpose concerning the Church of the Mystery, as revealed in Ephesians and Colossians, are the third chapter of Galatians and the eleventh chapter of Romans. No minister of Christ is a faithful ‘steward’ of the mysteries of God who does not earnestly endeavour to make all members of the Body of Christ see what is “the dispensation or stewardship

or administration of the MYSTERY”, that is, God’s eternal purpose concerning ‘the Church of the Mystery’. No minister of Christ can qualify as a faithful steward, if he is ignorant of the mystery of Romans 11:25, learning from the Holy Spirit when and why God blinded Israel for a season and a reason. Neither will he obey Ephesians 3:9 until and unless he obeys Ephesians 4:1 to 7; until and unless he knows that the FALL of Israel, which sent salvation to the Gentiles (Romans 11:17). was not until after Israel had rejected Christ in resurrection as they had rejected Him in incarnation.