

# The Young People's Magazine

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## Better Bargains

The Reformation in England brought about many changes. No doubt, there were differences between various parts of the country – perhaps even from town to town and from village to village. But one historian comments on how, at their services, “the behaviour of the worshippers would probably be a little more solemn than of old, a little more reverent”.

“Probably there was whispering and some strolling about”, he adds, “but less business would be transacted, few bargains would be made.” In the past, after the service, or even while it was going on, they would have bargained over the price of a cow or a sheep or a few hens. But now the people would have begun to recognise that a Sabbath is not the time for buying and selling animals and vegetables and tools and any number of other such things – business which can very easily be left to the other six days of the week.

At least where there were godly ministers, people were now entering into better bargains. These ministers were coming to the people, on behalf of God, to offer them salvation. They might come with these words of God: “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price” (Isaiah 55:1). But what do these words mean? In these words a picture is painted, a picture of spiritual blessings – of what is food and drink for a needy soul. This is what Jesus Christ came into the world to provide. He died on the cross so that sinners might live. And He has provided all that is necessary for their spiritual life.

But how much are we to pay for these blessings? Nothing. We are to pay nothing at all. We are to receive them “without money and without price”. We are completely wrong if we think we can pay something, so that by our good deeds we will earn salvation. That is why those who are called on to buy spiritual blessings are addressed as those who have “no money”. None of our works – nothing whatever that we can do – comes up to God’s standard. There is sin in them all; everything we do and say and think condemns us. If we are to be saved, we must receive salvation as a free gift.

Think of the Pharisee in Christ’s parable (in Luke 18). He assumed he had

lots of good works and was laying them out before God in his prayer. He fasted twice every week; he gave tithes of all his possessions; he was not unjust, or an extortioner, or an adulterer; he was a far better man than the publican – or so he imagined. But God did not accept him, because none of these works had any merit. Indeed, they were all stained with the sin of pride.

Yet God accepted the publican, who knew that he had no good works to bring before God. So he did not try to bring any; he went to God as someone who had “no money”. He made a better bargain. By faith he received all spiritual blessings in the way that God had appointed; he prayed “God be merciful to me a sinner”. He did not try to earn salvation; he trusted in God’s mercy. He knew he did not deserve to be delivered from his sins; but he looked to a merciful God to save him.

That is how we too are to react to our sins. We read of how Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, to do what no sinful human being could ever do – for themselves or for others. We dare not look to ourselves or to anything that we can do, because it is all ruined by sin. The only way to be saved is to receive forgiveness from God Himself “without money and without price”. We are not only to forsake our sins; we are to turn our backs also on our good works, and look to Christ alone.

In other words, we are to believe in Christ, to trust in Him alone. Someone has put it like this: Forsaking All I Take Him. That is the best bargain anyone can make. And you notice what the letters spell out: *faith*. Faith in Christ is to believe in Him, to trust in Him alone – not in ourselves. One of the very best statements of the meaning of faith is to be found in the Shorter Catechism: “Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel”.

One day, the Welsh preacher Henry Rees paused after speaking for three-quarters of an hour on the righteousness of Christ. He told the people: “Some of you may say, You have now spoken for a long while on the righteousness of the Redeemer”. Then he asked, “Whose righteousness is it? Who is it for?” Of course, he did not expect an answer. But there was a man in the congregation who, quite unable to control himself, cried out: “For me”. Here was someone who saw spiritual blessings offered to him in the preaching and he received them. He received Christ and rested on Him as the one Saviour whom God had appointed. Never did he make a better bargain!

Perhaps he had believed in Christ before then. But it seems clear that on this occasion he saw Christ to be so perfectly suited to his need as a sinner that he could not help crying out. May God show all of us our need as sinners, and how suitable a Saviour Christ is! And may we take Him and all spiritual blessings in Him “without money and without price”!

## “Think of Daniel”

Who had built the model of the navy frigate? Tom was asked this question as he walked along a path in a London suburb. He had built it himself, Tom acknowledged, and he seemed to appreciate the compliments that were passed on how well it had been made.

Then the questioner changed the subject and asked, “Can you read, Tom?”

“Yes, thank God,” he answered.

“Have you read the Bible?”

“I have.”

“And what good has the Bible done to you?”

“Much good; it drove the devil out of my heart, and I hope he will never get in again.”

The conversation continued as Tom told about his background. His parents had been slaves in the Bahamas, he explained. In the evenings, his father used to take him beside him and teach him from the large family Bible which was open in front of them. One day he told Tom about Jesus Christ, how He had to become man before He could be the Saviour, and before we could have an example in life to follow. Another time he told Tom about Daniel in the den of lions. He then said, “Now, Tom, if you have Christ for your Saviour and Daniel’s God as your God, if ever you get into danger, think of Daniel in the den of lions. Pray as he prayed, and God will protect you.” Tom’s father sent him to a mission school and, he said, “before I was 10 years old I could just read a little bit for myself”.

While Tom was still quite young, he was taken on board a ship as an apprentice. “My master”, Tom explained, “belonged to London and he was a very kind man.” As the ship sailed around the north coast of South America trading at various ports, Tom learned some Spanish. After the crewmen had taught him to write, he was able to send his father letters to tell him how he was getting on. Tom had a Bible with him in the ship and he used to read it. The other sailors did not harass him for this, yet they sometimes said he was too religious. But it did not bother Tom much; he went on reading his Bible because it was what his father had advised him to do.

When his time on that ship came to an end, Tom joined another English vessel. He went on with his story: “The captain was not a good man; he was rough and swore. . . . I was a good-looking black fellow, and so he did not let me stay among the sailors, but took me into the cabin to attend upon himself. Here I was very well treated, for though he was a bad man, he was very kind-hearted.” After some time, the ship was in Cuba taking on board a cargo of sugar, coffee, tobacco and cotton for London. When she was fully

loaded, the owner of the cargo came across from New Orleans and the captain entertained him to dinner.

Tom recalled: "I had to wait at table as usual and went very smartly about my work. When dinner was over, the captain and Orlando (for that was the stranger's name) got into conversation about the blacks. 'That's a fine-looking fellow you've got, captain? Will you sell him?' 'Perhaps I may, but how could you get him to New Orleans?' 'O,' replied Orlando, 'leave that to me; I'll manage to take him there on one of my mules if you can only manage to leave him behind at the stores when you sail. And I will give you \$500 for him and as many vegetables as will keep your table comfortable until you get to London.' 'Done,' said the captain, 'and now I'll tell you how we shall do it. When we are about to drop down, I'll call Tom and hand him a letter addressed to you at the stores, and tell him to get up with it and deliver it to yourself and wait for an answer. Lay your plans to keep him until we are off, and then you may strap him up and take him away.'

All this conversation was in Spanish, and Tom was able to hear what was being said as he cleared up after the meal. Little had he understood, Tom commented, why he was learning Spanish as he sailed from one South American port to another. No doubt he grasped the reason later – that God was preparing the way for him to escape from being made a slave.

"Well," Tom continued, "ashore I went with the letter, and the ship dropped down the stream. But instead of going to the stores, I went to Mr Mitchell, the British Consul, and said, 'There's a letter for you, sir'. Mr Mitchell looked at the address and replied, 'It's not for me; take it to Orlando at the stores'. 'No, sir, it is for you. That letter is an order to Orlando to carry me off as a slave. My master has sold me, and as a British subject I claim your protection.' Then I opened the letter and read it to him, telling him all the story. He asked me to step aside into his private room. And then firing a cannon from the consulate, the ship was stopped, and the captain ordered to appear before the Consul. When he came ashore, Mr Mitchell asked him if he had got all his men on board. He said he had. 'Have you not left a black man on shore?' 'I have not', the captain replied somewhat confusedly.

"'Come here, Tom,' said the Consul, opening the door of the room where I was concealed. And then, when I stood before the captain, he was speechless. Recovering his composure, he said I had been left by accident. And then the Consul showed him his letter to Orlando, and held him prisoner for a time. How they settled matters I do not know, but that night I was put on board a British warship. The Consul remarked that he was sorry to say that it was then almost the only place where a black man was safe and free."

Tom got on well on board the frigate. But one night when they were

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sailing through the Mediterranean, Tom was on watch and leaning on the rail of the ship. Suddenly the frigate changed course sharply and he was thrown into the sea. “It was very dark,” Tom remembered, “and I was not missed. Never shall I forget that awful moment. Taught to swim like a fish, I balanced myself in the water and, taking off my boots, coat and other heavy clothing, I stayed there looking at the stern lights of our frigate as she passed away, and watched them dying in the distance.

“Now, I was not afraid of being drowned, for I could stay in the water for 24 hours and I had every chance of being picked up in that time. But I was afraid of the sharks. The Mediterranean is full of them, and they will smell out a man in the water many miles away. What then was I to do? I did what my father had told me to do if I should ever be in danger. I thought of Daniel in the den of lions; I remembered how God shut their mouths, and I prayed to God there that He would shut the mouths of the sharks. He heard my prayer. The sharks played around me, but they did me no harm. And then, to my joy, I heard the sound of oars about midnight. I was missed when the watch was called, and this was a boat sent out to search for me. They took me in and, when I was again in my berth, all my shipmates wondered how I was not eaten by the sharks; and I told them that the God who had preserved Daniel in the lion’s den had saved me.

“Time rolled on, and I was at length discharged. Settling down in London, I began to make little ships. And since then and I have made and sold many.” Tom added that he was a member of a church in the area and – what was more wonderful than anything else – he said, “The Lord is my portion”. The Lord was Daniel’s God and, Tom could not doubt, Daniel’s God still lived. He could hear prayer, and He is still the same today.

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## The Danger of Pride

*J C Ryle*

Another article from this noted nineteenth-century English minister, slightly edited. It is the first in a series on dangers to young people.

I know well that all souls are in fearful peril. Old or young, it matters not; all have a race to run, a battle to fight, a heart to mortify, a world to overcome, a body to keep under, a devil to resist; and we may well say, Who is sufficient for these things? But every age and condition has its own special snares and temptations, and it is well to know them. He that is forewarned is forearmed. If I can only persuade you to be on your guard against the dangers I am going to name, I am sure I shall do your souls an essential service.

Pride is the oldest sin in the world. Indeed, Satan and his angels fell by pride. They were not satisfied with their first estate. Thus pride stocked hell with its first inhabitants. Pride cast Adam out of paradise. He was not content with the place God gave him. He tried to raise himself and fell. Thus sin, sorrow and death entered in by pride.

Pride sits in all our hearts by nature. We are born proud. Pride makes us rest satisfied with ourselves, makes us think we are good enough as we are, makes us stop our ears against advice, makes us refuse the gospel of Christ, makes us turn every one to his own way. But pride never reigns anywhere so powerfully as in the heart of a young person.

How common it is to see young people heady, high-minded, and impatient of counsel! How often they are rude to all about them, thinking they are not valued as they deserve! How often they will not stop to listen to a hint from someone older! They think they know everything. They are full of conceit of their own wisdom. They reckon elderly people, and especially their relations, stupid and dull and slow. They think they do not need instruction themselves; they understand everything. It makes them almost angry to be spoken to. Like young horses, they cannot bear the least control. They must be independent and have their own way. They seem to think, like those whom Job mentioned: "We are the people, and wisdom shall die with us" (Job 12:2). And this is all pride.

Such a one was Rehoboam, who despised the counsel of the old, experienced men who stood before his father; he took the advice of the young men of his own generation. He lived to reap the consequences of his folly. There are many like him.

Such a one was the prodigal son in the parable, who must have the portion of goods which fell to him and set up for himself. He could not submit to live quietly under his father's roof, but would go into a far country and be his own master. Like the little child that will leave its mother's hand and walk alone, he soon suffered for his folly. He became wiser when he had to eat husks with the swine. But there are many like him.

Young people, I beseech you earnestly, beware of pride. Two things are said to be very rare sights in the world – one is a young man humble, and the other is an old man content. I fear this saying is only too true.

Do not be proud of your own abilities: your own strength, your own knowledge, your own appearance, your own cleverness. Do not be proud of yourself or any of your abilities. It all comes from not knowing yourself and the world. The older you grow and the more you see, the less reason you will find for being proud. Ignorance and inexperience are the pedestal of pride; once the pedestal is removed, pride will soon come down.

Remember how often Scripture sets before us the excellence of a humble spirit. How strongly we are warned not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (see Romans 12:3)! How plainly we are told, "If any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know" (1 Corinthians 8:2)! How strict is the command, "Put on . . . humbleness of mind" (Colossians 3:12)! And again, "Be clothed with humility" (1 Peter 5:5). Alas, this is a garment of which many seem not to have so much as a rag.

Think of the great example our Lord Jesus Christ left us in this respect. He washed the feet of His disciples, saying, "Ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). It is written, "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor" (2 Corinthians 8:9). And again, He "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself" (Philippians 2:7,8). Surely to be proud is to be more like the devil and fallen Adam than like Christ. Surely it can never be mean and low-spirited to be like Him.

Think of the wisest man that ever lived. I mean Solomon. See how he speaks of himself as a "little child", as one who did not know "how to go out or come in", or manage for himself (1 Kings 3:7,8). That was a very different spirit from that of his brother Absalom, who thought himself equal to anything: "O that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice" (2 Samuel 15:4). It was a very different spirit from that of his brother Adonijah, who "exalted himself, saying, I will be king" (1 Kings 1:5). Humility was the beginning of Solomon's wisdom. He writes it down as his own experience: "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him" (Proverbs 26:12).

Lay to heart the Scriptures quoted here. Do not be too confident in your own judgement. Stop being sure that you are always right and others wrong. Do not trust your own opinion, when you find it contrary to that of older people than yourselves, and especially to that of your own parents. Age gives experience, and therefore deserves respect. It is a mark of Elihu's wisdom that he waited till Job and his friends had spoken, because they were older than himself (Job 32:4). Afterwards he said, "I am young, and you are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not show you mine opinion. I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom" (Job 32:6,7).

Modesty and silence are beautiful graces in young people. Never be ashamed of being a learner. Jesus was one at 12 years, when He was found in the temple. He was "sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them,

and asking them questions” (Luke 2:46). The wisest men would tell you they are always learners and are humbled to find after all how little they know. The great Sir Isaac Newton used to say that he felt himself no better than a little child who had picked up a few precious stones on the shore of the sea of knowledge.

Young people, if you would be wise, if you would be happy, remember the warning I give you: Beware of pride.

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## The Angel of the Covenant

### 4. Appearances in the Wilderness

*Rev Angus Smith*

A theophany is an appearance of God in human nature – in Old Testament times. The last article looked at the accounts in Genesis of various appearances of the Son of God to Isaac and Jacob as the Angel of the Lord.

**I**n the meantime the Israelites went to Egypt during a famine. They remained there until it was God's time to bring them into Canaan. In this way a portion of the covenant promise was fulfilled, which would strengthen true believers among them to trust that all the other promises would be fulfilled.

Exodus 3 shows us Moses, at the age of 80, looking after his father-in-law's flock in the back parts of the desert, towards Horeb. There he was granted a sight of the Angel in the burning bush, who told him: "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob". The Angel was in the fire, yet the fire did not consume the bush, but protected it. In the same way, the Angel was among His own people in Egypt and was their protection. He was the Holy One of Israel. His name was Jehovah (which means *I am that which I am*) indicating that He did not change. And because the covenant promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were also unchangeable, they too would be fulfilled. This is the first time the Angel revealed Himself to the actual nation of Israel and, in the Shekinah cloud, He would take His people from Egypt to the promised land. In the Shekinah too He would dwell between the cherubims on the mercy seat in the tabernacle, for that was *His* place and no one else's.

It was the Shekinah that came down on Sinai when the Angel of the Covenant gave the law to the people. Stephen states: "This is he [meaning Moses] who was in the church in the wilderness with the Angel which spake to him in the Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; who received the lively oracles to give unto us" (Acts 7:38). In the Shekinah, He led them for about 40 years through the wilderness on the way to the land of promise. "The Angel

of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them and carried them all the days of old” (Isaiah 63:9). When He stopped, the people would stop; and when He went on, the people would go on – whether by night or by day. They saw the pillar as a cloud by day and as fire by night. “The cloud of the Lord was upon them by day” (Numbers 10:34); it swept over His people as if they were under the awning of a tent. By night it gave about two million people light; “He spread a cloud for a covering: and fire to give light in the night” (Psalm 105:39). Yet the cloud could give complete darkness, as happened to the pursuing Egyptians.

Moses was with the Angel on Sinai for 40 days before he came down with the law, and the borrowed glory of his face was such that the people could not stand near him as he gave them God’s law, unless he covered it. The Bible speaks a number of times of the glory of the Lord appearing, and Moses went into His presence from time to time. Moses was the only person to whom the Lord spoke face to face, but at these times he uncovered his face.

As Paul speaks of Israel in the wilderness, he comments: “Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents” (1 Corinthians 10:9). So the Lord, whom they were dealing with in the wilderness, was Christ. God directed Israel on their journey: “Behold I send an angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him and obey his voice, provoke him not . . . for My name is in him” (Exodus 23:20-21). The indication is that the angel was divine. In the next chapter, we are told how God called Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and 70 elders up to Mount Sinai. First of all, Moses made an altar where sacrifices were offered up, and the whole company “saw the God of Israel, and there was under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire. . . . They saw God and did eat and drink. . . . And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount” (Exodus 24:10-11,17).

After Israel sinned by making the golden calf, the Lord intimated that He would send – as a sign of His deep displeasure – a mere created angel before them to bring them to the land. However, Moses pleaded with Him that the Angel of the Lord might lead them in spite of the sin of the people, and the Lord accepted his request. He told Moses: “My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”

In Numbers 22 we see Moses and the Israelites approaching Jordan and camping on the plains of Moab. Balak the king of Moab called Balaam to curse the people for him. God had obviously made Himself known to Balaam in the past, but he would seem to have been a kind of sorcerer. On his way to Balak to curse Israel, he was riding on an ass. The ass saw the Angel of Jehovah and ran off the road. Balaam failed to see the Angel, beat his ass

and forced it back on the road. But the ass then tried to go aside, only to crush the leg of the false prophet against a wall and eventually to fall down under him. Balaam beat it; he wished he had a sword in his hand so that he might slay the ass. The ass replied in a human voice and defended its constant faithfulness to Balaam. This was meant to contrast with Balaam's lack of faithfulness to God. Balaam did not seem surprised that the ass spoke. Perhaps he had experienced such wonders before as a sorcerer and false prophet. However, he then saw the Angel of the covenant standing with a drawn sword, warning him to speak only what He would tell him after reaching Balak.

God was truly a wall of fire around His own people. He still is, and always will be, in spite of lying prophets. The covenant Angel deals with the enemies of the Church. He was the one who would cast down great hailstones upon the Canaanites to smite them before Israel.

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*For Junior Readers*

## **Only a Pile of Rubble**

**H**ave you ever seen a house being demolished? It was once a substantial family home. They looked after it carefully. The garden was tidy. New steps had been built to the front door. A lovely brick wall had been built, with a name plaque for the house on it. You would think that it was to be there for ever.

But then it was sold. And what happened? The new owner decided to knock it down. He probably plans to replace it with a block of flats that can be sold for more money. So the demolition squad moved in. The roof was removed. A huge skip was brought in to hold the rubbish. Within a few days the substantial house had gone. Only a pile of rubble remained.

What does that make you think of? What about this verse: "We know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1)? Our body is just the house, the dwelling place, of our soul. It is an "earthly house", which will return to dust. It is like a "tabernacle", or a tent – a temporary dwelling which will be pulled down when the soul leaves it.

This is something you should remember, even though you are young. Peter remembered it when he said, "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle". What then? Peter could follow Paul in saying, "We have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens". He had the hope of a permanent home in heaven. It is the home prepared for

believers which Jesus tells us about: “In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

Now is the time to make ready. You know that your life here is only temporary. Time will pass quickly, and the tent of your body will be taken down. What then?

Some of you will have heard of the nurse from our Kenya Mission who died at the end of last year. She was healthy and active, out for a walk in the forest. As she passed, branches fell from a tree. One hit her on the back of the head and killed her. No warning. No time to prepare. Her earthly house was dissolved.

For the Christian who, like Abraham, is prepared for eternity, it is well. He “looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”. But what about you? When your “earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved”, where will you be? Will you have a city to go to – in heaven?

*J van Kralingen*

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*For Younger Readers*

## **“Do You Pray?”**

Sammy told his father: “I heard you say it was a wonder you were not killed today, when the big tree fell near you”.

“Well, Father,” Sammy went on, “then perhaps Jesus helped it to fall away from you, for Mother always prays for you when you have gone to work. We all pray together upstairs before we go to school.”

“Do you, my boy?” his father asked. “Do you pray?”

“Yes, Father, I try to pray a little. But then I can’t pray like Mother does; she prays for everything.”

“Does she, Sammy? You have a good mother, my boy. There are not many children as well off as you are, to be taught to pray.”

“Don’t you ever pray for us, Dad? My teacher says, if we wish to sing in heaven, we must pray on earth. Is that true, Dad? Will you sing in heaven with Mother, and all of us?”

“I hope so, Sammy; would you not like me to pray?”

“O Dad, I’m sure I would. Do you pray though?”

“I hope, Sammy, your mother will ask God to take care of your father, for fear another big tree will fall near me when I am in the woods.”

“But, Father, God will hear you as well as Mother; won't He?”

“Yes, but I would like you to pray though.”

And, that night, Sammy's father did pray to God.

We should always pray, every day. Because God can take care of us, we should ask Him to do so. Because God can help us, we should ask Him to do so. Because God can keep us from doing what is wrong, we should ask Him to do so. We should always pray.

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## **The Sabbath – A Parable**

Originally told by a Chinese minister, this little piece is reprinted from the July 1943 issue of this Magazine.

**T**here was once a good man who owned a house with seven rooms. A poor man came, but had no house, and asked for a room. The good man gave him six rooms on condition that he would keep the seventh room in good order for the owner.

The poor man was very thankful. At first he kept his promise, but later on allowed the seventh room to get out of order. He even went so far as to use it for himself, and finally declared that he owned all the seven rooms.

In this way multitudes treat the Sabbath. God gave us six days for our own use, but we mar even the seventh with worldly deeds, thoughts and words.

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## **Looking Around Us**

### **On the Other Side of Death?**

At the end of December the media reported the death of Kerry Packer, Australia's richest man. He suffered a great deal of ill-health, but in October 1990, he had a massive heart attack.

One report speaks of him being “technically dead” for seven minutes, but he was revived by paramedics. This made him later tell friends: “Believe me, there is nothing on the other side. I've been there.” And, along the same lines, he told an interviewer: “The good news is there's no devil. The bad news is there's no heaven.”

Of course, he was wrong. And we do not need someone to go from this world into eternity to bring back a report on what he has discovered; God has told us in the Bible all that we need to know on the subject. So we can be absolutely certain that there is something on the other side of death.

Perhaps Packer did not intend any of what he said to be taken very

seriously. And, after all, he could not really have been dead during these seven minutes, though presumably his heart had stopped beating until the paramedics got it going again; he certainly would not have been pronounced brain dead during such a short time. Clearly his soul had not left his body. And even although we would imagine that it had, could anyone expect to explore the whole universe during just seven minutes?

Beyond death, the Bible tells us, there is a heaven *and* there is a hell. There is a place for those who are holy, whose sins have been forgiven. And there is a place for those who are unholy, whose sins have never been forgiven. But it is in this world that we must prepare for heaven. And it is to the Bible we must go to learn the way to heaven and how to turn out of the way to hell. One might sum up the teaching of the Bible on this matter in these words of Paul: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”.

What is more, there is a devil. And the Bible is the one place to which we may safely go to find out about him. What does it say? It tells us that the devil is dangerous; he is powerful and will do all he can to lead us into sin and at last to bring us down to hell to be with himself for ever. So, on the one hand, we are told to flee from the devil but, on the other hand, we are assured that “whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe”.

## Scripture and Catechism Exercises 2005-06

### Exercise 2

All answers from *overseas* should be sent to *Mrs N M Ross, F P Manse, 10 Achany Road, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9JB, Scotland*. The correctors should have your answers before the end of March. These exercises are based Psalm 129 to Isaiah 40, and John 7 to Acts 19.

#### Senior Section (15 years old and over)

UK answers to *Miss C MacQueen, 32 Fraser Crescent, Portree Isle of Skye, IV51 9DR*.

#### Old Testament

- Read the following psalms and match a title to each:
 

(a) 130;	(b) 131;	(c) 132;	(d) 133;	(e) 134;	(f) 135;	(g) 136;	(h) 137;
(i) 138;	(j) 139.						

(1) The God of creation;	(2) Public worship;	(3) The true God;
(4) Waiting upon God;	(5) Submission to the Lord;	(6) The all-knowing God;
(7) The prayer-hearing God;	(8) Separation from His worship;	(9) Thanking the Lord;
(10) Fellowship in the gospel.		

Answer example: (f) 3. (9)
- The Bible condemns laziness (see Ecclesiastes 10:18). Read Proverbs chapter 6.
 

(a) What lessons can we learn from a very small creature?	(1)
(b) What are we warned are results of laziness?	(1)
(c) List the seven things which the Lord hates.	(7)
(d) Quote two verses about following our parents' advice.	(1)

**New Testament**

1. Read John chapter 12.
    - (a) What were each of the family at Bethany doing when they made Jesus a supper? (4)
    - (b) How did Judas Iscariot show his insincerity? (1)
    - (c) In defending Mary, how was Jesus preparing His people for His death? (2)
    - (d) For what two reasons had many Jews gathered? (2)
    - (e) Why did this worry the chief priests? (1)
  2. Read John chapter 14 and explain briefly how Jesus said His people would be comforted after He would leave them. (5)
  3. Mary Magdalene had been forgiven much, so she followed the Saviour closely.
    - (a) When we see her in John 19, where was she? (1)
    - (b) Where was she "when it was yet dark," and again "when the disciples went away again into their own home"? (John 20) (1)
    - (c) Can you suggest why the angels may have been surprised at her weeping? (2)
    - (d) At what point did she recognise her Master? (1)
    - (e) Quote the message He gave her for the disciples. (1)
  4. Read Acts chapters 1 and 4 and write a sentence for each of the three occasions on which Peter showed leadership. (6)
- Which verse in Acts 2 (from verse 30) states that Jesus' ascension led to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (1)

**Memory Exercise**

- Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to question 57 in the Shorter Catechism: What is the fourth commandment? (3)

**Intermediate Section (13 and 14 years old)**

UK answers to *Mrs E Couper, 17 Duncan Street, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7HU.*

**Old Testament**

1. From your reading of the book of Proverbs, write down what you learn about:
  - (a) a happy man (chapters 14 and 16) (2)
  - (b) a foolish man (chapter 15) (1)
  - (c) a just man (chapters 9 and 20) (2)
  - (d) a wise son (chapters 10 and 13) (2)
  - (e) a prudent wife (chapter 19) (1)
  - (f) someone who is soon angry (chapter 14) (1)
  - (g) a haughty spirit (chapter 16) (1)
  - (h) the training of children (chapter 22) (2)
  - (i) a faithful man (chapter 28). (1)
2. From your reading of Ecclesiastes,
  - (a) What is true of "all things under the sun"? (chapter 1) (2)
  - (b) In chapter 12 what are we told is our whole duty? (2)
  - (c) What special advice is given to young people? (2)
  - (d) Why would it be foolish to ignore this advice? (2)

**New Testament**

1. Read John chapter 12.
  - (a) Quote a verse which speaks of eyes being blinded. (2)
  - (b) What did Jesus say is true of those who "walk in darkness"? (2)
  - (c) Who said, "Sir, we would see Jesus"? (2)
  - (d) Complete the statement: "I am come a light into the world . . .". (2)
  - (e) Who said these wonderful words? (2)
2. Read Acts chapters 17, 18 and 19.
  - (a) How are the worshippers at Berea described? (2)

- (b) How did they receive the Word? (2)
- (c) What caused Paul's spirit to be "stirred in him" at Athens? (2)
- (d) In what way is Paul encouraged by the Lord? (3)
- (e) Quote a verse which shows the effect of the Word at Ephesus. (2)
- (f) Why was Demetrius anxious to stir up the people against "this Paul"? (2)

**Memory Exercise**

Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to question 4 in the Shorter Catechism:  
What is God? (3)

**Junior Section (11 and 12 years old)**

UK answers to *Mrs C M Sutherland, Hawthorn Cottage, Main Street, Lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4DB.*

**Old Testament**

1. Many verses in the book of Proverbs contain contrasting truths, for example "Hatred stirreth up strifes, but (in contrast) love covereth all sins". Find the following quotations in Proverbs chapters 10-13 and write down the contrasting truth contained in the same verse.
  - (a) A talebearer revealeth secrets.
  - (b) A companion of fools shall be destroyed.
  - (c) The memory of the just is blessed.
  - (d) He that refraineth his lips is wise.
  - (e) He that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.
  - (f) Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished. (12)
2. Using the verses you found for question 1 write down the chapter and verse numbers where
  - (a) we are warned about our choice of friends
  - (b) we are told how we should react to good advice from our parents and superiors. (2)
3. Read Ecclesiastes chapter 12.
  - (a) Who is our Creator? (1)
  - (b) When does this chapter say we should remember Him? (1)

There is a verse in this chapter which tells us what happens at our death.

  - (c) Write out the part of the verse that tells what happens to our bodies when we die. (2)
  - (d) Write out the part of the verse that tells what happens to our souls. (2)
  - (e) What is said about (1) much study, (2) every secret thing, (3) the whole duty of man? (6)

**New Testament**

1. Read John chapter 11.
  - (a) Why was there great sadness in the home in Bethany? (1)
  - (b) When Jesus said He was going to Bethany, why did His disciples try to discourage Him? (1)
  - (c) Both Martha and Mary said exactly the same words to Jesus when they met Him. Write out these words. (2)
  - (d) When Jesus said to Martha: "Thy brother shall rise again", what did she think He meant? (1)
  - (e) What words did Jesus cry with a loud voice beside the grave? (1)
  - (f) What was the immediate effect of these words? (1)
2. Read about the death of Stephen at the end of Acts chapter 7.
  - (a) What did Stephen see as he looked up? (1)
  - (b) Write out his prayer for himself as he was being stoned. (2)
  - (c) Write out his prayer for his enemies. (2)
  - (d) What similar prayer does his prayer for his enemies remind you of? (2)

**Memory Exercise**

Learn by heart and write out from memory the answer to question 37 in the Shorter Catechism:  
What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death? (3)

**Upper Primary Section (9 and 10 years old)**

UK answers to *Mrs Sheena Campbell, 2 Silverknowes Midway, Edinburgh, EH4 5PP.*

**Old Testament**

1. The Book of Proverbs has lots of good advice for us all. Read the following verses:

Proverbs 1:10, Proverbs 6:20, Proverbs 14:21, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 15:16, Proverbs 27:1, Proverbs 30:5. Write down these chapter and verse numbers and then write next to each the sentence from below which best describes it.

For example: Proverbs 1:10 - B: If sinners tempt you to do something do not say, Yes.

A: It is sinful to despise your neighbour, but the person who is kind to the poor is happy.

B: If sinners tempt you to do something do not say, Yes.

C: It is better to be poor and to fear God than to have much riches and trouble with them.

D: Do what your father tells you to do, and obey your mother.

E: All God's words are pure, and those that put their trust in Him will be safe.

F: A gentle answer stops anger, but horrible words cause anger.

G: Do not always assume that you will still be alive tomorrow, because we do not know what can happen in a day. (6)

2. Isaiah tells us about the coming of Jesus Christ. In the Bible, Jesus is given many names.

(a) What name was He given in Isaiah 7:14? (1)

(b) Find this name again at the end of Matthew 1 and write out its meaning. (1)

(c) What names has He been given in Isaiah 9:6? (5)

(d) Why do you think Jesus has been given so many names? (1)

#### **New Testament**

1. In Acts we read how Christianity began to spread out from Jerusalem. In Acts chapter 2 we are told what happened on the Day of Pentecost. Read Acts 2:37-43.

(a) How were the people affected by Peter's sermon and what did they want to know? (2)

(b) What did Peter say they had to do to be saved from their sins and to receive the Holy Ghost? (2)

(c) How many people were baptised? (1)

Now read verses 44-47 of the same chapter.

(d) What did they do with their possessions? (2)

(e) How often did they go to the temple? (1)

(f) How do we know that these Christians were happy? (2)

2. Paul became a great missionary to the Gentiles. Read Acts 16:12-15.

(a) Where did Paul and Silas go in Philippi on the Sabbath day? (2)

(b) What was Lydia's job? (1)

(c) What happened to Lydia there? (3)

(d) What did she want Paul and Silas to do? (1)

#### **Memory Exercise**

Learn by heart and write down the answer to question 23 in the Shorter Catechism:

What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer? (3)

#### **Lower Primary Section (8 years old and under)**

UK answers to *Mrs R J Dickie, 11 Churchill Drive, Stornoway, Lewis, HSI 2NP.*

#### **Old Testament**

1. Who gives wisdom? (Proverbs 2:6)

2. What is the principal thing? (Proverbs 4:7)

3. What should you keep with all diligence? (Proverbs 4:23)

4. What covers all sins? (Proverbs 10:12)

5. Who make a mock at sin? (Proverbs 14:9)

6. What does a soft answer turn away? (Proverbs 15:1)  
 7. What should we buy and not sell? (Proverbs 23:23)  
 8. Fill in the missing words: Remember now thy C\_\_\_\_\_ in the days of thy y\_\_\_\_, while the evil days come not, nor the y\_\_\_\_ draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no p\_\_\_\_\_ in them. (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

#### New Testament

1. At which gate of the temple did the lame man sit? (Acts 3:2)
2. He sat there to ask alms (beg for money). From which two Apostles did he ask an alms? (Acts 3:3)
3. Who said that he had no silver and gold? (Acts 3:6)
4. What did Peter, in the name of Jesus, tell the lame man to rise up and do? (Acts 3:6)
5. When the lame man was made strong and able to walk, who did he praise? (Acts 3:8)
6. When Peter was in prison he was tied with chains, and there were keepers in front of the door. How many soldiers were there too? (Acts 12:6)
7. What fell off Peter's hands when the angel woke him? (Acts 12:7)
8. Peter got dressed and followed the angel out of the prison. Did he understand that it was really happening? (Acts 12:9)
9. What were the people in Mary's house doing? (Acts 12:12)
10. Who had brought Peter out of prison? (Acts 12:17)

### Overseas Names for Exercise 1

**Senior Section:** *Auckland:* Kirsten McCrae, Liana Sullivan, Susan Thomas, Jessica van Kralingen. *Brisbane:* Sarah Brigden. *Chesley:* Randy Winkels. *Gisborne:* Mark and Stephen Geuze, Trudy Haringa. *Grafton:* Cassandra van Dorp, Natalie White. *Holland:* Anne Bakker. *Sengera:* Kevin Nyabuto. *Singapore:* Yong Shang Ning, Yong Shang Yu. *Sydney:* Alison and Laura Marshall. *Wellington:* Joanna and Thomas Hicklin.

**Intermediate Section:** *Auckland:* Sam McCrae, David Thomas, Jonathan van Kralingen. *Brisbane:* Miriam Brigden. *Chesley:* Martha Bouman, Rachel Winkels. *Gisborne:* Anita Geuze, Herman Haringa, Louise van Dorp. *Grafton:* Shelley van Dorp, Matthew White. *Holland:* Peter Bakker, Daniel van Draanen. *Israel:* Jennifer Goldby. *Sengera:* Joan Abel, Jennifer Mosiria, Bernard Mosoti, Edinah Ombega. *Singapore:* Linus Lau Ling. *Sydney:* Andrew Marshall, Madison van Praag. *Wellington:* Elizabeth Hicklin.

**Junior Section:** *Auckland:* Samantha Muirhead. *Brisbane:* Mary Brigden. *Chesley:* Jenny Bouman, Audrey Zekveld. *France:* Julia Davenel. *Gisborne:* William Geuze, Heidi Haringa, Alexander and Kirsten van Dorp. *Grafton:* Chelsie and Jackie Cameron, Chloe van Dorp, Abraham Wallis, Cameron White. *Holland:* Jelle Bakker. *Sydney:* James Marshall. *Wellington:* Lydia and Rebekah Hicklin.

**Upper Primary Section:** *Auckland:* Bianca Jago, Laura McCrae, Amy Thomas. *Brisbane:* Rachel Brigden. *Chesley:* Jacob Zekveld. *Connecticut:* Rachel Mack. *Gisborne:* Anne-Marie Geuze, William Haringa. *Holland:* Gerben Bakker, Nathalie MacDonald. *Grafton:* Bethany McAlpine. *Sengera:* Joel Kembene, Asher Kengere, Judys Kennedy, Rebecca Moses, Mary Mosoti, Dolphny Nyambane, Abram, Elizabeth and Kwamboka Nyasaka, Dominic Ogoro, Maurine Okioga, Eusaphiar Ombega, Dickson and Salome Ontiri, Wilfred Onwonga. *Singapore:* Julius Lau. *Sydney:* Keith Marshall. Emily van Praag. *Wellington:* Abigail Hicklin.

**Lower Primary Section:** *Auckland:* Claudia Campbell, Rita de Bruin, Jarrod and Monique Jago,

Lachlan McCrae. **Connecticut:** Rebecca and Sarah Mack. **Gisborne:** Hannah Geuze, Anna, Annika and Emma van Dorp. **Grafton:** Joshua Kidd, Alexandra van Dorp. **Holland:** Samantha MacDonald. **Sengera:** Josinah Aboki, Diviner Ayubu, Susan Babu, Dick Boiro, Judy Elijah, Janet and Salim Isaac, Anidah and Moraa Joel, Eliud Juma, Nyangaresi Kengere, Nyaundi Kenyatta, Jessy Maera, Margret Matara, Isabella Michieka, Finlay Mogari, Justin Mokuu, Ericson Momanyi, Truus Moraa, Alice Morang'a, Vincent Mose, Duncan and Peter Moses, Christine Mosoti, Christine, Linnet and Sisiria Nyabuto, Moraa Nyasaka, Purity Obaga, Andrew Obiri, Janet Ogoro, Jane Ombati, Vincent Ombura; Fridah, Mary, Ngara Wilkister, Nyaera, Patrick and Vincent Ondieki; Lenah and Macdonald Onduso, Jerida (?), Issaberah and Samuel Ontiri, Gesare and Nyabonyi Orina, Russiah Rafiki, Isaac Sakayo, Brian and Veronicah Thomas. **Sydney:** Duncan Marshall, Heather, Kaitlyn, Nathan and Zoe van Praag. **Wellington:** Julia and Timothy Hicklin.

## Youth Conference 2006

The Conference will be held, God willing, in Perthshire from Tuesday, April 4, to Thursday, April 6. The lower age limit is 16. The cost is £36 for those in full-time employment and £18 for others. Cheques are payable to the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Further details are to follow later. Please send your application and fee as soon as possible. It must arrive by March 24.

- 1. "The Man After God's Own Heart"**  
Lessons from the Life of Jacob . . . . . *Rev A Smith*
- 2. Running the Race**  
What the Bible Teaches About the Christian Life . . . . . *Rev N M Ross*
- 3. "Chosen not for Good in Me"**  
The Life and Ministry of Robert Murray M'Cheyne . . . . . *Mr A MacLean*
- 4. Church History in Southern Perthshire**  
A Tour, conducted by . . . . . *Rev D W B Somerset*
- 5. Grace to Live in Killing Times**  
The Covenanters of South-West Scotland in the 1680s . . . . . *Rev R MacLeod*
- 6. The Sabbath**  
Why Should We Keep It? . . . . . *Rev D Macdonald*

**2006 Youth Conference Application**  
To Rev D A Ross, F P Manse, Laide, Ross-shire, IV22 2NB.  
I/we wish to enrol as residential/non-residential. I enclose my/our fee.

Name(s) . . . . .

Address . . . . .

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