

The Gospel

Ambassador



The Village Trophy

Among those that came to the Special Services was a young man well known in the village for dare-devil achievements, yet a regular Church-goer, and generally considered straight in all his dealings. When he appeared the first time among us he was inclined to despise the Gospel on account of the simple way in which it was preached.

The preaching was so different from the well-arranged discourses he had been accustomed to hear that he sat asking himself: "Is that all? Is that the preaching that is drawing such crowds and working the wonders of which I have been hearing for weeks?" But, after all, he could not help seeing how powerfully it affected the hearers; and even he himself felt strangely influenced by it. Indeed, he was rendered so restless that he came back again and again, until he was convinced that he was going down to a lost eternity. He was then led to see the great work accomplished by the Lord Jesus on Calvary, and passed out of darkness into the light.

In spite of the most violent opposition the man came clear out for God, and astonished the whole neighbourhood by openly in one of the services, declaring that he had found Christ and had experienced the saving change. His testimony to the converting grace of God produced a great stir, and many decent "Church members" began to feel rather doubtful as to their own condition, seeing that the young farmer with all his Church membership had only now been converted to God.

Nothing will avail with God unless you are soundly converted to Him. You may have a certain amount of what is called "religion", you may be a diligent attender upon what is called "the ordinances of God," and yet be in "the gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:23). Have you been born the second time? Are

HAPPY DAYS!

To have a seaside holiday, finds youngsters full of fun.
The pity is its over when it seems its just begun.
They'll find when they have reached the age of threescore years and ten,
That history in this respect, repeats itself again.
Eternal things continue, and shall never pass away —
For those who trust the Saviour, an unending holy day.

Photo — Courtesy Nat. Pub. Studios.

you cleansed by the Blood of Christ? Have you experienced the saving change? Better far to have these questions answered now than to meet them in "the solemn day", when it will be for ever too late to find an answer. God's Word says "Behold, NOW is the accepted time" (2 Cor. 6:2). In this "accepted time" accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your own Saviour, and you will be saved and satisfied.

—T.P.

Our Seventieth Year

Time swiftly passes by! "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle", said Job of old. After centuries had passed away, James, in his epistle asked the question, "What is your life?" and answered it immediately by declaring it to be "even as a vapour, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away" (Jas. 4:14).

This little magazine, with this particular issue, enters its seventieth year of publication. Should the days of a man exceed the allotted span of three score years and ten, it is stated, "Yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). No such limitations have been placed upon this publication, and we trust the Lord will see to it that its usefulness continues until He shall come in fulfilment of His promise (John 14:3), and the door of mercy be shut (Luke 13:25).

The printing presses of the world pour forth their publications prodigiously — "Of making of books" wrote Solomon, "there is no end." "Tell me what you read," said one erstwhile prominent man. "and I will tell you what you are." The Bible has the reputation of being the world's best seller. While this may be true, it is also true that it is among the world's most criticised, most mutilated, and most misunderstood volumes extant.

The "Gospel Ambassador" is a paper published for the purpose of presenting to the public a plain and precise explanation of God's wonderful, yet simple plan of salvation. Take, for instance, that remarkable declaration of the Angel to the shepherds on the occasion of the birth of that unique Babe in the place called Bethlehem. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Here it is clearly stated who the Babe was, and what He was. He was born a Saviour — that is, He was born to be a Saviour. This



Seventy plus Thirty-two.

being the case, it is surely evident that someone, somewhere, needed to be saved from something. The apostle John in his first epistle, chapter four and verse fourteen, dogmatically asserts that "the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" — that is the Saviour of mankind. This takes us a step further, informing us that He came to save everybody; and the inference is that everybody needs to be saved — including both the writer and the reader of this article.

And what is it that we need to be saved from? We need to be saved from our sins (Matthew 1:21) and from God's wrath (Romans 5:9). "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23) and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Death here means to be separated from God and Heaven for ever.

Now while He came to save everybody, it is only those who own their need of being saved, and who personally accept Him to be their Saviour who are saved. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Reader, you may not reach life's allotted span: if you have attained that age you have very little time left. Salvation is not obtained through human effort or human merit; but by trusting in Him who was born a Saviour, who was sent to be the Saviour, who bore the burden of all your sins and suffered, bled and died for them under the judgment-hand of a holy, righteous, sin-hating God in order to be your Saviour.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The very moment you believe on Him you will be able to say of Him, "He is MY SAVIOUR!"

—W.M.A.

How one sailor died for another

In a social report published by the Salvation Army, a sailor tells the following story: "I was on the . . . (a cruiser torpedoed in the North Sea) when she sank. Another member of the crew, a Salvationist, and I had been swimming in the water for two hours



Going Down.

or more, and we were almost exhausted, when just as we were about to give up we saw a piece of spar. We made for it, and took hold. But, alas, it was not big enough to keep us both afloat. We looked at each other. For a time one took hold while the other swam, and then we changed over.

We kept this up for a bit, but it was evident we were getting weaker. Neither of us spoke for a while, and then presently the Salvationist said: 'Mate, death means life to me; you are not converted, you hold on to the spar and save yourself; I'll let go. Good-bye!' and he let go and went down into the depths beneath."

Such a heroic act is but a feeble illustration of the love of God to sinners. Both of the sailors were exposed to fearful peril. Death by drowning stared them in the face, and they could not help themselves. Every voyager o'er life's stormy sea who has not yet fled to Christ is in far worse peril. He is under the curse of a broken law, and God's holy Word declares that "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) which is separation from God for ever. What then is to become of us?

By the sailor's letting go the floating spar, and allowing his comrade to have it, he made it possible for him to be saved from a watery grave. In other words the Salvationist risked his life to save his fellow. How wondrous is the manifestation of God's love to us. "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure

for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8).

The member of the Salvation Army said to his comrade: "Mate, death means life to me; you are not converted, you hold on to the spar and save yourself; I'll let go." Though death is the entrance to the bar of a holy God to the unbeliever, it is the gate of life to the believer. The Salvationist was not afraid of death because his sins were under the Blood. "The sting of death is sin" (1 Cor. 15:56), but the believer's sins are pardoned (Acts 10:43), and the fear of death and judgment is removed. Because the sailor was not "converted" to God he had good reason to be afraid of death. The Lord Jesus distinctly declares, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

Have you experienced this great change? "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).
—A.M.

I took God at His Word

Down in a sandpit in 1852 kneels a miner, well known in all the countryside as "Undaunted Dick". He was to have fought with a man today, but he met with a more terrible adversary. His body trembles from head to foot whilst the struggle lasted between the power of darkness and the power of light.

In desperate fear of hell, that precious verse John 3:16 crossed his mind. "Well, he said, 'God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life'; I thought," he continued, "that whosoever meant me, so I took God at His word and trusted in the finished work of my Saviour." There and then Richard Weaver passed from death unto life.

That 'whosoever' can embrace you. You can put your name in there. All you have to do is believe in Him.

—H.P.

THE SENTENCE OF

the divine Law-Maker, pronounced upon the human law-breaker, is death. Let only one link in the ten-linked chain of the Law be broken, and the hanger-on to that chain will drop into eternal death. Apart from the divine plan of salvation, the outlook for humanity would be pretty grim. "By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by

THE LAW

is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20). The purpose of the law was not to save us; but to prove us to be sinners and condemn us. Christ Jesus came into the world to save us. God sent not His Son into the world to condemn us — the law did that. He came to save us from our sins by dying for them on our behalf. The sentence of the law

HAS BEEN EXECUTED.

"Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). "The sinner who believes is free? can say the Saviour died for me."