



A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROANRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## I Wonder Why?

selected for Father's Day

My Daddy thinks it's nice for me to go to Sunday School,  
To hear the helpful lessons and to learn the Golden Rule.  
And if some Sunday morning something else I'd like to do,  
My Dad looks very stern and says, "I'm really surprised at you!"  
So I dress up very neatly and I travel off alone,  
While Dad hunts up his paper and decides he'll stay at home.  
Now I've wondered and wondered, yes, time and time again,  
Why Sunday School's so good for boys and not for grown up men.

### ***Scriptures Concerning Fathers*** —

*"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."* Genesis 18:19, KJV

*"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."* Ephesians 6:4, NKJV

*"Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?"* Hebrews 12:9, NKJV

## Dates to Remember in 2019

Summer Vacation Bible Study: July 8-11

Fall Gospel Meeting: October 6-11, Patrick Brentlinger

## Assembly Times:

Sunday Morning Bible Class .....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study .....7:00 p.m.

*A lesson for those who have dropped out of the only “race” that really matters — the race for the crown of eternal life!*

## Are You A Spiritual “Drop-Out”?

by Bill Crews

All over our nation parents, teachers, schools, school boards and states are becoming alarmed and concerned about the “drop-out” rate among our high school students. It is indeed a serious and disturbing problem fraught with tragic and unpleasant consequences. But I would like for you to think with me about a “drop-out” problem that is not only far more serious; it is also a tragedy fraught with **far-reaching** and **eternal** consequences. I speak of the great numbers of precious and eternal souls who for various reasons — none good and none justifiable — have chosen to drop-out of the race that leads to eternal life. They know that there are but two roads that one can travel in this life — Jesus said so: the straitened way that leads to life and the broad way that leads to destruction, with few in the former and **many** in the latter (Matthew 7:1-14).

Not only did our Savior make it possible for each one of us to be redeemed from his sins and to live a righteous and acceptable life in Christ, He also ordained local churches, intending that we work and worship together, helping each other, reaching out to others yet lost. One cannot really be a Christian without being an active, functioning member of a local congregation. We are to assemble together (Hebrews 10:25); we are to pool our monies (1 Corinthians 16:2; Acts 11:29; Philippians 4:15:-18; 2 Corinthians 11:8-9); we are to come together to eat the Lord’s supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:33-34, 20); we are to edify one another (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11); we are to sing and pray together (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Acts 12:5, 12; 1 Timothy 2:8).

In spite of this, there are so many spiritual “drop-outs.” More than half who begin the spiritual race never finish, and most of those rationalize and try to justify their decision. They somehow convince themselves that they are doing the right thing and not sinning. For more than seventy

years I have been listening to their excuses — each one thinking his or her case unique and his or her reasoning right, but I keep hearing those same old excuses over and over. And when I try to bring these erring brethren to their senses and fail, **it breaks my heart!**

One of the things that I keep encountering is the case of a brother or sister who is so focused on the here and now, as he or she distortedly views it, that he or she cannot focus at all on the eternal hereafter.

- \* **“I have some serious problems at home (or at work).”**
- \* **“I’ve got some things that I need to work out that nobody else can work out for me, and it will just take some time.”**
- \* **“I wasn’t really getting anything out of the classes and services.”**
- \* **“My heart wasn’t really in it.”**
- \* **“I was beginning to feel like a hypocrite, just going through the motions.”**
- \* **“I felt it was better to quit than to go on like that”**
- \* **“I haven’t forsaken God; I still try to live a good life, and I read my Bible.”**
- \* **“We decided that it would be better if we started meeting in our home and having our own worship service.”**

Well the Bible deals with all of these things and provides us with the solutions, but the “drop-out” doesn’t want God’s help or God’s solutions, and certainly not the help of fellow-Christians. Is it really true that *the only other alternative* to the above situations is to quit? Is that the alternative that God would have us choose? **WHO WOULD DARE SAY THAT IT IS?** “If you really want to do something (like go to heaven — **BC**), you will find a way. If you really don’t want to do something (like being a faithful Christian — **BC**), you will find an excuse.”

# Where Are The Sinners?

by Robert F. Turner

Has anyone seen a plain, old-fashioned sinner lately? They are getting mighty hard to find.

If the prodigal son were living today (as if he were not), he wouldn't be a sinner. A juvenile delinquent perhaps, but his parents would be to blame for that. "There are no bad boys," you know. His wild oats are just youthful exuberance, a normal rebellion against an unjust society. He must be left free to "adjust positively."

There are no liars today. These fine people are simply extroverts with imaginative talents that should be properly channeled. They evince creative ability; their instability is a facet of their capacity for free uninhibited thought. They may become great poets, lawyers, or preachers.

The drunkard is not really a sinner. He has an inferiority complex and makes a mechanical adjustment (albeit a liquid one) to the problems of today. Beside that, he is sick. He beats his wife, starves his children, and is a scourge to society. So, he needs our sympathetic understanding.

Adultery may be a sin in far-off slums or farm-labor camps, but not among movie stars or popular public figures. And don't even mention

the word when we get close to home. Here it is simply a case of biological readjustment. The sex pervert was denied "free discussion" at home; his parents were old-fashioned and believed in common decency. His sin – er, I mean his "mistake," is a fault of modern society.

But maybe the murderer is a sinner – just maybe! On the other hand, he may be the victim of some early traumatic experience. His mother was over-protective; he was greatly inhibited. He was never allowed to push his oats off of the high-chair tray, so now he pushes his wife off the Brooklyn Bridge. Poor fellow!

There may be an element of truth in all these descriptions; but one element, very necessary for correction, is lacking. We are overlooking the moral element. Successful treatment for all of these ills must include a proper dosage of "ought" – moral responsibility, to God and to man.

Our generation needs psychiatry, but we must learn that Freud is no substitute for Jesus Christ. We must recognize sin for what it is – viz., sin; and then we will understand better the "Great Physician" who takes away the sins of the world.

– via *Stuff About Things*, pp. 82-83

Theophilus

Worldly Wisdom



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### THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ROMANS 16:16

Built by Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18) according to God's eternal plan (Eph. 3: 10-11). Begun in Jerusalem (33 A.D.) after the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:47). All the saved are added to it, and each Christian is to identify himself with a local church (Acts 9:26-28) to worship & work as God commands.

One becomes a Christian when he believes that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), repents of his sins (Acts 2:38), confesses Christ (Matthew 10:32-33), & is baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 22:16). This is being saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We respond in an obedient faith (Hebrews 5:8-9).

### VISITORS WELCOME!



## Reports from Preachers We Support

Summaries by David McWilliams

### Tom Rainwater

Tom Rainwater of Chittenango, New York reports on his work with the church in Canastota, NY in his June 7, 2019 letter. They are studying Job in their midweek Bible class and Philippians in their Sunday morning class. Tom and one of the brethren have an ongoing Bible study with a regular visitor to the congregation. Brother Rainwater's two-month round of Bible classes at the local county jail has come to an end. Tom and his fiancée are planning to get married on July 25 in Oregon City, Oregon.

*Be sure to read Tom Rainwater's full report, which is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium and on www.roanridge.org under Member Files.*

### The Little Chap Who Follows Me

A careful man I want to be;  
A little fellow follows me.  
I do not want to go astray  
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

Not once can I escape his eyes;  
What'er he sees me do he tries.  
Like me he says he's going to be,  
That little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,  
Believes in every word of mine.  
The base in me he must not see,  
That little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go  
Thru summer sun and winter snow,  
I'm building for the years to be  
That little chap who follows me.

- \* Sunday Morning Sermon: The Perfect Father-Son Relationship
- \* Scripture Reading: John 15:19-24
- \* Sunday Evening Sermon: Our Heavenly Father