

No. 131



January/February/March 1991

*Exalting Christ among the Deaf*

1966 \* Twenty-five years of service to the Deaf \* 1991

# Personally from Billy



As we have already explained several months ago, East Frayser Church of Christ has been short on funds for **Light for the Deaf**, and has needed help from interested individuals and congregations. Our deepest gratitude goes to all those who helped. We have had further help from our own deaf members. They have saved us about \$500 an issue by helping us do our own folding, collating, stapling and trimming. Only the printer takes care of the actual printing. We want to thank Kevin Armour, Angela Cook, Danny Knight, Becky Leavell, Marilyn Leavell, Michael Long, Jenni Lott, Hope Montgomery, Lane Montgomery, and Amanda Parman for having helped put together and addressed the last few issues of **Light for the Deaf**. They are our unsung heroes, but the glory goes to God!

The first comic strip in this issue retells the story of Jesus healing the deaf man. We wanted to portray our Lord as one who loves all the people in the world, including the deaf. We feel that the deaf man's story from Mark 7:31-37 will vividly portray our Lord as the best friend of the deaf. Yes, it is important to have correct teaching about the church, things we do in worship, and facts about spiritual living, but we should not lose sight of a very, very important fact. Christ is the center of our faith! Bible teachings and the church should center on Christ! It is to Christ we should look for salvation. It is too easy to become so legalistic in our study of the Bible and the church that we forget Jesus. So we must turn to Jesus. This is our way of attempting to fulfill the motto which we run on the front cover of most of our issues-- "**Exalting Christ among the Deaf**".

May you be blessed as you read.



USPS (087-210) published quarterly by East Frayser Church of Christ, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, Tennessee 38127.

Second class postage paid at Memphis, Tennessee.

Postmaster: send address changes to: **LIGHT FOR THE DEAF**, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38127.

Subscription is free to all, though donations are welcome.

Billy Leavell, Editor

# ΕΡΗΡΗΑΤΗΑ!

**WE DON'T KNOW HIS NAME. THE BIBLE NEVER SAYS.**

**This story from Mark 7:31-37**



**BUT HE WAS LIKE ANY DEAF PERSON LIVING TODAY...**

**HE COULDN'T HEAR...**




**COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT PEOPLE WERE SAYING...**


**HE WAS LEFT OUT OF INTERESTING CONVERSATION...**

**AND WHEN HE TRIED TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE, IT WAS HARD TO UNDERSTAND HIM.**







**NATURALLY, HE WAS LONESOME EVEN WITH MANY PEOPLE WHO LOVED HIM...**




**BUT ONE DAY THERE WAS EXCITEMENT!**



**MAYBE OUR DEAF FRIEND TOOK A LOOK...**



**AND DECIDED NOT TO JOIN IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT.**



**AFTER ALL, THE STRANGER'S WORDS FLOWED FROM HIS LIPS UNHEARD BY ANY DEAF PERSON!**

**B**UT OUR DEAF FRIEND HAD MANY PEOPLE WHO LOVED HIM.



**T**HEY CAME TO HIM, AND TOOK HIM...



**T**O THE STRANGER.

**W**HAT DID OUR DEAF FRIEND THINK?



**T**HE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY, BUT IT DOES SAY THE CROWD BEGGED THE STRANGER TO PUT HIS HANDS ON OUR DEAF FRIEND.

**J**ESUS TOOK THE DEAF MAN AWAY FROM THE CROWD...



AND THEY WERE  
NOW ALONE!



JESUS PUT HIS FINGERS INTO OUR  
DEAF FRIEND'S EARS...



SPAT AND TOUCHED OUR  
DEAF FRIEND'S TONGUE...



JESUS LOOKED UP AT THE SKY  
AND SIGHED, AND SPOKE ONE  
WORD IN THE ARAMAIC LANGUAGE--  
THE LAST WORD OUR DEAF FRIEND  
WAS UNABLE TO HEAR--



EPHPHATHAI\*

\* BE OPENED!

SUDDENLY OUR DEAF FRIEND'S  
WORLD CHANGED!





# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*The answers given to the questions below are the responsibility of the Editor. You may direct all queries to LIGHT FOR THE DEAF, 2285 Frayser Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38128.*

## QUESTION

*I notice the "Awake" and "Watchtower" publications from the Jehovah's Witnesses. What about the person who doesn't believe heaven, hell, or the Holy Bible but believes in the "Awake" and "Watchtower" magazines; is he saved?*

## ANSWER

The Jehovah's Witnesses claim that they believe the Bible, but they require their members to read "Awake" and "Watchtower" along with the Bible. This is their way of preventing members from studying the truth for themselves. We do not have time in this space to explain where the Jehovah's Witnesses are mistaken in their teachings, but our answer is that Jesus Christ is the *only way to heaven* (John 14:6 and Acts 4:12). Jesus gave us the Holy Bible to read and learn. We must study it! All men's publications, even *Light for the Deaf*, are not perfect and contain mistakes. You must measure men's publications by the Bible. If what they teach agrees with the Bible,

well and fine! But if they disagree with the Bible, then beware!

## QUESTION

*Suppose a Christian knows everything in the Bible, but never reads the Word of God. Does this mean he tells a lie? Is he still in sin?*

## ANSWER

I would be afraid to say "Yes" or "No" because some Christians have never learned to read, so they have to listen to the preacher or someone read the Bible in the pulpit. If they know the Word of God without reading, then fine and well. But if a person can read, but refuses to read, then he can be in sin. This isn't always true, because a person may still be on a very low reading level. The average low-verbal deaf American has a reading level around the third grade. So although he can read, many passages in the King James Version of the Bible are too difficult for him. So he feels frustrated and gives up. The person who can read, but who



doesn't want to read, is robbing himself of a precious encounter with God.

### QUESTION

*If a Christian is sick for a long time, and can't go to church, is that okay? Or must he go to church regularly?*

### ANSWER

God never requires something that is impossible for His children. We should think of our sick members and visit them when possible. Of course if a person's health permits him, he should attend the assembly of the saints.

### QUESTION

*This husband and wife both are not Christians. The husband has sexual relations with another woman and leaves his wife. He files for a divorce. He marries the other woman. The wife never has had sexual relations with another man. Does this mean the husband is sinning?*

### ANSWER

Let our Lord answer your question plainly: *"I tell you that any person that divorces his wife and marries another woman is guilty of the sin of adultery"* (Matthew 19:9, EVD). (See also Mark 10:11.)

### QUESTION

In the same case above, is the woman innocent of sin?

### ANSWER

Our Lord said, *"The only reason for a person to divorce and marry again is if his first wife had sexual relations with another man"* (Matthew 19:9, EVD). The same is true of the wife. We believe that it does not matter if it was the sinning spouse or the innocent spouse who filed for divorce, the innocent spouse has not done the sin of adultery.

### QUESTION

*I read 1 Corinthians 11:25 in the EVD (English Version for the Deaf) where it says, "In the same way, after they ate, Jesus took the cup of wine. Jesus said, 'This wine shows the new agreement from God to His people. This new agreement begins with My blood (death). When you drink this, do it to remember Me.'" I ask you: does this wine mean juice?*

### ANSWER

The original Greek does not say "wine"; the EVD supplied this word. But it was the Passover wine that Jesus had in the cup at the Last Supper with His apostles. In the U.S.A., when we say "wine", we mean an alcoholic drink. But in Bible times "wine" meant either an alcoholic drink or fresh grape juice! Only the context can tell us which is meant. Since Jesus does not want us to get drunk, I would think that my answer is yes, the "wine" in 1 Corinthians 11:25 is grape juice.

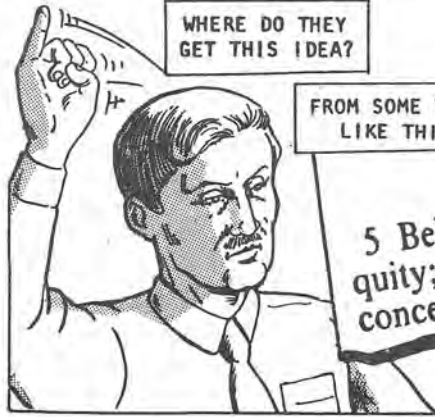
# Is he a Sinner?



SOME PEOPLE  
THINK SO!



WHERE DO THEY  
GET THIS IDEA?

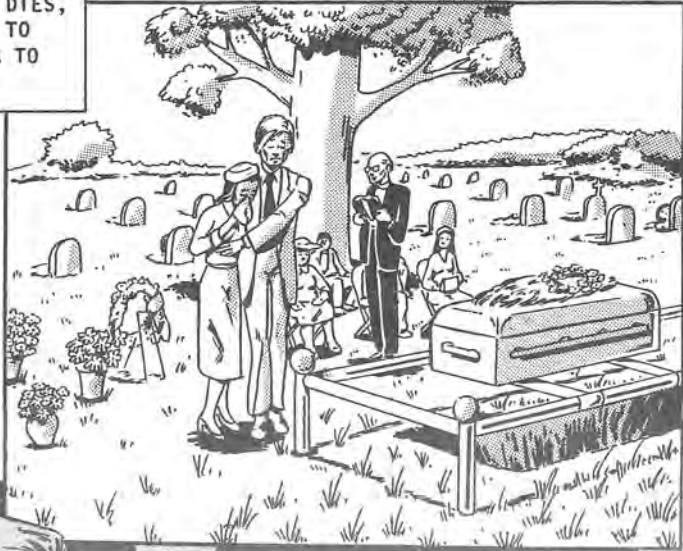


FROM SOME VERSES  
LIKE THIS!

PSALM 51  
5 Behold, I was shapen in ini-  
quity; and in sin did my mother  
conceive me.

SOME PEOPLE THINK THIS  
VERSE MEANS ALL BABIES  
ARE BORN AS **SINNERS!**

THAT IS WHY THEY  
WORRY ABOUT THEIR  
BABY-- IF IT DIES,  
WILL IT GO TO  
**HEAVEN** OR TO  
**HELL?**



THAT IS WHY SOME CHURCHES  
"BAPTIZE" BABIES-- THEY  
THINK IT WILL **SAVE** THESE  
BABIES' SOULS!

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE  
REALLY SAY?**

**PSALM 51**

**5 Behold, I was shapen in ini-  
quity; and in sin did my mother  
conceive me.**



DAVID, WHO WROTE THIS,  
WAS **NOT** SAYING HE WAS  
BORN A SINNER. **NO--** HE  
WAS BORN IN A **WORLD  
OF SIN**, THE SAME AS A  
PERSON WHO IS BORN IN  
THE STATE OF  
**TENNESSEE.**



**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SIN...**



**DEUTERONOMY 24**  
16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

**2 CHRONICLES 25**

4 But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

AND YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR WHAT **YOU DID, NOT** FOR WHAT YOUR FATHER OR GRANDFATHER DID!

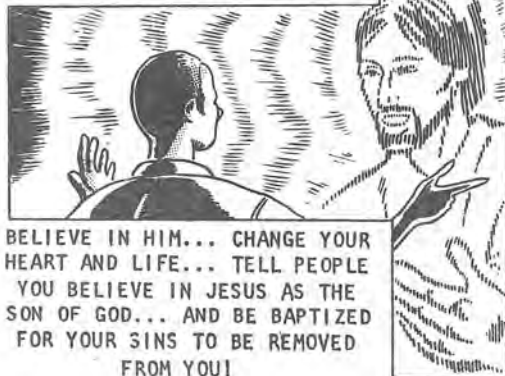
THE BIBLE SAYS **ALL** HAVE SINNED...



OUR FAILURES (SINS)

AND COME SHORT OF GOD'S GLORY!

THE ONLY ANSWER FOR YOU IS TO COME TO JESUS CHRIST...



BELIEVE IN HIM... CHANGE YOUR HEART AND LIFE... TELL PEOPLE YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD... AND BE BAPTIZED FOR YOUR SINS TO BE REMOVED FROM YOU!



IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY, WHY NOT DO THIS TODAY?

# Blood is Important!

by Steve Richard

If a person has a bad auto accident, cancer, or another disease, blood may be needed for transfusions. Our life is our blood. Without blood, we would die! If you would like to give blood, you can register at your hospital. The hospital will call you when your particular blood type is needed. You can donate your blood to save a person's life.

The Bible tells us the importance of Jesus dying for us. Without His death (shedding of blood), we cannot be saved.

Romans 8:25 says that God gave us His Son as a way to forgive us of our sins through the death and blood of Jesus.

If you accept the blood of Jesus to forgive your sins, your sins are "transfused" to Jesus. Your sins will bring death to your soul. The blood of Jesus will give life to your soul.

Jesus died to save you and me. Praise God! Jesus is our life!



# A NEW VIEWPOINT

by James Floyd



As one grows into the likeness of Christ, he begins to see things from a different viewpoint.

Life takes on new meaning and a new perspective. Things which were once so important fade into insignificance. He is a "new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17). He has his affections set on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:2).

Some cannot understand the new viewpoint the Christian takes. They think the Christian strange because he refuses to do some things (1 Peter 4:4). They cannot

understand why a child of God will not lie his way out of a difficult situation. They wonder why he lets his honesty prevent his gaining some money. They think he wastes his time going to church when he could be boating, fishing or on the golf course. They may even wonder why he refuses to retaliate when someone slanders him.

The Christian judge thinks by a different value system. His goals and aims are different. He is seeking first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).

**"Surely, Lord, you don't mean it!"**



**"LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU." — MATT. 5:44**



**Second Class Postage  
Paid at Memphis, Tennessee**

**2285 Frayser Boulevard  
Memphis, Tennessee 38127**