

# SPILLMANOGRAPHS

## WORDS OF WISDOM

By B. W. Spillman.

There are a number of people who talk first and think afterwards. They give advice about matters and get the facts later.

After the Southern Baptist Assembly at Ridgecrest, N. C., had been in operation ten years a pastor of one of the largest churches in the South wrote two columns in a Baptist paper urging the establishment of a Southern Baptist Assembly ground. He outlined a plan by which it could be done. He described Ridgecrest with accuracy. But he had never heard of it—though the papers had been making announcements about it for years.

And now, behold, a distinguished editor of one of the leading daily newspapers of the South comes to the front with an editorial request that Ridgecrest, Montreat, and Blue Ridge secure at times the same speakers. He expatiates at length on why this should be done.

A postal card and a little patience waiting for a reply would have brought the information that this has been done for many years.

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At a very sharp curve in a mountain road there is a sign having painted on it a skull and cross bones. Under it are the words, "Just Around the Corner."

It is even so. We never know what is just around the corner. We go along the even tenor of the way thinking that all is well with a smooth sea and a fair wind, when suddenly a storm breaks and rages in fury for a while. Then comes the sunshine and calm.

It is so in every life. Paul returned from a great work and went up to Jerusalem. For six days he enjoyed the delightful association of his friends and then a gang of liars got busy and the demons of hell held high carnival for some time. Nobody knows just what is around the corner.

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The Lord takes special care of babies and idiots. If he did not their tribe would be decreased very rapidly. I was on a railway train recently and saw a mother give her baby a banana. He ate a whole one. Then she gave him a bottle of Coca-cola and he managed to make way with about half of it. The baby was nine months old, so the mother said. And he probably lived. God is wondrously good.

—O—

A boy writing a composition on "Man," following the lead of some modern instructors, wrote; "men and women both sprang from monkeys, but the women sprang further than the men." This woman sprang the other way. No ape would have had so little sense about feeding a nine month's old baby as this mother had.

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Which reminds me that the late Dr. C. C. Brown, of South Carolina, profound philosopher that he was, never said a truer thing than when he wrote, "most men spend the first fifty years of their lives digging their graves with their teeth; and then spend the rest of their days trying to dodge the hole they have dug."

Seventy five joined the San Marcos Texas Baptist Church as a result of the T. T. Martin meeting.

The Fifth Avenue Baptist Church is pushing to completion its one hundred thousand dollar house of worship. The editor of SOUTHWIDE BAPTIST preached there last Sunday to fine and spiritual congregation. The pastor, Dr. J. L. Dance has that enthusiastic quietness which keeps the great tasks of the church going on, rapidly and smoothly.

## The New Testament the Law of Christianity.

By W. T. Connor, Professor of Theology Southwest Baptist Seminary.

I have heard Dr. Gambrell tell how some great Catholic at the council at which the decree of papal infallibility was promulgated stood on a chair and waiving a piece of paper containing that decree above his head said: "Let the world go to pieces and we will reconstruct it on this paper" In the last few years the world has gone to pieces. It needs reconstructing on right principles. The only platform on which the world can be rightly reconstructed is the New Testament. It is our business as Baptists to see that the world is reconstructed on the basis of the New Testament.

Somebody says: "What about the Old Testament? Is not that a revelation from God?" Yes; but it is preparatory. It leads up to the New. And there are some subjects on which we find no help in the Old Testament; for instance, the church and its ordinances. The church is a New Testament institution. We get no help in understanding the church and its ordinances from the Old Testament.

Again, somebody says: "What about our Articles of Faith? Are they not authoritative? No; not in the sense that the New Testament is. They are only a convenient summary on some of the leading points of doctrines as to what we believe the New Testament teaches. So we go to the New Testament for our final and authoritative statement of what Christianity is and what Christians should believe and practice. The Old Testament gives us Judaism. Judaism is not Christianity, nor is Christianity Judaism. Christianity grows out of Judaism, fulfills and completes it. But it discards the forms and institutions of Judaism and grows its own forms and institutions. The new wine is put into new wine skins.

Why is the New Testament the law of Christianity? Because it gives us Christ, and Christ is Christianity. The New Testament gives us His life, His redemptive death and resurrection, His exaltation and promised return. It gives us the inspired interpretation of Christ and His redemptive work by the apostolic group. It gives us the record of their experience of God's redeeming grace meditated to them through Christ, and the record of the missionary impulse this experience gave to their lives.

The authority of the New Testament then is the authority of Christ. We do not have two authorities—One the authority of Christ, the other the authority of the New Testament. We have one authority—the authority of Christ given us in the New Testament. There we find His mind and will for us.

The authority of Christ as given us in the New Testament does not enslave; it liberates. There is no greater mistake made by modern liberal religious thought than the mistake of supposing that authority in religion is inconsistent with freedom in religion. The absence of authority is not freedom in religion, but license. It is religious anarchy. And anarchy is worth no more in religion than it is in any other realm. True freedom comes only by submission to rightful authority and the rightful authority over every soul is the authority of Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. This

is not a matter of speculation, but of actual experience. We do not know this because we reasoned ourselves into believing it, but because we found it so when we exercised our faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord.

The central thing in the New Testament is the redeeming grace of God mediated to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. The world needs this revolutionizing and reconstructing message. This message will reconstruct human society through and through. It is our business to see that the world gets this message.

Seminary Hill, Texas.

## PATCHED PROVERBS

By Clifford A. Owens, Evangelist Home Mission Board.

What a tragedy to save time and lose eternity. Think often of your Master and thus learn to master your thoughts.  
A swearing man is seldom a wearing man. We that are weak bear the infirmities of the strong.  
If you lack inspiration, try your luck with perspiration.  
We manifest our liberality not so much by the amount we give as the amount we have left. Your lamp must be burning and the globe kept clean if you are to be a light in the world.  
The man who blows his own horn is that much like a mosquito.  
The faith that removes mountains is usually found operating a steam shovel.  
People often make a "break" when they break the silence.  
If you dress "to be seen of men," verily you have your reward.  
Its better to work and reason than to shirk and resign.  
Lives of great men all remind us that we should mind our own business.  
The man who slings mud seldom has sand in his craw.  
People who try to "play the game" often get "worked."  
If you will take courage you can "come back" If you are well supplied with pluck, you need not envy your neighbor's luck.  
Observe my son, that "if" is in the middle and constitutes half of "life."  
Do not let the heat of anger curdle the milk of human kindness.  
Suffer not the hand of dissipation to shake the sand in Time's hour-glass.  
When prayer is not intense, it is often pretense.

The General Board of Promotion of Northern Baptist Convention reports that it faces a crisis:

### THE FACT ARE:

First: Up to April 30, 1921 the total subscriptions to the One Hundred Million Dollar Fund for the entire period, including estimated receipts of \$4,000,000 from legacies, matured annuities and income on invested funds, amounted to \$2,527,191, or a little over one half of the total required to finance the program of work outlined in the Survey.

Second: The total amount reported as actually collected on account of the New World Movement from April 1, 1919 to October 31, 1921, or two and one half years, is \$19,903,559 or 39 per cent plus of the amount subscribed. The reason that the percentage is not larger is that the receipts during the first year of the period were not yet on the basis of the New World Movement subscriptions, the intensive campaign having been conducted at the close of that year.

Third: The receipts for the first half of the current year, May 1 to October 31, 1921 have been \$2,227,689 or 51 per cent of the total collections for the same period last year.

Fourth: Unless collections for the current year exceed the total for last year, more than one million dollars will probably be added to the deficits.