

BULLETIN
SEMINARY EXTENSION
DEPARTMENT

Lee Gallman, Director

P. O. Box 1154

Jackson, Mississippi

Volume VIII

DECEMBER, 1959

Number 12





Lee Gallman

*"Think
on
These
Things"*

TO DO OR NOT TO DO

A tension exists between public relations and reflective writing. Public relations says, "Think before you write or speak. How will it sound coming from one in your position? Will it earn or forfeit good will?" One must abandon all efforts to effect changes in people if he sells his soul to public relations. On the other hand, the people you represent have their opinions and traditions. They want corroboration and approval; they want you to say what they would say. One can ruin his usefulness if he abandons all the rules of public relations.

An angry man placed a small tract of "condensed truth" before me some time ago and asked, "Do you accept this first principle?" Before I answered I asked, "Well, let us analyze its meaning. What do you mean by this word? What does 'no compromise,' mean?" He angrily slapped the table, "Don't dodge the issue." I tried to reason for an hour. We were separated by a principle to which both of us should have subscribed because we were both Baptist Christians. If I had played the public relations shot, he and I would have left slapping each other on the shoulder. Or better, we would never have met.

We can be fruitless in our sacrifices. We can stick our necks out needlessly and get hurt to no good purpose; we can antagonize those whose traditions have become identical with revealed truth. We can face issues in a foolhardy spirit, or we can do it cowardly.

Neither of these will help. Foolhardiness is like a man defying a fast train — he always loses. Cowardice is to face issues when you know you can help, but refuse to do so for fear of the consequences. Before we go too far we had better weigh them, for they are there, and no denominational worker or pastor is immune to them. Movements have a way of snowballing. They gain momentum, they overrun their objectives, and finally hurt someone. I'd rather be quiet than say the wrong thing, but I'd rather die than keep quiet out of fear.

"IT'S A LOSIN' FIGHT"

For ten or twelve years I have been kicking up the dust in an attempt to secure an interest in a broader learning for the minister with the conviction that preachers become illiterates in many fields of study vitally affecting them and their services. Meanwhile, all the powers that be are closing in on the opposite side. "Make them more illiterate" is the cry. It is not expressed in such terms, to be sure. It is rather, "Fill his college curriculum with more and more Bible, theology, religious education, and church history if he is going to be a minister." This is the demand. So the preacher comes to the seminary with an elemental knowledge of other studies but with some competence in theological disciplines.

He will know less of literature, psychology, but he will know the Bible and theology. He will not have a comprehensive knowledge of history, but he will know church history and Christian missions. All of this looks good on paper, for after all he is mainly concerned with church history, not history; he is mainly concerned with sacred literature, not literature as such. But it is a false apparition. As a leader of men he is concerned with life and life's common problems. He needs to know and appreciate the world and world concern. College is his last chance for involvement in a study of political science, chemistry, mathematics, physics, geology, and bi-

ology. He is not apt to have the motivation to study Pliny, Homer, Browning, Cicero, or Shakespeare after his interests focus on the issues of church life and biblical studies. Yet these interests are vital. This is a case of further specialization.

Educators everywhere are disturbed over our "illiterate" college graduates. The *New York Times* recently noted that Harvard's Law School complained that they cannot teach law to people who do not know the English language. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology complains that engineering cannot be taught to people who do not know the English language and who cannot "figure." The Navy a few years ago stated that their greatest need was for men who could add, subtract, multiply, and divide common fractions.

Our problem is more that we do not have a sufficient reservoir of general knowledge on which to base our understandings than that we do not have adequate Bible knowledge. The paradox is aptly illustrated by a conversation in which one illiterate minister in his characteristic colloquialism asked, "As you did your Greek?" Perhaps we need to ask if theological education is possible where the range of general knowledge and the practice thereof is as narrow as the contemporary college graduate.

—Lee Gallman

BOOK REVIEWS

The New Testament Background: Selected Documents, C. K. Barrett. (London: S. P. C. K. 1958). 276 pages, \$2.95.

Students of biblical literature often read references concerning events, facts, and statements regarding the New Testament world during the time of Christ. In the majority of instances, these must be accepted on their face value as true because of the lack of access to these original documents.

Dr. Barrett has made accessible to us selected passages of the original documents and sources

which are often quoted. He gives to us selections from the Papyri, Inscriptions, Hermetics, Mystery Religions, Jewish History, Rabbinic Apocalyptic Literature, and the Septuagint. He makes available also selections from the writings of the philosophers, Philo and Josephus. The student of biblical literature will immediately recognize the value of these writings selected from the various men who lived before, during, or after the time of Christ.

A study of these passages of selected by Dr. Barrett will give one a deeper discernment of the events that transpired during Jesus' ministry upon the earth. They will throw light upon many of the statements that came from the lips of our Lord. These original documents are written in such a way that they will be enjoyed and understood by those who have not had the privilege of higher learning. It is to be hoped that many will purchase this small volume and place it in their library as a ready reference for a more thorough study of the life and times of Jesus Christ.

—Albert H. Fauth

The Churches and the Kingdom. J. Harold Stephens. (Nashville; Broadman Press, 1959). 119 pages, \$1.95.

The author discusses the generally accepted view among Southern Baptists about distinctions which one traditionally hears. The lack of clarity on the part of many concerning the distinction between the Church and the Kingdom has led to the grossest of errors in the Church, the author claims (Chapter 1). He points out both differences and the similarity in chapters two and three. In chapters four through eight these distinctions are worked out. Thus the Church as the agent of the Kingdom (4), Citizenship in the Kingdom (5), and membership in the Church (6), are explained as are rules in the Church (7), and laws in the Kingdom (8).

Dr. Stephens' distinctions revolve also around problems such as regenerated church membership, behavior of church members, and in general the responsibility of members for the welfare of the kingdom.

One could wish that the author had shown acquaintance with the problems of world Christianity involved in the title. The works of Brunner, Kramer, Cook, Manson, and Richardson are not mentioned and Dr. Carver's tremendous contribution to this subject is not noted. But of course the author's concern is more related to the present Baptist situation in terms of scriptural teachings as Baptists understand them.

Lee Gallman

The Revelation of God in Human Suffering. Wayne E. Oates. (Philadelphia: Westminster Press). 143 pages, \$2.75.

The title of this book is the title of the first sermon in it. Dr. Wayne Oates reveals to us an unusual capacity for placing in the hands of the preacher the paraphernalia of psychology and yet sets it all in the context of sermons. This is not a work that is highly annotated and yet Dr. Oates calls on many authors, both contemporary and past, as he expounds human suffering in the setting of the purpose, fellowship, struggle for maturity, and self-defense as an experience with God and as a means of understanding God. It deals with the loss of roots in humanity, the struggle for purity and the Petrine doctrine of the fellowship of human sufferings. In a real sense this book needs to be read along beside Wheeler Robinson's, **The Cross and the Old Testament**. The pastor will find many helps in clarifying his own position as he deals with this problem in church relationships.

—Lee Gallman

STATISTICAL REPORT
(Current)

Correspondence students	475
Extension Center Students	571
Total	1,046

From A Student

"This being my last lesson in Old Testament III, I would like to tell you just how much it has meant to me. First, I never liked to study or read the Old Testament but this has caused me to realize the deep meaning of it and the most wonderful history in the world. It has truly been the greatest thing that has happened to me with the exception of when I accepted Christ.

Thank you for the course, and I am looking forward to finishing Old Testament 121. I appreciate receiving the **Bulletin** of the Seminary Extension Department."

Mrs. G. B. J.

BIBLE STUDY IN JANUARY
I and II TIMOTHY

Pastors who plan to teach the books of I and II Timothy will find invaluable help from the **Southwestern Journal of Theology** and **The Review and Expositor**. Both these splendid journals have given attention to some of the major issues involved in the Pastorals. Dr. Curtis Barnes in the **Southwestern Journal** has indicated and classified a rather extensive bibliography for the Pastorals. In **The Review and Expositor**, the whole book is turned over to the study. The problem of authorship is dealt with by Dr. Earl Ellis. "The Man, Timothy," is investigated by Professor William Hull, while Dr. W. W. Adams gives a splendid exposition of the two books. Dr. Wayne E. Oates writes some twenty-two pages on the conception of ministry in the Pastor-

als, while Dr. Dale Moody gives a good article on "The Man of God," along this same line of thought. Dr. W. H. Rozell has an article in the *Southwestern Journal* on preaching values in Hebrew words which is not directly pertinent but is of the same interest and Dr. C. W. Brister deals with "The Ministry in an Age of Stress."

In a day when the whole world is seeking to understand what is implied in the very term "ministry" or "minister," it is well to take note of the best writings that have been done in these two works of Paul. As others would point out, however, it is not from these works alone that we derive our conception of the ministry. There is implicit in the whole Christian calling, in the conversion experience, and in the eschatological hope of the church all the essentials for a thorough going ministry for the laymen as well as the special "parson."

—Lee Gallman

TIME TO GET MOVING

It takes a good month to set up a Seminary Extension Center with all the regular promotional work of the church and association to think about. This, however, is why we have an Extension Department—to help the churches and the associations. So we must "stagger" our program in to make it fit time-needs as well as personal needs. Among other problems a promoting group faces is determining the needs of those served. Another is promotion, another is publicity. Who will teach? Who will direct or keep records? Where will it meet? When? What will be offered? Settle these questions and get all elements of promotion moving. Let people know **what, who, where, and when.** Work through the associational missionary. It is easy to slip up here. But all our cooperative work centers in the missionary and the association.

NEW COURSES

Ephesians 192, by Fred Fisher, Th.D., Professor of New Testament, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, is an expository study based on the text, *The American Commentary on the New Testament*, Volume V; *Studies in Ephesians*, E. Y. Mullins. Price \$12.25. You will also need four translations of the New Testament: The Authorized or King James Version; American Standard; Revised Standard; and one modern version, such as: Goodspeed, Williams, Weymouth, Montgomery or Phillips. The student will secure his own translations. This course will be available January 1.

Church Leadership 135, Lee Gallman, Th.D., Director of Seminary Extension Department, is a study in principles of enlisting, developing, and leading church workers. This new study will take the place of the course previously offered using Dolloff's text—now out of print. Texts: *Enlisting and Developing Church Leaders*, Paul W. Milhouse, and *Church Committee Manual*, Allen W. Graves. Price \$10.10. This course is now ready.

CHANGING THINGS

Sure we're trying to change things! Who is not? We have immediate and ultimate objectives. Part of our immediate objective is centered in our own learning. We have needs as planners, educators, and salesmen. Our objectives include a plan of learning. This learning must involve a constant researching and refining of objectives. Human experience continues to expand. Expansion demands evaluation. We are in such a process. Developing the best possible program, with the aid of local leaders and with our training, we expect to meet needs in the areas of our defined services. Our leadership bulletins seek to explore this area. This is planned change.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON, MISS.
Permit No. 102

SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Southern Baptist Seminaries

P. O. BOX 1154

JACKSON 5, MISSISSIPPI

Mr. Davis C. Woolley
4513 Granny White Pike
Nashville 4, Tenn.