

EXCERPTS FROM

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THE LINK

North Road Chapel (Evangelical)

BIDEFORD

Internet Edition

AFTER THIS MANNER....PRAY YE
(A Study in the Lord's Prayer)
PART 14

This article continues on the subject of the 7th petition, "DELIVER US FROM EVIL."

Hypocrites and men of the world who might make some attempt at prayer are concerned more about temporal things than spiritual. For example, Pharaoh the king of Egypt prayed to have the plague of hail and thunder removed, but made no request that his hard heart be softened (cf.Ex.9:28). The Israelites in the wilderness, when they were bitten by serpents, were far more earnest to get rid of those fiery creatures than to get rid of their sins, which had occasioned such a scourge.

Many a Godless person when in great danger has prayed that their body might be spared rather than their soul be saved. When upon beds of sickness, how many a worldling has urgently prayed for physical healing, yet never sought the Lord to cleanse his sin-sick soul. David said, "Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against Thee" (Psa.41:4^L It is the plague of the heart which is the WORST disease that any man or woman can have. Indeed, ALL are affected by this malady.

We who have known true spiritual healing, well remember the great anxiety when conscience was first awakened as to our fearful condition in the sight of a holy God, and how we cried out as did the publican: "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). Then it was that we experienced the forgiveness of sins with the consequent peace of God filling our troubled breasts; all by virtue of the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

However, whilst this is gloriously true that we are "justified by His blood" (Rom.5:9), yet believers are still the target of Satan. We are in the world with all its sin and degradation, just as before regeneration; and because sin is such a sore evil, and it is all around us, God's redeemed people must live with great care. The charge given to us is: "KEEP THYSELF PURE" (1 Tim.5:22). "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" was

Joseph's reply to a wanton woman (Gen.39:9). "Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins," was David's great concern (Psa.19:13). How vital it is to pray daily, and earnestly, after the manner set out by Christ: "DELIVER US FROM EVIL".

Many are the Christians who have foundered upon the rocks. True it is they have not lost their salvation but they have made shipwreck of their testimony, brought disgrace upon their local Church, grossly dishonoured their God and became a by-word in the world.

Perhaps so far in our examination of this 7th petition we have concerned ourselves more with the contamination of the world, the obvious evil and wickedness by which we are surrounded, but there is more. There is the sin of our own hearts, and this can well be our chief enemy and greatest danger.

It is quite cannon to hear people speak of LITTLE SINS. In actual fact there is no such thing. No sin is little. Every sin is AGAINST God. Every sin is a violation of His holy law. Every sin is high treason. Thomas Watson the Puritan said: "There is not a little hell for little sinners, and a big hell for big sinners." If this be true (and it is), then the same is true of the Christian, there are no LESSER sins in our lives.

"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matt.23:23). This was spoken to unregenerate Pharisees, nevertheless the principle is precisely the same for us. These men were very exacting on certain points but omitted others.

All would agree that it is sin to do that which is expressly forbidden, such as to commit adultery, to steal, to bear false witness. On no account, we say must a Christian fall on these points. But what of omitting that which we should do? The study of the Word - private and public. Die exercise of prayer - private and public. There are alas Christians who are very neglectful of this. Many of God's people would boast that they never visit the

theatre, or the public house, shame upon them if they did; but what of the sick: what of that 'shut-in' neighbour? Does it ever occur that perhaps we could offer a little help, or run an errand for them? Would not a visit bring a little cheer? Whilst there are definitely places we should not visit, there might well be places we should. We need to be delivered from the evil of the sins of omission as well as those of commission. But some may argue, these lesser matters are relatively unimportant. This is not so. No sin or shortcoming is unimportant.

There is another vital matter to which the Scriptures draw attention. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb.12:1). "THE SIN WHICH DOTHSO EASILY BESET US." There is in every one of us a master sin, or perhaps sins. Something in our nature or make-up to which we are particularly inclined. With the Pharisees it was pride and vain glory, they loved the lime-light and to be seen of men. One young man recorded in the Gospels was unduly attached to his riches. He became concerned about spiritual matters, and came to speak to the Saviour regarding eternal life. Christ, knowing his heart, spotted his besetting sin and put His finger right on that point. However, such was the love of the young man for his possessions that for them he was prepared to neglect eternal life (cf.Matt.19:16-22). Jonah is another example. The picture given to us of him in the Word of God is that of a man who was of a peevish nature, who would soon become angry if he could not have his own way, and this he would justify. "I do well to be angry" he said (Jon.4:9). One is well aware of the fact that the Bible does speak of righteous indignation and holy anger. There can be occasions when a Christian must be angry, and by showing it he does 'do well', but this was not the nature of Jonah's anger. He was upset and fretful at the removal of the gourd with the consequent heat of the sun on his head (cf.Jon.4:7,8). This was trivial in the extreme, indeed it can be summed up in one word: PETTY. But Jonah is not alone in this weakness. Have we not all met Christians who should be labelled 'HANDLE WITH CARE!'?

Our attention is drawn to another important point: "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess.5:22). The Holy Spirit would so impress upon us the deadly evil of sin and our vulnerability to it, that we are commanded to take heed lest there be even an appearance of evil. The Lord Himself provides us with an example of observing this precept. In John 4:4 we are told: "He must needs go through Samaria." He had an appointment with an elect vessel of mercy, a woman of dubious reputation. The Lord meets her not at her own house, which may have prompted evil surmisings, No, He meets her out in the open. What a salutary lesson is set for us in this, both to old and young! With many questionable types all around us today the Christian must act with very great caution and prudence lest he or she gives rise to suspicion. It is not sufficient to abstain from actual evil; the believer must be clear even as to the appearance of it. Though a thing be not absolute sin, yet if in any way it gives a resemblance of it, we should avoid it. If only Christians could more fully appreciate what an odious thing sin is, how abhorrent to God, how much more careful we would be. To Judah of old, God spoke: "I sent unto you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate. But they hearkened not" (Jer.44:4). In the midst of all the abominations of this late 20th century how we His people should cry to God continually - "Lord deliver us from evil. Keep us from those things which Thou dost hate."

The book of Proverbs is probably not read sufficiently by God's people today; those 31 chapters contain such wholesome instruction and counsel. Chapter 16 verse 6 states: "By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." Thomas Watson commenting on this verse says, "The fear of the Lord is a bridle to sin, and a spur to holiness, it puts a holy awe upon the heart, and binds us to good behaviour." What truth is contained here! Is not all sin committed because of a lack of the fear of God? Surely the measure in which we fear God will be the measure in which we shall fear sin. The fear of God is as a sentinel, it is a great defence against the fiery darts of temptation.

In the 4th century A.D. the Empress Eudoxia threatened to banish that Godly man Chrysostom. The golden mouthed preacher (as he was known) said, "Tell her I fear nothing other than sin." Such a fear as this is born of one thing only, a TRUE FEAR OF GOD. Three times in the early verses of the book of Job is this truth brought out, that the fear of sin is contingent upon the fear of God. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1). "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?" (Job 1:8). Again do we find the same words in Job 2:3: "HE FEARED GOD AND ESCHEWED EVIL".

But how the great adversary attacked this man! What temptations were levelled at him in an attempt to get him to question his God, but No! in the most bitter of his experiences Job said: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15). In the many affliction which came upon this man, the Holy Spirit states: "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly" (Job 1:22). Job sinned not, he eschewed evil. Why? Because he feared God. The fear of God and holiness of life go hand in hand. "As He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy: for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear" (1 Pet.1:15-17). "Dearly beloved " writes Paxil "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Cor.7:1).

Let us all be fully aware of the fact that we live in a world which is defiled, polluted and nauseating to God. There is no FEAR OF GOD before men's eyes. Their feet run to do evil. In such a scene WE have been called to a life of HOLINESS, which we are to be perfecting DAILY. It is only in the fear of the Lord that we shall keep separate from the sin all around us, and only in the strength and grace which God supplies can it be done.

May the Holy Spirit so cause us to see the "exceeding sinfulness of sin", the subtle as well as the malicious character of Satan, and to know our utter weakness and incompetence in such a situation, for only as we are thus convicted shall we really pray from the heart after this manner "DELIVER US FROM EVIL".

To be continued

W.H.Holland

If man could only bring the inclination of his heart into agreement with his sense of duty, he would be happy in obeying, and the consciousness of restraint and of hateful effort would disappear. This is precisely what Christ accomplishes by His Spirit. He brings the human heart into harmony with the Divine law, as it was in the beginning, and thus rescues it from its bondage and its toil. Obedience becomes a pleasure, and the service of God, the highest Christian liberty. Oh, would that by the act of faith, you might experience this liberating effect of the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. So long as you are out of Christ, you are under a burden that will every day grow heavier, and may prove to be fixed and unmoveable as the mountains.....

Such is the posture of man unredeemed. There is a burden on him, under which he stoops and crouches. It is a burden compounded of guilt and corruption. It is lifted off by Christ, and by Christ only. The soul itself can never expiate its guilt; can never cleanse its pollution. We urge you, once more, to make "the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" your own. The instant you plead the merit of Christ's oblation, in simple confidence in its atoning efficacy, that instant the heavy burden is lifted off by an Almighty hand, and your curved, stooping, trembling, aching form once more stands erect, and you walk abroad in the liberty wherewith Christ makes the human creature free.

Extract from 'Sermons to the Natural Man'

W.G.T.Shedd

A MESSAGE FROM GOD TO YOU!

You dare not ignore it, for you cannot trifle with God. He is warning you in His holy Word that your sins will bring you to hell, and that unless you repent, confess and forsake your sins, you will be eternally damned. These are solemn realities. They are the truths of the eternal God. All who have been saved in the past believed them. All who are saved now believe them. All who shall yet be saved shall believe them. Salvation is from the Lord. He alone is the God of salvation. No sinner is saved apart from believing what God declares and reveals in His Word about salvation. Deny what God says, and you are guilty of making God a liar. "He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar, because he believeth not the record, that God gave of His Son, And this the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (cf 1 John 5:10-12).

If you do not believe these truths there is no hope for you. None whatsoever. God tells that He has His bow already set and from the arrow of death from His bow, you cannot escape. That arrow may now be on the wing. Flee from the wrath due to your sins to the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Saviour from sin and from hell. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Anon.

FESTAL DAYS AND THE LAW OF GOD.

PART 5

Is the celebration of Festal Days such as Christmas and Easter a violation of the law of God?

Previous sections of this study have proved beyond all doubt that these festive seasons carry no Biblical warrant, they are the inventions of men - vain imaginations, practices which not only have no warrant but

are actually at variance with the law of God. There are no mitigating features in this, no case for the defence. It is a flagrant flouting of the Divine mandate, none can sue for clemency, for the case is too clear.

The evidence being such, certain obvious questions arise such as - Who invented these things? How did they become a vital part of Church life? Surely the 25th of December has some meaning, and Good Friday - such a holy day as this can never be fictitious! Future articles will deal with these questions - where these seasons came from, whose inventions they were, and when such vain imaginations were first carved out of men's minds.

It may surprise the reader to learn that these festivals go back well over 4,000 years and they are nothing whatsoever to do with Christianity, indeed they are totally opposed to God and to His laws. Their origins are in paganism of the deepest and most perverse order. All that we are now to see originates from ancient Babylon, here issued ALL THE FALSE AND HEATHEN RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD: AND CHRISTMAS AND EASTER ARE RELICS OF ANCIENT BABYLONISH RELIGION ADOPTED AND SLOTTED INTO CHRISTIANITY BY THE CUNNING CRAFTINESS OF MEN - instigated of course by the master deceiver himself, Satan.

In order to trace this and substantiate it, one has to have a certain knowledge of Babylonish worship. We would not expect to find in the Scriptures a detailed treatise which sets out all the fine points of the procedures of their pagan rites and practices. Nevertheless, frequent references are made in the Word of God to such heathen deities as BAAL, ASTAROTH, BEL, NERGAL, TAMMUZ and many others. From now on attention will be drawn to some of the religious rituals of Babylon of old and the observant reader, who knows anything of the Old Testament, will readily spot the significance of certain portions of Scripture which perhaps previously meant nothing to him. What is more it will not be difficult to see that remnants of Baal are by no means extinct; indeed, they are very much

alive today even in the professing EVANGELICAL wing of the Church.

The man who is the key figure in this false worship is first mentioned in the book of Genesis chapter 10 verses 8-10: "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar." The wording of Holy Scripture as this man Nimrod is introduced to us is of great importance. "He was a mighty hunter." Not of wild beasts as some commentators foolishly suggest: Nimrod was a hunter of men in order to gain territory and so establish a kingdom. His name means REBEL which is defined as one who "RENOUNCES ALLEGIANCE" - "RESISTANCE TO ESTABLISHED LAW". Another vital phrase in these inspired verses is "Nimrod the mighty hunter BEFORE the Lord" - the word 'before' meaning "IN PLACE OF" or "RATHER THAN".

So at the outset of this man's career we learn that he was a rebel, resisting the established law written upon man's heart at the first, and renouncing allegiance to the God of heaven. This was gross violation of the first and second commandments. Nimrod had carved out his own god. Self came before the Almighty - another god before (rather than) the Lord.

This rebel had the vain imagination of establishing HIMSELF, and A KINGDOM in the place of God and His true kingdom. Then does the Scripture go on to say, "The beginning of his kingdom was BABEL" (or BABYLON) and this word means CONFUSION. Another observation to be made is the statement that, "He (Nimrod) began to be a mighty one in the earth." These somewhat obscure verses in the tenth chapter of Genesis are of immense importance, and a knowledge of them is fundamental to the Christian warfare, and to us in order that we have an understanding of the times in which we live. One of the basic principles of war is the ability to spot the enemy. Thus it must be with us,

it is essential that we are able to detect that which is false or counterfeit.

We are now at the main spring of ALL FALSE RELIGIONS. A rebel had arisen from amongst the sons of men. This man was different from Cain or any others before him in that he was a most forceful character. Renouncing allegiance to God, and resisting His law he commences to be famous, so famous as to be almost accounted a deity, for this kingdom which commenced in Babylon was a highly religious kingdom, but it was a kingdom which was OUTSIDE of the law of God.

However, this founder of false religion was a MIGHTY HUNTER. By decoy and deceit, as well as stealth and force, his kingdom grew. That kingdom is with us today, and one has not to go into the jungles of Africa or the hills of Tibet to find it. Throughout the land in which we live there are stark evidences of Nimrod's kingdom. The principles are the same today as they were at the first in ancient Babylon, namely a renouncing of the law of God and setting up of inventions according to man's ideas. That Scripture in Genesis 10 stated that the beginning of this kingdom was BABEL and it has indeed become MIGHTY IN THE EARTH.

This religious kingdom which commenced in the plains of Shinar continues not only through Old Testament times but right through human history. The fact that the ancient city of Babylon no longer exists makes no difference whatsoever to the kingdom, for that goes on and will not be destroyed until the end of time as the Scriptures make plain in Revelation 18:1-3, 9&10: "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory, and he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance

of her delicacies..... And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come."

There is no doubt but that this religious kingdom has become great in the earth. Because her inventions are OUTSIDE of the law of God, she has become the habitation of devils, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird, also the hold of every foul spirit. By this we are to learn that all false religions and practices are incorporated in this system. Nevertheless, the kingdom is doomed. In the last great day, within one hour, this world-wide mighty religious kingdom, founded by Nimrod, will be totally and eternally destroyed.

However, it is not the prophetic or future aspects of Babylon which is the concern of this article, it is her beginnings and current presence. The perpetuity of this kingdom in the earth is set forth in the Word of God under the figure of a woman. "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornications: and upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (Rev.17:3-6).

This woman, who pre-figures Babylon or Babel, is described as BLASPHEMOUS which in simple terms means 'against God'. She is decked in gold and precious stones, denoting that she is rich. She is filthy and a fornicator, revealing that immorality is common place. Indeed, she is called "The Great", and the "MOTHER of harlots." By this

we learn that Babylon was the ORIGINAL harlot, but harlots through immoral relationships have offspring. Is it not obvious to the reader how the Scriptures dove-tail? The references to Babylon in the book of Revelation perfectly harmonize with those in the book of Genesis. Nimrod commenced this kingdom at Babel, but from that religious invention has sprung all false religions until they have become the abomination of the whole earth. BABYLON is the mother of them all.

There is no shortage of religion in Britain today, but it is religion into which has infiltrated man's imaginations and inventions. There is so much which is not according to Holy Scripture, other things have come in BEFORE the Lord, or RATHER THAN that which God has said. In such a situation what is the true child of God to do? Remain in a cage with unclean birds? No, the child of God is commanded to "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Rev.18:4,5). This voice is none other than the voice of the Great Head of the Church Himself and with supreme authority He says: "COME OUT". Quit anything and everything which is of a Babylonish nature, anything which is set up in THE PLACE OF that which God has said. Such religion is of the imagination of men's minds, and it is an abomination unto the Lord.

The greatest manifestation of this Babylonish system today as practiced in this country is, without doubt, the Romanist religion, yet not exclusively as inferred by many Protestant Societies.

If one studies the Roman mass, her baptismal regeneration, purgatory and other dogmas and beliefs, one is bound to query - where did this religion come from, and by what authority? None of these dogmas are found in Holy Scripture, therefore they are outside of the law of God, a breach of the first and second commandments. But in all fairness, it must be said that other systems also carry imaginative and unscriptural beliefs and practices.

Returning again to the book of Genesis chapter eleven, we learn of one of the very first imaginative notions of Babylonish worship. They would build a tower which would reach unto heaven (cf.Gen.11:4). This was nothing other than a man invented approach to God. Man's own idea, man's own work. It was that which man imagined to do (cf.Gen.11:6). Again and again in the Holy Scriptures, concerning the matter of false belief and practice, do we get the words IMAGINE, IMAGE, or IMAGINATION all is vitally linked with Nimrod, Babel, Baal, Babylon and Ashtaroth. They are but one and the same in essence - IDOLATRY.

Further references to the Word of God will shed more light upon this. "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served Baalim...and they forsook the Lord and served Baal and Ashtaroth (Judges 2:11&13). Here we have Baalim and Ashtaroth listed as religions and gods whom the people were serving, but it must be registered that it was not only the heathen who were worshipping these strange deities, it was Israel also.

In an earlier section pertaining to God's law it has been established that the Almighty was not to be the chief God, He was to be the only God. But God's people had introduced others, and invented practices which were outside His mandate.

It is necessary that we know something of these heathen deities. Ashtaroth was a mystery goddess identified with the planet Venus; Beltis is another name for her, and Astarte is the Greek word for the same goddess. Easter is the English expression of Astarte, Ishtar was the Assyrian term. This deity is the goddess of sex, sensual love, and fertility and is also spoken of as the Queen of Heaven.

With this information we turn to the Holy Scriptures. "The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods,

that they may provoke me to anger" (Jer.7:18). "We will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to bum incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil....Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to bum incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows" (Jer.44:17&25).

From the preceding Scriptures we learn that the Queen of Heaven had become very important, the incorporation of her into their worship had been established over the generations "as we have done, we and our fathers our kings and our princes" (Jer.44:17). But who was she? Did she really exist? NO, she was nothing other than a figment of man's imagination. Yet despite the fact that she was a vain invention, victuals, cakes, drink in abundance was prepared for her worship. Everyone was in a frenzy, even the children gathering wood, the women kneading dough, and the fathers stoking the fire. Were these added extras in Judah's religious life acceptable to God? "They provoke Me to anger saith the Lord. "Behold, Mine anger and My fury shall be poured out upon this place" (cf.Jer.7:19-20).

Other Scriptures which have a very great bearing upon Babylonish worship must be cited. "Diese are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the Lord God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree" (Deut.12:1-2). "And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had

done. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree" (1 Kings 14:22,23). "And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree" (2 Kings 17:10). "He (king Ahaz) sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree" (2 Chron.28:4). "The Lord said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? She is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot" (Jer.3:6).

The foregoing Scriptures contain but a few of the references to the green tree in the Word of God and its association with idolatry, which sprang out of Babylon. These things are great in the earth today, both in the world and in the Church. It is SPIRITUAL HARLOTRY. This will become more apparent in articles which are to follow.

To be continued

W.H.Molland

"Within the Christian Church no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of till the third century, and not till the fourth century was far advanced did it gain much observance. How then did the Romish Church fix on December 25th as Christmas-day? Why, thus: long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era, a festival was celebrated among the HEATHEN at that precise time of the year, in honour of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven.... The tendency on the part of Christians to meet paganism half-way was very early developed; we find Tertullian, even in his day about the year 230 A.D. bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the disciples of Christ in this respect.... Upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts, the apostacy went on, till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under PAGAN SUPERSTITION. That Christmas was originally a pagan festival, is beyond all doubt."

Extract from "The Two Babylons"

Alexander Hislop

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

VISITING PREACHERS DV

Lord's Day 21 April Mr.J.Hooper (Saltash)

Mr.F.Stanbury (Bow) will be giving the ministry on three
Thursday evenings: 2 May, 6 June and 4 July.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

ANNUAL BIBLE CONVENTION DV

Saturday 20 July 1991

Speaker: Mr.D.G.Millar (Wolverhampton)

About eighteen months ago Miss E. Russell moved into our area from Inverness. After attending our services for a considerable time she expressed her desire for membership. She has been received into the Church and is now in happy fellowship with us. We thank God for such additions.

The Church at North Road has just published a booklet on the subject of 'Marriage and Divorce' as displayed on the opposite page. This 38-page booklet is well produced and is being made available free of charge upon receipt of a 27p stamp to cover postage. Please apply to the Bookroom Secretary.