

## EDITORIAL--- People and Personalities

While in Los Angeles we had the pleasure of hearing Chaplain Rushtoi deliver what he, himself, felt was the most significant message in his 20 years of ministry. He had just returned from Washington, D. C., after personal interviews with Senators, Congressmen, the Congressional Investigating Committee and the FBI office. His report indicated that the threat of communistic infiltration into the government and the churches is considered very grave, so much so that Washington, D. C., is sorely alarmed over the situation. He concluded his message by declaring that the hour had now arrived in which the only way that the church could get a hearing from the unsaved masses was through the ministry of miracles.

### The Freeman Meetings in Los Angeles

The concluding words of Chaplain Rushtoi's message found ample illustration in the great throngs that attended the Freeman Healing meeting in Los Angeles. The services were held for two weeks in Calvary Temple, where standing room became a premium. It was thought that there would be plenty of room in the Shrine Auditorium where the campaign was held the last two days. However, the 7,000 seats were taken by 7:30 p. m., and some 2,000 were turned away. It has been many years since Los Angeles was stirred as it has been in this campaign.

### Visit of Dr. Charles Benham, Noted Journalist

It was our good pleasure to meet Dr. Charles Benham of Washington, D. C., and we had the opportunity of having several interesting conversations with our brother. Rev. Benham, who had the rare opportunity of knowing personally many of the leaders of our government, was master-of-ceremonies at an important Navy Day celebration, and he has had the privilege of talking personally on more than one occasion, with the President of the United States. He had many interesting things to tell us of the prophetic picture as it is shaping up in Washington, D. C. We must respect the unwritten law of the capital, and not quote the words of congressmen or the administration, but we can say this much that they are not altogether unaware of the prophetic significance of events that are now transpiring.

### Former Congressman Upshaw Attends the Los Angeles Meetings

Another interesting gentleman of note who regularly attended the Los Angeles meeting was former Congressman Upshaw, who was also a presidential candidate on the prohibition ticket in the year 1932. Brother Upshaw is now in his eighties, but still retains a clear mind and keeps regular speaking engagements. It is a pleasure to meet men, who have held positions of influence in our government and who have retained their integrity and faith in the Bible, and who themselves have experienced a clear-cut born-again experience

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON DIVINE HEALING

Question 11. WHAT WAS PAUL'S "THORN IN THE FLESH," DESCRIBED IN II COR. 12:7? SOME TELL US THAT THIS MEANT THAT PAUL HAD A SERIOUS SICKNESS OR DISEASE FROM WHICH HE COULD NOT BE HEALED. IF THIS IS SO, DOES IT NOT INDICATE THAT THERE ARE SOME GOOD CHRISTIANS WHOM IT IS NOT THE LORD'S WILL TO HEAL?

Answer—The first law of sound reasoning is that one should not assume the thing which is to be proved. The Scripture declares that Paul had "a thorn in the flesh," and we know that it was a messenger of Satan which came to buffet him; and we further understand that Paul did not receive immediate deliverance from it. *But the Bible nowhere indicates or implies that this "thorn" was an evil disease or sickness of which Paul suffered.*

It is important that we allow the scriptures to explain themselves. What does the Bible say that "a thorn in the flesh" is? All agree, of course that the term is a figure of speech and not a literal thorn. What then does it mean? *We shall see from the Scriptures that the term "thorn in the flesh" is used to indicate personalities and not disease.* In Numbers 33:55 Moses said:

"If ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them, shall be pricks in your eyes, and THORNS IN YOUR SIDES, and shall vex you in the land wherein you dwell."

Joshua speaking some time later, said, "they shall be scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes." Joshua 23:13. Again in Judges 2:3, the Lord speaks of the Canaanites as "thorns in your sides." *We see, therefore, that according to the Scriptures, "a thorn in the flesh" is not a disease but a personality whom the devil uses to annoy, persecute or trouble the children of God.*

In tracing the life of Paul, we note the many victories and triumphs he had over the opposers of the Gospel. At the Isle of Paphos, a sorcerer by the name of Barjesus sought to withstand him, and because of his influence, might have seriously hindered the advancement of the Gospel on that island. But Paul, under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, pro-

nounced a curse of blindness upon this enemy of the truth, and as a result the governor became a convert, and a revival came to the entire island. At Philippi, a girl with a familiar spirit, who tried to intrude herself upon the ministry of the apostle, was silenced when Paul with authority cast the evil spirit out of her. When the apostle was lodged in prison, an earthquake shook the foundations and opened the doors. But there came a time when Paul no longer experienced such marvelous deliverances. Cast in prison, he languished there a long period of time, and it appeared that evil men triumphed over him. Just as the Canaanites were a "thorn in the flesh" to the children of Israel, so these persecutors were a "thorn" to Paul. But there was a Divine purpose in this. During the period he was imprisoned, Paul wrote a number of his wonderful epistles. Had he been free to evangelize at that time, it is possible that they would never have been written.

There is something else for those to note who suppose that Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was sickness. Just before Paul tells about this "thorn," he lists his sufferings and labours for Christ. He said he was "in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft." (I Cor. 11:23-33). It is a long list and it does not sound like the story of a sick man. *If a sick man could do or suffer all those things, we might wish that kind of sickness upon all the children of God!* The fact was, Paul had infirmities and sufferings, but not one place in the list, is mentioned sickness or disease.

Finally, note that Paul explained the reason why this messenger of Satan was allowed to buffet him. It was because of the abundance of the revelations that he had received. God did not want to risk his being exalted above measure. Few people have received a fraction of the revelations that Paul received. Consequently, had Paul's thorn in the flesh been sickness, which we are sure the reader can see that it could not have been, there would be few people indeed who could attribute the reason for their affliction to the same cause.

of salvation. Mr. Upshaw's account of the Los Angeles meeting will be found elsewhere in this issue.

### Interesting Visit to the Lutheran Bible Institute

It must not be thought that only the churches which are known as the Full Gospel churches, are receiving the benefits of this revival. Ministers from Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and other churches in Los Angeles attended regularly. Some of these had earnest conversations with us

concerning the ministry of healing. As many as 500 ministers attended during the nights at the Shrine Auditorium.

Perhaps our most interesting visit while in Los Angeles, was at the Lutheran Bible Institute, where we were graciously given the permission to speak to the entire student body on the subject of Divine Healing. Never did the speaker have a more eager group of listeners. We were

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