

# PERFECT MAN

A Newsletter Designed to Communicate Truth for Perfection of the Total Man--Spirit, Soul and Body



FALL 1996

All Rights Reserved

Volume 2• Issue 1

## DEADLY RELIGION

By Booker T. Dismuke



**I**n many of our churches great emphasis is placed on our bodies, and what kind of things we have to do in order to gain salvation--the clothing a person might wear, or whether they wear makeup or not, and many other bodily concerns. People who push this kind of propaganda suggest that *holy living* displays a holy dress code. This mode of thinking says that if you are holy, you will dress a certain way, and if a person is not dressed according to this so-called *holy* dress code, then, of course, they cannot really be saved.

Although much of the Church has bought into this legalistic thinking, by no means does that make it right and accurate. On the contrary, this kind of thinking comes from **man's futile attempt** to save himself, and/or improve on the work that Christ has done. This is a very important area of concern for the Church. It is critical that we understand where our faith lies--whether in what **we do**, or in the **finished work of Christ**.

The early Church was not unlike the Church today, in that legalistic teachings crept in. **Tradition plays a major role in corrupt teaching.** After the first mission of Paul and Barnabas, they came back to the local Church at Antioch and told of how God had used them, and that the Gentiles had gladly received the Gospel. Shortly after that, Jews who were believers came **teaching** that those Gentiles who had believed on Jesus had to be circumcised and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved. In other words, **even though they believed, they were not saved** unless they became circumcised and kept the law of Moses. This teaching became a real issue for the Church--so much so, that Paul and Barnabas were sent down to Jerusalem to get counsel from the apostles.

This issue is not something that can be ignored or swept under the carpet. These are the kinds of things **we must deal with effectively.** This story is recorded in the fifteenth chapter of Acts. In that chapter, a formula was given to the Church to deal with legalism. This counsel is good for the Church today. After hearing arguments from all sides, the final word from the apostles was sent back to the Church at Antioch in letter form, and with witnesses. This word received from these men of God should be acceptable today. (**For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things . . .**) Acts 15:28.

We must learn not to **burden** the Church with rules and regulations. This includes things that are unimportant and things that take the focus off of the work of Christ. The true greatness of the Church will soon surface when men cease to pat themselves on the back. Any time we are burdened with the concerns of this world and man's ideas of righteousness, we are in lack. The true spirit of creativity stored in us by the Spirit of God can never be released.

It is true that we must keep our souls and spirits intact, not allowing things such as fornication and deceit to consume us. Nevertheless, there is a creativity in each of us that certain traditions of men will hinder, bind up, and eat away. Jesus gave much

("Deadly Religion" Cont. on Pg. 2)

## \$\$ Just One Thin Dime..

By Yvonne Dismuke

Several thoughts come to mind as to how thin a dime actually is. Also worth considering-- it's easy to lose when dropped into small places. Even a child prefers to have a quarter because it's size makes it appear more valuable.

Well, how does it sound to have a family of four save ten dimes each per day (\$4.00) toward a family project? After a period of a year, this would accumulate to \$1460.00 + interest earned. A nice sum to contribute toward a vacation, new television, camcorder or other agreed venture. Creative strategies to save corporately for special projects can be enjoyable and helpful in instilling budgeting techniques.

Saving (whether singular or jointly) is essential to enable every home to be self-sufficient. Special saving projects are helpful in getting a special goal achieved. However, reserves are to be established as a subsistence factor. Ten percent of the monthly net income is a realistic contribution for unexpected events (illness, death, loss of employment). Should any portion of these savings be unexpended at the close of a year, consider short-term investment opportunities. The federal reserve of your home is the least expensive form of banking to retain more of the dollar you worked for. A dime can be a start in the direction of ultimately diminishing dependence on the current economic structure as a source of revenue.



### What's Inside

"Right Under Your Nose"	Page 3
"How To Subscribe"	Page 3
"Our Mission Statement"	Page 4

