

Bury-the-hatchet  
ceremony, St. Eds.  
tonight at 7:30.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 16, 1938.

Deceased: Bro. John,  
C.S.C., died in Bengal  
Sunday. 29 years old.

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King Baltasar And The Holy Ghost.

You've probably never heard of King Baltasar before. At least right now you probably can't place him. That might be because you're not familiar with Scripture, especially the Old Testament. But the Prophet Daniel tells you something very tragic about this monarch:

Baltasar the King made a great feast for a thousand of his nobles and every one drank according to his age. And being now drunk, he commanded that they should bring the vessels of gold and silver which Nabuchodonosor his father had brought away from the Temple that was in Jerusalem, that the king and his nobles and wives might drink in them. . . . And they drank in them. . . .

In the same hour there appeared fingers, as it were, of the hand of a man writing over against the candlestick upon the surface of the wall of the king's palace; and the king beheld the joints of the hand that wrote. Then was the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him. . . . and his knees struck one against the other. . . .

Then came in all the king's wise men, but they could neither read the writing, nor declare the interpretation to the king. . . . Then Daniel was brought in before the king. . . . And this is the interpretation of the word. . . . God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it. . . . Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting. . . . Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians. . . . The same night Baltasar the Chaldean King was slain.

Perhaps you've been wondering, "Why bring that up?" Here's why. If God did not hesitate to slay a pagan and voluptuous king because he profaned a chalice of gold set aside for the service of the temple, what about you-- you who are receiving Christ in the Eucharist day after day; you, living chalices of Christ and Temples of the Holy Ghost? That is something to ponder. Your dignity as something pertaining to God should be the prime motive that keeps you chaste, that makes you refuse every temptation to profane the Temple of God, which Temple you are. The dignity of Others, as persons belonging to God Himself, should keep you from spoiling them.

Saint Paul was a man who never pulled punches. His words were inspired of God. He knew the story of Baltasar. He knew of the chamberings and impurities of his day. He knew the weakness of human nature. And though he knew, as the Psalmist had written centuries before him, that man is "just a little lower than the angels," he knew also that man is an "instrument of iniquity" and "a vessel of wrath fitted for destruction." That is why he reminded his beloved Corinthians:

Know you not that you are the Temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within you? If any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy! For the Temple of God is holy, which Temple you are.

Now ask yourselves all the questions you've written "About dates." Think over the things you call "necking" and "petting". What do you think of these things in the light of King Baltasar's story and the words of St. Paul? If your first impulse is to disbelieve, to repudiate faith, come around for the Question Box or Radio Replies and examine the foundations of faith. Don't abandon your faith because it is hard. Morality springs from what you believe, not what-you-believe from a lax morality. And let no scatterbrain boast, "Well, I've done these things, I'm not destroyed," let him beware. God knows other ways to destroy than by death. There's disease. There's unhappiness. There's futility, emptiness, lowliness, intellectual foggery, worse debauchery, hate. There's eternal hell. God need not make an example of any of you. He has given you the example of Baltasar and the warning of Paul. Why not do as Paul says? "Glorify and bear God in your body."  
(seriously ill) father of William Otte '35; father of Bill Eaton (Cav.) Four spec. ints