

# The Berea Baptist Banner

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## The Pastor's Wife

By James E. Hobbs, Sr.

McDermott, Ohio

"And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof; . . . but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she



"Didn't Adam and Eve start in the garden?"

Wilma & James Hobbs

shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave this father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:18-24).

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## Why Was Noah's Ark So Small?

By Bruce Oyen

Miles City, Montana

Why was Noah's ark so small? So small? some might ask. Have we not been told all our lives that Noah's ark was a very large one? Indeed we have.

Consider what dimensions a conservative Bible scholar gives to Noah's ark: "Although we do not know the exact length of the cubit at this time, later it was about 18 inches, making the ark 450 feet long, 75 feet broad, and 45 feet high, with a displacement of about 20,000 tons and gross tonnage of about 14,000 tons. It carrying capacity equaled that of 522 standard railroad stock cars (each of which can hold 240 sheep). Only 188 cars would be required to hold 45,000 sheep-sized animals, leaving three trains of 104 cars each for food, Noah's family, and 'range' for the animals. Today it is estimated that there are 17,600 spe-

cies of animals, making 45,000 a likely approximation of the number Noah might have taken into the ark."

So, we logically conclude that the ark was, in fact, of considerable size, and especially so when one considers the fact that those who built it did not have the advanced machinery and technology that we do to assist in the production of something of those dimensions.

But in spite of the largeness of the ark, I still ask why it was so small. For it was small, when one thinks about the fact that the earth's human population at the time certainly could not have gotten into it, had they all decided to do so.

It seems certain that the God-given dimensions of the ark were intended

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## The Fourth Commandment

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Ex. 20:8-11).

"And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28).

"There remaineth therefore a keeping of a sabbath to the people of God" (Heb. 4:9 margin).

In our study of the First Commandment we saw that we are to worship the true God and Him only. In our study of the Second Commandment

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## Propitiation

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

Our English word "propitiate" means "to cause to become favorably inclined; win or regain the good will of; appease or conciliate" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of American Languages*, p. 1168). "Propitiation" means "a propitiating or being propitiated, something that propitiates" (*ibid.*).

But in order to have a proper understanding of the Bible doctrine of propitiation we must look at the meaning these words had in the origi-

How can high-level American officials, in good conscience, continue to support and praise Kofi Annan, suave United Nations Secretary General—the architect of world government which

would undercut the U. S. Constitution that these U. S. senators, congressmen and judges took solemn oath to "preserve, protect and defend"? Is it a sell-out?

And equally important, how can the rest of us sit idly by and let them get away with it?

**'GLOBAL DEMOCRACY'**

The UN agenda of peace and human rights has been superceded by Annan's goal of global democracy with global laws, global taxes, global money and global courts, stealing our sovereignty and precious freedoms. We don't need the UN, but the UN needs us. Bad!

Kofi Annan declares the UN to be "the sole source of legitimacy in the use of force in the world."

His authority is Chapter 5 of the UN Charter, brainchild of traitor Alger Hiss, ratified by President

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"THOU HAST GIVEN A BANNER TO THEM THAT FEAR THEE, THAT IT MAY BE DISPLAYED BECAUSE OF THE TRUTH" (PSALMS 60:4).



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## The Pastor's Wife

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**"This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; . . . one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (for if a man know not how to rule his own house how shall he take care of the church of God?)"** (I Tim. 3:1-5).

While thinking about this message, several ideas came into my mind. One was that I would be sure to point out that the pastor's wife must be a woman. While some may think this to be funny, I am sorry to say that it is very disturbingly serious. I have decided to go in a different direction, however, and look at it from the help meet side.

Most people never think about the fact that when a church calls a man to serve as her pastor, they are in essence calling his wife as well. (Allow me to explain here. Several years ago a

young man told me that he felt that the Lord was calling him to be a missionary to some foreign field. Then he said "I hope the Lord calls my wife as well. I quickly informed him that if the Lord called him, he can rest assured that she is included in that call, because she is to go where he goes.) When a man is called as pastor, she is a part of him—his help meet. The respect for the office of the pastor must also be seen in the respect for his help meet.

While most of the wives in the church can set a definite schedule for meals, etc., the pastor's wife cannot. Her husband is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There's hardly a meal goes by but what he gets a phone call or someone needs to see him. When the pastor hurts, she hurts also. She is just as nervous as he is when he prepares to preach. While he is preaching she is listening and praying for him.

### HELP MEET

The word that was translated "help meet" in our text is one that was translated "help" in other passages. **"Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield"** (Ps. 33:20). This verse shows us that the role of helper is not an inferior role. God promises that He is our helper as well. Women have been created and equipped to be helpers—to lovingly protect, support, shield, sustain, deliver, comfort, give hope, and bless.

Proverbs 14:1 shows that a woman of great wisdom has a building influence on those around her. **"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."** Paul said, **"I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: that ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she has been a succourer of many, and of myself also"** (Rom. 16:1-2). The pastor's wife can and should be a great help to the women in the church.

### LEADERS

Please understand that there is a difference between leadership and management. (NOTE: all managers should be leaders but all leaders are not managers.) Managers plan, organize, delegate, and control. They direct others, or, in other words, they call the shots. Leaders are able to influence others even if they have no formal authority. The pastor's wife falls into that category automatically when he takes the role of pastor.

A leader must have (1) vision, called goals or dreams, (2) passion to serve her Lord, her church, and her husband, and (3) commitment, or a

desire to be obedient to God's will.

A leader, then, is one who has a desire to serve the Lord in the proper place—in His church and in her home—keeping in mind that God arranges His churches as He sees fit. **"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him"** (I Cor. 12:18). Please note that in verse 28 "helps" (or being a helper) is included as part of the spiritual gifts. There is always something every one can do—pray for instance. A pastor's wife is by virtue of her position a leader among the women of the church.

Please pardon the personal application, but I need to give an example here. Our church has a fellowship meeting on the first Saturday of each month where we serve refreshments in our fellowship hall. I make a list of each month and assign a woman of our church to be in charge of refreshments. She is responsible to make the menu, set the table, serve, and clean up afterwards. She puts a list out at church of food items needed and the ladies sign to provide certain items. My wife is always there to assist her in every way that she can (teaching by example). Sometimes we have a "pot-luck or covered dish dinner". She works with the ladies of the church to make sure we have a good variety of meats, vegetables, breads, and dessert.

The Bible tells us that women must be taught: **"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed"** (Titus 2:3-5).

Please note that the things they are to be taught are not just the doctrinal teachings that should be taught in the Bible study-classes on Sunday. These are lessons that deal with everyday life. People will automatically look to the pastor's wife and observe her life in respect to these things.

### SOME QUALITIES TO DEVELOP

At this time let me give you some qualities that all women should develop, but especially the pastor's wife.

1. *Faith.* **"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of these things, But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His rich-**

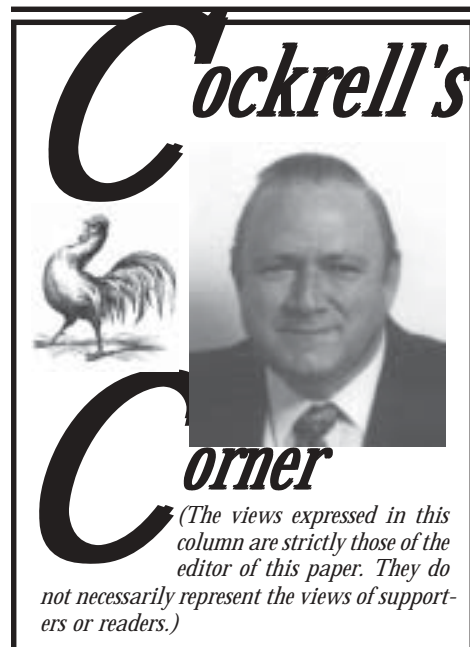
**teousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things it itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"** (Matt. 6:31-34). It does not matter what happens in the life of the pastor the people are watching to see what kind of reaction that he and his wife have about it. The pastor's wife must exhibit complete faith at all times.

2. *Obedience to God.* **"For they themselves shew us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"** (I Thess. 1:9). And to your husband: **"Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement"** (I Pet. 3:6). The female role in obedience extends to God first but also then to her husband. It is this part of obedience from which many women rebel. This is a commandment from God and must be adhered to as well as any other commandment.

3. *Hospitality.* One of the requirements of a bishop is that he be **"given to hospitality"** (I Tim. 3:2). His wife must therefore be an example of being hospitable and show hospitality at all times. Most women can pick and choose when they wish to entertain others. The pastor's wife never knows when some preacher or missionary is going to show up. **"After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla: (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers"** (Acts 18:1-3). Please note that they had just been kicked out of Rome and arrived in Corinth and Paul (a preacher) shows up to stay—not just a few hours or even a few days but **". . . he continued there a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among them"** (Acts 18:11). This is what I mean when I say availability no matter what is happening in your home or life.

4. *Adaptability.* Again let us note Aquila and Priscilla in this. **"And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. . ."** (Acts 18:18). Please notice that they were willing to leave and go with Paul. A pastor's wife must be ready to leave when he is called

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**Cockrell's**  
**Corner**

(The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the editor of this paper. They do not necessarily represent the views of supporters or readers.)

## TO GIVE ETERNAL LIFE TO THE SHEEP

**“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”** (John 10:10-11).

Christ is the good Shepherd in John 10. A shepherd may risk his life in defense of the sheep (I Sam. 17:34-36), but he does not voluntarily lay down his life as a sacrifice. The word “giveth” in the Greek is translated “lay down” in verse 18, and it should have been translated so in verse 11. Ordinarily, if a shepherd dies in defense of his flock, then the flock would become a helpless prey and perish like the shepherd. But here the giving up of the Shepherd’s life resulted in eternal and spiritual life for the sheep.

Christ’s death illustrates the law of redemption. Here is the doctrine of vicarious sacrifice. “For” in verse 11 is the Greek proposition (*huper*) which means “over, in behalf of, instead of,” and it carries the idea of substitution (See *Word Pictures in the New Testament* by A. T. Robertson, Vol. V, p. 178).

Alvah Hovey says: “The Greek proposition translated for *ὑπέρ*, signifies generally, ‘in behalf of,’ ‘for the benefit of,’ though sometimes it means ‘in place of.’ here the death of the shepherd is supposed to save the sheep from death, so that, in a certain general sense, his death takes the place of theirs” (*The Gospel of John*, p. 215).

R. C. H. Lenski writes: “In brief, *ἀντί* really means ‘at the end of’ and thus suggests contrast, succession, substitution, opposition, as the case may be; while *ὑπέρ* means over’ and thus

comes to mean ‘concerning,’ ‘beyond,’ ‘in behalf of,’ ‘instead of.’ The context invariably decides. We may translate *ὑπέρ* ‘in behalf of,’ but this is no more exact than ‘instead of.’ When Jesus dies *ὑπέρ* the sheep and then takes his life again, the only sense in which this could possibly benefit the sheep is by way of substitution—he dies in their stead” (*St. John’s Gospel*, p. 725).

The good Shepherd did not give His life as a martyr for the truth, nor as a moral example of self-sacrifice. John 10:11 says Christ died for the sheep. He died and rose again that they might have eternal and spiritual life (John 10:17-18, 28; 17:2). Christ laid down His life that the sheep might have eternal life. By nature they were dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1). Had Jesus not suffered and died for them they could not have come into possession of spiritual and eternal life—life at its best. In John 10:10-11 we see life saved by the sacrifice of another life. If the good Shepherd had not sacrificed Himself, then the sheep must have been sacrificed.

The Arabic Version renders the latter part of John 10:10 “that they might have eternal life.” The Ethiopic Version of John 10:11 reads: “The good shepherd gives his life for the redemption of the sheep.”

John 10:10-11 not only treats of the nature of the atonement, but it also sets forth its extent. Christ died for the sheep and not the goats. In the immediate context the sheep are said to know Christ’s voice and follow Him (vv. 4, 16, 27), to know Christ (v. 15), to believe (v. 26), to possess eternal life (v. 28), and to never perish (v. 28). Hence the design of the atonement is definitely restricted. You cannot take the term “sheep” beyond those who are actually saved by Jesus Christ. The Lord from Heaven laid down His life for the benefit of the sheep, saving them from everlasting destruction and imparting to them everlasting life. Christ gave His life that the sheep might live forever. This is why He gave His life. If one sheep for whom He laid down His life fails to enjoy eternal life, then our Lord was a failure. This can never be said of Him, for the old prophet wrote of the Messiah: “**He shall not fail nor be discouraged**” (Isa. 42:4).

The universal atonement of the Arminians have Christ dying for the goats. But no verse in the Bible tells us He died for the goats. They make the death of Christ a failure, for a great multitude for whom He laid down His life, according to them, will be called upon to lay down their own lives in eternal torment. The blood of Christ will be fuel for the flames of Hell, according to them. They teach that it is

not the death of Christ which keeps a man out of Hell, but that it is self-originated faith in man which makes up what is lacking in the atonement of Christ. In truth there is no difference in a man who teaches salvation by a meritorious faith than a meritorious baptism. Both make man his own savior.

If you think that I have overstated the case, I will let an Arminian Baptist speak for himself. J. R. Alexander writes: “The only sin that condemns a sinner to hell now is personal unbelief in the name of, or in the saving authority of the only begotten Son of God. . . . Then the sin that sends men to hell is the sin of unbelief. And that is the only sin that condemns and sends a person to Hell” (*The Tulip Doctrine*, p. 54-55).

Sovereign gracers do not deny that unbelief is a sin which sends men to Hell, but we deny it is the only sin. A number of Scriptures list other sins which send men to Hell (I Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:3-5; Rev. 21:8). Arminians like Alexander believe a man is saved by a self-originated faith which makes him to differ from others. They teach the death of Christ saved no one, but that self-originated faith puts the finishing touch to salvation.

Unlike them, we do not believe faith is a product of the natural man (II Thess. 3:2). We believe faith is a fruit of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:3, 9; Ga. 5:22) which flows from the atonement of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:29; I Pet. 1:21). We believe that the death of Christ actually procured spiritual and eternal life for the sheep. It provided both faith and eternal life.

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elsewhere. Or in other words be able to adapt to whatever situation comes along.

5. *Anticipation.* While traveling with Paul, Aquila and Priscilla came to a place called Ephesus and met a man called Apollos “**an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures**” (Acts 18:24). They heard him, saw his potential, and noted his weakness, and verse 26 tells us that they “**took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**” A good pastor’s wife looks for those who needs help or encouragement and helps her husband as he works with them. (Her help might just be providing a cup of coffee or a piece of dessert while they talk, or it might consist in her joining in when they talk about the Scriptures.)

6. *Teaching.* Not necessarily in the

class room but in life. “**The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober (or responsible), to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husband that the word of God be not blasphemed**” (Titus 2:3-5). These are things that God says must be taught to the younger women as they grow up. In order to teach them, the pastor’s wife must live according to these verses also.

Please keep in mind that Aquila and Priscilla did not in any way attempt to take away Paul’s authority or position as they worked with him for he said, “**Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus**” (Rom. 16:3). The Psalmist said, “**Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord**” (Ps. 25:15). When our eyes are upon the Lord we are free from the snare of self-centeredness, self-interest, and self-promotion.

The main way that a pastor’s wife can teach is by her life, for example her response to difficulties that come up in her life teaches others whether she has faith or not. Her manner of dress shows that she has respect for herself, her husband, and her Lord. “**Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things**” (Titus 2:9-10). “**In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works**” (I Tim. 2:9, 10). “**Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, in that which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement**” (I Pet. 3:3-7). “**Abstain from all appearance of evil**” (I Thess.

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5:22).

Please note what the Bible said about some garments. **"And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart"** (Prov. 7:10). God is obviously telling us that a godly woman will not dress in such a way as to give the appearance of a harlot. I believe, as does my wife, that the Bible is perfectly clear that a woman should wear a headcovering in church, therefore she wears one even if nobody else is doing so. She is not trying to put anyone down but simply obeying God regardless of what others do. This is a perfect example of her teaching obedience to the Lord and to others.

### SOME EXAMPLES TO CONSIDER

1. A church once called a meeting of the men to discuss a serious problem. A lady in the church told the pastor that she would provide coffee for them. In the meeting, things were not going as smooth as they should, so the pastor suggested a coffee break. When they came into the kitchen they found the coffee ready and a beautiful tray of cookies. On the cookies was this note, "Enjoy, I am so thankful for godly men who are willing to serve our church. I will be praying for you as you meet. Leave your mess. It will be my privilege to clean it up." The impact of that note was immediate and they took care of the problem very quickly.

2. Note Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42: **"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."**

Both women honestly desired to serve the Saviour. Mary wanted to sit at His feet and learn of Him while Martha wanted to exercise her privilege of hospitality. Both is right and neither is wrong. The problem is that Martha proceeded to the point that she did not spend any time at the feet of Jesus and the result was an unloving attitude. Activity without a loving

attitude is not being helpful. Martha became distracted by all that she thought needed to be done and lost her focus. Doers often struggle with the proper order of piety and practice. They become so involved in the task that they begin focusing on it rather than on Jesus. It creates an atmosphere of competition (see verse 40). "Nobody else is doing anything but me," etc. Therefore Martha was not satisfied with Mary and was disappointed which most always degenerates into disapproval towards others and the Lord. "Lord, don't you care. . .?" Mary, on the other hand, should have helped Martha with some of the work so both could sit at the feet of Jesus and still show hospitality. So you ladies, when you see the pastor's wife, who has to be both Mary and Martha, burdened with the business of providing for someone, give her a hand so she too can "sit at the feet of Jesus." The pastor's wife has to discipline herself to be concerned with being hospitable and yet take time to sit at the feet of Jesus, which is oftentimes a big task.

Allow me to close with a quote from someone (and I don't know who said it). **"MEN ARE THE HEAD BUT WOMEN ARE THE HEART-BEAT OF THE CHURCH."** The pastor's wife must be the leader and teacher of the women of the church by her life and actions as well as through teaching the Bible.

## Noah's Ark So Small

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to accommodate all the animals that would go into it, and 8 human beings, and no more.

So, why was the ark not of sufficient size to have held many thousands of individuals, if they had chosen to avoid the impending worldwide flood?

The answer is simple. The all-knowing God knew that only 8 humans would get on board the ark to escape his judgment of the world, and so it was not necessary that the ark be made to house more than those few individuals.

Now, apply this to the atoning death of Jesus Christ. If God had the ark built large enough to accommodate only those whom he knew would get on it, would he have Jesus die for those whom He knew would not believe in Him for salvation? No. Rather, just as the ark was designed to house only eight humans, so Jesus' atoning death was designed to save only those whom the omniscient God knew would believe on His Son for salvation.

This makes good sense, does it not?

Moreover, if it is acceptable to us that Noah's ark was not intended to hold an innumerable human population, should it not be acceptable to us that Christ's death was not intended to save all humanity? Noah's ark was limited in its design, and so was Christ's death. Christ died to save only those whom he knew would believe on him to be saved.

Now, having compared the smallness of Noah's ark with Christ's atoning death, I want to point out that his death will save far more than were saved by Noah's ark.

Matthew 7:14 states, **"Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."** But the number referred to here is small in comparison to the number who go through the wide gate, and walk on the broad way that leads to destruction, as verse 13 states.

In spite of that contrast, still the number who will be saved will be remarkably large. Just try and imagine how many have already been saved by faith in Christ since the beginning of time. The number is, no doubt, staggering. And then think of the number that will be saved between now and the end of the day of salvation. Should that end not come for another 100 years, many thousands, and even millions, will be saved by then. And what if the day of salvation goes on for 1000 more years?

When God ends all opportunities for the salvation of sinners, we will be overwhelmed at how many will have been saved.

Revelation 7:9-14 gives us a clear statement about this matter: **"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the**

**blood of the Lamb."**

Noah's ark and Christ's atonement were designed to save only a certain number of individuals. But let us be ever grateful that the number saved by Christ will be beyond computation.

## Fourth Commandment

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we saw that we are to worship God directly without intervention of images of any kind. In our study of the Third Commandment we saw that we are to worship our God sincerely, devoutly, adoringly. In today's study of the Fourth Commandment we see the special day on which we are to worship the Lord as our God.

This command is the longest of any of the ten in its wording. It shows that God is the sovereign Lord of our time. On the sabbath which He has appointed we are to worship and serve Him. God must be served and honored daily, but one day in seven is to be particularly dedicated to His honor and spent in His service. This day we must always remember, for in our depravity we tend to forget it. The main reason to remember this day is to keep it holy unto the Lord.

### THE DUTY OF WORK

The Fourth Commandment enjoins the duty of work: **"Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work."** The Lord commands us to work six days as well as to rest on the seventh day. No sooner had God planted the garden of Eden, than He put man in it to dress and to keep it. Eden was the birthplace of industry, for labor is one of the things which comes to us from the other side of the fall. The first of all arts was agriculture, and the first of all laborers of sinless man! If it was needful that man work while he was still sinless, how much more needful is it since he has fallen and the ground has been cursed for his sake?

"He who never works is unfitted for worship. Work is to pave the way for worship, as worship is to fit us for work. The fact that any man can escape the observance of this first half of the Commandment is a sad reflection upon our modern social order, and shows how far we have departed from the Divine plan and ideal. The more diligent and faithful we are in performing the duties of the six days, the more shall we value the rest of the seventh. It will thus be seen that the appointing of the Sabbath was not any arbitrary restriction upon man's freedom, but a merciful provision for his good: that it is designed as a day of gladness and not of gloom" (*Ten Com-*

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## Fourth Commandment

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*mandments by A. W. Pink, pp. 28-29).*

The sovereign Lord might have justly reserved six days for Himself and allowed us but one, but He did not. Instead, He gave us six days for our labor and reserved but one for Himself. Some believe that God unwisely commanded that we work six days. These people often speak of a five-day or even a three-day work week. I am convinced that one of the reasons for the world-wide recession in our day is that people have violated this part of the Fourth Commandment. Too many people are paid to work who never work! The solution to the economic problems is not a government handout, but the creation of new jobs so that a man may feed his family by the sweat of his brow (II Thess. 3:10; Matt. 10:10).

### THE DUTY OF REST

The Fourth Commandment also enjoins the duty of rest: **"But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work."** This day of rest is not just for "the old folks and preachers," but it is for all mankind. The seventh day is to be a day of rest for the body, worn-out from the toils of the week. It is to be a day of rest for the mind, worn-out with the cares of the week. It is to be a day of rest for the heart, worn-out from the griefs of the week. On this day there is to be no work on the part of the head of the family, nor the children, nor the employees, nor the visitors, nor even the animals.

Every man tends to forget the Creator and to become absorbed in his daily cares and work during the week. The Lord foresaw this and set apart the Sabbath as a time when we could forget our daily routine and remember God by worship, study, meditation, and prayer. Man must one day out of seven take time to think about God and spiritual things. That is why God made the sabbath day, to give man an opportunity to engage in such mental and spiritual exercises as would tend to strengthen the inner man.

"This Commandment makes it clear that God is to be worshipped in the home, which, of course, inculcates the practice of family worship. It is addressed more specifically than any of the other nine Commandments to the heads of households and employers, because God requires them to see to it that all under their charge shall observe the Sabbath. To them, more immediately, God said, **'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'** It is to be strictly set apart to the

honour of the thrice holy God, spent in the exercises of holy contemplation, mediation and adoration. Because it is the day which He has made (Ps. 118:24), we must do nothing to unmake it. This Commandment forbids the omission of any duties required, a careless performing of the same, or a weariness in them. The more faithfully we keep this Commandment, the better prepared shall we be to obey the other nine" (*op. cit.* p. 31).

### THE ORIGIN OF THE SABBATH

"Sabbath" is an English transliteration of the Hebrew word *shabbath*, and it means "rest." The sabbath was instituted by God as the crowning act of creation on the Seventh Day of the Creation Week. It is as old as the world and is one of the relics of the paradisiacal state. In Genesis 2:1-3 we find its first institution: **"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."**

The Lord God desisted from the labor of creation on the seventh day. This was not because He was weary and needed rest (Isa. 40:28). God rested on this day as an example for man. After telling Israel to remember the sabbath the Lord said: **"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."** God in the beginning separated the sabbath from all other days.

The sabbath was observed by the people of God throughout the patriarchal age. It can be seen in Genesis 4:3 which in the marginal reading says: **"At the end of days,"** showing Cain brought his offering on the sabbath. It is hinted at again in the division of time by Noah into **"seven days"** (Gen. 7:4, 10; 8:10, 12). It is my firm opinion that it was a part of the moral law which God revealed to man in Eden.

That the sabbath existed as a part of the moral law orally revealed before the giving of the Ten Commandments can be seen in connection with the manna in the wilderness. In Exodus 16:4-5: **"Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will**

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STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS .....	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. ....	101.9 .....	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN .....	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. ....	101.5 .....	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL .....	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. ....	1380 .....	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS .....	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. ....	710 .....	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS .....	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. ....	95.9 .....	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY .....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ....	680 .....	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA .....	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. .	550 .....	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR .....	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. ....	1050 .....	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines .....	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. ....	783 Khz ...	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines .	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. ....	1494 .....	16,000 AM

**walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."** Note the mention of the law before Sinai in the latter part of verse 4.

**"And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. And he said unto them, This is that which is LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until morning. And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. And Moses said, Eat that today; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall bother it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none"** (Ex. 16:22-26).

Verses 27 to 28 declare plainly that it was already a part of God's law: **"And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?"**

That the sabbath antedated the giving of the written law at Mount Sinai is plain to me in these verses. When speaking of the sabbath Moses said, **"This is that which the LORD hath said."** That it was already law can be seen in the expressions, **"they will walk in my law,"** and **"How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?"** This is why God did not need in the Fourth Commandment to say that Israel ought to begin to keep the sabbath day. Rather, He needed only to say: **"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."**

**HOW OBSERVED IN ISRAEL**  
The sabbath in ancient Israel was observed by cessation from all labor

(Ex. 34:21; Lev. 23:1-3, 27-32; Ezek. 46:1-3). A fire could not be kindled even for cooking food (Ex. 35:3). Even the gathering of wood was treated as a transgression (Num. 15:32-36). No buying (Neh. 10:31; 13:15-22) or trading (Amos 8:5) was allowed on the sabbath. No burden-bearing was permitted (Jer. 17:21-27). Travel was limited (Ex. 16:29). A body could not be anointed for burial on the sabbath (Luke 23:54-56). To profane the sabbath was a wicked sin (Ezek. 20:12-16; 22:8; 23:38; 44:24). The penalty for defiling this holy day was death (Ex. 31:15; Num. 15:32-36). The only exception to this was if the sabbath was broken through ignorance or mistake. Then pardon was extended after the presentation of a sin offering.

At times the Jews dispensed with the extreme severity of the law (Isa. 56:2; Ezek. 20:16; 22:8; Lam. 2:6; Neh. 13:16). On the sabbath a man could take a poor suffering sheep out of the ditch (Luke 13:15; 14:5). The priests could make ready the sacrifice and replace the showbread. A child could be circumcised on the sabbath (John 7:22-23). Even works of necessity could be performed (Matt. 12:1-8). Hence not all work was prohibited on the Jewish sabbath.

The sabbath was a perpetual covenant sign between Jehovah and the children of Israel forever (Ex. 31:16-17; Ezek. 20:12). But as we come to the end of the Old Testament time the Jews had abused the sabbath and feast days until God called them their sabbaths and their feast days. He could not longer endure them (Isa. 1:13). Hence there was a prophecy that they would cease: **"I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts"** (Hos. 2:11). The Jewish Sabbaths did cease with the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The sabbath will be restored to Israel only in the coming thousand-year reign of Christ (Isa. 66:23).

### A TIME OF REFRESHMENT

The Israelite was to rest on the seventh day to be refreshed: **"Six days**

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## Fourth Commandment

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**thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed**" (Ex. 23:12). "Refreshed" here is the Hebrew word (*naphash*) which means "to breathe." This was done to imitate God Himself who rested the seventh day and "was refreshed" (Ex. 31:17). This lays the axe to the idea that the sabbath was an oppressive institution. This is why Isaiah 58:13 calls the sabbath day a day of delight. On this day the Israelite was allowed to catch his breath, together with his employees, with foreigners, and with his work animals (Deut. 5:12-14).

### A TIME OF WORSHIP OF JEHOVAH

It is wrong to assume as some do that the Jewish sabbath was merely a time for relaxation. God called it His sabbath: "**Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD**" (Lev. 19:3, 30; cf. Isa. 56:4; Ezek. 20:12). Exodus 20:9 in the Hebrew is literally "the seventh day is a sabbath unto Yahweh thy God" (See Rotherham). It was a day to be filled with praise for God. Even the singing of psalms was not uncommon. The inscription of Psalm 92 read: "A Psalm or song for the sabbath day." Thus the sabbath was to Israel "a day of gladness" (Num. 10:10; Hos. 2:11), a time to honor God and delight in the Lord (Isa. 58:13-14). The priests in the tabernacle doubled the daily offerings by two lambs of the first year, with the corresponding meat and drink offerings (Num. 28:9-10), and there were sacred convocations on this day (Lev. 24:7-8; Isa. 1:13).

There was a connection between honoring Jehovah's sanctuary and the sabbath day. "**Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord**" (Lev. 19:30; cf. 26:2; Ezek. 22:8; 23:38). Why this connection if the sabbath day was not a day of special worship of Jehovah?

The sabbath was a day of listening to the Word of God. When the woman of Shunem wanted Elisha because of the death of her son, her husband asked her why she was going on this particular day, seeing it was "**neither new moon, nor sabbath**" (II Kings 4:23). From these words we can see the Jewish sabbath was a day for consulting the prophet and the Word of God. In Ezekiel 46:3 we can see the sabbath day was a time of religious worship: "**Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in**

**the sabbaths and in the new moons.**" This custom gave rise finally to synagogue worship. On the sabbath day the Scripture was read and explained (Luke 4:16-21; 6:6; Acts 13:14-41; 15:21) and prayer was offered to God (Acts 16:13).

The sabbath was to be kept holy out of respect to God: "**Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee**" (Deut. 5:12). ". . .they shall hallow my sabbaths" (Ezek. 44:24). This day was to be remembered, for on this day men were to honor and serve God.

### A DAY OF THANKS FOR DELIVERANCE

One can see from holy Scripture the sabbath day as a sign Israel was a chosen people liberated by God: "**And remember that thou was a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: there the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day**" (Deut. 5:15). An Israelite was to take off a day of work in order to demonstrate his trust and dependence upon the Lord. The observance of the sabbath showed how grateful he was for the great blessing of his freedom from slavery under the Egyptians. It was a weekly reminder of the Jewish Passover. New Testament Christians observe a special day in thanksgiving to God for deliverance from sin by Christ, our Passover (I Cor. 5:7).

### A SIGN OF COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

When the nation of Israel kept the sabbath they declared there was a covenant between them and Jehovah: "**Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed**" (Ex. 31:16-17). "**For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant**" (Isa. 56:4). "**Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them**" (Ezek. 20:12).

By observing the sabbath an Israelite testified he worshipped the God who made the world in six days and rested on the seventh. This distinguished him from other people (Neh. 9:14) who had lost the sabbath and the knowledge of the true God (Rom. 1). A sabbath keeper demonstrated he

had taken hold on God's covenant (Isa. 56:2, 4-6). By this act he showed his love for Jehovah and his position as a person of the covenant. If he desecrated the sabbath, he manifested the shallowness of his covenant relationship with the Lord. Even so New Testament Christians who are in covenant relation with God must distinguish themselves by observing the Christian sabbath.

### THE SABBATH MADE FOR MAN

The substance of the Fourth Commandment is that one day out of seven belongs to God, just as one-tenth of our income does. The stress is upon the seventh day following six days of labor, not necessarily the seventh day of the week. The keeping of the sabbath was not abrogated with the ceremonial law. The Book of Hebrews speaks of many things done away with by Christ, but then it says: "**There remaineth therefore a keeping of a sabbath to the people of God**" (Heb. 4:9 margin). Our Lord declared: "**The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath**" (Mark 2:27-28). In these words Christ does not speak as a Jew to Jews, but as the Divine Man to men, instantly raising the sabbath from a Jewish ordinance to a command to be obeyed by all mankind. The basis of the sabbath is not so much God's outward, graven letter, but man's inward, personal need.

Our Savior spent much time telling the disciples how to observe the sabbath and in freeing it from the traditions which the Jews had added. Instead of destroying the sabbath He brought out its real meaning as being a day of rest and gladness. Jesus Christ kept the sabbath, and if we are to follow in His steps we must keep it even more conscientiously than did the ancient Jews.

### ANOTHER DAY OF WORSHIP

The day of worship in Israel was the seventh day of the week, namely, Saturday as we call it today. But for us it is "another day," according to Hebrews 4:8. The day of New Testament worship is the first day of the week, or the Lord's Day. Jesus Christ, the Lord of the sabbath, did not change the sabbath, but He did change the day of the sabbath. The Christian has a greater sabbath day than the Jews had. The old sabbath commemorated the work of creation; the Christian sabbath the greater work of redemption.

This is all seen in Hebrews chapter 4. God created the world and instituted the Sabbath (Heb. 4:4). The old sabbath was a memorial of the rest of creation. The prophets foretold "an-

**other day**" instead of the seventh day to commemorate a greater rest (Heb. 4:8). Into this greater rest Joshua never led the Jewish people (Heb. 4:8), but Jesus Christ did. Our Lord, having finished the work of redemption, rested from His work on the first day of the week (Heb. 4:11), as God had done from His own on the seventh day. Therefore, in commemoration of the glorious rest of redemption there remains a sabbath-keeping to the people of God (Heb. 4:9 margin reading).

### THE DAY WHICH THE LORD MADE

In Psalm 118:24 there is a prophecy of this new day: "**This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**" At first one might assume that this verse means no more than that David's enthronement was the beginning of better days for Israel, but by looking at the context in Psalm 118 and comparing it with Matthew 21:22 and Acts 4:11, you will discover this verse is a prophecy of the resurrection of Christ. It must refer to the time we call "the Lord's Day," the day which commemorates the resurrection of our Redeemer. Jesus Christ rose from the dead as the seventh-day sabbath was ending—late Saturday afternoon—and as the first day of the week was beginning—at sunset Saturday afternoon (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:9). This was a new day of God's own making, the dawning of a new dispensation. "We observe the Lord's Day, as henceforth our true Sabbath, a day made and ordained of God, for the perpetual remembrance of the achievements of our Redeemer" (C. H. Spurgeon).

The New Testament day of worship is the first day of the week. The disciples met for worship on that day (John 20:19, 26). They listened to the preaching of the Word (Acts 20:7) and gave of their means to support the Lord's work on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2). The Jewish sabbath ended with the resurrection of Christ. The seventh day sabbath is not for the Christian church. "**Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body of Christ**" (Col. 2:16-17). The entire system of the Jewish Sabbaths, weekly, monthly, annual, and the sabbath of Jubilee, were nailed to the cross of Christ (Col. 2:13-15). The Christian must not be judged for failing to observe the Jewish sabbatical system.

### THE LORD'S DAY

In Revelation 1:10 it is written: "**I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great**

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**voice, as of a trumpet.** It has been the interpretation of the church fathers and many able scholars that the Lord's Day here refers to the first day of the week, the Christian sabbath. The Bible calls the ordinance which commemorates Christ's death "the Lord's supper," because of the Lord's institution of the bread and wine and the setting of it apart from a common to a special and sacred use. Likewise, the Bible calls the first day of the week "**the Lord's Day,**" because the Lord instituted it and set it apart from common days to His special worship and service.

Please observe in Revelation 1:10 that John was under the influence of the Holy Spirit on the Lord's Day. He was not at a family reunion, or on the creek bank, or on the golf course, or at the theater, or on the beach, or at a "gospel" singing. Instead he was engaged in worship of the true God in Spirit and truth, and so should it be of us on the Lord's Day. We should refrain from all secular labor as far as possible and shun all worldly recreation (Isa. 58:13-14). We should give ourselves to the means of grace both public and private. Let us on this day gather rest from Christ Who merited rest for us and so begin to enjoy the beginning of eternal rest.

Sir Matthew Hale wrote:

*"A Sabbath well spent, brings a week of content*

*And strength for the toils of the morrow;  
But a Sabbath profaned, whate'er may be gained*

*Is a certain forerunner of sorrow."*

### CONCLUSION

1. The Christian sabbath is known in our time as the Lord's Day. People attend Sunday school and church and then spend the rest of the day in various recreations. It is no longer a holy day but a holiday. The Lord's Day is not a time for sporting events, or school assignments, or making trips for recreation, or going on a shopping spree, or going to the beach. It is a day to be kept holy unto the Lord in memory of His glorious resurrection for our justification.

2. The Old Testament and Jesus Christ taught works of necessity and works of mercy can be done on the sabbath. People who work in health care such as doctors and nurses may work on the Lord's Day. I would include with these police officers, firemen, emergency rescue personal, and others. Sunday is a busy day for any pastor. But in our secularized society the element of "necessity" and "mercy" have been replaced with "economic productivity" and "profit."

A Christian should as much as possible avoid secular work on the Lord's Day. In some cases he might have to seek another job.

3. The Christian sabbath should be a day of rest, refreshment, and remembering our Savior. Some extreme sabbatarians would make the Lord's Day a yoke of bondage like the Pharisees in the time of Christ. But antinomians would go to the other extreme saying, "On Sunday you can be free and enjoy yourselves, relax and do whatever you please." We must avoid a rigid sabbatarianism as well as irresponsible antinomianism.

4. The Lord rested after creation because He saw what He created was very good. But the rest of creation did not last. It was ruined by sin, and man's relationship to God was ruined too. Jesus Christ came and reconciled man to God by His death on the cross. Christ arose for our justification as it dawned toward the first day of the week and entered into His redemptive rest. By faith a man can enter into Christ's perfect work and enjoy rest with the Lord (Matt. 11:28). Then he can look forward to heavenly rest and millennial rest.

## Is It Sell-Out

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Truman in 1945. Chapter 5 gives the UN "primary responsibility for world peace" and obligates all members "to accept and carry out UN decisions."

Internationalists love it—and have been gnawing away at our constitutional guarantees ever since, i.e., whatever the traffic will bear.

### AMERICA-HATERS

The socialist European Union (EU) and Third World America-haters want the United States brought to bay by the UN Charter for World Democracy, boldly unveiled last fall at their New York summit.

They want U. S. taxpayers money too—\$582 million in dough we don't owe for "back dues" plus \$244 million more for next year's dues. All this, despite the \$19 billion the U. S. paid for UN "peacekeeping" since 1992. Far, far more than any other nation paid.

The crowning insult, however, was kicking the U. S. off the UN Human Rights Commission and installing China and Cuba—two of the world's worst offenders. A follow-up insult was voting Iran onto the UN Narcotic Control Board—Iran, the world's foremost drug-pusher.

### NO ALLY SUPPORT

Not a single U. S. "ally" objected to the U. S. ouster from these key UN panels. Obviously, the EU, along with

China and other socialist, communist and rogue nations want to kill U. S. influence—but, keep the checks coming, please!

These UN stalwarts are piqued at the Americans for, among other things, opposing the UN International Court that would deny constitutional rights to U. S. citizens, pulling out of the Kyoto Treaty on global warming that is biased against American industry and cutting back on U.S. dues. They call us "selfish and arrogant."

The fact is: Absolutely no nation has been more generous.

### U. S. STALWARTS

So, what about the U. S. stalwarts? President Bush supports Annan for a second term and promises to "work with the Congress to get the money for the UN."

Despite the anti-American insults, our Congress is *not* withholding the \$582 million in alleged "back dues"—only a Milquetoast move to make next year's dues contingent on readmission of the United States to the Human Rights Commission.

Our secretary of state, Colin Powell, wants to pay it all. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.) agreed, "How can we expect UN reform if we go back on our word and refuse to pay?" What do Georgians say?

What better route to reason with a surly United nations than through the pocketbook? And how about a little fair play?

### WHY SEND MONEY?

Moreover, why should American taxpayers send money to an organization that slaps them in the face, insult after insult, while stealing steadily down the road to inflict world government on them—while our leaders in Washington play footsie and endure humiliation no self-respecting American would ever accept?

Diplomacy? Sure, but with firm, polite and unmistakable resolve to preserve, protect and defend our sovereignty and precious freedoms.

### SYCOPHANTS

So, why do our legislators, president and judges act like sycophants with Kofi Annan, the man who openly challenges their power?

Rep. Amo Houghton (R-N.Y.) told Annan recently, "I'm so glad to see you. Remember, I'm in your corner." And another New Yorker, Rep. Ben Gilman, "We should meet more. . .to share our thoughts." Annan won enthusiastic welcomes also from Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In a "first ever," the U. S. Supreme Court had a "get-acquainted" session with Annan, where several justices expressed a need to "harmonize" with UN-created "international law." *Why*

*not stick to our constitution?*

After a 1998 meeting with judges of the European Court of Justice, U. S. Justice Sandra O'Connor announced "the need to draw upon the jurisprudence of other jurisdictions."

*Why not stick to our constitution?*

### SELL-OUT

Are we seeing a sell-out to "global governance" under an empowered United Nations by our leaders—too naïve to know or closet internationalists at heart?

Many observers have long warned us. Now, even former *New York Times* editor A. M. Rosenthal, life-long liberal and strong UN fan, calls the UN mess "Agonies of dreams forsaken," as, stage by stage, the original motives have been so twisted that "the UN barely exists."

Absolutely, the UN is not working. It is a nightmare of money-grabbing, carping socialists hell-bent to crush everything in its path to world government. Mr. Rosenthal couldn't quite say that.

The United Nations is the wrong place for Americans and other freedom-lovers. The American Sovereignty Act (HR 1146) is the bill to end United States membership. It should be passed by our Congress. Meanwhile, American taxpayers should demand: Absolutely no more money to the United Nations.

What a victory that would be. Are there enough patriots to do it?

(Captain Evans' columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League of Buena Park, Cal.)

## Propitiation

*Continued from page 141*

translated "**atonement**" in our KJV, it is translated "**pitch**" in Genesis 6:14. An atonement or propitiation is a covering for sin. Strong says this word means "to appease, to cancel, to disannul, to forgive, or pardon, to reconcile, to purge away."

We can see what an atonement or propitiation is by its use in the Old Testament. It signifies to cover sin from God's sight: "**Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered**" (Ps. 32:1). When God pardons sin He covers it. When sin remains upon the sinner his sins are not covered: "**And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee. . .**" (Neh. 4:5). At times it means that sins have been purged away: ". . .**as for our transgression, thou shalt purge (kaphar) them away**" (Ps. 65:3; cf. Isa. 6:7). In the Old Testament some people had a covering for their

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## Propitiation

*Continued from page 147*

sins while others did not. Some had their sins purged away while the sins of others remained upon them. Some people had an atonement; others did not.

This same Hebrew word (*kaphar*) is translated "forgive": "But he, being full of compassion, forgave (*kaphar*) their iniquity, and destroyed them not. . ." (Ps. 78:38). Of others it was written: "Yet LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity. . ." (Jer. 18:23). Those really and truly forgiven of their sins by God never became unforgiven, and neither was there a person for whom God provided forgiveness who never received it. Israel made no atonement for the Gentile nations.

The Hebrew word for atonement or propitiation is sometimes translated "pardon." In II Chronicles 30:18 it is written: "But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon (*kaphar*) every one." Our English word "pardon" means "to release (a person) from punishment, not punish for crimes or offenses." In the Old Testament there was no such thing as a person being pardoned of sins by God and being punished for them at the same time. A person being punished for his sins had received no pardon from God.

The Hebrew word for atonement in one form (*kapporeth*) is translated "mercy seat" (Ex. 35:12; 39:35). This was because of the expiation made once a year on the great day of atonement (Lev. 16). The mercy seat was the lid of the ark which is a type of Christ as the Propitiatory. The blood sprinkled mercy seat hid the law (Ex. 25:21; 40:20), and it typified how Christ's blood covers the law's claims and sentences for us.

Looking at other Scriptures, the word atonement or propitiation signifies a pledge, satisfaction, redemption, or ransom (Num. 35:31-32; cf. Heb. 12:24). It signified a gift to appease God's wrath (Gen. 32:20), a surety which under went wrath for another man (Prov. 21:18; cf. Rev. 12:11).

Sin makes God angry: "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day" (Ps. 7:11). Before a person's sins could be forgiven the wrath of God against the sinner had to be appeased by a bloody sacrifice: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement (*kaphar*) for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement (*kaphar*) for

the soul" (Lev. 17:11). When the wrath of God against sin is appeased by a suitable blood atonement He is satisfied: "And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me" (Isa. 12:1).

God is holy and must strike somewhere in His wrath when sin is committed, either the sinner or his lawful Substitute. Strictly speaking, God does not forgive sins. They must be atoned for, some one must suffer for them—the person himself or his covenant Head. In the case of the elect the sword of divine justice fell on Christ: "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd. . ." (Zech. 13:7). ". . .and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). Christ has been made sin (II Cor. 5:21) and has suffered for our sins (I Pet. 3:18). Now the sword of divine vengeance sleeps for the believer.

### PROPITIATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

There are three Greek words which

have to do with propitiation in the New Testament. First, there is *hilaskomai* which means "to appease, make an atonement or expiation for" (Heb. 2:17). Second, there is *hilasterion* which means "propitiatory, invested with propitiatory power" (Rom. 3:25). Third, there is *hilasmos* which means "propitiation, expiation; one who makes expiation" (I John 2:2; 4:10). (Please see *Analytical Greek Lexicon*, p. 201 for these definitions).

*Baker's Dictionary of Theology* defines "propitiation" as signifying "the turning away of wrath by an offering" (p. 424). *The Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* says it means "a sacrifice offered to God to avert the punishment of sin, and secure the bestowment of his favor" (p. 961, 1855 edition). *A Theological Dictionary* by Charles Buck gives it as "a sacrifice offered to God to assuage his wrath, and render Him propitious" (p. 500, 1830 edition).

### GOD AND PROPITIATION

In Romans 3:25 it is written: "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (*hilasterion*) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of

sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." A. H. Strong says the Greek word here means "an expiatory place, an atoning victim, the mercy seat" (See Strong). This same Greek word is translated "mercy seat" in Hebrews 9:5. In Romans 3:25 it clearly means "a propitiatory sacrifice," or "the place of expiation." It denotes that which propitiates God or His justice. It suggests Christ appeased the wrath of God for our sins and obtained His favor for us. Conybeare and Howson render Romans 3:25: "For Him hath God set forth, in His blood, to be a propitiatory sacrifice by means of faith, thereby to manifest the righteousness of God." A propitiation is a means of removing divine wrath from the sinner.

The teaching of Christ as an expiatory sacrifice for our sins pervades the New Testament. Christ is said to have "given himself as an offering and a sacrifice" (Eph. 5:2). "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" (Heb. 10:12). "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). God is righteous in passing over the sins of those for whom Christ is an atoning sacrifice. The death of Christ appeased the wrath of God and secured God's favor for the covenant people.

In the Old Testament every sacrifice was intended to expiate the guilt of man and to propitiate the anger of God. Therefore, the Sacrifice of all sacrifices must have effected that which the others only foreshadowed. "For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us" (I Cor. 5:7). Christ is our Passover because His death, like the pascal lamb, averts from us death and damnation. The sacrifice of Christ expiated guilt and turned away God's wrath from those for whom it was made. In what sense is Christ an offering and sacrifice for others, if He expiated no guilt, endured no curse, bare no wrath, and exhausted no penalty for them?

Christ was foreordained of God to be a propitiation to those who have faith in His blood. He is not such to those who die in unbelief, and "all men have not faith" (II Thess. 3:2). He is not a propitiation for those who never come to faith in His blood. By "faith in his blood" I mean the blood of Christ, as a propitiatory sacrifice, is the ground of the confidence expressed. Faith apprehends the meritorious grounds of our acceptance.

### SIN AND PROPITIATION

In I John 2:2 it is written: "And he is the propitiation (*hilasmos*) for our

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## I'M TOO BLESSED TO BE STRESSED AND TOO ANOINTED TO BE DISAPPOINTED

By Bob Ford

I refuse to be discouraged,  
To be sad or to cry.  
I refuse to be downhearted,  
And here's the reason why:  
I have a God who is almighty;  
Who is sovereign and supreme.  
I have a God who loves me,  
And I am on His team.  
He is all-wise and powerful;  
Jesus is His name.  
Though everything else is changeable,  
My God remains the same.  
I refuse to be defeated,  
My eyes are on my God.  
He has promised to be with me,  
As through this life I trod.  
I am looking past my circumstances  
To Heaven's throne above.  
My prayers have reached the heart of God.  
I am resting in His love.  
I give thanks to Him for everything.  
My eyes are on His face.  
The battle is His; the victory is mine;  
He will help me win the race.  
I repeat. "I'm too blessed to be stressed."



## Propitiation

*Continued from page 148*

**sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.** The word "propitiation" does not have a new meaning here. It means the wrath of God against sin, demanded by His justice, is appeased on account of the death of Christ. The recipients of Christ's atonement have a covering for their sins. Their sins are pardoned, cancelled, forgiven, etc.

What are we to understand by the term **"the whole world"**? Has the death of Christ appeased the wrath of God against sin for every person of Adam's race? Does this verse teach universal salvation of all men without exception? So far as I know, no one but a few Universalists affirm such. Calvinists make **"the whole world"** to be the whole number of elect Gentiles. Arminians would limit it to all who believe the gospel. Neither Calvinists nor Arminians believe the passage teaches the whole race of Adam will be saved.

Sovereign gracers let the word **"propitiation"** have its natural and normal meaning in I John 2:2. We have an atonement which atones, a sacrifice which satisfies, a redemption which really redeems. The Arminian has a prospective atonement. He contends the propitiatory work of Christ made possible a man's salvation, if man will add his meritorious faith to what is lacking in Christ's atonement. According to them, faith can do more than the sufferings and death of Christ did, making faith man's savior. Their whole scheme minimizes the atonement of Christ and makes His blood fuel for the flames of Hell.

Arminians would change **"is"** in I John 2:2 to **"may-be-so,"** but that is not what the verse says: **"And he IS the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."** Whatever the term **"whole world"** means we can be certain that Christ appeased God's wrath for the sins of the **"whole world"** and secured the favor of God for them. John speaks of a real atonement, not a prospective one.

I heard some person ask, "Then what does the term 'whole world' mean in I John 2:2?" This expression occurs again in I John 5:19: **"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."** **"Whole world"** in I John 5:19 means the wicked world which does not include the godly world. This same use of **"whole world"** is seen in Revelation 12:9: **". . . the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world. . ."** The term **"whole world"** means the material world in Mark 8:36: **"For**

**what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"** The term **"whole world"** has a limited sense in other New Testament texts (Matt. 26:13; Rev. 16:14). I do not believe there is a New Testament text where the term **"whole world"** means all of Adam's race without exception.

The other verses where propitiation is mentioned (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; I John 4:10) restrict propitiation to believers, or God's elect. Then why give the word a new meaning in I John 2:2, a meaning which it does not have any other place in the New Testament? In truth there is no reason to do so.

I understand by **"the whole world"** in I John 2:2 what the old Baptists and Puritans understood. Jesus Christ is the propitiation for the sin not only of believing Jews, but likewise of believing Gentiles the world over. John often addressed Jewish believers who were at the beginning of the Christian dispensation (I John 1:1; 2:7, 13, 18-19). This passage is very much like John 11:50-52: **"Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad."**

### LOVE AND PROPITIATION

In I John 4:10 it is written: **"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (*hilasmos*) for our sins."** Sin deserves and demands the wrath of God. This wrath of God feeds upon us, or upon One instead of us. God in love gave Jesus Christ to be our propitiation, and now the Father sees not us nor our sins, but Him. The first advent was a mission which culminated in making **"his Son the propitiation for our sins."** By His sufferings and death our Lord appeased the wrath of God against the sins of the elect and secured for them God's favor.

Man by nature is not in love with God. John says: **"Not that we loved God."** The love of God for us was not procured by our love for Him. I John 4:19 tells us: **"We love him, because he first loved us."** God loved us when we were enemies and sinners (Rom. 5:8-10). His love was before ours, for He loved us from eternity past (Jer. 31:3). Everlasting love can have no cause except God's own good pleasure; He loves us because it pleased Him to do so. To say God

chose none to eternal life apart from foreseen faith and good works is to make God's love a mercenary love!

### CHRIST AND PROPITIATION

In Hebrews 2:17 it is written: **"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation (*hilaskomai*) for the sins of the people."** The word "reconciliation" is a translation of the word often rendered "propitiation" in other verses in KJV (Rom. 3:25; I John 2:2; 4:10). Here we can see the close connection between the word "reconciliation" and "propitiation." A propitiation is a reconciliation, or vice versa. Jesus Christ made a real and true reconciliation between God and His people. **"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life"** (Rom. 5:10; cf. Col. 1:21). Christ by means of His death pacified God, against whom sins are committed, and thereby reconciled God and the sinner. By appeasing God's wrath, Christ freed us from the guilt and punishment of sin.

I understand by **"for the people"** the seed of Abraham in verse 16, the children of God in verses 13-14, the brethren in verses 11-12, the many sons Christ will bring to glory and of whom He is the Captain of their salvation in verse 10.

### THE SINNER AND PROPITIATION

In Luke 18:13 it is written: **"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful (*hilaskomai*) to me a sinner."** The word in Luke 18:13 translated **"merciful"** is the same Greek word translated in our KJV "propitiation" and "reconciliation." The margin of the

RV rightly renders it **"be propitiated."** Rotherham's in his literal translation gives it: **"O God! be propitiated unto me, the sinner."**

The idea of mercy through a propitiation enters into this prayer. It implies the need of expiation in order to reconciliation with God. The publican thought of the sacrificial significance of the offerings connected with the hour of evening prayer (Luke 1:9-10). It is as if he said, "See the blood on the mercy seat and be propitiated toward me because of Him who will make propitiation for me." It was a most earnest and humble petition from the heart, giving utterance of profound repentance, an all-absorbing desire for the favor of God, through mercy alone, as the fruit of atonement.

### CONCLUSION

1. Atonement is a work of Christ directed toward God, whereby Christ has satisfied the claims of the justice of God and procured for His elect pardon and acceptance. Now God is propitiated. Hebrews 8:12 of Rotherham's translation reads: **"Because propitious will I be to their unrighteousness."** God's propitiousness flows from the propitiatory of Christ's sacrifice.

2. Expiation has to do with the removal of guilt from the sinner. Propitiation has to do with God's justice being propitiated.

3. There is no remission of sins without punishment. God does not forgive sin. He punishes the sinner or the sinner's Savior.

4. Arminians limited the power of the atonement; Calvinists the people of the atonement.

5. If Christ has not made satisfaction for your sins, you must suffer for them. **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"** (Prov. 28:13). Do you have faith in the blood of Christ?

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# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

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Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

What does 1 Corinthians 11:16 mean in the context of the top verses?? --- Mississippi



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I believe that Paul under the total control of the Holy Spirit is saying that it is not for a church or individual to question God's commands but obey them. It seems to me that the apostle is simply stating that the early churches had no custom of contending against the teaching of the scriptures even if they didn't understand all about them.

I know there are those who try to make this scripture say that if someone disagrees with some teaching of the pastor that they have a right to disagree and not follow the teaching and others are not to contend against them. I do not believe an honest and objective exegesis of this scripture will result in such an interpretation.

I believe Paul is saying as the apostle Peter in Acts 5:29 that we should always obey the Lord's commands and not be always contentious about them trying to find some way to keep from having to practice keeping the scriptures.

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**"Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you"** (I Cor. 11:2).

In instructing the Corinthian church concerning the gathering of believers, Paul uses the word "ordinances" which is in the plural. This chapter deals with two important ordinances. It would be just as correct to set aside what Paul taught about the Lord's Supper in verses 20-30 as to set aside what is said in verses 3-15 about the head covering. Why would

Paul waste his time and fill this much space in the precious Word of God to teach something that was not necessary.

When a woman attends the worship services of the church without a head covering she dishonors her head which is man. "God has appointed that because man is the head, because headship or dominion or rule has been delegated by God unto the hands of man, God has ordained that that shall be symbolically shown forth when he enters the house of God. His head shall be uncovered; his head shall be revealed; his head shall be manifest, because God has given to him the headship. But because God has not given headship to the woman, because he has placed her in subjection to man, therefore that must be symbolically shown forth by her having her head covered" (Arthur W. Pink).

I Corinthians 11:16 must be understood within the context. Paul would not have spent this much time with a subject that was not important. He simply said that, if there were contentions about his teaching of the head covering, he had no other practice than this; and neither do the churches of God.

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In all honesty it must be pointed out that the interpretation given to I Corinthians 11:1-16 is not the same in all Landmark, Sovereign Grace Baptist Churches. As far as I know all of our churches (Landmark & Sovereign Grace) are in agreement on the order of the sexes and the subjection of a wife to her husband outlined in these verses. The main point of difference appears to rest on the wearing of an artificial head-covering during church services.

As I see it there are two positions taken by our people on the subject, with some small variations in each position on the part of some.

(1). The wearing of an artificial head-covering is a church ordinance, based on Paul's statement in verse 2. The covering is to be worn during church services, and is not required when a woman is with her husband in other public places. That the covering God gave to a woman (long hair) is not sufficient when gathered in a service of the church.

(2). The wearing of the head covering or veil was a custom in Middle Eastern countries, which at the time of Paul's writings to Corinth showed a wife's recognition of the headship of her husband and her fidelity to him. That women were veiled in all public appearances, as is the custom in these countries today. That being "shorn" or "shaven" would have required unfaithful wives to be covered, having lost their God-given covering.

Since I believe that God gave two ordinances to His church—baptism and the Lord's Supper, I view the artificial head-covering as a custom.

Brethren who believe in an artificial head-covering say that verse 16 means that there is no such custom as not having an artificial head-covering to be worn by women in church services.

It is my view that long hair is a sufficient covering in our church services, and I have never sought to be contentious if a church practices or does not practice the custom of an artificial head-covering for women.

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**"But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God"** (I Cor. 11:16).

The context would seem to indicate that the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ during the ministry of Paul had no such custom of women coming into the assembly without an artificial covering on. Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is saying that we have no such custom that women

would come to public worship unveiled. It was customary and scriptural for a woman to wear the artificial head covering as a symbol of her submission to the Lord, as well as her husband. It was against custom as well as Scripture to come to church uncovered.

Matthew Henry, an old commentator observed: "It was a common usage of the churches for women to appear in public assemblies, and join in public worship veiled; and it was manifestly decent that she do so. Those must be very contentious indeed who would quarrel with this, or lay it aside." (Volume 6, p. 652).

It is folly to try and use verse 16 as a means of overturning the previous 15 verses concerning the teaching of the woman's head covering. I can do no better than to quote Milburn Cockrell to establish this point:

"It is strange to me that verse 16 is used by some to overturn what Paul had said about a woman's covering, but not to overturn any other thing that he said in this chapter! They do not use it to overturn what Paul said about the headship of man over the woman, or the woman having long hair, or the man short hair. Why not use verse 16 to overturn these truths as well? If they followed their rule used against the head covering, they would also teach that women no longer ought to be in subjection to the men, that men should have long hair and women short hair, and that men ought to wear their hats in public worship! Oh, consistency! thou art a jewel Divine" (*The Veiled Woman*, p. 21).

TOM ROSS

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Is it wrong for a pastor (or his wife) to wear shorts? What about removing his shirt for yardwork? What about pants on women in church?? -- Louisiana



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In Genesis 3:10 we find that Adam and Eve had sinned against God and discovered that they were naked. The word "naked" is used to show the shame of being exposed. There is more involved here than the body being without a covering. They had sinned against God and had become exposed as sinners. God made coats of skins to cover their bodies that their shame would not be exposed. Both their bodies and their sins were in need of a covering. God was the first to shed blood. When He made coats of skins, He also shed the blood of an animal which was a type of Christ. I believe that God provided both coverings needed.

Adam and Eve were ashamed when they discovered that they were naked. Having no clothing, they attempted to cover themselves with fig leaves (Gen. 3:7). In Genesis 9 Ham saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brethren. His two brethren took a garment, went backward, and covered their father. They did not see their father's nakedness. Because of what Ham did, Noah cursed Ham's son Canaan. It is a shame to be naked, or to look upon the nakedness of another person.

There is not much in the Bible that would give us a guideline as to just how much of a man's body should be covered. I am not the judge of others, but I believe that a man should keep his body covered in public. The Bible does give us instructions as to how women professing godliness should dress. **"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array"** (I Tim. 2:9). The word "modest" is defined as: "orderly, well-arranged, decent"; and the word "apparel" is defined as: "to send or let down, to lower, was primarily a garment let down" (W. E. Vine). Women

are not to expose their bodies.

The subject of pants will always be one of which many will disagree. I find no problem with pants on a woman when they tend to cover and not reveal the body. I believe that this is far better than the short hemlines that many women are wearing today. A woman is to dress in modest apparel. Both men and women should dress in such a way to encourage worship in the church. If pants are a problem to some, the women should not wear them (Rom. 4:21).

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The word "modest" here in the Greek is *kosmios* meaning orderly. The context of this verse is seen in verses 10-15. Showing there is a divine order of the sexes and such should be maintained in dress.

Shorts would never be modest wear for men or women. We are never to dress in such a way as to cause the opposite sex to think immoral thoughts. I do not believe a normal heterosexual man can look upon a scantily clad lady without having wrong thoughts and shorts is such dress.

I personally believe that women and men ought always to dress in such a way as to remove all doubt as to what their sex is. Men should dress in normal men's clothing and women in women's clothes. I believe Deuteronomy 22:5 is just as relevant today as the law against rape and fornication in verses 22-29.

I know some of my esteemed brethren do not agree with me concerning women wearing long pants, blue jeans etc., but I had rather be wrong believing what I do than be wrong believing and practicing what they believe concerning this matter. My personal conviction is that men and women should always dress in such a way as to cover part of their body that might attract sexual attention from the other sex, dress that is always descent and

never pertains to the opposite sex, such as men wearing long hair, dresses, jewelry etc., and women wear anything that might be considered masculine or unisex.

God says be separate and different, but Satan says join together and all be alike.

GARNER SMITH



**Jimmie B. Davis**

309 Carroll Road  
Fulton, MS 38843

Pastor

**Sovereign Grace  
Baptist Church**  
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Fulton, MS 38843

All of us, including preachers and their wives, should realize that nakedness is sinful and shameful in a public display. The Bible most certainly sets forth the fact that we need a covering for our nakedness. After their fall into sin Adam and Eve still had the sense to see their need of a covering for their nakedness.

I would not recommend the wearing of shorts in public for a pastor or his wife. Surely a pastor would not be burdened excessively if he wore a light shirt while doing his yard work. I do not say this in a boastful way, but I do not work in the tall corn in my garden without a shirt.

Both men and women should be willing to practice modesty in their attire. Always wearing covering for our bodies which adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour.

Personally, I would hate to see women get in the habit of wearing pants to church, but I am not going to be so legalistic as to say that they could not show modesty in wearing pants which are not designed to make a show of the body in an alluring way. If a woman wears pants or any other garment in a way that displays modesty, I could not condemn her. In fact I have seen some pants that hid far more than some of these mini-type dresses which some women find delight in wearing to church. Some would go back under law and run to Deuteronomy 22:5 in order to justify their condemnation upon a woman for wearing pants without ever stopping to consider that in Old Testament times men wore garments made more

in the likeness of a dress than in the likeness of modern day attire.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



**Tom Ross**

6339 County Rd. 15  
South Point, OH  
45680

Pastor

**Mount Pleasant  
Baptist Church**  
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Chesapeake, OH  
45619

I believe that the pastor and his wife should dress in a manner that is decent and acceptable to the Lord. I do not believe it would be appropriate for him to remove his shirt while doing yard work.

Our church has never turned away any woman who has come to our assembly in pants. It rarely happens, but when it does, we do not make it a test of fellowship by any means. I Timothy 2:9-10 declares: **"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."**

TOM ROSS

## Sermons and Memoirs of Christmas Evans



Foreword by  
Warren W. Wiersbe

### Sermons and Memoirs of Christmas Evans

Christmas Evans (1766-1838) was a Welsh Baptist preacher of great eloquence. This is a great book and should be in the home of every Baptist, especially preachers. We have some of these which retail for \$12.99 and \$13.99. We are cutting prices on all of these. You can have one of these for \$11.00 which includes postage.

Order form  
Berea Baptist Church Bookstore  
PO Box 39  
Mantachie, MS 38855

# THE BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read. Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

CC

## GIVING TO CHURCHES, MINISTERS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY LAST YEAR

VENTURA, Calif. (EP)—The stumbling of the economy during the final year of the Clinton Administration hurt more than just the stock market—a new Barna Research Group study shows that giving to churches and ministers dropped significantly in 2000.

Barna's annual survey of giving to non-profit organizations, churches and non-church religious organizations found that support levels dropped markedly in the past year. The vast majority of Americans continue to give to charities, and churches continue to receive a majority of those donations. However, donor loyalty to churches is on the decline.

The survey found that more than three-quarters of all adults (78 percent) donated money to a non-profit organization or a church in 2000. Though still strong, that represents a six percentage-point decline from the previous year, and a nine-point drop from 1998, when 87 percent of all adults had donated funds.

While Americans remain the most generous people on earth, giving away about \$100 billion each year, average annual giving per person plummeted by 15 percent in 2000 to a mean of \$886. In comparison, the mean in 1998 was \$1,337, a drop of more than one-third in just the past two years. Even among born again Christians there was a 16 percent decline in dollars contributed to all non-profits and churches in 2000.

While churches continue to take in an estimated 60 percent of all dollars given to non-profit organizations, giving to churches is also falling. In 2000, six out of 10 adults (61 percent) gave money to one or more churches, a small decline compared to the prior two years (66 percent). The average church donor contributed a mean of \$649 to churches last year, down from \$806 the prior year.

Born again Christians were far more generous than the average church supporter. Born again adults, who comprise 40 percent of the adult population, were more likely than others to give to a church (77 percent did so in 2000, although that figure was also lower than the prior year's figure of 84 percent). The average annual donations of born again adults to churches totaled \$1,166 last year. That's 80 percent

more than the average adult gave, but still some 19 percent lower than the previous year's giving.

The most generous group of church donors are evangelicals, a small subset of the born again population who are just 7 percent of the national adult population. Not only did a higher proportion of evangelicals give to churches (81 percent), but their average aggregate giving to churches was much higher (2,097).

Many Christian churches teach the biblical principle of tithing—that is, giving 10 percent of one's income to the church—but relatively few people follow the practice. One out of every six adults (17 percent) claims to tithe, but a comparison of the amount that people gave to churches and their household income suggests that just 6 percent actually donated one-tenth of their income (pre-tax or post-tax) to churches.

Born again Christians were about four times more likely than were non-born again adults to tithe (12 percent vs. 3 percent). Many people also hope to be able to tithe in the future. Two out of every five born again adults who admitted to not currently tithing stated that they hoped to do so in the future.

Slightly more than one-third of all Americans (36 percent) reported giving money to a religious organization, other than a church or worship center, in the past year. The average per capita amount given to such organizations by those donors was \$176. The Barna survey estimated the aggregate giving to such organizations to be near \$9 billion.

Adults who were more deeply involved in communities of faith and in ministry activity gave even greater amounts to parachurch organizations. About half of all born again adults (47 percent) gave to a parachurch ministry in 2000, offering an average total of \$264 to such entities. Evangelicals were again, the most supportive of such efforts. Overall, two-thirds (63 percent) gave to such work, averaging \$502 in gifts beyond their church donations.

George Barna, president of the company that conducted the study, noted several significant challenges facing churches. "Two major trends are in force," he said. "First, the Baby Bush generation, which includes adults in their 20s through mid-30s, barely gives to churches or religious causes. Second, their predecessors, the

Baby Boomers, who are in their mid-30s to mid-50s, are generous donors but simply do not assume that they ought to give to churches. They are value-donors, giving to organizations that they perceive to be providing personal benefits or significant, unduplicated value to society. As these two generations become more prolific within churches, their tendency to give less to churches will challenge ministries to reconceptualize their budgeting, fundraising and planning practices."

Barna also noted that some of the fastest-growing segments of the U. S. population are those least likely to fund church work. "Hispanics, now the second-largest ethnic group in America and still rapidly growing, only give 39 percent as much to churches as does the average adult," he said. "Americans who have never been married give just one-third as much to churches as does the typical American. The growth of these groups—and their reluctance to support churches—is a reminder that traditional views about the importance of giving to churches are absent in the minds of a growing proportion of the non-traditional populations in our country."

The survey described above involved phone interviews with a nationwide random sample of 1,005 adults, and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. For purposes of this survey, both born again Christians and evangelicals are identified by specific religious beliefs, not by self-identification. Born again Christians are those who said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today and who also indicated they believe that when they die they will go to Heaven because they had confessed their sins and had accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. Evangelicals are born again Christians who meet seven additional criteria, including believing they have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs about Christ with non-Christians and believing that eternal salvation is possible only through grace, not works.

"Will ye also go away?" (John 6:67).

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## METHODISTS LOST CHURCH BUILDING OVER DISPUTE ON HOMOSEXUAL POLICY

MADISON, Wis. (EP)—Members of a rural United Methodist church who broke away from their denomination to protest its position on homosexuality can't keep the church building, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has ruled. Under state law, the building belongs to the denomination, not to the congregation, the court said in a 5-2 ruling.

Members of the state's oldest Methodist church, Elo United Methodist Church in Utica, left the denomination in 1997 to protest the state leadership's increasingly liberal views on homosexuality. The

United Methodist denomination opposes same-sex marriages and the ordination of homosexuals, but the church's Wisconsin conference is pushing for greater acceptance of homosexuality.

The congregation renamed itself the Elo Evangelical Church, and sought to retain the deed to the 141-year-old church building. The denomination tried to retain the building under a 1923 state law governing property of "defunct" churches. Church members argued that they had not abandoned the building, so it was not "defunct." A county court sided with the church, but the Second District Court of Appeals reversed that ruling.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court agreed with the appeals court, ruling that the church became defunct when the congregation left the denomination. Two justices dissented, noting that the building was deeded to the trustees of the church in 1860.

"All the saints salute you" (II Cor. 13:13).

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## BORK SAYS COURTS SHARE BLAME FOR 'VULGARIZATION' OF AMERICA

LATROBE, Pa. (EP)—Although the media in general and Hollywood in particular are most often blamed for the "vulgarization" of America, the nation's courts are also responsible, Robert Bork said in a recent address.

"The contribution of law to our cultural collapse is not recognized. Everybody talks about the impact of Hollywood and the media, but I'm here to state that the law is a central element in Western culture," Bork told an audience of 400 at St. Vincent College, near Latrobe, Penn.

Bork, whose nomination to the U. S. Supreme Court by Ronald Reagan was rejected by the Senate on ideological grounds, pointed to the use of four-letter words on television, "the hooker look," tattoos and denigration of the family as signs of the nation's ongoing collapse "during the past 30 years."

Bork, a senior fellow of the American Enterprise Institute, suggested that this cultural degradation has been accelerated by the U. S. Supreme Court's systematic attack on religion in recent years, including the removal of the Ten Commandments from schools and bans on prayer at many public school events.

"The Supreme Court has been actively hostile to religion in recent decades. Indeed, Justice Potter Stewart even said in a dissent to the other justices that what you are telling children is that religion is an improper thing," Bork said.

Both law and religion depend on self-control and morality, said Bork, but the High Court is attacking this foundation. "We are replacing a standard of personal responsibility with law. We choose to litigate instead," Bork said.

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Many Supreme Court decisions in recent decades have no basis in the U. S. Constitution, argued Bork, who advocates a strict constructionist approach to constitutional interpretation. For instance, the Court has upheld state statutes barring protests at abortion clinics, while ruling that other political protests and union demonstrations are protected rights. "The First Amendment right was to protect the public and press. But the court has turned it upside down," he said.

The result has been a strong shift to the left on moral issues. "The cultural left comprises the courts. It's clear why judges respond to the elite. . .intellectual class. . .because they come out of that class," Bork said. "They are looking for approval from the media, universities, law schools. . .so they are conditioned to respond that way."

**"The LORD will destroy the house of the proud"** (Prov. 15:25).

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### ATLANTA NEWSPAPER CENSORS CHURCH CLASSIFIED ADS

ATLANTA, Ga. (EP)—The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* will allow a church to run an ad seeking a "Presbyterian" youth pastor. But if the church is also hoping for "an energetic and outspoken Christian leader," they're out of luck.

The paper recently rejected an ad submitted by Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church near Savannah, Ga. The paper objected to the "Christian leader" phrase, and to the church's expressed hope that their next youth pastor would demonstrate "a contagious faith in Jesus Christ."

Curiously, the paper, approved a similar ad with the phrase, "strong atheistic or agnostic convictions required."

"Presbyterian" is okay, but the minute you say 'Christian leader' and 'a contagious faith in Jesus Christ,' we don't accept that," Ryan Thomas, a classified ad supervisor for the *Journal-Constitution*, told the *Presbyterian Layman*. Thomas explained that such language would discriminate against "some Jewish or Buddhist person who might be qualified for the job."

Christine Davidson, manager of employment ads for the paper, said the paper rejects ads which make specific references to the Christian faith in order to "protect readers" from discriminatory ads.

Lloyd Lunceford of Baton Rouge, La., an expert in media law, told the *Presbyterian Layman* that the Atlanta paper has the right to establish whatever advertising policies it desires, so long as it does not violate federal laws. However, he noted that a well-known "ministerial exemption" to federal nondiscrimination employment ad rules allows churches to include faith requirements in ads for ministers. "If I were a member of a Christian church in

Atlanta, I'd swamp them with letters to the editor," Lunceford said.

Eric W. Robyn, stated clerk at Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, tested the paper's policy by submitting a fake ad on behalf of a "well-respected and growing secular humanist training institution." The ad sought a youth leader experienced "in refuting and debating traditional beliefs, especially Christian. . .Strong atheistic or agnostic convictions required." Within an hour after faxing the ad to the paper Robyn received word of its acceptance.

Robyn sent a letter to the editor of the paper, saying the newspaper "should be ashamed of the overt discrimination shown here. This hypocrisy is surpassed only by the AJC's arrogant belief in its own 'tolerance' and 'lack of bias.' Do your readers understand that an ad clearly reflecting atheistic or agnostic faith can be run in your paper, while one articulating Christian faith cannot?"

**". . .haters of God. . ." (Rom. 1:30).**

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### LIBERAL ORGANIZATION TAKES AIM AT ABSTINENCE-ONLY SCHOOL FUNDS

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—Funding for "abstinence-only" sex education programs came under attack in mid-June. The National Coalition Against Censorship called for an end to federal spending for such programs, claiming that guidelines for such programs keep schools from talking with teens about sex-related topics such as masturbation and condom use.

The coalition is made up of 35 liberal organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and Planned Parenthood. It hopes to prevent reauthorization of federal abstinence education funding. These funds were first approved in 1996, and are due to expire in 2002. The program has provided about \$100 million each year for schools to use in programs that encourage sexual abstinence until marriage.

Barry Lynn of Americans United said federal restrictions on abstinence-only funding "violates the spirit of the separation of church and state" and insisted that "abstinence education is a form of religious indoctrination put forth by the Religious Right."

But Heather Cirimo of the Family Research Center disagreed. "To say that abstinence should not be taught in schools just because all of the major religions promote no sex before marriage is ridiculous," Cirimo told Fox News. "Just because morality is taught in religion doesn't mean it shouldn't be taught in the schools."

Some studies suggest that abstinence-only programs have contributed to a reduction in U. S. teen pregnancy and abortion rates to record lows. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Th-

ompson said, "We must continue to build on this success, for there is more we can do," and promised to seek more funding for abstinence education.

**"Thou shalt not commit adultery"** (Ex. 20:14).

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### PROSELYTISM OR EVANGELISM? CONFERENCE EXPLORES GROWING AVERSION TO THE SPREAD OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Mich. (EP)—Religious freedom and the right to evangelize are becoming more restricted in today's world. This is the conclusion of a conference of religious freedom experts, sponsored in part by the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), a religion advocacy group.

During a May 30 meeting at Andrews College, conference delegates from various seminaries and religious organizations noted that religion is a key issue of many conflicts in the world today. In certain conflicts, proselytism has incited more violence.

"In some areas, a majority religion claims territorial exclusivity so that any other religious group is seen as proselytizing, not evangelizing, and an activity to be countered," said John Graz, secretary general of the IRLA. "In other instances, witnessing and evangelism are seen as acts of aggression."

For example, in several post-Soviet countries, established Orthodox churches view missionary work within their parishes as an invasion of their spiritual territory. The communist government of Vietnam and radical Hindu groups in India have condemned Christian missionaries as agents of Western governments attempting to change cultural heritages and political systems.

While many of the delegates condemned improper methods of proselytism, the conference noted that evangelism was an integral part of religious freedom and must be protected.

"We oppose improper proselytism that uses wrong or false methods to gain converts, but we totally support the fundamental right to evangelism and witness," said Bert Beach, vice president of the IRLA. "Denial of the right to witness offends the basic principles of religious freedom, and also denies the right to be informed about religion."

**"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations"** (Matt. 28:19).

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### DECEMBER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RELIGIOUS SITES IN CHINA WAS AN ORGANIZED ATTACK

BEIJING, China (EP)—The destruction or closing of hundreds of Christian, Buddhist and Taoist religious buildings last year in and around the Chinese city of Wenzhou was approved and orchestrated by the Communist party, say Christians from the area. Keston News Service has

recently uncovered official reports that corroborate this view.

While the Communist government of China declares to the world that it respects religious freedom, overwhelming evidence to the contrary continues to flow from the nation's borders. The mass destruction that occurred in Wenzhou is an example of the government's hostility toward independent, therefore illegal, religious groups. According to a Hong Kong newspaper, almost 450 religious buildings were destroyed from October to December of 2000. A human rights group also located in Hong Kong told Keston that the actual number of structures destroyed was closer to 1,200-1,500.

Wenzhou, known to some as the "Jerusalem of China," is isolated from government control by geography. The region has experienced an unprecedented period of spiritual growth in the past. According to a source within the Christian Council, a government-monitored organization, there are over 600,000 Protestant Christians in Wenzhou—10 percent of the province's population. That figure does not include the membership of the large number of unregistered house churches in the area, which could include thousands of additional believers.

John Fisher of Keston News Service concludes that such a massive campaign could only have been carried out with the approval of the central government. "Several Christian house-church leaders Keston spoke to in the region in May claimed the catalyst for the campaign was a visit by President Jiang Zemin in early 2000. He was reportedly horrified by the sight of hundreds of Christian churches and Buddhist shrines, many of them unregistered with the authorities," Fisher says. "Although Keston has been unable to corroborate the report of Jiang Zemin's instigation, there seems little doubt that an anti-religious campaign of this virulence could not have been unleashed without at least the acquiescence of the central government."

Reports from the government-controlled press confirm that the destruction in Wenzhou was a campaign organized and approved by state and federal governments to curb what one Chinese official called "rampant religious superstition." The Nov. 13, 2000 issue of the *Wenzhou Daily* reported that the two-month campaign was instigated by the municipal government and Communist Party committee "to take special measures to bring illegal religious activities under control" and replace "superstition with civilization."

Reports of various church demolitions, seizures, and defacement of church property in the *Daily* continue through December, reports Keston. According to one article, members of government-approved religious organizations supported the destructive campaign. Press reports say that

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police, firemen and government officials participated in the demolition of hundreds of the buildings, sometimes using sledgehammers to tear down walls when heavier equipment wasn't available. One town reported the destruction of 53 structures and shrines in just one day.

Reports from Chinese news services have shown that the communist government was behind the campaign, concludes Fisher. Eyewitnesses from Wenzhou interviewed by Keston confirm this as well.

"They say we have freedom of religion, but why do they do this to a church?" one leader of the demolished church told Keston. "Where's the freedom?" He and other Christians said they refused to register with the communist government because they were unwilling to accept the controls that would be placed on their religious faith. "The Party can supervise our bodies and our minds, but we can't let it supervise our souls," said another church member.

In light of the destruction in Wenzhou and elsewhere, it is doubtful that China will support and uphold the United Nations resolution adopted May 31 that calls for the protection of religious and sacred sites around the world. China was not among the 115 nations that so-sponsored the resolution. When questioned about the resolution, Chinese officials said they would "protect religious sites in accordance with international and domestic law, as set out in the resolution." However, they would not comment if this protection would include religions not recognized by the Chinese government.

When asked about the past destruction in Wenzhou in relation to the new resolution, a spokeswoman for the Chinese U. N. mission denied that the buildings destroyed served religious functions. "Maybe people did illegal things there—maybe they were evil cults," she told Keston.

**"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us" (Ps. 2:2-3).**

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### GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

VILNIUS, Lithuania (EP)—Bats are more important than Baptists, according to a recent report from Lithuania. Keston News Service reports that the Lithuanian parliament did not discuss an application made by the Baptist Union for 'recognized' status during a session in June. The parliament did however draft 36 other bills, including one in favor of the preservation of Lithuania's bat population. "Bats are more important than religious freedom." Arnoldas Matijosius, the lawyer

representing the Union, told Keston. Matijosius said that he had received assurances from members of the parliament's human rights committee that the Baptists' application would be discussed. He did not receive any reasons or apologies for why the Baptists' application wasn't addressed. "Phone conversations with committee members are very difficult as I have to drag each and every word from them," said Matijosius. The Baptist Union has been trying to obtain official status for almost three years. Without this status, the Baptists are not allowed certain freedoms as recognized religions, including the right to purchase land and build churches.

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GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (EP)—The American Civil Liberties Union failed in its effort to remove a Ten Commandments monument from city hall in Grand Junction, Colo. U. S. District Judge Wiley Daniel refused the ACLU's demand June 21, citing a 1972 ruling by the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit which supported an identical monument in Salt Lake City. The court ruled that the monument was not an unconstitutional establishment of religion because it was primarily secular and was not intended to influence religious beliefs. The City of Grand Junction plans to add five new monuments depicting important legal documents, such as the Magna Carta. The new \$50,000 "Cornerstones of Law and Order" plaza is intended to deflect criticism of the Ten Commandments monument.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Despite a much-publicized effort to clean up its act, Yahoo! continues to allow child pornography and obscenity to be posted on its Internet servers, according to Patrick Trueman of the American Family Association. "A search of Yahoo!'s Clubs and GeoCities sites, which are available to anyone including children, indicates that a seemingly endless number of the sites contain pornography, depicting children in a variety of sexual poses and involved in sex acts," he said. Trueman noted that user clubs organized through Yahoo! traffic in pictures purporting to show rape and torture victims. "Though Yahoo! seems to have removed many Clubs and GeoCities sites with potentially illegal material and has discontinued sales of hardcore pornographic videos, the company is still a magnet for pedophiles and those seeking all varieties of hardcore pornography," said Trueman, who urged Attorney General John Ashcroft to investigate Yahoo! for federal child pornography and obscenity violations. Trueman headed the U. S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity section from 1988 to 1992.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The number of American households with same-sex partners grew over the last de-

cade, according to figures from the 2000 census. In Vermont, same-sex unmarried partner homes rose from 370 in 1990 to 1,933 in 2000. Delaware had an even greater increase, up 700 percent to 1,868. (Vermont and Delaware were the first states to get census data.) Researchers attribute the increase to the growing willingness of homosexuals to identify their relationships, rather than to any significant increase in such couples.

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ASHKhabAD, Turkmenistan (EP)—Has the sale of Bibles been banned in Turkmenistan? Investigators with Keston News Service have not been able to determine which government agency is responsible, but they have proof that book-sellers in that country have been ordered to stop stocking copies of the Bible. A post-communist republic, Turkmenistan has tight restrictions on freedom of worship. Currently, only Russian Orthodox churches are allowed to operate within its borders. However, even Orthodox book-stalls are not impervious to this recent ban, reports Keston. There have also been reports that Bibles and other religious texts of the Ba'hai faith and Hare Krishnas have been disappearing from shelves. There have been no restrictions placed on sales of the Koran, the holy book of Muslims. Over 75 percent of the population of Turkmenistan is Muslim.

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BEIJING, China (EP)—Chinese Protestants arrested on May 26 for attending an unregistered church have been sent to a labor camp. The 12 Christians were charged with "illegal religious activities" and sentenced to three-year terms at a "re-education" camp in northern China, sources in Hong Kong told Newsroom.com. The 12 were members of China's underground Christian church, a movement that has been banned and persecuted by communist officials. According to sources outside China, as many as 75 million Chinese are members of the underground movement.

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DENVER, Colo. (EP)—Christians in Denver failed to get a concert by shock-rocker Marilyn Manson canceled, so instead they turned out at the performance to give donuts and soft drinks to Manson fans outside the concert venue. The 35 "demonstrators" also distributed evangelistic tracts and gave out suicide and drug-abuse hotline numbers during the daylong heavy metal festival. "We had a lot of positive response, and people very willing to take our literature," Jeff Vandenberg, a youth pastor at Longmont's Faith Baptist Church, told the Associated Press. Manson criticized Christians during his performance, insisting that the Bible has more violence than his music and urging his fans to assault clergymen.

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ATLANTA, Ga. (EP)—Georgia officials dropped abuse charges against an Atlanta

pastor, but 15 children from his congregation are still in protective custody because their parents refuse to agree to state demands that they take parenting classes and stop spanking their children. Authorities initially seized 49 children from six families at the House of Prayer after receiving allegations that children were being abused by disciplinary spankings advocated by Arthur Allen Jr., pastor of the church. Following a four-month inquiry the state dropped an abuse case against the pastor.

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BALTIMORE, Md. (EP)—An article in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* reports a correlation between the number of female sex partners men have and their risk of prostate cancer. Researchers found that having more than one female sex partner during the most sexually active period of a man's life increased his risk of prostate cancer, compared to men who had only one sex partner during those periods. Men who had 30 or more sexual partners in their lifetime were found to have an increased risk of more aggressive forms of prostate cancer. The finding supports the theory that prostate cancer may be triggered by an infection.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—After condemning the human rights abuses against civilians in southern Sudan by the northern Muslim regime, the U. S. House of Representatives pledged to support southern rebels on June 13. In a nearly unanimous vote, 422-2 the House passed legislation in support of a \$10 million aid package to the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The legislation also called for renewed peace talks between the north and south and offered help for the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the south. "The horror, the torture, the terror and the slavery is unspeakable. We must raise our voice today," said Rep. Richard Armey (R-Texas).

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TAMPA, Fla. (EP)—Two former church members who helped cheat investors out of tens of millions of dollars in a religion-based pyramid scheme have been sentenced to prison. James R. Chambers received a five-year sentence, while Andrew J. Krishak was sentenced to half that time. Both are former members of Tampa-based Greater Ministries International Church, home to a scam which claimed that church members could double their cash investments in 17 months. Investigators estimate that as many as 18,000 people across the U. S. invested as much as \$500 million in the Ponzi scheme, in which payment to early investors were made from investments by later investors.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—Teenage pregnancy and abortion rates in the U. S. have reached record lows, and experts give some of the credit to abstinence pro-

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grams. In 1997, about 9.4 percent of girls ages 15 to 19 became pregnant (a total of 872,000 pregnancies). Of those, 55 percent gave birth, 29 percent had abortions, and the rest miscarried. This means the teen pregnancy rate fell by 4.4 percent between 1996 and 1997, continuing a trend seen throughout the 1990s. The abortion rate has fallen by nearly one-third since 1990, also reaching a record low. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said, "We must continue to build on this success, for there is more we can do," and promised to seek more funding for abstinence education.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson says his department will conduct a thorough review of how \$10.2 billion AIDS dollars are being spent by government agencies and local AIDS groups. "We're greatly encouraged by Thompson's announcement," said Louis P. Sheldon, head of the Traditional Values Coalition. "This is long overdue. Under the Clinton watch, homosexual activists appeared to have used AIDS funds as a piggy bank to sponsor dating seminars and trips to exotic islands for transsexuals. This has got to stop."

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LONDON, England (EP)—A new catechism commissioned by David Hope, Anglican Archbishop of York, declares homosexuality to be "divinely ordered." According to the catechism, homosexuality is a condition that has "positive qualities" and can enhance a person's "general understanding of Christ's calling." While the full text of the new catechism will take years to complete, the document will eventually be used to train people for ministry, said Hope. The new catechism contradicts official Anglican doctrine which states that homosexual behavior is incompatible with scripture. Anglican clergy are expressly forbidden to engage in homosexual acts.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—Freedom of religion does not exist in Saudi Arabia, concludes the U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. On June 5, former commission Vice President Firuz Kazemzadeh testified before the U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that any kind of religious worship or observance outside of established norms is explicitly forbidden in Saudi Arabia. "With few exceptions, the Saudi government strictly prohibits the public practice of religion other than its interpretation and presentation of the Hanbali school of Sunni Islam," testified Kaemzadeh. Referring to the commission's annual report on foreign policy in regard to religious freedom, Kazemzadeh reported that even

people engaged in private worship are persecuted. "Although the government has taken the position that private worship is allowed, persons worshipping privately have been arrested, imprisoned, deported, harassed by the authorities, and forced to go to great lengths to conceal private religious activity," he said. In response to these harsh policies, the U. S. should "urge the Saudi government to expand and safeguard the freedom to worship; to act to control abuses of the religious police; to allow human rights monitors access to the country; and to promote tolerance and inter-religious dialogue," said Kaemzadeh.

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (EP)—The U. S. Supreme Court won't be asked to decide the constitutionality of Ohio's official motto, "With God, all things are possible." The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has decided not to appeal a March ruling by the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit which upheld the motto.

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NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—Children raised by same-sex parents are more likely to explore homosexuality, according to a study by two University of Southern California sociologists. "We say there are some differences, and that people have shied away from acknowledging them for fear that this would inflame homophobia," said Judith Stacey, who joined Timothy Bablarz in co-authoring the report which appeared in the *American Sociological Review*. The researchers did not qualify their findings, noting simply that children raised by same-sex couples "seem to grow up to be more open to homoerotic relations."

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PRINCETON, N. J. (EP)—More than 70 percent of Americans agree with the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling permitting religious groups to meet in public school facilities after class hours. The Court's mid-June 6-3 ruling held that a Child Evangelism Fellowship group could not be excluded by a school district which permitted other groups to use its facilities. According to a Gallup poll conducted Feb. 9-11, 72 percent of Americans favor the use of schools for religious group meetings after school hours, while just 26 percent are opposed. Even among Americans who identify themselves as "liberal," two-thirds (67 percent) agreed with the result of the Court's decision.

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The July 16-22 *Washington Times* has a lengthy article about the Southern Baptist Convention. I note two items:

"Some 1 million to 2 million Southern Baptists are die-hard moderates (the new word for "liberals"), according to the most generous church estimates. Their pastors control state conventions in Texas, North Carolina and Virginia,

many Baptist state newspapers and nearly all the Baptist colleges and universities. . .

"Nearly 1,200 women are ordained in the SBC, but only a few dozen are said by Baptist officials to be senior pastors."

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Some black politicians and civil rights activists refuse to pledge allegiance to the U. S. flag, calling it a symbol of slavery and racial oppression (*The Washington Times*, June 25-July 1, 2001). Editor's comment: I told you this would happen!

\*\*\*\*\*

Bill Clinton receives an annual pension of \$168,300 with annual increases. Clinton could pocket more than \$7 million in pension benefits for his eight years as President. The "Rev." Jesse L. Jackson's opulent lifestyle has prompted many to ask: Where, how and why does the 59-year-old get the money to pay for three homes, first-class travel and a \$3,000 monthly child-support payment to a former mistress? (*Straight Talk*, 6-28-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

The world's smallest surviving premature baby, born in London 16 weeks early and weighing only 21.14 ounces, is now six months old and is a healthy nine pounds. Christopher Williams was born Nov. 21 at Whipps Cross Hospital, and expected to be included in the next edition of *Guinness Book of World Records (National Right to Life News*, 6-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

The new census, however, tells another story, the proof that desegregation is not the same thing as integration. Most black and white children under 18 live in neighborhoods that are increasingly segregated, especially in the urban Midwest and Northeast. This is deeply ironic to those of us who remember the struggles that followed *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1954. . . It's ironic again that segregation is fading away in the South because many young black professionals are moving "back home," now that bad old days have given way to better times, and where middle class black and white are more likely to mix freely (Suzanne Fields in *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*, 5-10-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

On May 31, President Bush hosted a small dinner at the White House for Israeli President Moshe Katsav and prominent American Jewish leaders, including Max Fisher and Mel Sembler of the Republican Jewish Coalition. Despite Bush's initial reluctance to get his administration involved in the never-ending conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, ongoing violence has prompted more attention on the President's part. Jewish leaders at the meeting with Katsav were thrilled with what they heard. Bush told the gathering that he was totally committed to helping Israel maintain its security and that he had no intention of inviting Yasser Arafat to the White House until he restrained terrorism perpetrated by his own security forces (*Human Events*, 6-2-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

At the annual meeting of Southern Baptists in New Orleans in June they focused on the family. Among the woes they listed were the following:

\* One million children a year see their parents divorce.

\* In the last 40 years, pregnancies out of wedlock have increased 600 percent.

\* In less than 40 years, cohabitation by unmarried couples has increased almost 1,000 percent (See *Western Recorder*, 6-19-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

Q. How many marriages end in divorce nowadays?

A. According to a recent study based on figures compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among those aged 14 to 44, about 43 percent of first marriages end in divorce or separation within 15 years; one in three first marriages ends within 10 years, and, one in five, within five years. Breaking down this group by the age of the women involved, the study discovered that approximately 59 percent of marriages of those under 18 end within 15 years. However, for those women who are age 20 or older, the rate falls to 36 percent (*The New American*, 6-16-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

The increasingly casual attitude of teenagers toward sex is "more dangerous than smoking," according to the Medical Institute of Austin, Texas, which has been studying teenage sexual activity. . . About 50 percent of all current American high school students will lose their virginity, with nearly 900,000 teenage girls becoming pregnant each year, the institute reports. . . 20 percent of sexually active teens get an infection. Approximately two-thirds of those who contract sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are under 25, and 50 percent of all newly reported HIV infections are found in people under 25. HIV and herpes are both incurable life-long diseases (*The Washington Times*, July 2-8, 01).

\*\*\*\*\*

After ignoring slavery in the Sudan for the past decade like all other prominent black "civil rights" leaders, Al Sharpton traveled to the African nation and discovered that, yes, slavery is practiced there. The Sudanese government, dominated by Arab Muslims in the north, tolerates the practice when it is against black Christians and animists in the south. The two sections of the country have been arraying against one another for years (*Human Events*, 5-14-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

China, India, Pakistan, N. Korea, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Yugoslavia, and Cuba are among countries that want to acquire, or may already have, secret stocks of smallpox virus specimens. These known sponsors of terrorism want to build a biological weapons program (6-2 *World*). The

*Continued on page 156*

## “LABOR ON”

By Ella Valencourt

He has told me to labor on  
Until the going down of the sun.  
He has told me to watch and pray,  
Till life on earth is done.

Sometimes the way grows dreary,  
And darkness sweeps over my soul;  
But He has told me to not grow weary,  
For I am safe in His control.

Then to Him do I go;  
He giveth rest for the weary soul.  
I find rest so sweet at His wounded feet,  
Whene're to Him I go.

Just a few more days  
And my race down here is won,  
And I shall go to dwell with my Father  
And His beloved Son.

Oh, draw me to thy side, dear Lord;  
More like Thee would I be.  
Let me safe in Thy bosom rest,  
Till joy begins in Heaven for me.

Oh, let me labor on dear Lord,  
Till my work for Thee is done,  
And I behold the blessed face  
Of Thy beloved Son.

Oh, let me ever praise Thee, Lord  
For all Thy hands have done;  
And help me labor for Thee, dear Lord,  
Until the going down of the sun.

## Funnybone

"... A time to laugh..." (Eccl. 3:4).

Bill Tightwad asked Deacon Jones what he thought about the Clinton Administration.

After some study Bill said to the deacon, "It was sex between two Bushes."

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Pastor Brown approached a grieving widow at the funeral home in Possumtrot and said, "I'm sorry, my dear. Tell me, what were his last words?"

She replied, "You don't scare me with that shotgun, Martha. You

couldn't hit the side of a barn!"

\*\*\*\*\*

A hopeful young lady visited a computer dating service and listed her requirements for a prospective date. She was a very precise person and knew exactly what she wanted in a date. She wanted someone who liked people, was small, preferred formal attire and enjoyed water sports. The computer followed her wishes to the letter. It sent her a penguin.

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## The Bible & Newspaper

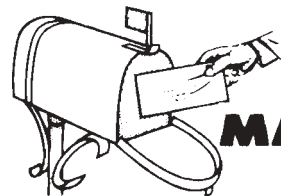
*Continued from page 155*

potency of the smallpox virus (can infect victims 30 feet away) makes it an instant and widespread killer. A suicide germ-warfare terrorist could carry the disease onto a plane or into a sports arena and infect thousands within a day (*Calvary Contender*, 7-1-01).

\*\*\*\*\*

Full nudity is common on Dutch television after 9 p.m. Pornographic movies are found on television during weekends. Hard drugs are consumed openly in so-called "coffee houses." Homosexual marriage is legal in Holland. Euthanasia was recently made legal. Abortion is yawning at (6-01 *Focus on the Family*). Divorce is accepted as normal by 60 percent of Dutch. Supermarket racks feature magazine covers with photos of nude women—in open view. Shocking also is the high incidence of incest. At the root of all this moral decay is a declining belief in God (*ibid.*).

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**FROM  
THE  
MAILBOX**

Dear Editor Cockrell,

Enclosed is a money order for 10 issues of *The Berea Baptist Banner* for one year. Any remaining money can be used for whatever purpose you can think of that will bring glory to our Lord. We so much appreciate the work you do to maintain the landmarks of true Baptist doctrine.

—Michigan

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pastor Cockrell,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all here at the mission are praying for you. We are all deeply concerned for you but we know the Lord is in control.

One of the men coming to our mission would like to receive the *Banner*. We have enclosed the subscription cost.

—Missouri

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Dear Bro. Milburn & Sheron,

My fervent prayer to a merciful God, is He will heal you and restore your sight.

You are in my prayers daily, as is the church. God bless you.

—Kentucky

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Greetings Bro. Cockrell,

Hope your health is good. Our pastor is keeping everyone informed here about your eye surgery. Hope everything goes well. We are praying for you and your family.

We will never forget how you have helped us out. Thanks again. May God

bless your work and health.

—Alabama

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We would like to receive the newsletter offered on your radio program. We listen on KARI in Blaine, Wa. Thank you.

—Washington

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Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I appreciate very much what you said about the Mississippi state flag in your June 5 issue "The Truth at Last."

Not many preachers or writers are as forthright and honest as you are.

You had such interesting information and gave it all in strong terms. You know I like that!

I thank you once again for your courage—and kindness in using my columns.

We pray God's blessings on you and your ministry.

I'll save your article for future reference.

—Virginia

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Enjoy your paper. Thank God for all the *real* preachers of the gospel.

Keep on keeping on. God bless you all.

—Mississippi

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Dear Bro. Cockrell:

First, let me state I am happy to hear you are doing well. Your health condition shall remain in my prayers and I know the Perfect Will of Yahweh will override all else and that nothing shall happen to you without His Divine Purpose.

Now I should like to address your article about the Third Commandment. While I would heartily agree with you about the use of profanity on every occasion, I do feel you have sadly gone astray with your article. Of course, I am not the author of the article and know that the author is the one who determines the path his/her articles will take. But I feel you have jumped around the issue like a one legged man in a square dance. You desperately failed to clearly state what is meant by the wonderful Third Commandment. For only twice did you use the name of the Creator in your article. Otherwise, you kow-towed to the Anglicized transliteration of the title—not even working on the name.

The word "God" is nothing more than a title. It is NOT His name. It is a title like that of "Doctor" or "President" or "King." The real name of the Creator is Yahweh and is given first in the book of Genesis 4:6. This Hebrew word has been translated into the English word "LORD." This Tetragrammaton is because of those who translated the Scriptures. They did not want to do it absolutely correct so they altered it to fit their own Catholicism. (After all they were nothing but luke warm Catholics known as Protestants.)

"One of the post-exilic-apostasies of Orthodox Judaism was the avoidance of the Name of the Almighty, the so-called

*Continued on page 157*



## From the Mailbox

*Continued from page 156*

Tetragrammaton, (the four lettered Name, Yahweh)," writes the editors at the Institute for Scripture Research. They go on to state: "Because of this and a similar and continued suppression and substitution of the Name by the church, much harm was done to the True Worship. When anyone inquires about this he is told: 'The Name has been translated into English as LORD, as was similarly done in other languages.' This argument does not hold water. . . . The proper name of any individual is simply not translated, more especially when we are dealing with the most important Beings in all the Universe—the Most High Yahweh and His Son Yehoshua."

Instead of chasing the many dead end paths you lead your readers down in the article, why not teach them what is REALLY the name of the Creator and that we, as His chosen children from before the foundation of the world, ought to address Him properly and stop beating around the bush with so much paganism. Don't you think it is time we, as the teachers of the Scriptures, changed that which we have been erroneously teaching the people when it is wrong? We made the mistake in honesty. We simply admit our mistake and tell the people that we made it and that the Spirit of Yahweh has given us greater insight—as Yehoshua promised He would do when He came. Let's stop dripping the milk of the Word upon their bibs and give them some meat of His Word to chew on for a change. They need to grow up! But such will never happen if we continue to breast feed them on milk.

I shall close with that and allow you to print this in the paper—which I hope you will do as I am writing it as a letter to the editor.

Respectfully I remain your Brother in Yehoshua Messiah.

—Bob L'Aloge (e-mail)

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Dear Bro. Cockrell and all,

We received the books and greatly appreciate how fast they got here. They will be of great help I am sure in the ministry. We are still praying for you and your wife as you go through your cancer ordeal.

We are thoroughly enjoying the radio ministry. We are praying for the work there in Mississippi and would ask for you to pray for us here.

—Oregon

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Brother Cockrell,

I was sorry to hear of your eye problems and then yesterday I heard you had a heart attack. I hope that God will be merciful and heal you. Its selfish I know but we need men of your caliber to hold up the truth.

We are praying for you.

—Illinois

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Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I am sure that you are covered up with mail from people all over. However, upon receiving your paper today and reading your article that it is with sadness and concern that I now know of your situation. You certainly are in my prayers. (Also Sister Pugh.) It is unbelievable that time has gone by so fast and the "grass is so withering" to so many of our Baptist Preachers. In my 63<sup>rd</sup> year I am also feeling the flesh wither also. God bless you and Sheron and your son. When the pressure lets up, I would appreciate obtaining Bro. Pugh's address. I have always appreciated your stand over the years; and from time to time reread the letters that you have sent me over time.

May God bless and heal you.

—Idaho

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Dear Pastor Cockrell,

Just read about your massive heart attack in *The Berea Baptist Banner* which came today and indeed you were at the "Door of the Gates of Death". But praise the Lord He chose to spare you as you are no doubt needed to continue on in proclaiming God's Precious Word. Maybe the Lord wants you to slow down which you need to do. I will pray for your recovery.

I enjoy *The Berea Baptist Banner* a lot and liked very much the article on "Friends in Heaven," compiled by writers of the past. I heartily agree with them.

—New York

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Hi,

I have a friend who bought me a subscription. I have been studying the social/political scene for over thirty years. I was very distressed to see (World Scene: US Kicked Off UN Human Rights Panel) what Captain Evans wrote about the UN.

The Captain claims that, "The U. S. should participate in the United Nations. . ." He also further states that "we should not surrender any of the sovereignty and freedoms that we fought for. . ." Rubbish!

By being a part of the United Nations, by "participating," we ARE surrendering our sovereignty. The United Nations is a WORLD body, and if you read any of their readily-available material on the internet or any library, this would become crystal clear very quickly.

We are rapidly heading for a one world government (of which the UN is the transitory head) that includes a one world justice system, and even more dangerous, a one world religion (New Age).

Just as the new Bible versions are ever so cleverly guiding us away from the Jesus Christ of the Bible and towards the Christ of the pit, we are heading inexorably towards being governed by those who will bring down the wrath of God upon the whole world.

Remember, in the last days there will be much deception—if we weigh the United Nations against anything decent

or compassionate, it comes up wanting. If you wish me to point you in the direction of some information all Christians should be aware of, please feel free to ask.

Lastly, I would recommend a site for you to check out, that contains names of many you will recognize, belonging to a secret group that sets policy in this country. There IS much deception. . . . .

—Lu Haynes (e-mail)

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Milburn Cockrell,

I was reading April 5<sup>th</sup> *Berea Baptist Banner* and noticed a short piece you wrote called "Another Arminian". In the article you called Dave Hunt your "brother". You spent the whole article showing his works for salvation false gospel he holds to but yet you still called him brother.

The Arminian false gospel of universal atonement is Satanic lie. Those that hold to it reveal they hate the God of the Bible. They are showing in their gospel that there is something else that makes the difference between heaven or hell BESIDES the doing and dying of Christ. This is an idol of people's imaginations. It is the peak of all self righteousness. It makes God unjust. It makes the righteousness that Christ established a common thing to be trampled on. God hates it!

Years ago I wrote you on the same topic about you calling Arminianism a false gospel but were unwilling to say Arminians are unregenerate that hold to Arminism (that is why they are called Arminians). If you count these type folks that hold to such a gospel then according to II John 9 you are partaker in their evil deeds. I pray you give this some long hard thought.

—L. Scott Price (e-mail)

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Dear Bro. Pugh:

As you did not respond to my letter requesting original copies of the article hereafter identified, I made the trip to Louisville, Ky., to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where I had before looked at *The Baptist* on micro film. As I stated in my letter to you, I had before read these articles which you published in "Adapted and edited" form in the June 5, 2001 issue of BBB. Being somewhat familiar with these articles, I immediately noted in the section entitled: "Six Important Doctrines" item #4 [p. 108-109, BBB] not an editorial change, not an adaption, but a complete reversal of the thought, meaning and intent of Graves.

Of course, I could not be absolutely certain until I checked the originals, which I did not have at my disposal. But when I was able to consult these documents on Micro film my worst fears were confirmed.

Here is the specific paragraph to which I refer:

"4. Each true Church of Christ is a company of Scripturally immersed believers only (not of believers and their unconverted children and seekers on probation), associated by voluntary covenant to obey

and execute all the commandments of Christ, having been organized by an ordained man or men having authority from a pre-existing Church of Christ of like faith and order with the Jerusalem Church, believing in the same organization, doctrines, officers and ordinances of the Church at Jerusalem, independent of all others, acknowledging no lawgiver in Zion but Christ, and submitting in spiritual matters to no law He has not enacted. Rom. 1:7; I Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1-5; Acts 2:41, 42; Matt. 18:20-28; II Cor. 7:6-19; Rev. 2:23; Phil. 1:27; I Cor. 5:12, 13; Acts 13:1-4."

I have emphasized the words which you added. One need only remove this portion to see how you have not "adapted" nor "edited" but have falsified. This is especially manifest in the light of what Graves constantly wrote and taught as these following samples will make clear:

"Now I wish Elder Ditzler to know that there is a world-wide difference between originating an organization different from anything that can be found in the Bible, different from anything the world had ever before seen or heard of, and called it a Church, and organizing a Christian Church. It is true that two or three baptized individuals can organize a Church, provided they adopt the apostolic model of government, and covenant to be governed by the sole authority of Jesus Christ." — [Great Carrollton Debate, p. 975]. . . .

Thus I write in protest of your article. I believe you took unfair and unjust liberty with the editorial of J. R. Graves, which he published before the world for many years. What he considered an important doctrine and clearly enunciated before the Baptist world for years, you took the liberty to turn completely around! If you were on trial for falsification of Graves words, it would be an easy matter for any just jury to find you guilty! I hold it as a firm principle that any man who writes against the JWs should quote and represent their writers so faithfully that they themselves would say—"That is exactly what we believe! That is exactly what we mean!" But anyone who read your article would not only not know what Graves believed about the constitution of churches, he would think Graves believed the exact opposite of what he did! You have violated the ninth commandment not to speak of the Royal Law. . . .

By grace only,  
J. C. Settlemoir



# ATTACKS ON THE FAMILY

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

**“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”** (Gen. 1:26-28).

The family is the foundation stone of human existence. Without stable homes, our whole social structure will crumble and fall. Remove stability from the home and you cannot have a strong community, country, or church. No one knows this better than Satan. Since he seeks to make the world “a wilderness” (Isa. 14:17), we can be certain that he is behind all these attacks on the family in our modern world.

## THE FIRST HOME

I do not believe men and women ran together in hordes in some communistic society in a state of promiscuity at the beginning of our race millions of years ago. I believe God created Adam and Eve, and then He joined them together in holy matrimony. This is how the human race and the family came into existence. This first family was to bring forth children, for God craved sons and daughters (Prov. 8:31; II Cor. 6:18). The home is a divine institution, coeval, and congenial with man's creation. Man's first home was in Eden; his last home will be in Heaven.

In Genesis, chapter 3, we see how Satan wrecked and ruined the first home. Adam was to have dominion over the earth, but he committed treason against God. Man was shut out of fellowship and friendship with God. He became an heir of misery, pain, and death. He became the hater of God and his nature enmity to God. Adam became mortal and a willing slave of the Devil. After the fall of man, a child born in the home came into the world a child of wrath with the nature of the Evil One.

Satan has never ceased his attacks upon the family since the days of Eden. In modern society the Prince of Darkness is doing some of his most devastating work. The family in America and the rest of the world is in terrible condition. I want to look at some of the things Satan is using to destroy the home.

## COMMUNISM

Karl Marx (1818-1883) was born in Prussia to a respectable German-Jewish

family. Marx never had a lasting friend, and he never held any kind of stable employment. He was a bum who lived off of others including his wife and Frederick Engels. His family was a social tragedy. Three of his children died of malnutrition, and two daughters and a son-in-law committed suicide. When his daughter, Francesca, died in 1852, a neighbor provided funds for her to be buried in a pauper's grave.

Marx admitted that his goal was not to improve the world, but to ruin it and to enjoy it being ruined. In his poem *Human Pride* he wrote:

*With disdain I will throw my gauntlet  
Full in the face of the world,  
And see the collapse of this pygmy giant  
Whose fall will not stifle my ardour.*

*Then will I wander godlike and victorious  
Through the ruins of the world  
And, giving my words an active force,  
I will feel equal to the Creator.*

(For this poem see the book *Was Marx A Satanist* by Richard Wurmbrand, p. 25).

Karl Marx was a worshipper of Satan, and no man in the last 200 years of human history has ever put forth Satan's program as well as he did. That he was a Satanist can be seen from his poem *The Player*. It reads:

*The hellish vapors rise and fill the brain,  
Till I go mad and my heart is utterly  
changed.  
See this sword?  
The prince of darkness  
Sold it to me (ibid. p. 12).*

Marx sought to destroy the family, to abolish ownership of property, and to replace religion with materialism. In *The Communist Manifesto* he spoke of “Abolition of the family!” (p. 22). He also said that “the modern family contains in germ not only slavery, but also serfdom” (Marx, quoted by Engels in *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, p. 51). Engels wrote: “The modern individual family is founded on the open or concealed domestic slavery of the wife” (*ibid.*, p. 65).

Communism teaches the mother should leave the home to work in factories and farms. It holds that children belong primarily to the state and not primarily to the parents. Communism contends that sexual promiscuity is no more than drinking a glass of water. The ideas of Marx and Engels have penetrated deep into the thinking of educators and political leaders in America, and this anti-biblical thinking has done much to destroy the family.

## GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

In the early days in the United States education was confined to the home or a church school. Public or, I should say, government education began in the 1800s.

Government education instead of home education was one of the goals of Karl Marx. He wrote: “The middle class family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement vanishes, and both will vanish with the vanishing of capital. Do you charge us with wanting to stop the exploitation of children by their parents? To this crime we plead guilty. But, you will say, we destroy the most hallowed of relations, when we replace home education by social” (*The Communist Manifesto*, p. 22).

In America Horace Mann (1796-1859) was a great promoter of government schools. He worked to humanize America's education and to destroy religious and moral teaching in public schools. John Dewey (1859-1952) was an American educator who was a humanist and an atheist. He refused to admit a final unchangeable truth in the form of God and His Word. He desecrated the fact that Christianity had taken the form of various dogmas embraced by the denomination. Dewey believed that final truth was illusory.

Due to the influence of these two men and others like them, public schools have become laboratories where social scientific views and educational hypothesis are tested in the lives of our young people. The old concepts of honor, honesty, and virtue are fading fast. These Godless and stupid concepts are why in America we graduate one million functional illiterates each year. This so-called “progressive education” has resulted in a high crime rate, a drug war (which we are losing), a rise in sexual diseases, and an increase in suicides and school shootings. While the state pumps billions into government schools the SAT scores keep coming down.

Progressive education denies God and the Bible. Hence all the Bible says about the family is to be rejected liberal educators tell us. The textbooks in our government schools are teaching children to rebel against their parents, religion, traditional values, and discipline. Our modern-day government educational system is really socialistic and totalitarian. Children are viewed as national resources to be educated for the good of the New World Order.

## THE NEW WORLD ORDER

The global socialists of the United Nations wants to eliminate parental rights and replace them with children's rights. These socialists say children belong to the state, not the parents. Hillary Clinton has written a book on government control of children: *It Takes a Village*. The United Nation Convention on the Rights of a Child was signed by Madeleine Albright (U.S. Ambassador to the UN) February 16, 1995. Then President Bill Clinton signed it in 1995.

If ratified by the Senate of the United States it will do the following: (1) Give children the right to abortion, the right to access media material, and the right to choose their own playmates; (2) Any par-

ent who infringes on a child's right will be prosecuted or have their children removed from the home; (3) Spanking of children is defined as criminal child abuse, making parents who spank instant criminals; (4) International social engineers will parent our children; (5) Teaching religion will be child abuse.

These global socialists and the political left want control of our children and their minds. They want a one-world education system to educate our children for the New World Order. They would take children out of the home and put them in the hand of social engineers. Millions of Christians and Jews will disobey this treaty if it is passed by the Senate of the United States.

## EVOLUTION

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) published a book called *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* in 1859. Most agree that this English naturalist was the father of evolution. His revolutionary book became the bible of evolutionists. Twelve years later he published *The Descent of Man*. In this second book Darwin applied his theory of evolution to the human race.

According to evolutionists, man was not created in the image of God but in the image of an ape. They teach man is an animal with a little higher reasoning than a brute. Evolutionists tell us the evil that exists in man came up through the brute to man. Since man is a descendant of a brute, there is no reason he should not be brutal. When he gives way to brutal acts it is only the animal instinct coming out in him. Evolution destroys all moral teaching as well as all human responsibility.

The “survival of the fittest” puts a premium on murder and glorifies the demon of destruction. Evolutionists decry all rules of right and right living. There is no need for marriage or the family, for originally men and women ran together in hordes where sexual relations were communistic. According to evolutionists, a marriage ceremony for a man and woman is no more necessary than it would be for dogs or cats.

Social Darwinists have changed education, government, business, the media, and religion from Christianity to atheism. As a result of this, God is resisted, ignored, opposed, and vilified at every opportunity in public and private. The Bible has lost its authority, the family is fast disappearing, and morals are gone with the wind. Our modern world has moved into reprobation (Rom. 1) and is without hope.

## OUR INDUSTRIAL AGE

Americans desire a high standard of living. What was formerly luxuries are now believed to be genuine requirements. Americans have become materialists who worship the almighty dollar. Although the Bible tells us a woman is to be a keeper at home (Tit. 2:5), the American wife has now entered the work force for survival. If the wife does not work, the husband has two or three jobs. The American fam-

*Continued on page 159*

# Attacks on the Family

Continued from page 158

ily is caught up in an economic rat race.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels dreamed of this day. Engels wrote this after the death of Marx, using Marx's notes: "It is already clear at this point that the emancipation of woman, her equalization with man, is and remains impossible so long as the woman is excluded from the productive work of society and remains restricted to private household work. The emancipation of woman first becomes possible when she is able on an extensive, social scale, to participate in reproduction, and household work claims her attention only to an insignificant extent. And this for the first time has been made possible by large scale industry, which not only admits women's labor over a wide range, but absolutely demands it, and also strives to transform private household work more and more into public industry" (*The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State, A Handbook of Marxism*, pp. 318-319).

The American wife has turned the dreams of Marx and Engels into a reality. Children are left in day nurseries, or left to take care of themselves. The work of a housewife is now the most neglected work in the world. This has had a devastating effect on the American home.

Once upon a time in America the husband made the living and the wife stayed home to keep the house and care for the children. Now the family is seldom at home at the same time. In the average American home there is no home life! This has led to the feminization of man and insecurity and delinquency on the part of the young. The sanctity of marriage is disappearing and divorce has become more and more accepted. If the trend continues, the American home is soon to go the way of the Dodo Bird.

## RADICAL FEMINISM

The radical feminist movement is based on the philosophy of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, particularly Engels' book, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. These radicals seek to change the whole existing social structure in order to achieve women's liberation. These radicals say the father-headed family must go. They say there must be easy divorce, sexual liberation, and acceptance of illegitimacy. They say there is nothing wrong with incest or sexual child molestation. Their final goal is the destruction of religion because religion supports the family.

The plan of these radical feminists is to deny the right of a woman to be a woman. According to them, a woman cannot choose motherhood as her primary vocation—not even if she wants to do so! These radicals are not satisfied with equal rights; they want to restructure society and abolish the family. Seeing the mainstream women refuse to accept such foolishness,

these radicals have turned to the legislative process to enforce their agenda. Under the guise of the Convention for the Rights of Woman, the United Nations now actively promotes a radical feminist ideology.

Other groups which indirectly support the radical feminists agenda are population controllers, gay rights activists, sexual libertarians, multi-culturists/promoters of political correctness, environmental extremists, neo-Marxist progressive, and postmodernists. To this list must be added big government liberals and certain multinational corporations.

## SACREDY-CAT PREACHERS

God calls His ministers to be moral and spiritual leaders. Among their qualifications for the office the Bible sets forth that a pastor must be "the husband of one wife" (I Tim. 3:2). To this is added in I Timothy 3:4-5: "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)." A man who cannot rule his own house has no business trying to take care of God's house, the New Testament church. The modern-day church has ignored these Scriptures to their own peril.

Sad to say, but a few preachers are bigger woman-chasers than some of their church members! They father bastard babies and give large sums of money to their mistresses. Some church members who live on a very low moral standard see nothing wrong with such ministerial conduct. To our surprise, churches keep these rascals in their pulpits and call them "good and godly men!"

No one knows how to ruin a preacher better than Satan. If the Devil cannot get the preacher, he is happy to take the preacher's wife or children. By ruining a preacher's home, Satan can close the preacher's mouth as to the need of stable homes. A woman-chasing preacher cannot be expected to preach many sermons on adultery. A divorced and remarried preacher is not apt to preach a sermon on how God hates divorce from Malachi 2:16. A pastor who has rebellious children is not likely to preach a message from I Timothy 3:4-5.

Many pulpits are largely silent as to the importance of the home. What the Bible says about marriage and the home is not being preached, for a number of pastors are afraid of the moving van. One pastor recently told me: "I can't preach on marriage and the home, for my church is not in shape to receive such a message. If I preached what the Bible actually says on this, the church would dismiss me as pastor."

I cannot deny that if pastors begin to preach what the Bible really says about marriage and the home some of their members may leave and join other more

liberal churches. But, preacher friend, are you only concerned with nickels and noses? It is also possible that some of your members may quit giving money to the church, but is that what you are preaching for? There is also a possibility that you may have to leave your church for preaching the truth about the home. But do you fear the faces of men more than the judgment of God? Preacher brethren, you could make a difference in these awful times of the last days for homes in America. Preach the truth and revive our churches, hoping this revival may spread to the whole country.

## CONCLUSION

1. Let us pray much for the Christians who are still associated with our public schools. These people are holding back the flood gates of socialism and atheism in our government schools. Some of them buck the crowd and even pray and read the Bible in their classrooms. If these people all get out of the government schools (many of them are doing so in large numbers), there will be no hope for the children of America.

2. I am old enough to recall a time in my youth when mother and father both stayed at home to work the farm and care for the children. I also remember when my father had to leave home for public work because of new government regulations on farmers. This was followed by my mother doing the same. This happened to a large number of families in the 1950s and 1960s. I fear that we lost something then as to the stability of the American home we shall never regain.

3. Most of our national leaders are not much help to our families. In many cases their own home is a moral wreck. Despite all their words about "feeling our pain," they are more concerned about re-election and a pay raise than the stability of our American homes. The best evidence that our national government is against the home is the marriage penalty tax. A well-ordered American family pays \$2,000 more income taxes each year than people with broken homes. Under such a tax plan our government encourages broken homes, not stable homes.

4. The future of the American family is in doubt. We can expect no help with our homes from the Communists, our government schools, global socialists, evolutionists, or radical feminists. Nor can we expect much help from our ministers whose mouths are largely muzzled by the Devil due to conditions in their own homes as well as conditions in the homes of church members. Unless a miracle of God takes place, the family and home life are on the way out in our American society. God help us!

## BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 5-31-2001 to 6-30-2001

Beginning Balance ..... \$1,482.78

### RECEIPTS:

B.C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL .....	18.75
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	200.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL .....	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN .....	50.00
Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH .....	50.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX .....	20.00
Bethesda B. C., Odessa, FL .....	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV .....	300.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL .....	25.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL .....	20.00
Corbin Hill, Jackson, MI .....	30.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL .....	100.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN .....	100.00
Gerald Price, Johnson City, TN .....	40.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY .....	35.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL .....	25.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK .....	45.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	100.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC .....	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM .....	75.00
Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS .....	185.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM .....	300.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH .....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN .....	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	50.00
Ocoonia M. B. C., Keokee, VA .....	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM .....	25.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	50.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR .....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS .....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS .....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Galena, OH .....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL .....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC .....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX .....	30.00
South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA .....	25.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	100.00
Subscriptions .....	135.00
Anonymous .....	50.00
Sub Total .....	\$3,078.37
TOTAL .....	\$4,561.15

### EXPENDITURES:

Wages:	
Milburn Cockrell .....	675.00
Sharon Cockrell .....	800.00
Marsha Kiser .....	450.00
Christopher Cockrell .....	450.00
Printing .....	543.55
Postage .....	773.15
FICA taxes .....	181.70
Total Expenditures .....	3,873.40
.....	687.75
Bank charge .....	-14.33
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$673.42



## BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 5-31-2001 to 6-30-2001

Beginning Balance ..... \$1,148.27

### RECEIPTS

Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
Livingstone B. C., Barboursville, WV .....	288.39
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	100.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN .....	132.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR .....	25.00
Dividing checks .....	75.00
.....	720.39
TOTAL RECEIPTS .....	1,868.66

### EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time .....	1,109.55
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	1,109.55
.....	\$759.11
Bank Charges .....	-10.00
BALANCE .....	\$749.11

## CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance ..... \$1,253.32

### RECEIPTS

Total .....

.....	1,253.32
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT (Apr) .....	160.00
Total Expenditures .....	160.00
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$1,093.32



# WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

## Why We Are Gouged with High Oil Prices?



The blame game is on full swing—to fix responsibility for the soaring energy prices. No one is better at this than Dick Gephardt, the House Minority Leader and *sine qua non* of twist and spin, and Gray Davis, embattled governor of California and inventor of the rolling blackout.

### STAR PLAYERS

Gephardt, fresh from adulation of the impeached President Clinton, condemned President Bush's comprehensive energy plan as "wrong for America with too much gas, oil and nuclear energy and not much else." So, Dick, shall we add solar and wind-mills?

Davis, desperate and smarting from attacks on his short-sighted energy policies in California, accused Bush of "turning a blind eye to the bleeding and hemorrhaging in this state."

Not to be outshone in the energy spotlight is Tom Dashle, Senate Minority Leader, who charges Bush with "ducking the tough issues, such as global warming and conservation."

### THE BUSH PLAN

The Bush national energy plan is the first such plan in a generation of idling while our consumption increased 14 percent and production dropped 17 percent. His plan is balanced and designed for stability and security against the OPEC oil cartel.

Our president and Congress have allowed out-of-control prices. All along, they had the power (1) to open up oil reserves in Alaska and the Rocky Mountain states, (2) to support off-shore drilling along the Florida and California coasts and (3) to cut the excessive federal gasoline taxes.

These three steps can help energy coasts and will get the attention of the greedy oil barons of OPEC who are riding high, as they cut production and force American prices to skyrocket.

The Bush energy task force is addressing these issues head-on. Only about one-fourth will require legislation, including the Murkowski Energy Bill for drilling in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

### SIERRA CLUB ADAMANT

Radical environmentalists, headed by the Sierra Club and Greenpeace, are adamantly opposed to touching the ANWR. Said Sierra's Melinda Pierce, "Murkowski wants more dams and more mines to drill our way out of energy problems for more global warming and more pollution that also

devastates our last wild lands."

Grossly exaggerated! The proposed ANWR drilling area is about the size of Dulles International Airport and has potential for 16.8 years oil supply for the USA. The "wild lands" will not be devastated at all, but, on the contrary, remain about 99 44/100 percent pure.

### RELIEF OVERDUE

This energy plan is overdue. House and Senate leaders pledge priority action. They better, with price gouging reaching scandalous proportions.

The threatened Democrat filibuster will backfire. Consumers are fed up. They want to know the whys for the gas price gouging that, unchecked, can mean \$3 per gallon gasoline at the pump this summer.

### WHY WE ARE GOUGED

Tom DeWeese of the American Policy Center in his "American Oil for Americans" program explains:

\* Radical environmentalists prevent opening huge oil reserves in Rocky Mountain states of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah and New Mexico.

Radicals work to prevent drilling along the coasts of Florida and California and in Alaskan ANWR with reserves of 16 billion barrels of oil.

\* Clinton locked up "clean coal" in Utah, turning a huge area into a park.

\* Radical Greenpeace pressured against nuclear power plants.

\* Environmentalists battle to shut down hydro-electric dams.

\* Excessive EPA regulations shut out 60 percent of federal lands with high potential for natural gas.

\* Federal gasoline taxes rose from

27 cents to 47 cents.

\* U.S. oil production down 17 percent with consumption up 14 percent and imports at 56 percent, about one third of U.S. trade deficit.

Says Rep. John Duncan Jr. (R-Tenn.): "The saddest part is that Congress could keep this from happening. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates 16 billion barrels in less than one percent of Alaskan coastal plain with billions more offshore in other states. Environmental extremists object even though it can be done in an environmental-safe way."

### NUCLEAR SOLUTION

The long-term solution is nuclear power, blocked for 30 years by extremists. France and Japan use nuclear for 80 percent of their electrical needs, safely. Advantages include: no pollution, no acid rain and no carbon dioxide for global warming.

Nuclear waste is "vitrified," i.e., converted into solid glass that is then buried safely in salt mines.

Famous analyst William Rusher cites the "hidden agenda of the environmental extremists for halting all wealth-producing economic processes that depend on growing energy supplies and their hatred of 'evil corporations' that generate the energy."

The Sierra Club and other extremists will lose. Drastic steps are needed now to meet energy requirements of humankind's six billion people. The Bush plan offers balance and deserves strong and immediate support.

(Captain Evans' columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League.)

### MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 8-01, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of greenbacks. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.

### Coming in the next issue . . .

- Church Discipline* by G. Timothy J. Hille
- Arming the Red Dragon the U.S.A. Way* by G. Russell Evans
- The Hidden Ones* by Milburn Cockrell

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Myrtle Tree Missionary Baptist Church near Grayson, Ky., and Pastor Kenneth Cade will have the 113<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting Aug. 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. There will be special services at 2:00 p.m. on Aug. 5. Guest speakers are Elders Doug Newell, Robert Patton, John Osborn, and Mark Minney. For more information contact Pastor Cade at (304) 529-7058.

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The Northside Baptist Church, Elkton, Ky., and Pastor Irving Cummins will have a Bible Conference Aug. 2-4. Services will start at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and all day Friday and conclude at noon on Saturday. The church will provide a noon meal and supper meal on Friday and a noon meal on Saturday. Speakers on the program are Elders Robert Asbury, Lee Hammel, Jeff Lawrence, L. G. Richardson, Jimmy Sherrod, Bill Senich, Garner Smith, Bill Titus, Don Titus, and Randy Titus. For more information call (270) 265-9665.

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The Bethel Baptist Church, 2000 Lagrange Rd., Beavercreek, Ohio, and Pastor Tom Lewis will host a Bible Conference Sept. 14-15. Speakers on the program are Elders Mike McCoskey, David Pittman, Steve Kittle, Jonathan Gordon, Chuck Hunt, Ron Crisp, Joe Head, and Dennis Riddick. For more information call (937) 372-3218 or 426-1728 or e-mail [tlewis9364@aol.com](mailto:tlewis9364@aol.com).

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We have printed a limited supply of "Crucifixion Day" by Henry A. Griesemer (1857-1926) in tract form. This is the article showing Christ was not crucified on Good Friday. These are free for the asking. Postage appreciated. Order from Berea Baptist Church, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855.

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The Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 2750 South 53<sup>rd</sup> West Avenue, Tulsa, Okla., and Pastor David O'Neal will have a Bible Conference Sept. 21-23. Various speakers are on the program. For more information contact Pastor O'Neal at (918) 583-8261.

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The Grace Missionary Baptist Mission, 639 Southwest T Highway, Holden, Mo., sponsored by the Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., will have a Bible Conference Oct. 26-28.

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