

# The Berea Baptist Banner

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## The Attack on Established Truth

By Mike Dewitt

Springfield, Oregon

**"For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you"** (I Cor. 11:18-19).



Mike Dewitt

The attack on established truth is of great concern for Baptist churches, and is no less a concern today as it was in the past. We have problems in these last days of higher criticism,

political correctness, and situational ethics. Sovereign Grace Missionary Landmark Baptists are seen as old fashioned, worn out, ignorant, intolerant, and bigoted. I say let it be said that we are the ones who have shaped history, and we have loved the unloved, cared for the uncaring, and held tenaciously to the **"faith which was once delivered unto the saints"** (Jude 1:3).

The lack of exposing false doctrines and not keeping the commandments of our Head in turn produces heresies (sects) in the Lord's church. This is what the inspired writer is referring to in I Corinthians 11:18-19 when he writes: **"I hear that there be divisions among you."** There were those who were schismatic in the

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## Gleanings from *The Baptist*

By James Robinson Graves

(1820 - 1893)

*The following material is taken from The Baptist. The dates are indicated at the end of each article. During the years cited, J. R. Graves (Memphis, Tenn.) was Editor and Proprietor, M. P. Lowrey (Ripley, Miss.) was Mississippi Editor, W. E. Paxton (Shreveport, La.) was Louisiana Editor, and J. B. Searcy wrote the Arkansas Department. The Queryist section is most interesting. Bro. Graves generally answered this section, but on a few occasions Bro. M. P. Lowrey did so. This material is taken from microfilm. We now possess all the years of the papers of J. R. Graves.*



J. R. Graves

Bro. Graves: I write you in regard to a question that is causing some real trouble with the members of the Baptist church at this place, and being a subscriber to your valuable paper

### QUERIES

would be pleased to have you answer it through THE BAPTIST. Can a Baptist church give its pastor the power to receive and baptize converts at any point where he may be preaching other than at said church; say, for instance, he (the pastor) was preaching at a schoolhouse five miles from said church with no church organized at the place. -J. J. Byers

ANSWER: A church cannot give away what she has no legal right to

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## Satan, An Angel of Light

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

**"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works"** (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Everything good is counterfeited. Pride often appears as humility. Ignorance clothes itself in the garb of wisdom. Hypocrisy feigns to be sincere. Enmity hides itself under the mask of friendship. The shadow counterfeits the substance, and the false imitates the true. Even Satan, the Prince of Darkness, masquerades as an angel of light.

### A BRIEF LOOK AT SATAN

The name "Satan" means "adversary, enemy." Satan is one of

the names applied in Scriptures to the evil being we call the Devil. Satan has names because he has a personal existence. He is not an impersonal

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## What Spiritual Growth is Like

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

**"And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food..."** (Gen. 2:9).

All growth that is good can be traced back to the Creator. Apart from God, there is no life or growth in the natural or spiritual realm. The flowers, trees, grass, and shrubs derive their beautiful forms and variety of colors from the God of nature.

In this article I want to discuss the

Dean Alford, whose "Greek New Testament" is well known, author of 48 valuable works,

"By the growth of hypocrisy, secularity and rationalism the house

things to which spiritual growth are compared. As a general rule, the Bible uses the known to reveal the unknown, metaphors of natural things to make known spiritual truths. To what shall we compare spiritual growth? To what do the Scriptures liken moral progress? It is compared to-

### HUMAN GROWTH

A human being comes forth from

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has become empty; that is, the Christian Church has been swept and garnished by the decencies of civilization and discoveries of secular knowledge, and he must read prophecy ill who does not see under all these seeming improvements the preparation for the full development of the Man of Sin, when idolatry and the seven other spirits shall bring the outward frame of so-called Christendom to a fearful end. . . . The Coming of Christ to take His Church to Himself in the clouds is not the same event as His Coming to judge the world."

**Sir Robert Anderson, K.G.B., LL.D.,** Chief of the Detective Dept. of Scotland Yard, Author of "The Coming Prince," "The Gospel and its Ministry," and many other volumes.

"The Lord's Coming is not merely the true Hope of the Christian life,

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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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## What Growth is Like

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his mother's womb a mere babe. By proper care and nourishment he will grow up into a young man, and then finally he will grow into a mature man. All three stages of human growth can also be seen in spiritual growth. I Peter 2:2 speaks of "newborn babes." I John 2:13 refers to "young men." The final stage of growth is seen in the term "fathers" (I John 2:13). I will have more to say about this later.

### ARCHITECTURAL GROWTH

In Ephesians 2:20-22 it is written: **"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."**

Here we see that each congregation is an antitype of the Old Testament

temple. Each particular church is an expression of the church as an institution. Verse 21 in the Greek reads "each several building." A. T. Robertson says: "Ordinary Greek idiom here calls for 'every building,' not for 'all the building'" (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. IV, p. 529).

The language here is architectural. Note such words as "foundation," "chief corner stone," and "fitly framed." Paul is speaking of the church as an institution, or abstractly. Concretely, he speaks of separate congregations as each of them growing in the same way, in the person of Christ.

This reminds us of Peter's words: **"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ"** (I Pet. 2:5). Both Peter and Paul see a building, getting completed within itself, rising to its ideal. The work of building is a progressive work, a "framing together" of the structure ever more closely and firmly. The building grows in completeness and extension. The saints in the building are growing spiritually and new members are being added. Each local church is like an unfinished building already in use, but not yet completed. The complete ideal building is the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21).

There are a number of practical lessons here. (1) Each assembly of baptized believers is to be a place of spiritual growth. (2) This growth is in the Lord Jesus—"in the Lord." Being in union with Christ, the born-again soul grows more like the Lord Jesus Christ. (3) The Holy Spirit is working to sanctify each living stone in the building. (4) Those who realize they are living stones in the temple of the Lord see the need of holy living and moral progress. (5) The church grows spiritually more like Christ as each individual member attains new heights in spiritual achievements. The church can grow no more than its members grow!

### PSYCHOLOGICAL GROWTH

In Ephesians 4:15-16 it is written: **"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."** Here again is metaphorical language. Christ is the Head of the Ephesian church and the church is His body. **"To grow up into him in all things"**

implies a growing up into the mind and likeness of Jesus Christ. The metaphor is enhanced by the apparent physiological truth that the energy of vital power varies with the distance from the Head. From our blessed Head we derive the things essential to our spiritual development.

We are to grow up "into him" in "all things," meaning body and soul, not merely just one part. This means church members must grow in humility, patience, self-denial, and resignation to the divine will. The goal is conformity to Christ. The members of the body must conform to the Head because of the vital union between the two. This growth must continue **"unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature the fulness of Christ"** (Eph. 4:13).

The body, vitalized from and by the Head, constantly acquires a deeper and truer contact of part with part, which results in a more harmonious inner union and action. Just as an arm grows by contact with the head, even so a church member grows by contact with Christ. Each member is dependent on Christ, and each member is dependent upon each other member. So from Christ through the instrumentality of each member the local body edifies itself in love.

Here again we see some practical truths. (1) The church is a place of spiritual growth and moral increase. (2) This growth is from the Head of the church. It does not come from high-pressured evangelists and silver-tongued pastors. (3) The means of this growth is "the truth," or the preaching and teaching of the truth of the Word of God. The preaching and teaching of heresy brings about no spiritual growth in the members and adds no new members to the church.

In Colossians 2:19 I read: **"And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."**

In the preceding verses Paul had described some heretics. These people rejected Christ as their head. They worshipped angels and would not adore the person and work of the Savior. They insisted on religious rites, which depreciated the merits of Christ. These errors regarding the person and work of Christ were damnable heresies.

Here again we see Christ as the Head of the church and the church as His body. Christ is again presented as the Source of all fruitful development. The Head gives the body the ability to grow. The metaphorical language represents the

spiritual benefits, which we receive from communion with our Lord. By walking and talking with our Lord we grow in faith, in hope, in love, in light, and in likeness until we attain the measure of the perfect stature of Christ. By keeping in close contact with the Head, the members of the body increase in divine and heavenly matters. This growth arises from the efficacy of God and tends to His glory.

A church is a company of baptized believers who recognizes Christ as their Head. All church members and church matters center around Christ. All services, all activities, and all ordinances are Christ-centered and for His glory. The source of their nourishment and growth is all from Christ abundantly and continually. They don't need church socials, midnight hayrides, or some Sunday morning social club to be edified. Christ is their all in all. Whenever the Head is push aside for carnal things, the body has no nourishment or spiritual increase. The body then becomes a lifeless skeleton. Like the church at Sardis, some churches have a name to live when they are dead.

Oh, how we need spiritual growth as members of Christ's body! Let us not give that glory to another which belongs to Christ alone. Let hypocrites submit to earthly heads if they feel they must. This must never be true of real Christians. We must give ourselves up to be governed and guided by Christ who is our Head. Church member, engage in no action which does not honor Christ. Hold no sentiment but what descends from Him. For only when we do this can we experience spiritual progress and glorify our risen Head.

### HORTICULTURE GROWTH

In John 15 our Lord taught on the subject of fruit bearing: **"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you, As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing"** (John 15:1-5).

In the Old Testament Israel was compared to a grape vine (Ps.80:8-11; Isa. 5:1-7), but in John 15 Christ declares Himself to be the true Vine. The Father is the vinedresser who Himself cultivates and trains the

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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.)

## WHAT'S A GENERATION WORTH?

**“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption” (Acts 13:36).**

Like David, each man and woman who lives can only serve his or her own generation. Each generation must teach true religion to the coming generation. **“For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (Ps. 78:5-7).** Regrettable to say, but some are a curse to their generation.

Some months ago I spoke with a Primitive Baptist pastor who said, “We have lost a whole generation of young people.” This pastor was more honest and more observant than many of our generation. Of course he spoke in a general sense, for not all the younger generation has gone to the dogs. He meant that in the main the present generation has failed to teach true religion to the coming generation. His words have lingered long and loud in my mind. I fear that my generation has done the worst job of teaching the next generation of all previous generations. Most of us have known more failures than successes, if we would be honest before God.

Some religious groups have turned their churches into a whoop-de-doo to entertain their youth. Their whole church is centered on the young. Most of this is focused on the carnal nature instead of the spiritual nature. The unsaved do not enjoy such things as Bible study and prayer; they have to have religious rock music and all kinds of sports. Otherwise they will quit the church and go to some other church that is better in the entertainment business. These extremes must be condemned. But I fear that we have gone to the other extremes. We have largely forgotten a whole generation of young people.

A number of good pastors have told me horror stories of things the young people have done that are members of their churches. Many older church members complain that they cannot get their children to attend the services of a New

Testament Baptist church. Not only have we failed to take the gospel to the heathen world abroad, but we have also failed to convert our children to the truth at home! Questions: Are your children faithful to attend the services of a true New Testament Baptist church? Where are your kids on Sunday morning? Are they in true churches, or in some Sunday-morning social club? Could it be they do not attend church at all? Have you served your generation? Did you do as well with your children as your father and mother did with you? Compared to them, are you a failure?

Some parents will blame the failure of their kids to be faithful in a New Testament Baptist church on the times in which we live. Others will pin it on the sovereignty of God. Still others will blame it on the Devil, or even the church. It would be very difficult to get most parents to admit they have failed to bring up their children in the discipline and training of which God approves. A few will be honest enough to admit they have failed their children, for they have been too busy making money and enjoying the world to have time to really teach their children the truths of the Word of God.

No doubt many churches and pastors could have done more to help the young people. Some churches and pastors are so busy debating the finer points of theology that they have no time to teach the young the ABCs of the gospel. But children are primarily the responsibility of the parents. If a generation of infidels has been allowed to grow up, the blame must be placed squarely on the shoulders of their parents. Such unfaithful parents will answer to God for their failures at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

More than once a whole generation was lost in the case of the Israelites. Consider the following words: **“And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel....And also all that generation where gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:7,10).**

Have we lost a whole generation of young people? If so, are we man and woman enough to admit it? Is there enough of the grace of Christ in our hearts to cause us to try to do better with our kids and grandkids? Each person must examine his own heart in these matters, knowing he is in the presence of Almighty God. Let

us do all that we can to make sure the coming generation will be as strong in the faith and practice of the Bible as our Baptists fathers.

## What Growth is Like

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branches on the grape vine. Two classes of Christians are set forth, both of them in Christ, as truly as the branch is in the vine (v. 2). The first bears no fruit. A dead branch in the vine bears no fruit. Even so, when a disobedient believer is taken away by physical death (I John 5:16) he no longer bears fruit on this earth. The Father prunes the second class that they might bear more fruit. The object of the Father is to enable the branch to produce a greater abundance of fruit (Heb. 12:6-13).

The vine receives nothing from the branches but give them all. Apart from Christ, the believer has no source of life or fruitfulness. Christ dwells in the believer and the believer dwells in Christ (vv. 4-5). To accomplish any significant spiritual achievement, or growth in grace, we must live close to Christ. We are to be a branch of the life of Christ; He must live in us. If He lives in us, He will make us fruitful. Some Christians complain of unfruitfulness, but they fail to trace it back to the meagerness of their communion with Christ.

In John 15:8 Christ said: **“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”** Our lives should magnify and honor the Father. This is only true if our fruit is Christlike affections and disposition (Gal. 5:22-23). We are to grow up to be genuine disciples of Jesus Christ and people worthy of the name Christian. To be a true disciple of Jesus Christ is to bear **“fruit,” “more fruit” (v. 2) and “much fruit” (v. 8).**

The more we abide in Christ, the more we grow morally and spiritually. Those who die to sin in Christ also rise with Him to **“bring forth fruit unto God” (Rom. 7:4).** Paul commanded: **“Increase the fruits of your righteousness” (II Cor. 9:10).** To the Philippian church Paul wrote: **“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God” (Phil. 1:11).** To the church at Colosse He said: **“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:10).** A Church member should be known by their fruits (Matt. 7:20).

It is written in Psalm 92:12: **“The**

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## A PERSONAL WORD

Since my sickness I have given myself to much labor to get out more books which I have written. Already this year we have published *Death and the Hereafter*. We have almost ready for printing, *The Ten Commandments*. Some brethren have requested that I print the articles in the BBB on these in booklet form. Hence I am doing so. Except for two chapters which are not yet typed, there is another book, *Sermons on Salvation*, which is just about ready to be put into book form. Others are planned on prophecy and sovereign grace.

I am working to put most of my books back in print. The one on *Wine, Worship and the Word* is being made ready for reprinting. I also want to bring back *Here Comes the Bride*. These will probably be reprinted soon. There are two others I want to revise and enlarge. These are *One-Hundred Reasons for the Pretrib Rapture* and *In Search of the Universal, Invisible Church*. I hope that the Lord will let me live and have sight enough to accomplish these things. I am making these a matter of priority.

I know that all these things will require much money as well as time. It seems that God raises up funds each time that a book is ready. Sometimes it comes from the most unexpected sources. Hence I shall work hard and, as always, trust God to make these projects possible.

I have never taken any money from any book which I have published. All money made from the sale of my books goes into our bookstore fund. The bookstore gives books to missionaries, and we also distribute free tracts many places. My purpose is to get out the truth far and wide. I ask only that you join with me in prayer that it may please God that these projects may come to pass.

## What Growth is Like

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**righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**” Spiritual advancement is compared to the growth of a palm tree and a cedar. Both of these trees are evergreens, which grow as long as they live. God’s children should grow as long as they live upon this earth. Both of these trees grow upward. Even so, the affections of a Christian should be to focus more and more on things above (Col. 3:1-2) and less and less on things on the earth.

### ANIMAL GROWTH

In Malachi 4:2 it is written: **“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”** The context concerns the Jewish remnant on earth at the coming of the Messiah in His millennial glory. The remnant is said to grow up like well-fed calves in a stable. This is a rapid growth to maturity. These Israelites shall experience spiritual growth and increase in a secure environment. Here again we see the idea that God’s people must **“grow up.”**

Today we have too many baby Christians. What our churches really need are some grown-up Christians. Most believers are some place between infancy and youth. We are to press toward the mark. We are to strive to be more and more like Jesus Christ.

### ATHLETIC GROWTH

To achieve correct physical growth and fitness we must give us some things. Athletes are compelled to give up much to attain their goal. Contestants in the Christian race must **“lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily besets us”** (Heb. 12:1). By nature men are lovers of their own selves, and they desire to do their own thing. But in order to reach spiritual maturity, we must practice self-denial. Jesus said: **“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me”** (Matt. 16:24). Christ set us a great example, for He denied Himself (Phil. 2:5-8; Rom. 15:3). Self-denial is the badge of true discipleship. It is the hardest lesson to be learned in the school of Christ. Some modern-day self-denial is really self-glorification.

There is no real salvation without self-denial. It is self we must be saved from. To stick to self is to be lost and miserable. There can be no salvation where there is self-satisfaction, self-righteousness, and

self-pleasing (II Cor. 5:14-15). Till a man denies himself, he denies God. Deny self or you will deny Christ, for self is both an atheist and an idolater. Self is an antichrist and glories in self-exaltation (II Thes. 2:4). Away with the modern-day teaching about self-worth and self-esteem, for what are weaklings, worms, and weasels really worth?

Self-denial is refusing to follow our own will from a conviction that the will of God is the only rule of action for us. It is necessary because every faculty and power of our nature is defiled by sin. God wants us to resist and counteract the corruption in our nature. Those who attempt this will find it takes a great axe to slay the giant of self!

Just what is self-denial? It is to deny our will where it does not fall in line with the will of God (I Sam. 3:18; Acts 21:14; Luke 22:42). It is to deny our understanding and to depend on God (Prov. 3:5-6). It is to deny honor from men and to seek the honor which comes from God only (Heb. 11:25-26). It is to deny worldly profit for the cause of Christ (Matt. 6:20,22; 9:9; 19:27). It is to deny our affections and to set them on heavenly things (Col. 3:1-2). It is to deny our health and to hazard our life for Christ (Acts 15:26). It is to deny life and to lay it down for the kingdom of Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34-37; Acts 21:13; Rev. 12:11). The world must be given up, if we are to have treasures in Heaven.

The flesh must be crucified with Christ, if we are to reign in life with Christ. Self-denial is a prerequisite to any spiritual advancement on earth.

### INDUSTRIOUS GROWTH

Exercise is absolutely essential to increase in bodily strength. Even so, much effort is needed on our part to move ahead spiritually. When a sinner throws off the yoke of sin he puts on the yoke of Christ: **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”** (Matt. 11:28-30). A yoke was placed on an ox to put him under restraint to a man. The service yoke is put on the believer to put him under the restraint of Christ. This means we are to be yoked up with Christ, co-workers together with Him. Putting on the yoke is to say good-bye to personal liberty, for Christ requires absolute submission, a full and complete surrender.

Those who take the yoke of Christ have Christ as their leader and teacher: **“...and learn of me...”** This

is figurative language for saying: **“Become My pupil, submit yourself to My instructions, learn of the sacrifice that I demand.”** To learn of Christ you must labor hard to listen to Him and draw close to Him. In the school of suffering and testimony for Christ we learn the deeper things of God. From Christ alone we learn that type of character which we ought to develop.

Those who take the yoke of Christ will discover a life of restful activity. There is no rest for a Christian but in the yoke of Jesus Christ. The longer we live and grow, the more we will discover the yoke of Christ **“is easy”** and His **“burden is light.”**

### SEPARATION GROWTH

A fruit tree grows best when some of the old branches are removed to stimulate new growth. Even so, the believer must be separated more and more from the things which would impede his spiritual growth. He must separate from the sinful and secular: **“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”** (II Cor. 6:14-18).

There is a difference between the believer and the unbeliever, between righteousness and unrighteousness, between light and darkness, between Christ and Satan, between faith and infidelity, between the temple of God and the temple of demons. God’s people must separate from the Devil’s people. This is necessary for Christ and Antichrist cannot be on terms of concord. Believers must avoid being yoked up with unbelievers in marriages, businesses, clubs, union meetings, and liberal churches. These things can only hurt and hinder our spiritual ongoings. You cannot run with the Devil’s crowd and expect to be successful in the good fight of faith.

## Satan, Angel of Light

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force nor the principle of evil personified. In the Bible personal names are given Satan, and personal acts and attributes are ascribed to him. Any person who doubts the reality of Satan’s existence is a wayfaring man or a fool.

According to Holy Scripture, Satan was created finitely perfect in his ways. Originally, his person had great beauty and brightness. In God’s angelic order he held an exalted position and high honor (Ezek. 28:11-14). His first position may very well have been to be the guardian and protector of the throne of God (Ezek. 28:14; Ex. 25:20; 37:9). Because of his lofty position his heart was filled with pride (I Tim. 3:7), and he directed to himself the worship due to God only (Ezek. 28:15-19). In consequence of his sin he was cast out, degraded in position and power, becoming the opponent of God and the arch enemy of man (Isa. 14:12-17).

Satan is a fallen angel. He is called in Ezekiel 28:14 **“the anointed cherub”** and **“O covering cherub”** in Ezekiel 28:16. “Cherub” is a term applied to angels in Scripture (Gen. 3:24). There were two cherubims of gold on the mercy-seat (Ex. 25:15-22; 37: 7-8; Heb. 9:5). These golden cherubims represented two angels of God.

Angels are known for their light (Jud. 13:6; Dan. 10:6; Matt. 28:3). God dwells in unapproachable light (I Tim. 6:16), and Christ is the light of the world (John 8:12). One of the names of Satan is “Lucifer” which means “day star.” Ezekiel 28:17 speaks of Satan’s original “brightness.”

Satan can resort back to playing the person he once was. I do not believe he approached Eve in a red suit with horns on his head and a pitchfork in his hand. I believe he first appeared to our mother as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:3, 14). Satan who took the form of a serpent was hidden away in a veil of light, making it appear that God had come again into the garden to speak with them. Eve must have thought that Satan was either God or maybe an angel from the court of Heaven. She was accustomed to approaching the light and talking with God. Many times since Eden Satan has appeared as an angel of light. He appeared in the days of Job in Heaven before God as an angel of light (Job 1-2).

### A DECEIVER

The Devil operates in the realm of a lie: **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father**

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## Satan, Angel of Light

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**ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it**" (John 8:44). In Revelation 12:9 the red dragon is called **"the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."** He deceived Eve into believing God was a liar, when in truth he was the liar (I Tim. 2:14). As a consequence, his deception has settled upon the minds and hearts of Adam's descendents. Such terms as "subtlety," "blindness," "deceitfulness," "bewitched," "craftiness," "beguiled," "wiles," and "snares" are connected with him because of this.

There are two areas that Satan especially deceives people. First, there is the area of the Word of God. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and of our duty to Him. Since the Bible is God's truth, Satan must deceive men concerning it. The Prince of Darkness is behind all attacks upon the integrity, the authority, and the divine inspiration of the Bible. This is a very old program of the Devil, for in Eden he offered Eve a new Bible version.

Perhaps as never before, the Bible is being bombarded without apology in universities, in colleges, in high schools, and in grade school by infidels, evolutionists, communists, socialists, and humanists. About the only book which cannot be studied in our government school system is the Bible. The educational world is propagating Satan's lie that the Bible is not the Word of God. Liberal educators say the Bible is a curiosity of what poorly educated men once believed about God. These atheists say the Bible has no relationship to our life today. May the Lord deliver us from the deception which denies the integrity and authority of the Scriptures.

Note some statements in the writings of the Apostle Paul. **"For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ"** (II Cor. 2:17). Even in Paul's day some professed Christians were corrupters of the Word of God. Hear him again: **"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of**

**God"** (II Cor. 4:2).

In Corinth there were some hucksters who adulterated the Word of God. They weakened its authority and integrity. They accused Paul of being a liar because he did not believe what he preached. But it was the critics of Paul who were liars. Paul did not use any form of trickery to advance his preaching the Bible. His accusers were falsifying what the Bible actually said. The Accuser of the brethren was certainly behind all of these critics of Paul.

∴ Satan corrupts men's understanding of the Bible. He has

(Easter) so they can forget about it 51 other Sundays of the year.

### SATAN DECEIVES MEN ABOUT CHRIST

In II Corinthians 11:3 we read: **"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."** The supreme ambition of Satan is to take the place of Christ in the hearts of men. This is what he did in the case of Eve in Eden. When Satan succeeds in turning men from Christ, he knows that impurity will follow. At Corinth he had divided



some men convinced that the King James Bible is the only Bible they should read. He tells them not to look into the Hebrew and Greek, and by this he keeps them confused about the meanings of such words in our English translation as "hell," "church," "baptism," "devils," etc. They have been convinced that even the original Scriptures as written by Isaiah and Paul contained at least some errors. These were corrected by the inspired English translators in 1611, they say. They will tell you the only true and preserved Word of God we have is the KJV. Thus they cancel out about 1,780 years of the preservation of the Scripture for 391 years of preservation. This is about like Satan letting Christians observe the resurrection of Christ one day a year

the affections of some of the church members, and they had returned to the practices of their unconverted days.

In I John 2:21-22 it is written: **"I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."** A liar is one who denies Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the eternal Son of God who came to redeem sinners. I John 4:1-3 says: **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that**

**confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."**

Any person who denies that Jesus Christ took on true manhood permanently is possessed of the spirit of Antichrist, and he is a religious liar. Any person who makes Jesus Christ less than the eternal Son of God who came in the flesh is doing the work of the Devil. These words should strike terror to the hearts of false cults and false teachers.

Most modern-day churches do not alarm Satan, for they are in truth synagogues of Satan (Rev. 2:9). The Evil One is a very active member of most of the Sunday morning social clubs. Satan does not care what is taught in churches and religious schools so long as the preachers and teachers in these institutions subtly and satanically deny the truth of the Word of God concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ.

One danger in our generation, which did not exist in former times, is new Bible versions. I say "new Bible versions" because a translation to be true to its name is the writing down of the message into another language without changing its meaning. Many of the translators of our modern Bible versions have been men who were not committed to the full verbal inspiration of the Bible, and their low views of Scripture is reflected in their looseness of translation. If a translator is a natural man, he cannot understand the things of God (I Cor. 2:14) and cannot be trusted to put God's thoughts into correct English.

This is why I keep to the King James Version of the Bible. Though not Baptists, the translators of the KJV believed that every word placed in the original text was exactly as God intended. Their regard for verbal inspiration in translating is reflected in the use of italics in the translation wherever words were added in the English which were not in the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts, a practice not followed in modern versions.

The King James Version was a translation of the Received Text or Textus Receptus, which is the Greek text which was preserved by the Anabaptists and the Greek speaking churches themselves. The KJV was from the Masoretic Hebrew Text. I believe that the Masoretic Hebrew Text and the Textus Receptus Greek texts are the preserved Word of God in the original languages in which the Bible was first written. I also believe

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## Satan, Angel of Light

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that the King James Version is a faithful translation of these manuscripts, and this is why I use the King James Version.

Most modern versions are based on a different Greek text by men like Westcott, Hort, Nestle, and Bible societies. There are over 2,000 differences from the Received Text and these other Greek texts. Many of these new versions degrade God and Jesus Christ. Whole verses are omitted, or significant portions of a verse are omitted. There are times that one or more words are omitted and substitutions offered. The portions omitted include over 200 names of God and 150 pronouns referring to Deity. It does not take a seminary graduate to know who is behind such faulty translations. Beware of any Bible version which degrades the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### AN ANGEL OF THEOLOGY

We have an account of the temptation of Christ in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. According to Luke, our Lord was tempted 40 days. Matthew tells us that it was at the end of the 40 days that Christ was hungry, and then Satan presented the Second Adam with three temptations. There is no contradiction here. Jesus was tempted for 40 days, and then there were three final temptations in the last of the series.

In the temptation of Christ Satan appeared as an angel of theology. The temptations of Christ were threefold and similar to those he used on Eve in Eden (I John 2:16). First, there was the lust of the flesh. Jesus had not eaten for 40 days and was in the dreary desert of Judea. Earlier the Father had said at Jordan: **"This is my beloved Son."** Satan suggested that if He were the Son of God, He would not be hungry: **"If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"** (Matt. 4:3-4). Christ resisted this temptation, and He proved He could not be tempted to depart from the Word of God.

The second was the pride of life. **"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thy self down, for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written, again, Thou shalt**

**not tempt the Lord thy God"** (Matt. 4:5-7). Here Satan perverted the Scriptures to make them say what God never intended. Christ resisted and proved He could not be tempted from the Word of God.

Third, there is the lust of the eyes. From a high mountain Christ saw all the kingdom of the world and the glory of them. **"And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me"** (Matt. 4:9). If Jesus would worship the Devil, He would have at once become the king of the whole earth. Christ again resists the Devil: **"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"** (Matt. 4:10).

### AN ANGEL OF LIGHT IN FALSE TEACHERS

Even in the New Testament period some claimed to be on the level with the twelve apostles. These were tried by the churches, and they found them to be **"false apostles"** (II Cor. 11:13). As Satan changes his appearance to masquerade as an angel of light, Devil-called preachers transform themselves **"as the minister of righteousness"** (II Cor. 11:15). They pretend to be preachers of righteousness and truth, but they are in fact **"deceitful workers"** (II Cor. 11:13) and wolves **"in sheep's clothing"** (Matt. 7:15).

Satan saw Jesus Christ commission His church to preach the good news (Matt. 28:19-20). The Prince of Darkness commissioned his preachers to go out and preach lies. Christ's ministers preach in the power of the Holy Spirit, but Satan's ministers preach in the power of demons: **"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils"** (I Tim. 4:1; cf. Eph. 2:2; I John 4:1). A better rendering of the Greek would be "doctrine of demons" (The Greek word translated "devils" is *daimonion*—"demons." There is only one Devil but many demons). The expression "doctrine of demons" does not mean doctrines about demons, but the doctrines which demons teach.

Devil-called and demon-controlled preachers go forth to deceive men as they propagate a lie. They preach **"another gospel"** (Gal. 1:6) and another Jesus. II Corinthians 11:4 reads: **"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."** These false teachers, who pretend to be angels of light, will tell you Jesus Christ was a good person, but

## Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS .....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 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 9:00 - 9:30 a.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
WDBS, Sutton, WV .....	Sunday 6:30 - 7:00 a.m. ....	97.1 .....	50,000 FM
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

not God's eternal Son. They will attack the atonement of Christ, and they will say that God did not need to be propitiated, or that the redemptive work of Christ was a failure.

These heretics deny the cardinal doctrines of the Bible. While masquerading as ministers of righteousness, they are ministers of Satan. They will tell you that man does not need to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and to teach such reflects upon the integrity of human nature. They would have you reason: "Did God not make man?" Did God not do His work well? If these emissaries of the Devil cannot convince you regeneration is needless, then they insinuate that baptism regenerates and the sacraments have efficacy.

These angels of light make what is wrong appear to be right, and what is bad appear to be good: **"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"** (Isa. 5:20). These demon-controlled preachers make temptations appear white instead of black. The voice that calls to sin sounds like the voice of an angel of light rather than a demon of darkness. Young and old are led astray by the angel-dress of beautiful speech. How easily these heretics make vice look like virtue. Gentle names are given to the worst of sins. Infidelity and scepticism are called "free inquiry." They tell us the worst of crimes must be overlooked in "a spirit of toleration." The wrong use of names confounds moral distinctions, and perplexes and misleads men in regard to duty. Right must not be called wrong, or wrong right.

The ministers of Satan have great talent. They can make folly seem to be wisdom (This is what the Devil did to Eve). They make refusal to forgive others appear to be keeping one's self-respect. They make covetousness seem to be a wise provision for the future. They make world conformity seem the best means of exerting a worldly influence over people. These Devil-called preachers tell teenagers that true

religion is something to be delayed until they are old and gray-headed. These deceivers convince struggling sinners that salvation is too hard, or that there is no mercy left in God!

### CONCLUSION

1. Satan was once an angel of light. He still knows how to play an angel, and he often does. That is why we must watch out for him and his kind. It is not an ugly Devil we need to dread, but a pretty white Devil. The Prince of Darkness will not appear to be as bad as he really is. To do so would defeat his purpose of deceiving people.

2. We cannot judge by appearances. We must get below the surface of things. We must go to great lengths to ascertain right and good. Some of the worst men are priests, popes, deacons, Sunday school teachers, and preachers. Angels of light can be demons of darkness. Doctors of theology can be doctors of damnation.

3. Animals can play dead, but a man can disguise himself and live in a constant masquerade. All that glitters is not gold. Many are not what they seem to be. There is at least some hypocrite in us all. Beware of hypocrites in the church, lest you entertain demons unaware!

4. Be on guard against Satan and his crowd. **"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"** (Jas. 4:7). **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world"** (I Pet. 5:8-9). Abide in Christ who alone can keep you safe. If we live in constant fellowship with Christ, no disguise of Satan shall deceive us.

5. Sinner, beware of an angel of light. Look out for a white Devil. Be on guard, for Satan will steal this sermon from your mind. It is said of the way-side hearer: **"Then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved"** (Luke 8:12).

## Attack on Established

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assembly and were not following established doctrine of the originator of the Church. **“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”** (I Cor. 1:10). The idea that is set forth in these scriptures is that these “sects” in the church held to opinions contrary to **“the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour”** (II Pet. 3:2).

The word “heresy” comes from the Greek word, *airesiv hairesis hah'-ee-res-is*; from 138; properly, a choice, i.e. (specially\_ a party or (abstractly) disunion: -heresy [which is the Greek word itself], sect. We see this same Greek word used in only a few instances, **“But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets”** (Acts 24:14). It is also used in Galatians 5:20; II Peter 2:1. I was surprised to find that the same Greek word is translated, which I believe is rendered properly, as “sect” (See Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5; 26:5).

With all this in mind, we see that our modern day rendering is not quite correct. Heresy, as I have always heard it used, does not mean “error of doctrine” in the strictest or broadest sense. Its definition always in the Greek is a party, or sect, a group of people such as the Pharisees or the Sadducees and even Christians. I wonder how many times this word has been misused in sermons around the world. Christ, our all-sufficient example, gave us the correct words for us to use to warn others of error. **“Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. . . Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees”** (Matt. 16:6, 12).

The members as well as the pastors have a responsibility to know what their respective church stands for and to search out the desire of our Saviour as to how his churches are to conduct themselves. In doing this members are strengthened in what they believe and in turn become unified. **“Let us therefore follow after the things**

**which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another”** (Rom. 14:19).

Following after another doctrine that has never been taught by your church must be deeply examined by every member and all must bring to the table their findings. Discussion as to the way a church is heading is for the particular church alone. Outside interference must be avoided at all costs, for the sake being of independent. The important thing to remember is what does your church believe? And why has your church always believed it? And why are you hearing a new doctrine being introduced? The attack on these doctrines that the Lord’s churches hold to are only successful when the flock is not understanding of what they believe, and why they believe them. A church should have articles of faith that they frequently review and study. **“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”** (James 1:8). An assembly that does not know what they believe is as a double-minded man who is unstable in all his ways. Lack of knowledge of what you believe is a miserable state to be in indeed. Lack of unity produces lack of fellowship among the members. Lack of fellowship produces obviously a lack of communication among the members. Lack of communication means lack of love. The Apostle writes in ending his letter to the Corinthian Church: **“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you”** (II Cor. 13:11). When a church is lacking these vital points of unity it in turn widely opens the door for heresies (sects).

A church that has members who are ignorant of what their church believes is easy prey for teachers to lead them away into all kinds of false doctrine. The remedy for the attack upon established truth is simple enough. All it takes is study, study, and study. **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (II Tim. 2:15). And while you are studying always remember to. . . pray. **“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God”** (Phil. 4:6).

The next step in defending the church from an attack is to investigate what the church has always believed and why. **“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them”** (II Tim. 3:14). Sadly enough members of

churches are content to just let things go on for the sake of peace, and find later they should have used medicine for the infection which has taken a member from the body.

Each member of the Lord’s churches has a responsibility to guard the doctrines that each particular church to which he or she belongs. The Bible is our only sufficient rule of faith and practice and is our only weapon for our defense. Let us not be as those in the book of Hebrews: **“For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe”** (Heb. 5:13). The inspired writer of Ephesians says we ought to be **“no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men,**

**and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”** (Eph. 4:14).

I pray that the Lord’s people will begin going back to basics and build upon **“the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone”** (Eph. 2:20).

**“These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the**

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## The Rantings and Ravings of Brother Ritechus N. Dignation

by Joseph Harris



### WHO RUNS THE CHURCH?

I’m hopp’in mad. Yep, I’m really fired up! Now you tell me, who’s supposed to run each church? The pastor, the deacons, or the family that gives the most money? Give up? None of the above. The one who owns it is the one who’s supposed to be in charge. Last time I checked, Jesus held the title deed. He paid for it with His blood so He has more invested than anyone else. He has more say so about what goes on and how His money is spent. Or should. Generally though, just about every country church has 1 boss hog and it ain’t usually Jesus or the pastor.

Pastors aren’t perfect, but the pastor is supposed to be the human leader of the church, under Christ. Now some church member will say, “but what if he’s not following Christ?” Well, then, don’t follow him, *if he’s really not following Christ*, but that’s usually just a lame excuse to buck the pastor because that member really wants to run things. Pastor led churches are the strongest because that’s God’s plan and you can’t improve on God’s way. When a Godly man is following Christ and the people are following his leadership, things get done and

usually run smoothly. And everybody is as happy as a possum that just dodged an 18 wheeler.

You can usually tell which churches are having power struggles. They don’t grow, the people are miserable and there’s a steady stream of folks going out the back door looking for a more peaceful place to worship. In one church I pastured, I went through more pain and anguish than hav’in your teeth pulled without a painkiller (or like my friend Cowlick says, “I felt like I’d just had a mule colt, and him a’kick’in?”).

Now don’t misunderstand what I’m saying. There’s a difference between a pastor run’n a church and lead’in a church. I don’t believe in a man “run’n in” a church. Sheep can be hard to drive but easy to lead. Ultimately the church has the final authority. After all, they can vote the man in or out. The pastor and church should agree from the beginning that he is the leader with the church delegating that authority to them. He should be in charge of the pulpit too, because he will give account to God for what comes out of it. Every church belongs first to God, but He calls pastors to lead his churches, not deacons, committees, or big givers. Follow God’s man as he leads and everyone will be happier.

Brother RND



## Attack on Established

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**presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee**" (I Tim. 4:11-16). The pastors of churches are to be examples to the flock in conduct and doctrine. The more the pastor is grounded in the Word through study, prayer, and much meditation, the more equipped is he for defending the flock from heresies. I have always heard my mother say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Pastors are to expose error to the Lord's people in a manner that is unquestionably simple and solidly built upon the foundation of truth. Confusion is a rough road, and a dry, steep hill for the sheep of the pasture. Error in the church is discomfiting and agitates the unity of the membership. The Lord's sheep are precious in His sight, and He gives them peace and comfort. **"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints"** (I Cor. 14:33). Those that have been called to care for the sheep have a responsibility to keep confusion out of the churches. This in no way implies that all the effort is placed upon the Pastor. The church is **"the pillar and ground of the truth"** (I Tim. 3:15). The pastor can only do as much as the church he pastors allows him to do.

Many of the epistles in the New Testament are written to churches for their understanding of how to guard against false doctrines and heresies (sects) from entering in. **"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction"** (II Pet. 2:1). I believe the problem today is that error is not exposed as error. Too many times I hear, "We do not believe this such and such belief to be a damnable heresy." Sad it is when Baptist pastors and Baptist churches are so indulgent to false doctrine. The sect that Peter was referring to will be brought into the church by teachers who hold to doctrines that are contrary to established doctrines of the local church concerning the Lord Jesus. Guarding against these kinds of sects takes the whole church to be unified in what it believes. A house divided against itself will fall.

In the beginning of the article I said that we had a problem with political correctness. The desire not to offend the people with hard sayings, and doctrines of distinction, has led many to an unstable end. When speaking to his disciples Jesus did not sugar coat a particular doctrine and said: **"Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father"** (John 6:65). The results of hard sayings and doctrines of distinction to those who want everybody to "just get along" fear what happens in the next verse. **"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him"** (John 6:66). The doctrine of this world would have us to be at peace with all kinds of false doctrine for the sake of peace and good will among other religious societies. However, the problem I see even among our own people is that error is tolerated for the sake of "not rocking the boat." Each individual church is to stand for what it believes. Drawing lines and not crossing the lines is called being an independent church. Respect for the beliefs of other independent churches is paramount in fellowship.

The trap that I see being sprung today is the idea that the Lord's churches need to advance with the times. **"But that which ye have already hold fast till I come"** (Rev. 2:25). This is a command from the Lord in His churches to not fall from established truth. The church may invite preachers, or place teachers who hold to different doctrinal beliefs than the church and allow them to have free rein to preach or teach whatever they want. The result of this is that "sects" who hold to those different teachings than what the church believes begin to form, thus causing divisions. **"For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you"** (I Cor. 11:18). This leads us to the last point of this article.

The Lord's churches are under a great deal of pressure, not just from outside sources, but also from within. The Lord's people are inundated everyday by this world to conform to it rather than the Lord. Beware, my brothers and sisters, of false doctrines and those who would deal with you deceitfully. **"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose**

**end shall be according to their works"** (II Cor. 11:13). We are commanded to stand fast and keep the things that have been given to us and use them for the edification of the saints. The desire of some to creep in to spoil the people with false doctrine is deceitful and full of wicked intentions. **"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"** (I Cor. 16:13).

**"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen"** (Rom. 16:17-20).

## 100 World-Known

*Continued from page 381*

but it is of such central importance in the New Testament that ignorance or neglect of it leaves the Scriptures open to skeptical attacks."

"Let us not forget that Matt. 24 and 25 relate to the Coming of the Son of Man. Never once does the Lord's title, as the Son of Man, occur in the Epistles of the New Testament; never once is it used in Scripture in relation to the Church of God or the people of God in this dispensation. Surely this fact alone might save us from the error of confounding the Coming of the Son of Man for the deliverance of His earthly people, and the judgment of the living nations on earth, with the coming of the Lord to call His heavenly people home."

**David Anderson-Berry, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.,** Author of "The Unfinished Work of Jesus."

"The Return of the Lord is marked by a prelude, and that prelude the disappearance of all the saints, both dead and living, from the earth. This is followed by the Judgment of Rewards, when all the saints "caught up" stand at the judgment-seat (bema) of Christ. During this time all that leads up to 'the Tribulation, the Great One,' and 'the' tribulation itself takes place on earth. The Son of Man Comes *with* His saints, delivers His chosen people, destroys their enemies, and sits down on His earthly throne—the throne of His father

David—to judge the living nations, the Gentiles (Matt. 25:31-46)."

**Harold P. Barker,** well-known Teacher in Britain, Portugal, West Indies, and elsewhere.

"Both my father (Wm. Barker) and my grandfather were firm believers in the Coming of the Lord as the imminent Hope of the Christian. So I was accustomed to hear of it from my earliest days. But a time came when I determined to take nothing for granted, but to search for myself, to find out the truth of things. I turned to the Scriptures and was amazed to discover how full and definite is the testimony that they bear to the fact that *Christ is personally to return*. I found passages in the New Testament that show beyond all doubt that world-conversion is not God's program for the present age; nor is it the object for which the Gospel is to be preached to people of all nations. On the contrary, the world will get worse and worse, till it resembles what it was in the days of Noah. Then, suddenly, the Son of Man will be seen Coming in the clouds of Heaven. But, *before this* happens, I found that the Lord is Coming to take those who are His, whether living or dead, to be with Him; to transform them to His own likeness and to have them with Him when He appears in power and glory to take His kingdom, and reign from the river to the ends of the earth."

**Dr. J. A. Bengel,** Theologian and Commentator, Author of "Gnomon Novi Testamenti."

"The early Church fully believed that the Second Coming of Christ would precede or usher in the thousand years of His reign with the saints. Those who watch do not need to be told when the hour will come, for they are *always ready*."

**Prof. T. R. Birks,** Evangelical Divine.

"A personal Advent of Christ is the theme, the main theme, of the whole Bible. The past Advent did not accomplish the full results predicted. Since it became history, a Second Advent has been the dominant note in every prophetic strain; and in the Apocalypse it becomes more prominent than ever. From the 'Behold! He cometh with clouds' of the first chapter to the 'Behold, I come quickly' of the last, this theme pervades the Book."

**W. E. Blackstone,** Author of the well-known book, "Jesus is Coming."

"Will the Coming of Christ occur before the Millennium, and may it therefore happen at any moment, as Pre-Millennialists believe? or will it occur after the Millennium, and thus be at last, a thousand years in the future? as Post-Millennialists believe.

*Continued on page 389*



## 100 World-Known

Continued from page 388

"For want of space, we refer the reader to 'The Voice of the Church,' by D. T. Taylor, to show the long line of eminent witnesses, embracing Hermas, Justin, and the martyrs, Luther, Melancthon, Mede, Milton, Burnett, Isaac Newton, Watts, Charles Wesley, Toplady, and a host of others, illustrious in the annals of the Church, who, through the past eighteen centuries, have borne overwhelming testimony to the truth of the Pre-Millennial Coming of Christ."

**F. C. Bland**, Dublin, well-known Teacher, Author of "Twenty-One Prophetic Papers," and other works.

"The judgments spoken of in Revelation take place within the compass of the prophetic earth. It must be remembered that the Church of this dispensation is outside of the scene, and that the Coming of the Lord for His saints *need not be delayed one day* for the fulfillment of any prophecy relating to the earth."

**Dr. Andrew Bonar**, the well-known Presbyterian Minister, Glasgow.



"The main point of Dr. Bonar's prophetic system was the Pre-Millennial advent of the Lord. He did not presume to de-

Andrew Bonar

termine times and seasons, but he was disposed to think that the accomplishment of the 'Blessed Hope' was drawing near. He thought it possible that some of those who heard him might be 'alive and remain' at the appearing of the Bridegroom. He found in practice that a habitual outlook towards the Lord's return fostered a spirit of preparedness to meet the Coming One, and so became a potent aid to sanctification. But perhaps it was his love to the Master more than any other consideration which made this doctrine so dear to him."

**Hebert Brooke**, a minister well known at Keswick and other large gatherings.

"Look forward. . . just far enough for the Lord to come again. *That may be very soon!* We are so sick of the world's troubles that cannot be healed 'till He come,' that we are longing for Him to come and set up His Kingdom, and when He does come and finds that wonderful temple of believers (Eph. 2:21, 22), He is going to be admired by the whole world!

Are you a living stone in that temple? (I Pet. 2:5)."

**Dr. Jas. H. Brooks**, St. Louis, American Minister, Author of "I am Coming," "God Spake All these Words," and works.

"Beyond question, the doctrine of our Lord's Second Coming is the commanding motive of the New Testament. There is no predicted event between this passing moment and His Coming into the air, but much remains to be fulfilled before He comes to the earth. It would be Scriptural to say, 'the Lord *may* come today, or tomorrow, or next week, or next month, or next year.' It would be unscriptural to say, 'the Lord *will* not come today, nor tomorrow, nor next week, nor next month, nor next year.' 'Surely I come quickly (suddenly) (Rev. 22:20)."

"There are 7959 verses in the New Testament, and of these 330, or one in 25, directly refer to His Second Coming, nor is there any subject but faith that is mentioned more frequently. In all these verses, without a single exception, His Coming means His Coming and nothing else."

**A. H. Burton, B. A., M.D.**, Editor of the *Advent Witness*, Author of many Prophetic Books.

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout' (I Thess. 4:16). I want to tell you something very interesting about the word 'shout.' This is the only place in the New Testament where the Greek word here translated 'shout' occurs, and it means not a shout of terror, not a startling shout; it is a word of encouragement. It is the word that was used in olden times to encourage the rowers. They used to have boats with twenty, thirty, or forty rowers, and it was a difficult thing for them all to keep stroke together, so the captain would give a little sound to encourage the men, and that is the word here. It is the shout of encouragement for the people of God, the word that calls them, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. The One that loves us, who has done so much for us, will be there on the threshold of the glory, and He is going to take us in to the marriage supper. What a scene that will be! The point therefore in this passage is that those that sleep in Jesus will be raised, and then we which are alive will be changed, and then, for one brief moment or so, in 'the twinkling of an eye,' we shall be together, and then caught up to meet the Lord in the air. We are living in times when everything *points to the nearness of the Lord's Coming*. Without fixing dates, all that is happening in the world around us, everything points to the fact that THE LORD IS COMING."

**J. R. Caldwell**, Glasgow, many

years Editor of *The Witness*, Author of "The Charter of the Church," and several other volumes.

"'Looking for the Lord.' Not merely for deliverance from foes, or for rest from toil and warfare, or for entrance into an inheritance, but for a kn: *Living Person*—for a known and trusted Friend—for Him whose love, stronger than death, was set upon us while yet we were alienated and enemies in our mind, who, having loved His own, loves them to the end, JESUS 'the same yesterday, today, and for ever,' 'the chiefest among ten thousand, and altogether lovely.' To see Him as He is, to be like Him, to be with Him, to worship Him, to walk with Him, to serve Him, to hold unbroken communion with Him, to be the friends with whom He shall take sweet counsel, the partakers of His glory, the sharers of His dominion, for ever and ever to be in the full enjoyment of what now is indeed true, but so feebly apprehended, 'One Spirit,' with the Lord, 'members of the Body of Christ.' *Blessed Hope.*"

**Lewis S. Chaffer**, American Bible Teacher, Author of "Personal Work in Evangelism," "Satan," etc.



Lewis S. Chaffer

"If Christ is to return only after a Millennium of a saved and sanctified earth, ushered in by the present form of Christian ministry and service, the numerous injunctions to be personally 'watching,' 'waiting,' and 'looking,' could well be taken as wrong in the light of the fact that even a tendency toward such a man-made Millennium is not discernible after 2000 years of God's dealings in grace with the children of men."

**Samuel Chadwick**, Methodist Minister, Head of Cliff College.

"The faith of the New Testament is that Christ rose again, ascended into Heaven, was exalted at the right hand of God, that *He will come again*, and that the kingdom of God shall be established upon earth. The faith of the Second Coming is everywhere in the New Testament. We go wrong when we turn to arithmetic, but of the expectation of His Coming there is no doubt whatever."

**Dr. Thomas Chalmers**, the great Scottish Scholar and Preacher, rightly called "the Great Chalmers," was a strong believer in our Lord's Second Coming.

"Of this I am satisfied, that the next Coming of Christ will be a Coming,

not final judgment, but a Coming to usher in the Millennium. I utterly despair of the universal prevalence of Christianity as the result of a missionary process. I look for its conclusive



Thomas Chalmers

establishment through a widening passage of desolations and judgments, with the demolition of our civil and ecclesiastical structures. "Overturn, Overturn, Overturn," is the watchword of our Coming Lord.

"I desire to cherish a more habitual and practical faith than heretofore in that Coming which even the first Christians were called to hope for with all earnestness, even though many centuries were to elapse ere the hope could be realized; and how much more we who are *so much nearer* this great fulfillment than at the time when we believed!"

**Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman**, the well-known Evangelist.



Wilbur Chapman

"I could wish for my friends no greater joy than that which is mine, in the thought that He is coming back, and may come soon. I do not think it has ever made me fanatical; I do not see how it could. This is a blessed hope to me because, 'every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure' (I John 3:3). It does not mean every man that hath this hope in himself, but in Jesus as the Son of God, and in His near return. The thought that He is Coming back again keeps one pure, for how could we be worldly and indifferent if, at any moment, He might appear? So, I am looking for Him and longing for Him, and as I look and long, I toil the best I know how."

**Dr. James Culross**, a well-known minister.

"It is not merely prophets and apostles who have told us of His Return; He has done so Himself, and that not merely by way of bare prediction, . . . but by way of promise. *Were He not to Return*, He would break His Word! The promise meets us again and again, and in the greatest variety of forms."

**Fannie J. Crosby**, the Blind

Continued on page 390



# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

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PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

Is there any justification for going into debt according to the Scriptures? --- Texas



**Garner Smith**  
113 Keith Drive  
Clarksville, TN 37043

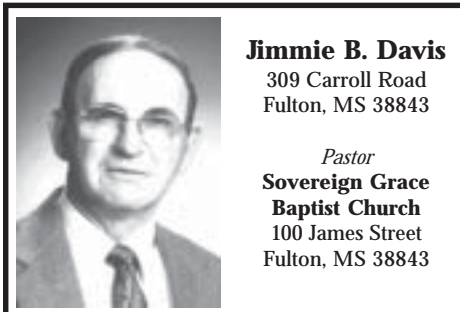
*Pastor*  
**Faith Baptist Church**  
2590 Madison Ext.  
Clarksville, TN 37043

I do not know of any Scripture that encourages nor forbids going into debt, but there are Scriptures that warn about the dangers of debt, Proverbs 22:7 etc. The idea is that debt puts one in the circumstances that can bring great pressure to bear on the debtor. This could put one in a position to be influenced to yield to temptation to do wrong or at least compromise their convictions.

I realize that due to the conditions of our society today, debt is a common practice and if used properly can make life a little easier for middle or lower income families to have things they would otherwise be unable to have. One must be careful not to over extend oneself in debt where they might not be able to pay and therefore be guilty of dishonesty.

I believe the Bible teaches believers to live according to their means and not to let the desire for the things of this world to cause us to go beyond our means to pay and be dishonest.

GARNER SMITH



**Jimmie B. Davis**  
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The words "debt" and "debtor" appear seventeen times in Scripture, and the words are associated with different responsibilities. Paul's use of the word in Romans 1:14 concerns his responsibility of declaring the gospel both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians. Our Lord taught that we should be ready to forgive others of their debts if we expect forgiveness for our debts (Matt. 6:12). It is made plain in Scripture that a debt does not in all cases refer to owing money to another.

In the Old Testament, Scriptures can be cited which condemn unjust usury (interest rate) on money loaned to another. The New Testament would not, and does not, in any way justify one who seeks to evade a debt owed to another. However, I don't have any Scripture which would forbid a person from ever being in debt to another. I have heard people use the first part of Romans 13:8 to condemn those who borrow money, but I believe this an improper use of Scripture. It is my view or understanding that as long as a person who owes something to another has committed no wrong until a default is made in the initial agreement of repayment between the borrower and the lender.

Very few people that I know would ever be able to have anything but a struggling and bare existence without having to borrow from some person or institution. The problem that all Christians are to carefully avoid is going in debt above their ability to repay. No child of God should ever permit the burden of debt to become so heavy that his/her reputation and witness for Christ is endangered. Christians should never become deadbeats when debts are concerned.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



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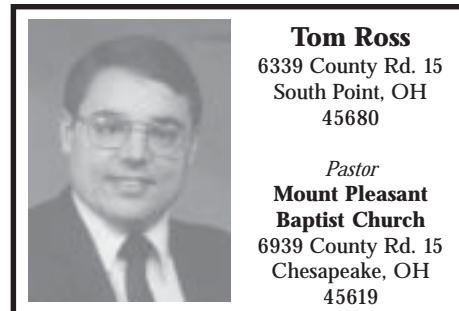
**"Own no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law"** (Rom. 13:8).

When we look at this verse by itself it appears to teach that we are not to be indebted to anyone. But when we examine the text closely, we see that it is instructing us to pay what is due, to leave no debt unpaid. In verse seven, we are told to pay what is due whether it be money, fear, or honor.

There are many reasons that men go into debt. It would be almost impossible for most people to have a home, auto, and many other things if they could not buy on credit. I do not believe that it is wrong for one to go

into debt for the right reason, but we must pay our debts on time as we have agreed. Many abuse credit and become so indebted that they cannot pay what they owe. God's people should exercise great care, entering into debt only when it is necessary, and only when they are sure that they can make the payment when due.

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This is certainly a difficult and controversial question. Some have pulled Romans 13:8 out of its context to prove that we should not owe anyone anything. The emphasis of the context is the importance of Christian love as the fulfilling of the law, not the issue of monetary debt. Taken to its logical end, we would have to pay our electric, water, phone bills, etc., before we ever used the services. I do believe that it is wrong to go into debt for things that you know full well you cannot afford or will not pay off. Many people go into credit card debt and are unable to get out from it because of poor management of their finances.

It would be next to impossible to own a home or build a church building in today's economy without incurring some debt. To maintain a Christian testimony it is vital that we make our payments on time and in full for the debts that we owe. If we are faithful to do this, I believe we are meeting our financial obligations in a God-honoring manner.

Ideally, it would be wonderful to literally be debt free. However, I don't know many people that really are. Let us labor to pay the debt we owe to everyone, namely to love them by sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them.

TOM ROSS

## 100 World-Known

Continued from page 389

American Poetess, Authoress of some 7000 hymns. Her pieces are found in most hymn books.



**Fanny Crosby**

*"O, the King is surely Coming, and the time is drawing nigh,*

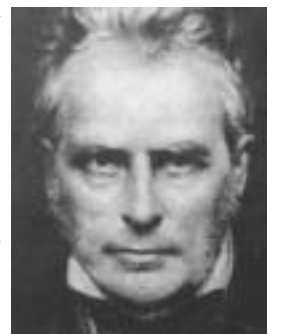
*When the blessed day of promise we shall see;*

*Then the changing "in a moment," in "the twinkling of an eye,"*

*And for ever in His presence we shall be."*

**J. N. Darby**, Author of the "Synopsis of the Bible," "New Translation," and numerous other works.

"The great tribulation is either Jewish, as in Matt. 24, or over the whole earth after the Church is gone (Rev. 7); with neither of these has the Church to do."



**J. N. Darby**

Continued in next issue

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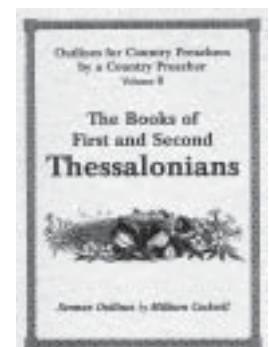
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# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

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*Is it scriptural for a Baptist Church to give the pastor and a few deacons the authority to take the Lord's Supper to shut-ins that are either terminally ill or unable to attend services? -- Illinois*



**Garner Smith**  
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In these Scriptures the apostle Paul makes it very clear that there are restrictions placed upon the observance of the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance as shown in these Scriptures, commanding church discipline. It was carried out when the church was assembled together as a church. Thus showing that it was governed by the church.

I Corinthians 11:1-34 teaches how a church should operate including the Lord's Supper. Therefore only a local church can observe the Lord's Supper. It can only be observed when the church is gathered together not by individuals at other specific or unspecified places. The church or no one else ever has the permission to usurp authority over God's restrictions on ordinances.

The Lord only gave the local church authority to preach the gospel, baptize those saved and teach to observe all the ordinances of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). To go beyond this command and make rules contrary to this command is to usurp authority over the Lord and His church.

GARNER SMITH



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When our Lord instituted the ordinance of the Lord's Supper only those who were present participated in the observance. All that is necessary to understand this is to read the record given in the Scriptures which relate to the ordinance being instituted after the Passover had been observed.

The apostolic references to the

Lord's Supper in I Corinthians 11 and elsewhere speak of the church coming together in one place. No mention of the Lord's Supper being taken outside the local assembly is found. A Baptist church should not authorize a few deacons and the pastor to go beyond the pattern set forth in Scripture. No church has authority to violate the New Testament pattern in anything established by our Lord.

It is sad that some religionists have taught that the observance of ordinances is a means of sacramental grace, making the observance of ordinances necessary to the achievement of salvation. I can understand why people who believe this engage in the type of practice mentioned in this question, but for the life of me I cannot understand why any Baptist church would permit something which cannot be proven by biblical command or example.

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**"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread"** (I Cor. 10:16-17).

The unleavened bread represents the sinless body of Christ; but, in this text, Paul speaks of the one bread (loaf) and one body. The one loaf represents the unity of the one body. The Lord's Supper was given by Christ to His church. It is a church ordinance and must be taken only by the members of the church. When the Lord instituted the supper only the members of His church were present. Paul speaks of the church coming together into one place to take the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:20).

I believe that the Lord's Supper can only be taken by the members of a

church that has assembled in unity. If a church has members that are shut-ins or terminally ill, the church can assemble at their location and take the Lord's Supper.

DAVID O'NEAL

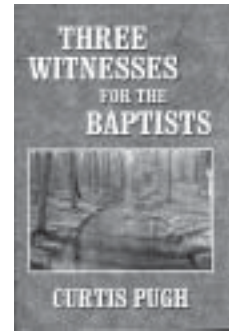


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No. The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance that is to be observed by the local body of baptized believers when assembled together. There is no record of the Lord's Supper being observed by individuals who are unable to attend the assembly for whatever reason. Catholics and Campbellites are fond of this unscriptural practice because they attach some saving grace to the ordinance.

TOM ROSS

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And how He died for me,  
I was stricken with remorse,  
And as shamed as I could be.

When e'er my eyes were opened,  
My sinful state was clear,  
I prayed dear Lord forgive me,  
Please draw me ever near.

My new life then was started,  
With eagerness to please,  
My Savior, Lord, and God,  
Was sought upon my knees.

Then as the days drew forward,  
Temptations came around,  
My flesh was weak and feeble,  
My thoughts were oft' unsound.

Mistakes were made aplenty,  
And griefs I carry still,  
From dishonoring my Savior,  
In pursuing my own will.

God's mercy then abounded,  
And drew me close again,  
Reminding me that victory,  
Is only wrought in Him.

God's will is always best,  
Keeps ringing in my heart,  
I must follow my Lord and Savior,  
No matter what it may impart.

And as life's journey continues,  
And all too soon is through,  
Dear Lord please help me,  
To keep my eyes on You.

For all that really matters,  
Is not of this world won,  
But being in Your will,  
And praising Jesus Christ the Son.

I long to see my Savior,  
On that blessed day,  
When in Heaven His glory,  
Will surround the saints always.

Cyd James (6/02)

# 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

## RAPE OF CHRISTIAN GIRL IN PAKISTAN IGNORED BY POLICE

GUJRANWALA, PAKISTAN (ANS)—The rape of a 16-year-old girl in Pakistan has been ignored by police because of her religious beliefs. Shakeela Siddique, a Christian from Fatewala village in the northeastern Gujranwala district, was reportedly raped by an influential local Muslim landlord in February 2002.

Traumatized and ashamed, Shakeela kept quiet about her ordeal. The incident only came to light two months later when she realized she was pregnant. In order to avoid social stigma, she was forced to have an abortion (illegal in Pakistan) at the end of April and has suffered from severe depression since the attack.

When her father, Siddique Masih, attempted to confront the alleged rapist, he was badly beaten up. He told Christian Liberation Front, a Pakistani human rights group: "My everything has been ruined as my daughter is now a living corpse. No Christian in our village dares to raise his voice against the Muslim landlords."

There are about 150 Muslim families and 50 Christian families living in Fatewala and most of the Christians are poor peasants employed by Muslims. In February 2001, Naira Nadia, a 14-year-old Christian girl, was kidnapped and gang raped by a group of Muslim men.

This was apparently a reprisal for sharing her faith with her school friends. The group forcibly converted her to Islam and sent her parents a certificate of conversion. Despite evidence that Naira was underage and therefore could not marry or convert to another faith without her parents' consent, the presiding judge at Lahore High Court ruled in favor of the abductor.

Naira has been missing for almost 17 months. Her family filed an appeal to the Supreme Court in February this year, but they are under increasing pressure from local Muslims to drop the case.

In May 2000, eight Christian girls were allegedly gang raped by six Muslims. Their case went before the Ferozwala District and Sessions Court in May 2002 and the judge ruled against the girls. It is widely believed that he did so because of pressure from extremist who packed the courtroom at every stage of the proceedings.

Minority women who are rape victims are often forcibly converted to Islam and

married to their rapists or sold into prostitution. According to a ruling of the Lahore High Court, if a non-Muslim married woman converts to Islam, her marriage is automatically dissolved. In some cases, the rape, conversion, marriage and even subsequent divorce can take place in a single evening.

In Pakistan, women who have been raped are at risk of being accused of committing adultery, the penalty for which is death by stoning. To successfully defend a charge of adultery, the burden falls on the victim to prove rape, requiring four adult Muslim males to testify that they have witnessed the act.

**"Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished"** (Isa. 13:16).

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## PERJURY CHARGE AGAINST ATHEIST REQUIRED?

Michael Newdow alleged to have lied under oath

By Austin Miles

Special to ASSIST News Service

BRENTWOOD, CA (ANS)—The study of law includes the legal element of perjury. This means lying to a court of law under oath for which punishment is required to keep our legal system workable. In the now infamous lawsuit where the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision declared the Pledge of Allegiance illegal because it contains the phrase, "under God," a case can be made to charge the plaintiff in that case with perjury.

The suit was brought to court by Michael A. Newdow, an atheist from Sacramento who claimed that his second grade daughter was required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance against her will at the Elk Grove Unified School District.

The reference, "under God," claimed Newdow, "that my daughter was forced to recite, caused her emotional damage, stress, anxiety and a sense of being left out. I'm an American citizen. I don't like my rights infringed upon by my government," he said.

Judge Alfred T. Goodwin, of The 9<sup>th</sup> U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, a court known to lean to the left of Berkeley, hastened to bang the gavel and declare the Pledge of Allegiance, unconstitutional.

An investigative report by WorldNetDaily.com revealed that Newdow has been separated from his wife and daughter, who want no part of his ravings. They are in fact, Christians and members of Chuck Smith's Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California, where they live.

The daughter, who was involuntarily dragged in as a pawn in this case, daily recited the pledge in school (including the phrase, "under God,") willingly. She was not emotionally injured or damaged in any way as falsely claimed by her absent father, Michael Newdow, in order to deceive the court into making this insane ruling.

Furthermore, Newdow stated this over CNN: "The only way I could file this case was to use my daughter as a hook." A daughter he was separated from, and a daughter who, with her mother, disagrees with her father's actions and atheism.

The courts of America have been swift to apply the laws of perjury. This infamous case, which has outraged most Americans, even more so due to the fraudulent manner in which this case was brought to the court, dictates that perjury charges be filed against Newdow. He lied to the court under oath. This is a crime. The public must demand that The 9<sup>th</sup> U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco charge Michael Newdow with perjury and punish him to the full extent of the law.

The law applies to everyone, even liberals. This charge of perjury cannot be ignored by Judge Alfred T. Goodwin.

**". . .surely they swear falsely"** (Jer. 5:2).

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## MISSIONARY DIES, WIFE RECOVERED DURING RESCUE ATTEMPT IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA, Philippines (EP)—A smiling but tearful Gracia Burnham arrived in Kansas City, Kansas on June 10 after spending over a year as a hostage of militant Muslim rebels in the jungles of the Philippines with her husband Martin.

Islamic Abu Sayyaf rebels linked to Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden kidnapped the couple and 18 others from Dos Palmas Resort on the Philippine island of Palawan on May 27, 2001.

On June 7, Filipino troops attacked the Abu Sayyaf camp where the Burnhams were being held along with native nurse Eldiborah Yap. Martin Burnham was allegedly wounded during an exchange of gunfire between the rebels and the troops. The *New York Times* reports that the fatal shots were fired by Filipino troops who allegedly had trouble picking out their Abu Sayyaf enemies through the rain and jungle brush. Yap was also killed during the rescue.

Garcia was taken to a military hospital in Zamboanga after the rescue. Brigadier General Emmanuel Teodosio, commander of Philippine troops involved

in the military action, said that a bullet had grazed Garcia's right leg. That same day, Teodosio announced that Garcia was in good health.

According to Reuters News Service, Martin was hit by gunfire, then fell across Garcia to shield her from being hit. Mary Jones, Garcia's younger sister, said in an interview on Filipino television that the two lay in that position for about 20 minutes before he died. Garcia said she felt his body become heavy during the firefight and concluded that he was dead.

"She said that it was very peaceful and she was glad that she was able to be with him when it happened," said Jones.

Before she boarded the plane bound for Kansas City, Garcia made some quick remarks to the press. "We want to thank each and every one of you for every time you remembered us in prayer," she said. "We needed every single prayer you said for us during our ordeal in the jungle."

**"For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners"** (Ps. 69:33).

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## SUPPORT FOR ISLAMIST MILITANCY GROWING IN WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS MUSLIM NATION

JAKARTA, Indonesia (EP)—A major newspaper in Indonesia reported that the nation's extremist Islamist organizations are banding together to "fight to the bitter end" and are seeking popular support to carry out their jihad, or holy war.

According to an article in *Republika*, two large Muslim groups with millions of followers in Indonesia have expressed their support for several radical Muslim groups, most of which are involved in terrorism both in Indonesia and around the world. Included in that list of groups is the Laskar Jihad, a terrorism group that has killed hundreds of Christian residents on the Maluku Islands of Indonesia since 1999. The leader of the group, Jafar Umar Thalib, is currently in jail on charges of terrorism and undermining the Indonesian government.

During a radio address on May 1, Thalib denounced Jews, Christians, supporters of Israel, and America's allies. "We are even ready to face fighter planes and helicopters," announced Thalib. "We do not care. All of this is a warning to the world. You listen to this. Woe to the pawns of America."

International Christian Concern (ICC), a Christian rights organization, stated in a special report released June 7 that the U.S. is not trying to curb militancy in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that Indonesia is an incubator of terrorism and yet too little attention has been given to this growing threat, not only a threat within Indonesia, but worldwide," stated ICC. "The Indonesian government has so

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far failed to hold accountable those responsible for the killing of civilians in the islands of Maluku, Sulawesi, and in East Timor."

ICC added, "It is of paramount importance that the United States government and the international community address the increasingly radical agenda being fomented by Indonesia's Muslim extremists, and that the U. S. be wary in providing military assistance without direct involvement and oversight."

"Who rejoice to do evil. . ." (Prov. 2:14).

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VENTURA, Calif. (EP)—A low percentage of Americans attend church weekly, according to research by George Barna published in his new book *The State of the Church: 2000*.

Barna research shows that fewer than one out of three adults attend church every week. The 2002 data revealed that weekly church attendance stayed at a steady 43 percent among adults, up from a five-year low of 40 percent. While church attendance saw a spike immediately following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the rate returned to normal within a few weeks.

A Barna Research statement noted that the low attendance numbers were "partially due to a noteworthy decline in regularity among Catholics." The statement added, "The explosion of the number and quality of lifestyle diversions, combined with the nationwide decline in acceptance of rules and absolutes, has diminished people's sense of commitment and spiritual urgency regarding worship participation."

Barna's research shows that the number of unchurched adults in America has increased considerably since the early 1990s. In 1991, just 24 percent of adults were considered unchurched, meaning they had not attended a regular church service in the past six months (not including a funeral, wedding or other special church ceremony). By contrast, a decade later 34 percent of adults are considered unchurched. Barna attributes the rise to decreased church attendance among Baby Boomers, women, Hispanics, and residents of the nation's Northeast and West coast.

Barna also found that currently only about 50 percent of adults who call themselves Christians say they are "absolutely committed" to the Christian faith. While that number has remained steady since 1998, one significant finding was that only 38 percent of the "Baby Buster" generation (the one significant following the Baby Boomers) claimed to be committed Christians. Noted Barna, "that statistic is not only the lowest figure

among any of the four adult generations and way below the national norm, but it is consistent with the low levels of spiritual investment among young adults."

Barna explained that while young adults are typically comfortable with making faith a part of their lifestyles, "the data portray Busters to be generally disinterested in typical faith pursuits, long-accepted Christian beliefs and long-standing religious events and institutions."

One shocking finding from Barna's survey was that millions of Americans who claim to be Christians believe that Jesus was sinful like the rest of humanity. Presently 25 percent "strongly agree" that Jesus Christ sinned while he was on earth. Another 19 percent agree with that notion somewhat less emphatically. Barna found that eight percent "somewhat disagree" that Jesus Christ was sinful, and only 40 percent of those surveyed "strongly disagree" that while "He lived on earth, Jesus Christ committed sins. . . ." Eight percent of those claiming to be Christians were not sure what to think. Barna noted that if the "'agree' and 'disagree' opinions are combined and compared, the survey suggests that 44 percent agree that Jesus sinned and 48 percent reject that notion."

Young adults were most likely to say that Jesus sinned, according to Barna's findings. Catholics were slightly more likely to have this view than were Protestants, and, among Protestants, those attending mainline churches were more likely to strongly agree that Jesus was sinful on earth than those attending congregations not considered mainline.

Among non-evangelical born-again Christians, some 20 percent "strongly agree" that Christ sinned, while nearly 13 percent agree less emphatically, and six percent "somewhat disagree." Another five percent are not sure what to believe. Noted Barna, "In other words, nearly half of the non-evangelical born-again segment (46 percent) did not strongly disagree with the notion that Christ sinned."

Barna said that perhaps the most surprising revelation from data in *The State of the Church: 2000* is "the paradox of living in a culture defined by constant change, with a nation of people who admit to confusion regarding purpose, meaning and truth, and yet finding that there has

been no real change in the spiritual views and endeavors of the people. Layer on top of that the fact that churches have raised and spent more than \$500 billion dollars in the past decade to try to influence America's spiritual life and it seems pretty obvious that it takes more than good intentions and a menu of popular programs to make a dent in the nation's religious identity and consciousness."

*The State of the Church: 2000* is available from the Barna Research Group ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)).

**"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils"** (I Tim. 4:1).

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### BUSH ADDRESSES SOUTHERN BAPTISTS DURING ANNUAL CONVENTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—President Bush addressed the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo. June 11, speaking via satellite from the nation's capital.

Bush recalled the influence Baptists have had throughout America's history, noting that they were "among the earliest champions of religious tolerance and freedom. Baptists have long upheld the ideal of a free church in a free state. And from the beginning, they believed that forcing a person to worship against his will violated the principles of both Christianity and civility."

The president acknowledged the nearly 16 million members of today's SBC, recounting that from "your denomination have come presidents like Harry Truman and preachers like Roger Williams and Billy Graham, a man who has played such an important role in nurturing my faith."

He noted that Baptists have helped to guard the separation of church and state, while seeking to maintain the vital interest of religious faith in the political process. "Baptists believe as America's founders did, that religious faith is the moral anchor of American life," Bush said.

"Throughout history, people of faith have often been our nation's voice of conscience," Bush said. "We all know that men and women can be good without faith. And we also know that faith is an incredibly important source of goodness in our country."

Noting that "true faith" is never isolated from the rest of life, Bush told his listeners, "Our democratic government is one way to promote social justice and the common good, which is why the Southern Baptist Convention has become a powerful voice for some of the great issues of our time."

Bush also noted the common commitments he shared with his listeners.

"We believe in fostering a culture of life, and that marriage and family are sacred institutions that should be preserved and strengthened."

Addressing the present fight in Congress over the issue of cloning for medical research, he said, "We believe that a life is a creation, not a commodity, and that our children are gifts to be loved and protected, not products to be designed and manufactured by human cloning."

The president observed the connection between the church and others of his policy initiatives, saying "We believe that protecting human dignity and promoting human rights should be at the center of America's foreign policy. We believe that our government should view the good people who work in faith-based charities as partners, not rivals. We believe that the days of discriminating against religious institutions simply because they are religious must come to an end."

Bush was careful to keep his remarks in the realm of a generic "faith" never specifically endorsing the Christianity he has publicly confessed. While noting that faith tends to make people tolerant of and civil toward others with divergent ideals, Bush added, "Yet you also know that civility does not require us to abandon deeply held beliefs. Civility and firm resolve can live easily with one another."

He noted the vital link between faith and concern for the needy throughout society, saying that God's love for the poor inspires many to sacrificial giving and kindness. "For some people, Jesus' admonition to care 'for the least of these' is an admirable moral teaching," Bush said. "For many Baptists, it is a way of life."

The president also recalled how the nation turned to God in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "Millions of Americans turned to prayer for wisdom and resolve, for compassion and courage, and for grace and mercy," Bush said. "And in these moments of prayer, we are reminded of important truths: that suffering is temporary, that hope is eternal, and that the ruthless will not inherit the earth. Our faith teaches us that while weeping may endure for a night, joy comes in the morning. And while faith will not make our path easy, it will give us strength for the journey ahead."

Bush concluded his remarks to the Southern Baptists by saying, "I want to thank you all for your good works. You're believers, and you're patriots, faithful followers of God and good citizens of America. And one day, I believe that it will be said of you, 'Well done, good and faithful servants. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.'"

**"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will"** (Prov. 21:1).

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### MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 8-02, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of green-backs. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.



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### PRO-LIFE GROUP ACCUSES ABORTION PROVIDERS OF PROTECTING PEDOPHILES

DENTON, Texas (EP)—A Texas pro-life organization says it has evidence that abortion clinics and family planning groups are knowingly violating federal and state laws requiring them to report cases of child sexual abuse. Mark Crutcher, president of Life Dynamics in Denton, Texas, said that his group's nine-month investigation found that 60 percent of the girls age 15 or younger who get pregnant are impregnated by adult men.

Crutcher said Life Dynamics' data show that a junior high school girl is more likely to get pregnant by an adult man than by someone near her own age. According to Crutcher, a major factor in this ongoing child abuse scandal is a cover-up of the facts by Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Federation, who have a financial interest because of the large numbers of abortions that are performed on minors.

"No matter how someone feels about abortion, most people will agree that the abuse of these young girls needs to be reported," said Crutcher. "The fact that these incidences are not reported is bad enough, but the fact that they are not being reported simply to protect a financial and political agenda is even more reprehensible."

Crutcher said that Life Dynamics intends to see that the individuals and organizations responsible are held legally accountable for the "criminal failure" to report the abuse.

**"For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God"** (Eph. 5:5).

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### GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (EP)—Child molestation is much more common among homosexuals than among heterosexuals, according to a new study to be published by the *Regent University Law Review*. "Overwhelming evidence supports the belief that homosexuality is a sexual deviancy often accompanied by disorders that have dire consequences for our culture," researcher Steve Baldwin said in his article, "Child Molestation and the Homosexual Movement." Baldwin, executive director of the Council for National Policy, wrote, "It is time to acknowledge that homosexual behavior threatens the foundation of Western civilization—the nuclear family." Baldwin's evidence includes a study by psychologist Eugene Abel, who found that homosexuals "sexually molest young boys with an incidence that is . . . five times

greater than the molestation of girls." Abel's data suggests that over 150 boys are molested by the average homosexual offender, compared to fewer than 20 girls molested by heterosexual offenders. Although girls are still more likely to be sexually abused than boys, in terms of numbers of children abused per offender, homosexuals are more frequent abusers and boys are their preferred target.

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BRUNSWICK, Germany (EP)—Renowned German scientist Werner Gitt is convinced that the earth was created in just six days as the Genesis account of the Bible states. Gitt, a former professor at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology who is a favorite of creationists worldwide, argues that the theory of evolution does not stand up to scientific observation. He says that geological evidence demonstrates the earth is much younger than the millions of years that scientists who buy into the Darwinist theory of evolution say it is. Gitt told the European news agency Idea that the complexity of the earth and the universe "cries out" that it was designed by an intelligent creator. He says that the world around us contradicts the atheistic worldview of Darwin's theory. Gitt also has little patience for theologians who attempt to reconcile the theory of evolution with the Bible. He says that those who attempt to explain away the supernatural foundations of the biblical account of creation are in danger of discounting the Bible's truths about Jesus, too. He told Idea, "Only if the biblical account of creation and the fall of Adam and Eve are true, then salvation by the cross and the resurrection of Jesus make sense."

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OROVILLE, Calif. (EP)—A high school valedictorian who was prevented from giving a graduation speech with religious themes in 1999 settled his federal lawsuit against the school for \$59,000. Officials at Oroville High School in California rejected Jason Niemeyer's proposed valedictory address—both a version with specifically Christian content and a second draft that was religious but nonsectarian. District Judge Lawrence Karlton ruled that a jury should be permitted to decide whether Niemeyer's rights were violated when he was forbidden from participating in the graduation ceremony. That decision prompted the school to settle.

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DALLAS, Tex. (EP)—Evangelist John Jacobs, whose "feats of strength" evangelism team was crippled by his 2000 divorce from his wife of 16 years, has had his second marriage annulled by a Dallas judge. Jacobs said his second marriage was "a case of people who moved too quickly."

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—The

16,000-member Christian Medical Association (CMA) declared its support for the bi-partisan Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2002, which was highlighted at a June 20 press conference on capitol Hill. Congressmen appearing at the conference included Reps. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), Sue Myrick (R-N.C.), Bart Stupak (D-Mich.), Melissa Hart (R-Pa.), and Chris Smith (R-N.J.). The CMA declared its conviction that the legislation is needed to stop "a barbaric practice that inflicts horrific pain on developing infants." Said Dr. David Stevens, executive director of CMA, "Inflicting pain on developing infants such as that incurred during a partial-birth abortion would never be countenanced by any medical review team for human experimentation." He added, "There is absolutely no medical reason whatsoever that justifies allowing an abortionist to cut into the cranium of a developing baby, inflict a horrific level of pain, and then suction out its brain. If someone treated a dog in this inhumane way we would lock them up and throw away the key. If we can't at least stop this horrible procedure, where can we draw the line?"

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—A majority of Americans believe America is a Christian nation and religious faith is the basis of its strength, according to a recent survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. But the poll also found that Americans are concerned that the influence of religion might be on the wane. The survey found that 52 percent of Americans believe faith's influence on the lives of Americans is declining, even though an overwhelming majority (by an eight-to-one margin) would like religion to have more influence in American life.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—Conservative and Christian groups took aim at Attorney General John Ashcroft for allowing a senior Department of Justice (DOJ) official to speak at an event sponsored by a homosexual group. Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson addressed a group of DOJ employees June 19 at their annual Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Pride program held at DOJ headquarters.

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VIENTIANE, Laos (EP)—Open Doors USA reports that Laotian Christians are being harassed by police and are experiencing difficulty in getting together for Bible studies and worship services. Since February, at least 14 Christians have been arrested for activities including repairing a church building, possessing a Bible and preaching Christianity. Laotian Christians report that 45 people are currently in prison for sharing their faith with others and at least 100 church buildings remained closed by order of local authorities. "The problem with the Lao authorities is not the lack of laws but

the lack of respect for their written laws," said one source for Open Doors USA. The Laotian constitution allows for freedom of religion, but the government greatly restricts religious practice. The U. S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has requested that the State Department designate Laos as a 'country of particular concern' for the government's ongoing persecution of religious freedom.

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WASHINGTON, D. D. (EP)—As 13 million people in Southern Africa face starvation, Christian humanitarian World Vision is urging Congress to act quickly and provide food aid through March of next year. According to the organization, the deadly combination of drought, political mismanagement, and production decline due to skyrocketing HIV/AIDS rates has plunged six countries into a humanitarian crisis. The six countries are Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique. "Not only are the people of Southern Africa facing a devastating famine, but this feminine combined with the incredibly high rates of HIV/AIDS will result in a greater loss of life and more children being orphaned," says Bruce Wilkinson, senior vice president for International Programs for World Vision.

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HONOLULU, Hawaii (EP)—A recent study presented in late April at the American Heart Association's Asia Pacific Scientific Forum suggests that men and women with roles that parallel traditional roles in society live longer, healthier lives. The study, conducted to determine if occupational stress is related to heart attacks and death, found that house husbands and others whose vocational or social roles are outside tradition are more likely to be victims of coronary heart disease and to die prematurely.

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LONDON, England (EP)—The leading candidate to be the next archbishop of Canterbury could cause problems in the Anglican church because of his views on homosexuals. Archbishop Rowan Williams of Wales is at the top of the list of candidates of the Crown Appointments Commission, according to the *London Times*. If selected, Williams would be the first person outside of the Church of England to hold the post since the Reformation, reported Ecumenical News Service. But it is his views on homosexuals in the ministry that has members of the Anglican church concerned. In an earlier interview, Williams allegedly affirmed that he has ordained practicing homosexuals. The formal announcement of the new archbishop will be announced in the latter half of July.

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ST. LOUIS, Mo. (EP)—Continuing a

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23-year tradition, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) chose a theological conservative to lead the nation's largest evangelical denomination. Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in the Dallas suburb of Plano, Texas, was elected in St. Louis at the SBC's annual meeting June 11-12.

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RIVERSIDE, Calif. (EP)—A U. S. District Court jury in Riverside, Calif., ruled that Riverside County violated a nurse's constitutional rights after she was fired from her job for refusing to dispense the controversial "morning-after" pill. The American center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) filed the suit in December 2000 against the Riverside Neighborhood Health Center on behalf of Michelle Diaz. According to the suit, Diaz, a nurse at the clinic, was fired after telling her supervisor that her religious beliefs prevented her from dispensing the medication—which is designed to terminate a pregnancy—because she felt she would be participating in abortion. A jury in the case found that the county had violated Diaz's First Amendment rights of free speech, had violated her rights of freedom of religion, and had failed to reasonably accommodate her religious beliefs. Diaz was awarded damages totaling more than \$47,000, including \$19,000 for back pay and more than \$28,000 in damages for emotional distress.

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LONDON, England (EP)—The Christian human rights group Jubilee Campaign has launched a program to stop human trafficking, which is a modern form of slavery. Spear-headed by the Cross-bench peer, Lord Alton of Liverpool, Jubilee's campaign is committed to lobbying the British government to introduce comprehensive legislation against human trafficking for labor and sexual purposes. Currently no such legislation exists, which means traffickers can take advantage of women and children, coerce or deceive them to leave their native country and come to England, and then use them as commodities under the threat of violence. An estimated 700,000 people are believed to be abducted in this way each year, most from West Africa and Eastern Europe.

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In connection with a new book against the doctrines of grace (*What Love Is This* by Dave Hunt), Tim LaHaye has made a striking statement: "To suggest that the merciful, longsuffering, gracious and loving God of the Bible would invent a dreadful doctrine like Calvinism, which would have us believe it is an act of grace to select only certain people for heaven and, by exclusion, others for hell, comes perilously close to blasphemy. . . a doctrine

that has its roots more in Greek humanism, from where it originated, than it does in Scripture."

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According to an article in *Human Events* (7-1-02), states have diverted money from the huge tobacco settlement away from health care, education, and other noble purposes, to all kinds of things. North Carolina won a \$4.6 billion settlement from tobacco companies, but not one dime has been spent for health care. In fact about \$43 million has gone toward production and marketing of N.C. tobacco, according to the *Charlotte Observer* (June 23). Another unintended consequence of the government's war to stop cigarette smoking is more funding for terrorism via Hezbollah. The huge artificial increases in cigarette prices over the last few years have created fertile ground for tobacco smuggling, and, reported the Associated Press June 21, "Two brothers were convicted Friday of helping run a North Carolina-based support cell that funneled cigarette-smuggling profits to the militant group Hezbollah."

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U. S. law enforcement officers in the Southwest are convinced that Mexican military units are crossing the Arizona-

Mexico border to aid smugglers in carrying drugs into the United States. In one incident, says a senior official federal law enforcement officer, a major in the Mexican Army was caught at the U.S. port of entry at Naco, Ariz., carrying a detailed drug-smuggling map among his papers. The Mexican officer, said the official, was "coming into the United States and they found the drug smuggling maps on him that showed all the drop points and trails" that local smugglers used for bringing narcotics into the United States. The official said that in calendar year 2001, the U.S. government officially recorded 12 separate incidents in which Mexican military personnel crossed over the border into Arizona alone. On some occasions a Border Patrol officer said, Border Patrol agents actually have arrested Mexican Army personnel on U.S. territory. "Without a doubt" Mexican military have made incursions into Arizona, said the Border Patrol official. "We have actually made arrest of both military and police. And as far as I know, in all events the people were released to Mexican custody within 12 hours, as well as returning them with the weapons that they made the incursion with" (*Human Events*, 7-1-02).

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## Mini Edition

By Joseph Harris  
Chairman of Biblical Studies  
Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi



### PREFERENTIAL PROTECTION OR EQUAL PROTECTION, MR. KENNEDY?

Senator Ted Kennedy has done it again. In an attempt to appear as the champion of the down trodden and brutalized, his infamous "hate" crime bill has been created. HATE CRIMES! Just the sound is nasty and evil enough to demand strong punishment for its perpetrators. At least more punishment than for those who commit "regular" crimes.

Are the crimes which are committed out of hate, more deplorable than crimes committed for other reasons? Apparently, Ted Kennedy and other liberals think so. Or is Mr. Kennedy's proposed "hate" crime bill just a smokescreen with a dangerous potential and a possible hidden agenda? Can we accurately categorize crimes with our own private interpretation of the criminal's motive? Let's proceed to the next obvious step and label crimes as "greed" crimes, "passion" crimes and "need" crimes, each with

their own cap on how much punishment can be meted. Those who would commit "need" crimes (such as stealing because of need) would surely have to be given only a slap on the wrist. Personally, I'm for creating "stupid" crimes where we harshly punish criminals who are dumb enough to get caught.

According to the FBI, reports of so called hate crimes against homosexuals are down. The 14<sup>th</sup> amendment promises equal protection for all races and ethnic groups, but is silent on the issue of sexual orientation, as it should be. It is wrong to promise special protection, based on sexual choice lifestyle, because it is a matter of choice, not birth, unlike ethnicity. The equal clause protection would be violated by promising more protection to any certain *one* group, above *all* other groups. Equal protection means not only are ALL protected, but ALL are protected EQUALLY. Murder of an individual from one group is no worse than murder of an individual of another group, whether or not the murderer is motivated by hate or any other reason. Murder is murder and is always wrong.

But the real issue here is not race, but lifestyle choice. Ethnic minorities should be outraged that homosexuals and other sexual deviants would include themselves as "minorities" because again the issue is either birth or choice. According to an AFA report, Kennedy's bill would add "sexual orientation" by name, which would be a disaster. This would pave the way for the politically correct God haters to outlaw speaking the truth against sexual deviation, perversity and all kinds of immorality, (including adultery among heterosexuals) as has already happened with our neighbors up north in Canada.

Anyone who breaks the law of this land by harming a homosexual or anyone else, should be served proper justice. This justice should not, however, be served on a platter while serving justice in a thimble to those who harm normal citizens. This is ludicrous thinking and would pave the way for persecution of those who stand for truth based upon divinely inspired scripture which would be another expression of contempt for the ungodly against the righteous standards established by the righteous God.

One reason people are not sensitive to the equal protection issue is because it has been violated so blatantly in the public school system. The "protectors of civil liberties" have protected, promoted and given far more than equal time to the religion of secular humanism, while stamping out every vestige of the religion of Christianity within the system. Read *The State Against Religion* by Gus R. Stelzer, a former Senior Executive of General Motors. It is published by Acorn Books, 2001, ISBN 1-8869-39-42-6.

As usual, this is poor leadership from Mr. Kennedy. However, he has his following who will always blindly follow. I have always wondered though, why anyone would want to follow someone who can't even drive safely across a bridge.

### YOU CAN'T TRUST HOLLYWOOD (DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?)

When will I learn? My benefit of the doubt has about reached an end. I have watched as the "new" Disney destroyed the family trust built by the old Disney, (by Walt), while everything such as cursing, drunkenness, drug use, homosexuality and all forms of immorality have been condoned and promoted in their films. Conclusion?

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## Mini Edition

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Disney can't be trusted to produce real family oriented entertainment.

I have watched Sesame Street deteriorate by using lesbian Ellen Degeneres and other worldly entertainers to "teach" children. Neither was I blind when Nickelodeon recently announced plans to have Rosie O'Donnell, the self appointed spokesman (?) for the movement for homosexual couples to adopt children, to host a children's special. I do not know if they followed through. I didn't watch. I have also heard homosexual references and seen transgender innuendos on The Fairly Odd Parents and Sponge Bob Square Pants recently.

Now, according to a report from *Culture and Family*, Scooby Doo has been messed with. I loved Scooby as a kid and have enjoyed watching old Scooby episodes with my daughter. On every old Scooby episode, without exception, the "ghost" villain always turned out to be some moral human dressed up as some scary being. Never was there a real supernatural villain. Each episode ended with something like this: "Look, it's old Mister Jones, the caretaker, dressed up in a glow in the dark phantom costume to scare people away from the mansion so he could look for the hidden treasure" to which Mister Jones replies, "Yeah, and I would have gotten away with it if it had not been for these meddling kids." Oh, for the good old days of fake ghosts.

A couple of years ago, some new Scooby movies were made featuring "real" witches, ghosts and zombies. Right away, I knew Scooby was in trouble. I was right, as usual. Apparently, the new live character Scooby movie is no more family/kid friendly than 95% of all new so called family movies. The people running the entertainment industry today wouldn't know family if it smacked them in the face. I'm sick of them using the guise of entertainment to promote all kinds of ungodliness.

Disney, Nickelodeon and others in the Hollywood elite know for a fact what we as conservative Christian parents should know: people are in their most formative and vulnerable years while in childhood. Godly training includes protecting children from perversity, blasphemy, and all forms of pagan hedonism.

According to this report, drug use, drinking and lesbianism are promoted in a positive way. Drugs are supposedly the reason Shaggy always has the munchies, Velma gets high on something in a drink or the drink itself

(?) and she also gives a hint of being a lesbian or bisexual (which is the same thing). The actress who plays Velma, in an interview, says the viewer is left to wonder if she is singing "Can't Take My Eyes off You" to Daphne or Freddy. Actually, Linda Cardellini (Velma) and Sarah Michelle Gellar (Daphne) really kiss (to break some kind of spell), but the kissing scene, along with a scene where Velma lifts her blouse to reveal her underwear, are cut from the movie for the theaters. Gellar hopes these scenes will be added back to the DVD release, and I'm sure they will. The kissing scene, though cut for theaters, helps to further desensitize children in their thinking of homosexuality. For a more complete report, go to [www.cultureandfamily.org](http://www.cultureandfamily.org)

As for me and my family, we will be content with old Scooby reruns. We have just about cut out Nickelodeon and hardly ever fool with any new Disney stuff. I do think it is interesting, however, that some of my daughter's favorite programs on TV are Andy Griffith, Leave it to Beaver and I Love Lucy.

## from *The Baptist*

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alienate. In legal phrase, *Qued delegatur non delegatum cat*, delegated authority cannot be alienated. The churches of Christ are charged and held responsible by the great Head of the Church for the purity of her membership. This high and responsible trust is committed to her own vigilance and she must attend to it herself; she cannot divest herself of the responsibility; she cannot, without rejecting Christ, delegate it to angels or to men (Feb. 5, 1876).

### GRAVES ON LANDMARKISM

Landmarkers believe that there has been a succession of essentially pure Baptists from the days of John the Baptist until now, and that during all this period they have "suffered violence," not only from the hand of their enemies, but, as now, from their professed friends. They believe that visible churches of Baptists have existed through all these centuries, though they do not profess to be able, as yet, to demonstrate the fact. They believe that Christ declared a succession would be preserved. They believe that the ancient Waldenses, whose history Sir. Wm. Jones has largely written, were Baptists, the true witnesses of the truth in the dark ages and before the rise of Protestantism. They believe that these Baptists, our ancestors, were strict; it not all who bore their name, yet churches of such

as they are this day, who would not and did not "defile themselves with women—i.e., affiliate with the meretricious Woman and her Daughters. They believe the declaration of Sir Isaac Newton, who so patiently studied their history, "the Baptists have never symbolized with the Papacy." This means, they never belong to Rome; never came out of her; never affiliated with her in worship. They believe the historical statement of Bullinger, Presbyterian, who wrote a history of the Reformation (Jan. 29, 1876).

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### FALLEN MINISTERS

The remarks of Spurgeon below are worthy of consideration:

"Mr. Spurgeon says in his lectures to his young men," 'I hold very stern opinions with regard to Christian men who have fallen into gross sin; I rejoice that they may be truly converted, and may be with mingled hope and caution received into the church; but I question, gravely question, whether a man who has grossly sinned should be very readily restored to the pulpit. Let those who have been shorn by the sons of Ammon tarry at Jericho till their beards be grown; this has often been used as a taunt to beardless boys to whom it is evidently inapplicable; it is an accurate enough metaphor for dishonored and characterless men, let their age be what it may! Alas! the beard of reputation once shorn is hard to grow again. Open immorality, in most cases, however deep the repentance, is a fatal sign that ministerial graces were never in the man's character. Caesar's wife must be beyond suspicion, and there must be no ugly rumors as to ministerial inconsistency in the past, or the hope of usefulness will be slender. My belief is that we should be very slow to help back to the pulpit men who, having been once tried, have proved themselves to have too little grace to stand the crucial test of ministerial life'" (Jan. 22, 1876).

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### QUERY

Bro. Lowrey: "If a wife leaves her husband on account of bad treatment and is divorced, and in a short time marries another man, and in the course of seven or eight years professes faith in Christ, and makes application to a church for membership, would it be right to receive her or not?"

ANSWER: We think it would be right to receive her. She is the wife of her present husband, according to the civil law, and the church cannot require her to leave him and her children, if she have any. That would be a crime, both against God and the

civil law. What can she do? If God has forgiven her, she ought to be baptized; and the church has no right to go back behind the act of God's pardoning mercy, and bring up her former sins as a reason why she shall not obey God's command. Paul says, "As the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk." Again: "Brethren, let every man wherein he is called, to abide with God," I Cor. 7:7-24 (Oct. 30, 1876).

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### QUERY

What course should a Baptist church take with a Baptist preacher that has committed fornication and makes an acknowledgment to the church? Is there any Scriptures to justify the church in restoring such an one? Please give your opinion through your paper. —Edneyville, N. C., August 7, 1875.

ANSWER: "The church can do nothing but exclude him. Such gross immorality cannot be repented of and reformed from in the church—only out of it, and with all his confessions not until he has regained the confidence of the community he has so justly forfeited can he be restored to membership, and to the pulpit *never*" (August 28, 1876).

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### THE QUERYIST

BRO. GRAVES: - Please inform us through the columns of THE BAPTIST whether a church, in the absence of her pastor, has the right to discipline her members, administer the ordinances? etc. And really we would be glad to know whether a church without a pastor really is a church. —H. H. REYNOLDS Dreswell, Dorsey country, Ark., April 2, 1876.

Remarks—Is a flock of sheep a flock of sheep if it has no shepherd? Is any army an army, lacking one of its officers?

There can be a church without a pastor, but no pastor without a church. A church can elect one of its own members, or a foreign minister, as her moderator, and transact any business she can do with a pastor, else had she no pastor how could she elect one? She should elect a minister to baptize and administer the supper for her (April 29, 1876).

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### THE QUERYIST

1. Can a member of the Baptist church be allowed to dance, and if not where are the passages of Scripture that condemn it?

2. Has a Baptist church the right to arraign, try and exclude a member holding a letter of dismission from the same church, for dancing? —A

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## from *The Baptist*

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### CLERK OF CHURCH

Answer: We think a Baptist church that will allow without reproof or discipline her members to dance, undeserving the name of a church of Christ or of existence. We think any community far better off without than with a church of dancing, frolicking members.

Where is the Word of God that makes it a sin?

1. Dancing by name is given as a distinguishing mark of the sinner, "their children dance." Job 21:11. A church member and deacons have been seen leading their children to the dancing school, and thence to the dancing party.

2. The Word forbids conformity to the world, and this means especially in its pastimes and pleasure. "Be ye not conformed to the world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Dancing is preeminently a pastime and pleasure of sinners, "their children dance," and spend their days in mirth.

3. Revellings are forbidden to Christians, and that dancing is one species of reveling no one can doubt. See I Peter 4:3, and Galatians 5:21.

4. But there is a moral law violated which will warrant any church discipline for dancing, theater-going, etc.

Our Christian influence belongs to Christ and His church, and we have no more right to commit moral, than we have physical suicide. In no way does a Christian more effectually destroy all their influence that they once gave to Christ and to His service, than by joining with sinners and their revellings and sinful pleasures. The world says these are like us. Old things and old pleasures have not with them passed away. They do not hate the things, the worldly pleasures they once loved. A dying sinner would never call upon a dancing, frolicking church member to pray for him. He believes he is as good as they and so do we.

We want no better evidence that a church member is in the "gall of bitterness," a poor deceived unregenerate sinner, than to know they love the pleasures of this world, their revellings and dancing, better than they love the cause of Christ, and the best interests of His church. Surely they cannot sing the son:

"Beyond my highest joy,  
I prize her heavenly ways."

He or she prefers her ball room to her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

You can act upon this charge.

Practices not consistent with the Christian profession. There is no specific law against horse-racing and betting on the race. What would you do should your pastor enter his own horse in a race and ride him? Suppose he should conduct a lottery office of his own, or under a salary? Could you not find a charge against him? Suppose he should be head manager of a ball and lead every dance until twelve o'clock Saturday night? What pastor may not do a member may not—injure the influence of the church in destroying his own.

One thing more. We will lose one of our most influential families and financial supporters that we so much need. No you don't need such a family, and let its money perish with it if it will pursue such a course, all that great influence is against the church, and so much the greater the reason why you should rid yourself of it, if it will not give it to Christ. A church of a dozen members living godly is morally stronger than one of one hundred or five hundred dancing one.

Then be compassionate to the souls of these members. If they love the dance and the revel, the pleasures of this world more than Christ they are not Christians. If any man hath not the spirit of Christ he is none of His. For their sakes cut them off. They may some day see that they are sinners and repent, but keep them in the church and they are lost (May 6, 1876).

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### THE QUERYIST

What do you think "born of water" means in John 3:57? Many want to know. —Winona, Miss.

We think it is a metaphorical expression referring to water baptism, as "born from above," and "born of the Spirit," are metaphorical expressions denoting the office of the Holy Spirit on the heart, quickening and imparting to it spiritual life. This spiritual life is the first operation, and enables the once dead man to see—i.e., comprehend, discern—the spiritual things of the kingdom or church of God. Then there is an advance in the thought, "Except a man (once already born, as he must be to be a man, a person) is born of water (and added to, as well as) of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom (or visible church) of God." This must answer now. Soon we will give our views at length, and the reasons of our faith. There is neither Ritualism nor Campbellism in this passage, but the deathblow to both, if you can separate them (May 20, 1876).

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### THE QUERYIST

BRO. GRAVES: - Is it Scriptural and in accordance with Missionary Baptist usage for a Missionary Baptist church to receive a member of the Antimissionary Baptist Church without rebaptizing them? Please answer in your next issue. —SUBSCRIBER

Remarks: This question has engaged a large share of our thoughts for years past, and we cannot say that we are prepared to give an answer that will satisfy our own mind. Our present impression is that the question should be divided. There is a larger part of these Anties radically unsound in the vital doctrines of the gospel, as well as in constitutional disobedience to the positive command of Christ to send the gospel to the whole world. All these should be disfellowshipped by us as having forfeited all claims to be in any sense true churches of Christ, the ordinances of such should not be recognized, nor should they be allowed to lay their strange fire upon our altars, or bring their leaven into our feasts.

But concerning those bodies which have kept that faith touching the doctrines of grace which they held in common with us before they went out from us on the mission question, and have not passed disfellowshipping resolutions, and are not excluding their members that they may be receiving from our churches, we say, with reference to all such bodies, and associations of such Antimissionaries, we are not prepared to advise that a reimmersion should be made a condition of membership with us. We cannot see the great difference between an Omissionary and an Antimissionary Baptist, except that the latter is the more consistent, and yet more than one-half of the nominal Missionary Baptists of the South are Omissionary, and tens of thousands within our churches, and not a few ministers, are so in theory, and even opposed to an educated ministry. We should be glad to hear from our elders, Breth. Wood, of Georgia, and Pendleton, of Pennsylvania, and Reynolds, of South Carolina (June 10, 1876).

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### THE QUERYIST

"What does the Baptist mean when applied to a church? The Campbellites are trying to make capital out of our name. —A BAPTIST

Answer: - When applied, as it first was, to John by the Holy Spirit, it meant the man who truly baptized. Applied to the church of Christ today, it means the church of the truly baptized, the baptized ones. Baptists are the only truly baptized Christians. Their name, Baptist, is an inspired

name, nor should those who worthily bear it be ashamed of it (June 10, 1876).

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### THE QUERYIST

1. Does the Bible, especially the New Testament, sanction or recognize in any manner the marriage of divorced parties? 2. If it does sanction it at all, to what extent? 3. Or if it does not, and only the law of the land recognizes it, is it according to the spirit of Christianity for ministers of the gospel to marry divorced parties, or to receive or retain such as members of a Christian church? —A MEMBER

This is a more delicate than difficult subject. We think the only Lawgiver in Zion has given one plain and explicit law; and He has made no exception to it, and that is the difficulty with many.

We find our answers to these in an exchange, which we will give, having so often, in thirty years past, given our own:

"We believe that Protestants generally agree that the aggrieved wife or husband, many remarry, and is in all respects untainted by the divorce. We know of no gospel rule that forbids repentance and church fellowship to persons who have committed adultery, so that under some circumstances a person divorced for his own sin might be received or retained in the church. On the matter of membership, therefore, action depends on the guilt or repentance of the person. The guilty person ought not to be married again by a gospel minister. His right to salvation by faith in Christ remains to him: he has lost his right to the marriage relation by his infidelity to his duties. The reason why the higher right remains and the lower is lost, is easily seen. Human society is put in peril by the remarriage of adulterous persons: the grace that saves the vilest sinner, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost wrongs no person, invades no sacred institutions, and blesses society by reforming a human life. If reformed, why not remarry? First, because society can not be assured of the reformation, though the church may be so assured. Secondly, because society has too great a stake in marriage to deal leniently with those who pollute it. Thirdly, because repentance does not give a man back what he loses by sin. A defaulting bank cashier can never again be bank cashier, though divine grace may make him an honest man. Many people learn too late that sin causes irrecoverable loses (June 24, 1876).

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## from *The Baptist*

Continued from page 397

### THE IRISHMAN AND THE PRIEST

Never was a better answer made than a poor Irishman made to a Catholic priest, while defending himself for reading the Bible.

"But," said the priest, "the Bible is for the priests, and not for the likes o' you."

"Ah! but sir, he answered, "I was reading in my Bible, 'You shall read it to your children,' an' sure the priests have got no children."

"But, Michael," says the priest, "you cannot understand it, my man."

"Ah! very well, your riverance, if I cannot understand it, it will do me no harm, and what I can understand, does me a heap o' good."

"Very well, Mike," said the priest, "you must go to the church, and the church will teach you; the church will give you the milk of the word."

"And where does the church get it from but out of the Bible! Ah! your riverance; I would rather keep the cow myself" (July 22, 1876)

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### QUERIES

Have Baptist ministers the right to make compromises with Campbellite ministers and receive them into church fellowship, with the promise, if there is ever a church of their order organized in reach of them, they are at liberty to leave us and return to their own order of people?

Is it prerequisite to valid baptism that the administrator be duly set apart and ordained to the work, or can we tolerate baptism from the hands of any one who many see fit to administer the ordinance? —A. R. JEFFERSON

ANS. — We answer both with an emphatic NO. No church can, without openly violating the Scriptural law, receive a Campbellite to membership, nor one of any other sect, unless he professes our faith, and has received our baptism. That Campbellite member is playing the part of a hypocrite before the world, i.e., profession one faith, and holding another that is subversive of it. There is no concord, no conceivable agreement between a Campbellite and a Baptist. The two poles are not more irreconcilably asunder.

No one but a duly qualified officer of the church has any Scriptural authority to administer baptism or the supper. A deacon has no more right than a private member, and much less an unbaptized teacher of acknowledged heresies! An unnaturalized foreigner has as much authority to administer the

naturalization oath to whom he pleases, as a Pedobaptist or Campbellite has to administer Scriptural baptism (Aug. 26, 1876).

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### QUERIES

BRO. GRAVES: You will please to answer through THE BAPTIST, the following query:

When did Jesus Christ make the atonement for the sins of His people? Was it when He died upon the cross, or subsequent to His death. Please give answer through your paper. —W. T. NUGENT, Winona, Miss.

ANS. — On the cross He made satisfaction to the divine law—magnified it, and made it honorable; but, as did Aaron, He took His blood and went into the most holy place, Heaven itself, and there appears before God for us. His atoning work is still going on or no sinner would be saved (Sept. 2, 1876).

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### QUERIES

"Is it the faith of Baptists that saving faith precedes regeneration, or vice versa?"

Remarks: It is the faith of all sound Baptists, that the dead sinner is first of all, quickened by "the Holy Spirit," before he has life to hear, feel, or see.

"You hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins."

If regeneration is the impartation of spiritual life in the soul, then it must precede all gracious and spiritual emotions (Aug. 12, 1876).

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### QUERIES

What course should a church pursue toward a person elected by the church to baptism, but has neglected to be baptized for months, and has walked disorderly? Has the church any right to deal with such a church member?

Answer: He is not a member until he is Scripturally baptized. Let this be borne in mind. No conceivable act can put a man into the visible kingdom of Christ, his church, except baptism (John 3:5). The church should refuse to baptize and formally withdraw her act of Christian fellowship from him (Aug. 19, 1876).

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### CHURCH SUCCESSION

We have often used this argument, which we now meet in the *Western Baptist*:

"We suppose the man of the present day is the exact counterpart of the man whom God originally made and placed in the Garden of Eden. But does not the existence of man now prove an unbroken succession of the genus back of Adam? Unquestionably. Why not take his common-sense view of the succession of the church of Christ?

Whether such a succession can be clearly proved by accredited histories, is another matter—a very subordinate one—but the succession is as certain in one case as the other" (July 29, 1876).

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## A SAMPLE WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A HOME MISSIONARY

By Ray Bennett

Being a 'home' missionary is often harder than being a 'foreign' missionary. Not because preaching the gospel is any more difficult in the United States than some other place, nor even though a home missionary is usually more under supported than those on other fields. The missionary at home faces the same challenges and difficulties that a missionary in the deepest jungle faces, in every category except not having to learn a new language.



Ray Bennett

The challenge comes because the average public thinks the missionary is just as free to take his car to the 'friendly neighborhood mechanic' as the pastor who has a couple of mechanics in his congregation. They forget that most churches furnish and maintain a parsonage while the missionary usually has to rent or own his own home, and all the rest of the usual home expenses and responsibilities of any other American.

These comments are not to be taken as complaints, or even hints. When a man undertakes to accept God's calling, he also accepts, and like Paul, glories in, the work and responsibility. But these remarks, like Paul's again, (II Cor. 11:16-28) are to remind the 'rank and file' that the missionary is not just idling away the time and living on other's money.

Saturday: Mowed the lawn (about 1½ acres). Prepared my old David Bradley walk behind garden tractor for its summer chores after grading off the damage the snow plows had done during the winter. Had to take the blade plow off and install bush hog and gardening equipment.

Spent evening hours in study, getting spiritually ready for Lord's day services. (It takes just as much time, prayer and effort to prepare a good message for 'one' as it does for 1,000).

Sunday: Attended worship services in A.M., engaged in teaching discussion afterwards. Spent afternoon with wife. Taught evening Bible Study.

Our family habit is that after evening church we play games and eat home grown popcorn.

Monday: Finished mowing lawn before it rained. Repaired leaks in shed roof. Roofing cement can be put on wet surfaces, but it is still difficult to work in cold weather.

Worked in study finalizing monthly letter and 'The Chosen Few' for printing and June mailing. Paid monthly bills and updated records. It would surprise you how many bills get 're-sent' if you don't keep good records. I think some of these organizations assume that when a person gets over 65, he is either too tired or too confused to keep track of things and will pay bills a second time.

Heat quit in study. Too late to check it out now. It will be the first task tomorrow, after morning devotions.

Tuesday: Out of fuel. Can't understand why, especially this year. It's been a very mild winter, but to be out of fuel we had to use approximately 100 gallons more than we have averaged the last three years.

Evidently a leak (or the remote possibility that someone needed kerosene more than they thought I did.) By draining tank, has sucked dirt into the carburetor of the stove. Took most of the day fixing fuel line and carburetor. Unavoidable spill in process. It will take a few days to soak up and air out the smell.

Wednesday: Cleaned up most of the mess from yesterday. Lost set of keys somewhere in the process of crawling around the fuel lines and tank. (It's a good thing I keep spares.)

Heavy rains causing flash flooding. Dug several ditches to route water away from house. Ditches previously dug did their job, but still over flowed. You could almost 'run the rapids' in the highway ditch. South east corner of property has high water, but that is a common occurrence.

Prepared study guides for Sunday Evening Bible studies. (I try to keep two or three weeks ahead of the actual teaching period.) Wrote letters to several missionaries. Physical strain of last few days too much for my bad heart. Had to go to bed early.

Thursday: Son called early this morning. His pick-up quit again and he needs to borrow our car. We'll be grounded for a couple of days.

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# Gleanings

*Continued from page 398*

Cleaned up a little more of Tuesday's mess. Kitty litter still soaking up spill. No sign of anymore leaks.

Checked apparent leaks in house roof. Despite objections of wife and kids, I'll have to climb up and put on new ridge pole. It will have to wait for better weather.

Friday: Discovered I was so tired last night that I went to bed without closing up shed. Spent most of the day auditing proposed school budget. We have to vote on it next Tuesday.

Actually took time to just read while in study today.

Planted about 1/2 of garden. We will only plant what seeds are left over from last year. There aren't sufficient funds to buy more seeds, other than tomato and pepper sets. But this year our garden is just for us, not two families. We still have left-overs in the cellar and freezer from two years ago.

Son brought car back. We took him home, but he may have to either use our car again next week or have us transport our daughter-in-law several times.

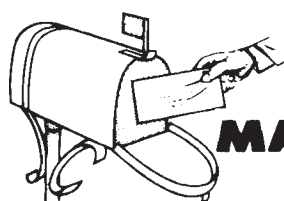
Saturday: Started raining last night and well into this morning. Too wet to do any outside work. David Smith wanted to come over and talk if the weather was good, but as of noon it's too wet to ride his moped. Would you believe it is May 18<sup>th</sup> and only 42 degrees?

Slept late this morning. Spending most of the day in the study, making greeting cards and working on several ministry projects.

This only chronicles my days. I'm not in a position to chronicle my wife's days, but she keeps busy with the everyday household chores. She keeps the clothes washed, the beds made, and makes sure I eat three times a day, even when I don't really feel like eating.

She occasionally assists by proofreading some of my material. She has a special place in our ministry because there are a couple of women who call her just to talk every day. She has to keep track of one's medical treatment as well.

Weakened by the progressing cancer, this pretty much is all she can handle.



## FROM THE MAILBOX

Good morning, Pastor Cockrell,  
A beautiful day here in the northeast.  
I wanted to tell you know much I enjoy

the Banner and the tapes – especially the ones on prophecy – and also that I am glad you are better – albeit at the high cost of your eye. Your poem stated it very well. God is so good to us.

There seems to be a dearth of sermons on Election in the pulpits. I haven't heard one in years. Thanks so much. Hope you will improve with each day. My prayers are with you and your family.

–e-mail

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Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Am sending my \$5 for another 2-year subscription to your paper. I enjoy it each month and look forward to getting it.

Praying your health is improving and you can be enabled to do all of the work and activities for the church as you would love to do.

Keep up the good work in the paper. I especially enjoy your articles and the ones written by Bro. Tom Ross.

–Texas

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Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus our Saviour to you and yours and the saints of Berea Baptist Church.

Our thoughts and prayers are many for you and Chris and for the health problems, if we could only do something to ease the discomfort that these problems bring. As we are unable we ask that the Comforter will work in all areas for each of you and your family. Praying that his note will find you improving and enjoying blessings from the God of all grace.

–North Carolina

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Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Enclosed is our May donation to help with the expense of publishing and mailing out the *Berea Baptist Banner*. Please find our money order for. . . .

We are praying for you that the Lord will take away your pain and will save your eye. We thank our Lord for you and the BBB.

May God bless and comfort you.

–Texas

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Dear Bro. Cockrell and Staff:

Enclosed is our check for one year's subscription renewal of *The Berea Baptist Banner*. The paper is a real blessing each month and we appreciate all the work that goes into its preparation.

Bro. Cockrell continues to be in our prayers and we trust the Lord will be pleased to remove the pain from his eye.

–West Virginia

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Thank you for your letter—so sorry to learn of the loss of your eye—wish it were possible for you to have a transplant. We need a good man like you to “stand for the truth” these days.

Thank you for your kind words on the providence of God. I read your book on Jonah. God knows what is best for us and I believe He appoints our troubles for our good.

So glad you are “standing” for the King James Version of the Bible – to think that educated men think they can rewrite God's Word so man can understand it better. They don't know the God of the Bible.

Read your book on “Death and the Hereafter”—very good. Thank you for signing my copy.

I'm looking forward to your book on Salvation. Also, on prophecy.

Thank you for your prayers. I remember you and your wife and family, the BBB and your church. The Lord bless you.

–Colorado

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Dear Brother Cockrell,

I pray the LORD will restore your health soon!

Please use the enclosed check to help continue your work for the Lord where it is most needed.

God bless you and your endeavors in His name.

–Alabama

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Greetings once again:

As promised, please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$5 for a two-year subscription renewal of the BBB for. . . .

Again, I thank our Heavenly Father for the faithfulness of the congregation in the ministry set before them.

One of my dear brothers in Christ here receives tapes each month from the church there. Between these tapes, the BBB, and the Voice in the Wilderness, we have the best teaching and ministry provided us than what the other guys get from all this hoop-la from all these different “church groups” that come in over here at the prison.

Thanks again, and may our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ richly bless the congregation there through the Holy Spirit.

–Washington

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Please use this check where it is needed most. We hope Pastor Cockrell's eye is doing better.

–Kansas

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Bro. Cockrell and Church,

Enclosed find our offering to help with sending the BBB into the various prisons. May God bless to His Own glory is my prayer. May He also give you a speedy recovery. With love in Christ.

–Texas

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Many thanks for sending me two copies of you excellent paper called *The Berea Baptist Banner* and the book.

Please send me your paper on a regular basis.

Do you have many back issues of *The Berea Baptist Banner* available?

It's time for me to close; here's looking forward to hearing from you and to receiving your kind reply.

–Northern Ireland

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Dearly Beloved,

May grace, mercy and peace be multiplied to you for the work that you are doing for God. I am thankful for all the bountiful blessings God has bestowed upon me.

I met a brother while incarcerated, lock-up in which the Spirit of God dwelled richly within. He suggested that I write you and ask for your help. I am now in a place where I can receive your literature if you could possibly send me damaged or used. Arthur W. Pink's book on “Predestination” and any other information that would help me grow in knowledge and wisdom. Also damaged or used “Manual of Theology” by J. L. Dagg.

–A prisoner

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### BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 5-31-2002 to 6-30-2002

Beginning Balance .....	\$3,316.04
RECEIPTS:	
A. D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV .....	100.00
B.C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL .....	26.49
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	200.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN .....	50.00
Berea M. B. C., Mansfield, OH .....	50.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL .....	60.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV .....	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	125.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL .....	25.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL .....	20.00
Faith B. C., Clarksville, TN .....	100.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR .....	25.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME .....	20.00
Gerald Price, Johnson City, TN .....	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
Grace B. M., Marion, IL .....	25.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK .....	45.00
Helen J. Sturm, Ashland, KY .....	50.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	100.00
John Otis, Agra, KS .....	100.00
Joseph Jurzec, Lake-in-the-Hills, IL .....	30.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC .....	25.00
Landmark S. G. B. C., Ft. Worth, TX .....	50.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM .....	75.00
Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS .....	120.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL .....	100.00
Michael Compton, Corning, CA .....	12.00
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
Ocoona 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 .....	100.00
Ronald McTaggart, Melbourne, FL .....	15.00
Solid Rock B. C., Kenedy, TX .....	20.00
South Park B. C., Seattle, WA .....	25.00
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
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC .....	100.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	200.00
Wendel Beall, Cedarville, WV .....	80.00
Subscriptions .....	248.00
Anonymous .....	300.00
Dividing checks .....	225.00
Sub Total .....	\$4,326.49
TOTAL .....	\$7,642.53
EXPENDITURES:	
Wages .....	2,375.00
Printing .....	502.00
Postage .....	943.37
FICA taxes .....	181.70
Supplies .....	39.00
Dividing checks .....	225.00
Total Expenditures .....	4,266.07
.....	3,376.46
Bank charge .....	-21.56
ENDING DEFICIT .....	\$3,554.90

### BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 5-31-2002 to 6-30-2002

Beginning Balance .....	\$2,075.03
RECEIPTS	
TOTAL .....	2,075.03
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time .....	1,027.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	1,027.00
.....	1,048.03
Bank charge .....	- 10.00
BALANCE .....	\$1,038.03
<b>CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT</b>	
Beginning Balance .....	\$1,173.32
RECEIPTS	
Total .....	1,173.32
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT .....	200.00
Total Expenditures .....	200.00
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$973.32

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting the first Sunday in August 2002, the Berea Baptist Broadcast will be heard at a new time on two stations. We will be on WFTA, Tupelo, Miss., and WCNA, Myrtle, Miss., from 9:00-9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. We will no longer be heard at 9:30-10:00 a.m. on WFTA nor at 12:30-1:00 on WCNA. Please note this change.



## WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

### *Blame Greed for Runaway Immigration*



One of the greatest threats to America, it now appears, and one of the least attended to is the wild, cascading and runaway flood of immigrants, both legal and illegal—that conceivably can make a New America: Third World style even.

Who is to blame? Greedy politicians in Washington who care more about potential immigrant votes than a strong, stable America and who, for the most part, are afraid to speak out for fear of being called “racists.”

#### WHO CARES?

They are greedy for short-term gains, but are courting long-term disaster—because, *at the present rate*, within 50 years, the original settlers, Europeans, will be in the minority and English will not be the predominant language. The year is 5052; shouldn't we tell our children and grandchildren what is happening?

Much has been said and written about this. Alarms have been sounding—but, who cares?

\* Not politicians. They want more votes.

\* Not Big Business. They want cheap labor.

\* Not union bosses. They want more members, more dues, more clout.

\* Not universities. They want more students, more grants, more diversity.

\* Not President Bush. He wants more Republican voters and high marks from his buddy, Vincente Fox, President of Mexico.

\* Not most voters. They want prosperity and fat pocketbooks and are willing to “let George do it.”

#### PHONY ‘REGULARIZATION’

It is depressing and very disappointing for our president to push for amnesty for some three million Mexican illegals now in the United States. He calls it “regularization” for guest workers. This is phony. Some of these illegals may well be terrorists plotting to murder more innocents and keep us off balance.

Moreover, he is pandering. He is not honoring his oath of office to “preserve the Constitution” and enforce the laws. Immigration laws on the books could virtually solve the immigration problem—if properly enforced with an adequate Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). His budget should provide adequate funds and manpower for the INS.

Unfortunately, our immigration laws have been skirted for the past 37 years and no one skirted better than Bill

Clinton who flat-out told his INS Commissioner, Doris Meissenger, to get him a million immigrant voters. She did, after lowering the bar and naturalizing many criminals and other undesirables.

#### JOHNSON'S GLORY

This creeping immigration disaster began in 1965 when President Lyndon Johnson, seeking glory for his legacy, signed the Immigration Reform Act—thereby scrapping America's traditional policy that limited immigrants to the number that could be assimilated in American culture and language. He opened the flood gates for the most liberal, “easy-access” policy in history.

Therefore, we can blame Johnson for our imbecilic slide—and all subsequent presidents for not stopping it.

Certainly, immigrants were the founders and builders of America. Controlled immigration, however, before Johnson's grandstand play, made America so special and successful—through measured assimilation into our culture, history and language.

Critics can say, “Don't be greedy; let them all in.” Controlled immigration is not greedy. Before Johnson, our leaders were dedicated to preserving the American nation. The great Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson (1941-1954) once wrote: “Our Constitution is not a suicide pact.” Let us add: “Neither should our immigration laws be suicide pacts.”

#### WHAT IT COSTS

The Merrifield, Va.-based Americans for Immigration Control has released frightening up-dates on the continuing inactions and greedy handling of immigration. Here is a

litany of their documented findings—which could be shortened, of course, but is given rather completely to emphasize shocking and unbelievable developments, as follows:

\* The Congress has quietly approved the most open-door policy in history, allowing up to 10,000 immigrants per day.

\* 8.7 million *illegals* are now in the United States and the INS is unable to deport them.

\* U. S. services and benefits given to legal and illegal immigrants cost American taxpayers \$68 billion per year—and growing.

\* Bilingual education doubles the cost of schooling aliens. In the Southwest, a new school per day would have to be built to keep up.

\* English as our language is under assault—with drivers' licenses, voting ballots, and citizenship ceremonies offered in dozens of languages.

\* American history and achievements are being replaced in school books with political correctness, self-criticism and America as “oppressor.”

\* 400,000 foreigners now collect Social Security benefits without ever working a single day in America. Immigrants get Medicaid twice as often as native citizens.

\* Immigration costs U. S.-born workers \$133 billion per year in job losses.

\* On Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, legal and illegal Muslim immigrant terrorists killed 3,000 innocent Americans and destroyed tens of billions of dollars in property.

\* Over 25 percent of federal prisoners are immigrants. Illegals commit 12 percent of felonies, 25 percent of burglaries and 34 percent of car thefts.

\* Non-citizens collect \$7 billion per year in welfare, including medical, food stamps and housing—courtesy of U. S. taxpayers, whose representatives in the Congress allow this to happen.

\* Two-thirds of U. S. population growth is due to our immigration policy. American cities, parks, roads, schools, beaches, hospitals and water supply are straining under increasing pressure for more and more freebies.

#### BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Members of Congress know most of this. They look the other way. They want votes, donations and, above all, reelection.

Much of our immigration policy was developed behind closed doors, under severe political pressure and without informing voters of the proposals and their consequences.

So, we complain to the President and to our senators and congressmen—and get an aide-dispatched form letter, thanking us profusely for our interest, promising to take it all into consideration and assuring us of their desire to serve us in any way possible—and not answering our concerns at all.

Then, they do nothing—even after follow-up letters.

If enough people would flood the White House and Congress with data and demands, the wild, irresponsible immigration policies could be corrected—unless, already in America, we have enough immigrant-boosting voters to seal the deal for a New America.

Critics may call this column “racist.” This column is an “America First” column, defending the America envisioned by our Founding Fathers—and contending that no American policy must ever be a “suicide pact.”

Civilization is stronger and freer with a strong and free America.

(Capt. Evans lives in Norfolk, Va. His columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League of Buena Park, Cal.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The twenty-first Annual Voice in the Wilderness Conference will be held with Dessie Baptist Church near Clem, W. Va., and Pastor Mark Minney Aug. 16-18. Speakers on the program are Elders Clyde Hancock, Jeff Short, Benjamin Stepp, Chester Powell, Harry Balmer, Tom Hysell, Bill James, Jerry Dodson, Ernest Parks, and Milburn Cockrell. The church will serve meals. For more information call Pastor Minney at (304) 462-5501.

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The Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 2750 S. 53rd. W. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74107 and Pastor David O'Neal will have a Bible Conference Oct. 4-6. More information later on this.

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### Coming in the next issue . . .

*The Pulpit, the Press, and the Government* by J. B. Hawthorne  
*Areas of Spiritual Growth* by Milburn Cockrell  
*Our Unaccountable God* by Milburn Cockrell

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