

The Berea Baptist Banner

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Whole Number 261

Unwrapping Xmas



By Steve Flinchum

Annville, Kentucky

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." (Romans 1:21-25)



Steve Flinchum

Recognizing the heat from the sun as the primary cause of the earth's production, the heathen people have thought of the sun as the father of all living things, and the earth as a goddess, fertilized by the rays of the sun. That most likely was the religious belief of the builders of the tower of Babel.

That is also the origin of the terms, "Mother Earth" and "Mother Nature," which are experiencing great revival

Continued on page 475

The Justice of God Satisfied by Christ Alone

By Tobias Crisp

Part 1

(1600 - 1643)

". . . And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6).

Every word in this text, as I have often told you, hath special weight. It is iniquity that is laid on Christ, as well as the punishment of iniquity; "He was made sin for us." Sin is a debt, He is a surety; the debt of sin, as He is a surety, is as really His, though not His own contracted, as if He had really contracted it Himself; His own by imputation; so far His own, that God "in him, hath reconciled the world to himself, and will not impute their trespasses unto them" (II Cor. 5:19).

And it is the Lord, that laid our iniquities upon Him; it is too much presumption to give the glory of it unto any creature; it is God's glory alone;



Tobias Crisp

nothing of man, in man, from man does it, but the Lord Himself. And the Lord hath done it; it is not now to be done; it is past, He hath laid iniquity. Also, observe out of the words, this, that we are now to come unto; "That the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Had our sins been disposed of any where else, but on Him, they had recoiled back upon us again; none can bear iniquity, to

Continued on page 465

The Stability of the Covenant

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow" (II Sam. 23:1-5).

Here are some of the topics most in the mind of King David in the sun-down of his life. There is a glory in these last words unsurpassed in any

Continued on page 467

What Kind of Church is Your Church?

By Clyde Hancock

Wayne, West Virginia

"But ye are a chosen generation; a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness

into his marvellous light:" (I Pet. 2:9).

There are four schools of thought or beliefs among Baptists of our day as to what a Baptist Church should be concerning the carrying out of the great commission as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. Of these only one is correct according to the Word of God. They are:

- (1) The doctrine of Hardshellism
- (2) The Priesthood of the Baptist preacher
- (3) The Priesthood of the Church
- (4) The Priesthood of the believer

In this message I want to, as best as I know how, to give you the definition of these four beliefs. I want to tell you what I believe to be the one a Baptist Church should hold to, and I will give you as much Scripture as possible to back up my belief.

Now let all the saved please be

Continued on page 466

Children in the Home

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right" (Prov. 20:11).

Children are wonderful creatures. They can be lovable and laughable, thoughtful and thoughtless, comforting and cruel. Parents and psychiatrists try in vain to explain them. Tupper well said of them: "A babe in the house is a well spring of pleasure."

WHAT CHILDREN ARE

Children are not demons from the Devil; they are gifts from God. "Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD" (Gen. 4:1). These words probably mean the child was born with the help of the Lord. Esau asked Jacob: "Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy ser-

Continued on page 462

"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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Children in the Home

Continued from page 461

vant" (Gen. 33:5). It is written in Genesis 24:3: **"And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac"** (Gen. 24:3). **"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son"** (Ruth 4:13). The gift of a child is the evidence of Divine favor (Gen. 30:2). Children are to be welcomed with joy and affection. They are a sacred trust and a solemn responsibility. They can become the greatest blessing or the greatest curse.

Kids are a blessing to their parents: **"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate"** (Ps. 127:3-5). Children are an inheritance given by the Lord. The fruit of the womb is

to be a reward, not a regret. Children are like arrows. Sticks are not by nature arrows, but they can be made so by cutting off what is knotty and rugged. When at home children are arrows in the hand which we may direct to the mark of God's glory and the service of their generation. When they leave our home they are arrows out of hand, and it is too late to trim and train them. If they are not properly reared, they can become arrows in the hearts of their parents.

Children are a blessing to grandparents: **"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers"** (Prov. 17:6). Grandchildren are a crown to their grandparents when their parents have brought them up in the discipline and training of the Lord. Grandchildren are such when they have rightly used the privileges they enjoyed. Joseph was a crown to his aged father: **"And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families"** (Gen. 47:12). Ungodly children are a crown of thorns to their parents and grandparents.

CHILDREN MUST BE TRAINED

We live in a time when the state thinks our children belong to it. Liberals and leftists say, "It takes a village to raise a child." The state has no children. Children are the property of their parents. The state would limit the birth of children by abortion on demand and by RU-486. God has some birth-control laws in the Bible (Lev. 12:1-8; 18:19; 20:18), but the state ignores these as outdated and old-fashioned. The state seeks to brainwash our children in government schools by evolution, Satanism, humanism, and one-worldism. These schools assign so much home work for the parents to do at night that little time is left for family life and play.

God holds parents responsible for the teaching and training of their children. **"Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. 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 words of God, but keep his commandments" (Ps. 78:1-7).

This is seen in other scripture: **"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Prov. 22:6). **"Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation"** (Joel 1:3). **"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"** (Eph. 6:4).

The proper training of children cannot be over emphasized. Every baby born into the world has a depraved nature (Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; 58:3; Isa. 48:8). Childhood is to be a time when parents seek to develop the intellectual and moral powers of the soul for good. You train a tree when it is a small sapling and a horse when it is a colt. You cannot begin too early to train a child. In childhood children are trained, either for good or bad. The process goes on, and it cannot be stopped. We cannot make our children to be children of God; only God can regenerate a lost sinner. However, we can train our children in moral things, and teach them moral truths found in the Bible. We can teach them from Scriptures how God saves sinners (II Tim. 3:15).

Generally speaking, Christian parents have utterly failed in rearing their children. Many of these revolutionaries, draft card burners, potheads, rock-'n'-rollers, non-churchgoers, Bible-haters, and good-for-nothing slobs grew up in what was supposed-to-be Christian homes! Many Christian parents do no better (in some cases worse) than the unsaved in the training of their children. God help us as Christian parents!

Lot, though a righteous man (II Pet. 2:6-9), lived only for his flocks and the fine grassland of Sodom. This resulted in his married daughters being burned in Sodom, his wife turned into a pillar of salt, and his two single daughters had illegitimate babies by their own father! Eli was a priest and a godly man, but he had wicked sons who were also priests (I Sam. 2). This resulted in God cutting off his family tree (I Sam. 3:12-13). King David was a man after God's own heart, yet he had wicked offspring. Amnon, one of his sons, raped his sister (II Sam. 13:11-14). Adonijah (II Sam. 3:4), another son, was a rebel (I Kings 1:5-53). Absalom was a murderer (II Sam. 13:29) and a rebel (II Sam. 17:1-14). Lot, Eli, and David were failures at child training!

As these cases prove, when chil-


dren are wrongly trained they will grow up to break the hearts of their parents. **"A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother"** (Prov. 10:1). **"A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him"** (Prov. 17:25). **"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame"** (Prov. 29:15). **"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother"** (Prov. 30:11). **"Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children; Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood. . . . Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood"** (Ps. 144:7-8, 11).

Zacharias and Elisabeth did a good job in bringing up John the Baptist. Their son was one of the greatest men ever born of a woman. Timothy's mother and grandmother did well in his training, even though Timothy's father was an unbeliever. Paul said of Timothy: **"And that from a child (Greek *brephos* - "new-born babe" or "infant") thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"** (II Tim. 3:15). Again he writes of Timothy: **"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also"** (II Tim. 1:5). Children must not be permitted to grow up as wild animals or untended gardens. We must not leave our children as a prey for the Devil!

Many children today are conceived in lusts and born in the world unwanted. Sadly neglected by their parents, they grow up to be moral morons, home-wreckers, school drop-outs, social problems, criminals, and serial killers. Some parents kill their offspring before they are born, and others cast them off as soon as they are born. These outcast babies are left every place from commodes to churches. They are neglected and forgotten because they are in the way of worldly pleasures and money-making. Such parents will burn in the very lowest Hell! People who have children must accept responsibility for taking care of them materially, mentally, and morally.

A good childhood can be the genesis of great strength in a person's life. A bad childhood unleashes demons

Continued on page 463



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.)

BAPTIST POPES

The world's best known Southern Baptist is severing his ties with the denomination because of its views on a number of issues, including the role of women.

"I'm familiar with the verses they have quoted about wives being subjugated to their husbands," said Jimmy Carter, 76. "In my opinion, this is a distortion of Scripture. I personally feel the Bible says all people are equal in the eyes of God. I personally feel that women should play an absolutely equal role in service of Christ in the church."

Jimmy Carter has set himself up as an infallible pope who can interpret Scripture to suit his own fancy. This is a great tragedy, for Carter has been a Sunday School teacher since he was 18 and a Southern Baptist for 65 years. Carter is a living example of what liberalism will do to a Baptist.

Jack Hyles, pastor of the First Baptist (?) Church, Hammond, Indiana, frequently says, "Close your Bibles; just listen to me" (See Biblical Evangelist, 5-1-89). He does this because he takes verses out of context. If people compare what Hyles says with the Bible, they will find Hyles' preaching contradicts the Bible.

I care less for Baptist popes than Catholic popes!

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE?

A letter was sent to 285,000 mostly Bible-believing churches across the country warning them against getting involved in the elections, especially by distributing voter guides. These letters were from Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a leftist organization determined to remove God from all forms of political activities. These letters contained a "scare" campaign which threatened churches with loss

of their tax-exemption status if they distributed voter guides from the Christian Coalition.

Mr. Lynn and his gang forgot to mention that the voter guides from the Christian Coalition did not endorse either candidate. Nor was there any mention that the Christian Coalition won its case against the Internal Revenue Service over the legality of its voter guides. Nor did Mr. Lynn mention that the AARP and the Sierra Club also produce voter guides which are also legal.

Evidently, Mr. Lynn forgot to send these to some churches. The first two items I am about to quote are not from any religious press report. They are from "The Associated Press" and were published on the front page of *The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*:

"MACOMB, Mich. - While the Republican side mostly rested on Sunday, Democrats Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman blanketed TV talk shows, rocked Detroit's black churches and motored through Michigan with the blunt homestretch message: 'George Bush is not ready to be president of the United States'.

"President Clinton, banished to the wings, preached at two Washington-area black churches, trying to excite likely Gore voters to turn out on Election Day" (Monday, Oct. 30, 2000, p. 1).

"I'm asking you not only for your vote but for your enthusiasm,' Gore said during one of two stops at black churches in Pennsylvania. 'I want you to go the extra mile'" (Monday, Nov. 6, 2000, p. 1).

"NEW ORLEANS, La.-Vice President Al Gore met with African-American ministers Oct. 21 to enlist their support in his close presidential race with Texas Gov. George W. Bush. 'This race depends on you, it really does,' Gore told about 75 church leaders at a meeting in Louisiana. 'I need your help'" (*E P News Service*, 10-27-00).

"GREENSBORO, N.C.-A North Carolina church hosted Tipper Gore, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore, Oct. 11 before her husband's presidential debate in Winston-Salem. During the event at Evangel Fellowship Church of God in Christ in Greensboro, participating pastors voiced their support for the Democratic presidential candidate. Michael King, pastor of Garden of Prayer Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Greensboro, gave his personal endorsement to Gore and Lieberman and said, 'God is on our side. He has ordained this'" (*ibid.*, 10-20-00).

You will recall the fuss the leftists and liberals of the press made about Bush going to Bob Jones Christian

University. Have these same people made any fuss about Clinton, Gore, and Lieberman going to churches for political purposes? Would you think the press would have had anything to say if Pat Buchanan went to a Catholic Church and did such? What would the press have said if George Bush had made such a visit to the First Baptist Church of Dallas?

A wayfaring man, though a fool, can see that we have a double standard in American politics. If you are a liberal and leftist, you can go to churches or Buddhist temples without any violation of the "separation of church and state." But for conservative candidates to have anything to do with conservative churches is "a violation of separation of church and state."

SENATOR LIEBERMAN EXCOMMUNICATED

The New York Torah Court, Beth Din, announced October 23, 2000, that after careful deliberation, it had excommunicated Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential hopeful.

The Court stated that Senator Lieberman caused grave scandal for the Jewish religion "by the fact that, while claiming to be an observant Jew, he had been misrepresenting and falsifying to the American people the teachings of the Torah against partial birth infanticide, against special privileges and preferential treatment for flaunting homosexuals, and against religious intermarriage of Jews.

Rabbi Joseph Friedman, a spokesman for the rabbinical court, said that Lieberman also has "flagrantly violated our sacred Torah by his Senate votes upholding partial birth infanticide and legitimizing homosexuality, which abnormal and unhealthy behavior the Torah strongly condemns as sinful and immoral."

"Mr. Lieberman, moreover, has, in violation of the Torah, supported harmful gender integration in the US Armed Forces—in the barracks, on naval warships, and in combat training—all of which weakens and demoralizes our Armed Forces," he added.

Rabbi Friedman also declared that, "under excommunication. . .the person being excommunicated still re-

mains a Jew. We hope the Senator repents and asks (God's) forgiveness so that the excommunication may be lifted" (Adapted by MRC from Bob Melvin CNS Evening Editor, 10-23-00).

Somehow the general news media has buried this story? Guess why?

". . .I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them" (Isa. 48:6).

Children in the Home

Continued from page 462

that haunt an individual till the day of his death. Abuse and neglect in childhood in later years produces loneliness, depression, anxiety, sexual difficulty, fears, marital discord, and addictive behavior. No one ever completely outgrows his childhood. The child lives on in the adult. About 85 percent of a person's ultimate personality is formed by the time he is six-years-old.

Young children in today's homes suffer a dad deficit. Fathers are too busy making money to have time to train and love their children. Thanks to the influence of feminism, the next generation will not only be yearning for fathers, but also for mothers as well. Today fifty percent of all children under the age of five are in some kind of regular daycare arrangement, and half of these are under two years of age. Mothers find themselves in their careers, but lose their children to the Devil in the process!

DUTIES OF CHILDREN TO PARENTS

First, children are to honor their parents: "**Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee**" (Ex. 20:12). "**Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise**" (Eph. 6:2). The word "**honor**" (*timad*) involves respect toward both fathers and mothers. I believe it also includes grandmothers, grandfathers, stepfathers, stepmothers, guardians, school teachers, etc. This is the first command which contained a promise of long life indicating particular divine approval.

Children should honor their parents in gestures and behavior. Joseph did his father: "**And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him, and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while**" (Gen. 46:29). Solomon is another example of this: "**Bath-sheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto**

Continued on page 464

OOPS! We Goofed...

In last months issue the date and issue number on the front page heading were incorrect. They were the previous months. They should have read Volume Number XX, Number XI, November 5, 2000, Whole Number 260.

Children in the Home

Continued from page 463

him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand (I Kings 2:19).

Second, parents should be feared and respected: **"For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him"** (Lev. 20:9). Any child who despitefully uses his parents flies in the face of God who will see parental dignity and authority is not insulted and trampled upon. God puts rebellious children under a curse: **"Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother"** (Deut. 27:16). **"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it"** (Prov. 30:17; cf. Ex. 21:15; Deut. 21:18-21).

Young people should respect old people: **"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD"** (Lev. 19:32). The hoary head is a crown of glory. Those whom God has honored with long life should be honored by the younger generation. The comfort of old people must be sought and their counsel sought out: **"Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom"** (Job 32:7). How tragic to hear in this age of cultural chaos of old people being robbed, beat up, and even murdered by the young. Well did Isaiah warn: **"And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbor: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable"** (Isa. 3:5).

Third, mothers and fathers should be loved, but not more than God: **"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. . ."** (Matt. 10:37). These words of Christ strongly suggest that father and mother are to be loved. It would be a great error to assume Christ by these words took lightly family ties and duties, or that He took lightly the first commandment with promise. The truth He is teaching is that while father and mother must be loved they must not be loved more than the Lord.

Fourth, parents should be obeyed: **"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the**

law of thy mother" (Prov. 6:20). **"Hearken unto thy father that beget thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old"** (Prov. 23:22). These are not options, but commands from Almighty God. Esther is an example of this: **"Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him"** (Esth. 2:20). Christ is the greatest example of a child obeying its parents: **"And he sent down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them. . ."** (Luke 2:51).

It is written in Ephesians 6:1: **"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."** In Colossians 3:20; **"Children, obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."** The verse in Colossians is in the present tense. The verb *hupakouo* ("to obey") denotes the action is to be continual. The word implies a readiness to listen and a willingness to carry out the parental instructions given. This obedience pertains to **"all things."** Filial obedience should be prompt and cheerful, not dilatory and reluctant. Obedience to parents in what is right is obedience to the Lord. It is the way of safety and happiness.

This obedience is qualified and limited by Divine approval: **"For this is well pleasing unto the Lord."** The commands of the parents must be in harmony with the will of God. Parental authority must be exercised in subjection to the higher authority of God (Acts 5:29). Obedience to parents is to be encouraged, but not at the expense of allegiance to Christ and His truth.

Parents are to be obeyed in things not commanded nor forbidden by God: **"And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine. But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever: Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers. Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters"** (Jer. 35:5-8). **"And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the com-**

mandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever" (Jer. 35:18-19).

Fifth, mother and father should be cared for in old age. Joseph nourished his father in a time of famine: **"And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families"** (Gen. 47:12). Ruth gleaned for Naomi, though only her mother-in-law: **"And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed"** (Ruth 2:18). Ruth's son nourished her in her old age (Ruth 4:15). David, though in a state of exile himself, provided for his father and mother to be with the King of Moab: **"And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me. And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold"** (I Sam. 22:3-4).

DUTIES OF CHILDREN TO GOD

First, a child should keep to God's ways: **"Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways"** (Prov. 8:32). In the Bible are maxims to rule the life. These are not so much for creeds as for moral codes. They come from God and have a great binding force. The child who lives by the Bible will have no regrets.

Second, a young person must avoid youthful lusts: **"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart"** (II Tim. 2:22). **"Youthful lusts"** refers to passions and desires which are so tempting to young people. It means to avoid strong

drink, fornication, filthy talking, dope, and fast driving. These things war against the soul and hinder conversion. The indulgence of corrupt passions can lead to the policeman's club, jail, reform school, and the penitentiary.

Third, a young person must remember his Creator: **"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them"** (Eccl. 12:1). The tendency of the fallen nature is to forget God, and this tendency is very strong in youth. The young should remember God is the Author of his being, and that he is dependent upon God for all things. The Devil says, "Youth is for pleasure; middle age is for business; old age is for religion." This is a fearful delusion!

CONCLUSION

1. The news media and the movies of this country are antagonistic to Christian families. They are very defensive of perversion, free love, and divorce. The media and the movies portray parents as tyrannical, as out of touch with today's life, as void of understanding, and as dedicated to keeping the kids from having a good time.

2. Jesus Christ taught a childlike disposition is essential to entrance into the kingdom of Heaven: **"And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"** (Matt. 18:2-3). Like a little child, you have nothing to offer the Lord. A little child does not aim at greatness, and he trusts in one greater than he is. To rise to the greatness of the kingdom you must go down to the littleness of childhood.

3. **"Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD"** (I Sam. 2:12). Don't live and die a son of Belial—a young person who has no saving knowledge of Christ.

Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	101.5	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WYWY, Barbourville, KY ..	Sunday 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	950	1,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. .	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz ...	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines .	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

Justice of God Satisfied

Continued from page 461

carry it into the land of forgetfulness, but the scape-goat, Christ. It is Christ alone, on whom the iniquities of believers are laid for their discharge.

This proposition, that our iniquities are laid on Christ, is the basis, that upholds all the consolation revealed in this chapter.

The main thing, I shall insist upon, will be to consider, what answerable ends the Lord might have in this most admirable work, of laying iniquity upon Christ; there is no work that administers matter of astonishment, and puts the reason and judgments of men so much to a nonplus, as this one work of laying men's sins upon Christ; it must needs then have suitable ends; being but a means to conduce to higher purposes.

1. One great end of laying iniquity upon Christ, is, that the **"Lord might lay help upon one that is mighty;"** that so seeing He hath undertaken to discharge the poor believer from iniquity, He might go through the work, and not leave it by halves. Had iniquity been laid any where, but on Christ, the work of taking it away, had been left unfinished, so far as it appears to us; it is not conceivable to any man under Heaven, how iniquity should be carried away, but by the **"Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."**

But I will proceed: there are many other remarkable uses and ends, for which the Lord laid iniquity upon Christ. As,

2. That he might have full satisfaction and reparation of the injury done unto Him, to His full content. It cannot be imagined, by all the wits in the world, how the justice of God violated, should be so satisfied, as in laying iniquity upon Christ. When Adam sinned, and by that act involved himself, and his whole posterity, into a state of transgression; nay, into a constant course of enmity and rebellion against God; by which justice was extremely violated, and the Divine Majesty insufferably affronted; it concerned God, for the maintenance of the honor of justice, to take order for the reparation of the violation, and affront of it: God could as soon cease to be, as not to take order, that justice violated, should be satisfied: You have an ordinary rule, "Whatever is in God, is God himself." Let justice be once torn from the Divine Nature, and it ceases to be: in this regard, I say, it concerns God, to repair His justice in the largest way of satisfaction, that might answer it to the full: and yet, nevertheless, though the Lord was resolved, that justice should not be

violated; for it is a certain position with God, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but not one jot nor tittle of God's Word shall fall to the ground:" much less a jot or tittle (if I may so speak) of his essence shall fall; yet, I say, though the Lord would have justice, even to the utmost satisfied; it was at the same instant, and everlastingly in His thoughts, that some few of those creatures that had thus violated it, should not sink under that reparation that it stood upon. Now here comes in a business, that no wisdom, but the infinite wisdom of God, could possibly either conceive, or contrive, to wit, a way of reconciliation of his justice and mercy; in the saving of such creatures, justice should be fully repaired, and yet the creature, violating justice, be saved, is a riddle that none but God Himself could ever untie. These two things therefore being jointly settled in the thoughts of God Himself, He casts about with Himself, how He might maintain and manifest both, without the prejudice of either.

The Psalmist saith, **"Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other;"** here is the agreement between both. The Lord knew well, that if the creatures violating justice, were themselves to make satisfaction to it, they must sink and perish, and be undone for ever; there was like to be nothing but ruin, and that eternal; and this payment would be very slow, and destructive to the creature, therefore God liked it not.

The prophet Ezekiel speaks expressly from the Lord, "As I live, I desire not the death of a sinner." I will not stand to discourse nicely, as if there were any difference between the desire and will in God; I know there is none; but in respect of the manifestation of the mind of God to us, we may conceive, that the Lord, for the satisfying of justice, will rather have the creature destroyed, than the continual violation of it should be without reparation; yet this cannot be called pleasure or delight, that He hath in this thing; but for the prevention of the violation of His justice, He is contented, the creatures should some of them perish; "I desire not the death of a sinner;" it is not the delight I have, I take no pleasure in the thing.

I say, therefore, seeing it is the pleasure of God, some of His creatures should not perish, and yet justice violated should be repayed too; He casts about with Himself, how these two things might stand together, and not one jar against the other; for this purpose, it pleased the Lord at the first, to propound to Himself, and so to publish His mind to His people, concerning a way of reparation, by some present payment, in the blood of bulls

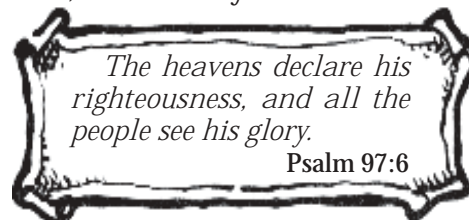
and goats, and other sacrifices; upon the heads of which, as you have it in Leviticus 1:4, those that offer the sacrifices, were to lay their hands, and so there was a manifestation of atonement; in this, God had some content, for that time; but the full pleasure of the Lord, was not answered in this way of reparation; no, not though Jesus Christ Himself, was shadowed out under those sacrifices; yet the Lord saw not that fullness of content to Himself in this obscure way: and therefore, He findeth out a better, and a more contenting way to Himself; and what was that, you will say? Look into Hebrews 10:5, you shall there find, how the apostle fully shews, that the Lord was not to the utmost so satisfied, as He would be, in that first way; and, also, what way He sets up to give Himself full content, and that gives direct answer to the thing in hand; **"Burnt offerings and sacrifices thou wouldest not, (saith Christ) in burnt offerings and sacrifices thou hadst no pleasure:"** mark but this phrase and expression well; which plainly sheweth the way that God then took, to repay His own justice in the blood of bulls and goats; though for the time it gave Him some, yet not that full content, such as He could take full pleasure in.

But some will be ready to say, that when the apostle spake thus of sacrifices and burnt offerings, he meant those simply considered, without respect unto Christ whom they typified.

To this I answer, That not only in the sacrifices, simply considered in themselves, without Christ, God took no pleasure, is his meaning, but under favour, he goeth further; for, if you mark the opposition well, you shall find it is not made between them considered as types of Christ, and considered simply, and abstractively from Him their substance; but the opposition is made between the whole service, as it then was, and the new way that Christ, when He came in the flesh, brought into the world to please God with; therefore saith Christ, immediately after, **"Because thou tookest no pleasure in them, lo, I come: in the volume of thy book it is written of me; it is my delight to do thy will, O God;"** and in that He saith, **"Lo, I come, he taketh away the first, that he might establish the second:"** so that you see He makes the difference between this way that God took to satisfy Himself then, and the way in which He was

satisfied when Christ came in person, wherein He, by once offering up Himself, perfected for ever them that are sanctified; the way in which Christ comes to give God satisfaction, is, by His personal offering up of Himself a sacrifice; though Christ was darkly apprehended under those sacrifices of bulls and goats, yet God did not take so full pleasure in them, as He did in Christ once offering up Himself; and therefore He saith, after He had once offered up Himself, **"He sat down at the right hand of God."** It is therefore Christ's personal bearing of iniquity upon the cross, once for all, that gives unto the Lord full pleasure and content; and hence you shall find in the same epistle, when the Lord had before established the priesthood, after the order of Aaron, and that administration of service that was among them, the apostle declareth that he changed it; and the reason of this change he also sheweth in Hebrews 10:1; because **"The law having but a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of things, could not make the comers thereunto perfect;"** there being a necessity of remembering sin again every year; so that this was but a lingering payment by piece-meals, as I may so say, I mean in respect of the manifestation of the mind of God. Indeed such a full way of payment God hath in His secret thoughts in Christ, as that He was then fully satisfied and contented in them; but He did not manifest Himself in those sacrifices, and in that administration, to have such complete payment all at once, as when Christ came into the world; therefore as the priesthood was changed, so Christ, being made a priest, after the order of Melchisedec, God liked His payment so well, that He swears, that notwithstanding Aaron's order, **"Thou art a priest for ever."** I say again, the Lord took such full content in Christ's personal bearing iniquity, that now He seeth, that there is no way in the world to give Himself satisfaction, or could be devised, like this way; and for this cause, the former priesthood being changed, He saith, nay, He swears, **"Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchisedec;"** so that by this you may perceive, how abundantly the Lord found Himself satisfied in His mind in this, that iniquity is laid upon His own Son; no way in the world would have done but this.

If any man should undertake to agree for his brother, he could not give God content; no man can redeem his brother; it costs so much to redeem a soul, he must leave it for ever. It is not the fruit of the body that can answer for the sin of the soul, that can-



Continued on page 466

Justice of God Satisfied

Continued from page 465

not give God content; though a man could establish an innocent, nay, an angelic righteousness, yet this could not satisfy God to His content; it is this, "**Lo, I come, to do thy will, O God,**" that gives Him full content, Christ's own coming to bear iniquity.

It may be you will say, what did Christ come for, when He saith, "**Lo, I come?**"

I answer, It is plain he came to be in the room of those sacrifices that went before; and why did He come in their room, it may be further demanded? God could not take full pleasure in them, therefore He came to give satisfaction in their place.

Now, what was the office, you will say, of the priest in offering sacrifice?

It was, by that offering them, atonement might be pronounced by the priest upon the people, they laying their hands upon the head of the beast.

Now the business of Christ's coming for the pleasing of His Father, was to bear the sins of His people, which those sacrifices bore, (Christ being typified under them) but imperfectly in regard of that full satisfaction he gave; for there is none like this. In Proverbs 8:30, observe how Christ, under the name of Wisdom, declares the Lord's pleasure in him: "**I was daily his delight; I was before him as one brought up with him;**" as if God could not look upon any thing as His delight but only his Son.

Yea, may some say, as He was the Son of God, He was daily His delight; wherefore, in verse 31, you shall see in what respect He was so: for He saith immediately after, "**My delights were with the sons of men;**" here Christ seems to apply the delight that His Father took in Him, unto this condition, as His delight was with the sons of men; and wherein doth Christ express it more than in this, in that whereas they were sunk in sin and misery, it was His delight to recover them, and bring them to shore with safety, that would have been drowned, except He had laid hold of them, and took them out; and hence in Isaiah 53:11-12, the Lord expresseth Himself wherein He taketh His greatest satisfaction; "**He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied;**" what was that? Certainly the bearing of the iniquity of all His elect upon Himself, on His own body on the tree. The hand of God was just, and could not but be so; it could not smite but where it found a fault; the transaction of the iniquities of men on Christ, by way of suretyship, drew the stripes of the

Lord upon Him, and so "He beheld the travail of his soul, and was satisfied: and **the pleasure of the Lord,**" saith the same prophet, "**shall prosper in his hands.**" What was in the hands of Christ, that the Lord saith should prosper? This was the main thing, the taking away the sins of the world, as John the Baptist testifieth; for this was the very office of Him, and the glory of this ministry, to point out with his finger unto Christ, and say, "**Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world**" (John 1:29). This was the chief business of Christ which prospered in His hands; the handy-work of Christ is done with such effect and fruit, that the pleasure of the Lord prospered; so far as that prospered, the pleasure of the Lord prospered and is fulfilled.

This is of infinite concern to us, that our iniquities be laid upon such a back, that God may take full satisfaction to Himself; if any man conceive that the coming of Christ into the world, proclaims a mitigation of divine justice, I think they are much mistaken; Christ came not to abolish the law, much less to take any thing of the divine essence of God Himself.

(To be continued in next issue)

What Kind of Church

Continued from page 461

praying that the Almighty God be pleased to allow the Holy Spirit to be our teacher as we study together.

Now before we get into the details of the message we need to look at and study this word "Priesthood" as used here in our text, and the way I will be using it during this message.

Note that our text says "**a royal priesthood.**" Now just what does this word mean? The word "priest," according to the *American Heritage Dictionary*, says: "A person having the authority to perform and administer religious rites."

Now let us note the word "priest" as used in the Old Testament: We know from the teaching of the Old Testament that the priest was the person that went into the Holy of Holy to be a go-between for the people and God. Note the book of Hebrews 10:11: "**And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**"

The word "priest" is used in the King James Bible a total of 478 times, and it appears the first time in Genesis 14:18. It appears for the first time in the New Testament in Matthew 8:4. Now let us note the two passages. Genesis 14:18: "**And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread**

and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God." Matthew 8:4: "**And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.**"

Now let us note the word "priest" according to *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*: "One who offers sacrifice and has charge of things pertaining thereto and is used of believers in Rev. 1:6; 5:10 and 20:6." Vine also says all believers are commanded to offer the sacrifices mentioned in Romans 12:1; Phil. 2:17; 4:18; Heb. 13: 15-16 and I Peter 2:5.

Now the word "priesthood" appears in the King James Bible a total of 15 times, appearing first in Exodus 40:15 and the first time in the New Testament in Hebrews 7:5.

Now let us note Vine's again for the meaning of the word "priesthood" as used in our text: "It denotes a priesthood, a body of priest, consisting of all believers and not a special order from among them, called a 'Holy priesthood' in I Peter 2:5 and a 'royal priesthood' in verse 9.

The context in which we find out text will bare this definition out. This book of I Peter is called a general epistle and it is addressed to the saints scattered. Note I Peter 1:1.

I. THE DOCTRINE OF "HARDSHELLISM"

This is the belief that men, women, boys and girls are saved apart from the Word being preached. This doctrine is not in the Bible and therefore should not be a doctrine of a Baptist Church. Those who do believe this are called Hardshells. They do not believe in any type of missionary work. They do not believe it is necessary to preach the gospel of Christ for one to be saved.

II. THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BAPTIST PREACHER

Those that hold this view believe that no one is saved unless they hear the gospel preached by a Baptist

preacher. This puts the power in the man and not the gospel as stated in Romans 1:16.

Many of those that hold this view use as a proof text Romans 10:14, but they have to add the word "Baptist" which is not there. Let us note this verse Romans 10:14: "**How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**"

They also misuse this word "preacher" and confuse it with the term "Baptist pastor." This word "preacher" here in Romans 10:14 is the Greek word *kerusso* and means "to be a herald, to officiate as a herald 1a) to proclaim after the manner of a herald 1b) always with the suggestion of formality, gravity and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed 2) to publish, proclaim openly: something which has been done 3) used of the public proclamation of the gospel and matters pertaining to it, made by John the Baptist, by Jesus, by the apostles and other Christian teachers."

To be sure that there is a difference between a "Baptist pastor" and a preacher one need only to look in to the Word of God, for there they will find recorded in I Timothy 3:1-7 the qualifications of a pastor. No where that I know of except in Romans 10:15 will they find the qualifications for a preacher. I had never heard of this belief until just a few years ago. I do not know of any Baptist Churches any where that hold to this doctrine, and I have only met two Baptist preachers that hold this view.

Those that hold this view will sooner or later come to the next view we note.

III. THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE CHURCH

This view is held by some Baptists of our day but like the priesthood of the Baptist preacher there are very few that hold this view among Baptists.

Continued on page 467

Funnybone

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

James Johnson hit the ceiling when his nine-year-old son, Jimmie, brought a failing report card home.

"Well, dad," explained Jimmie, "let's not say I flunked. Let's just say they failed to pick up my option for the fourth grade."

A three-year-old grandson of Sadie Smith looked out the window and saw lightning for the first time, and he said, "God just took my picture."

The wife of deacon Jones asked her Sunday school class, "What did the wise men bring the Christ child?"

Jimmie Johnson answered, "Gold, Frankenstein, and mermaids."

Deacon Jones asked Bill Tightwad, "Did you buy any Christmas Seals?"

Bill replied, "No, I wouldn't know how to feed them."

What Kind of Church

Continued from page 466

This view is held mostly by:

1. A very few Baptists
2. By all so called Churches of Christ
3. And by all Catholics

This view holds to the belief that one must be in a Church and hear the gospel preached by that Church before one can be saved. There is no Bible proof for this belief. If these two beliefs were true (That is Baptist Preacher and Church Priesthood) it would mean that a great number of the membership of Big Creek Baptist Church where I pastor are not saved.

There is only one of the four beliefs that are taught in the Bible, and we now note it.

IV. THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

This view is held by almost all true Baptist Churches of our day, and it simply means that every believer is a priest of Jesus Christ, and this means that every saved person is to be a witness of and a proclaimer of a proclamation and that proclamation is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus gave the commission to the Church.
2. In Acts 1:8 Jesus told His Church that after the power came on them they were to be witnesses unto Him all over the world starting at home.
3. In Acts Chapter 2 we are told that the Church did indeed receive that power.
4. In Romans 1:16 we are told the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, not the preacher, nor the Church.
5. And in I Corinthians 15:1-4 Paul tells us what the gospel is, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
6. Now let us note the Scriptures that tell us we are the priest of Christ: **"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"** (Rev. 1:6). **"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth"** (Rev. 5:10). **"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years"** (Rev. 20:6).

Now let us go back to our text, I Peter 2:9. Which of these are you as a Church? Which one are you?

I am a Baptist and I stand on the truth of God's Word and believe in the "priesthood of believers." A Church or individual will not be mis-

sionary believing any other way. If one must hear the gospel from a Baptist preacher, why did Jesus build a Church, and why did He not give the Church a preacher rather than a pastor? And if one must hear the gospel in a Church in order to be saved, then why commission the Church? The commission was given to the Church in Matthew 28:18-20 to go into all the world and make disciples. In the book of Ephesians 4:11 the Bible tells us that He gave the Church a pastor for the perfecting of the Church, for the work of the ministry which is to go with the gospel, and for baptizing the saved and teaching them all things.

I hope and pray that God Almighty will make this effective in our hearts so that you will be blessed, your Church will grow and God may get the glory.

I ask the saved, are you going with the gospel?

To the lost, I invite you to come to Christ through repentance and faith.

Stability of the Covenant

Continued from page 461

which went before. David had weathered many a storm and the haven was in view. These are his dying sayings inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are worthy of the illustrious prophet, the sweet psalmist of Israel, the royal monarch, and the man after God's own heart.

I will focus my attention upon verse 5 only of this wonderful passage from the inspired Word.

FAITH IN THE PROMISE OF GOD

Our KJV begins verse 5: **"Although my house be not so with God. . ."** Many take this as the correct translation of the Hebrew text. They say verses 3 and 4 were not descriptive of David's immediate family. They are thinking about Absalom and Amnon. But I do not believe this is the sense of verse 5 of my text.

Some older translators, as well as many new ones, give the Hebrew a different sense. In the 1600s John Trapp says some would render it: **"And is not mine house so with God?"** In 1537 William Tyndale gave this translation: **"And is not mine house so with God?"** J. P. Green is his *Literal Translation of the Bible* gives an excellent rendering of the Hebrew: **"For is not my house so with God? For He has made an everlasting covenant with me, ordered in all things, and sure; for all my salvation, and all my desire, will He not make it grow?"** W. G. Blaikie of Edinburgh gave this sense in the 1800s in his commentary on II Samuel.

The KJV has: **"Although my**

house be not so with God," but a better sense is: **"For is not my house so with God?"** The KJV has in the last part of the verse: **". . . although he make it not to grow,"** but a better sense is: **". . . shall he not make it to grow?"** The KJV really has David contradicting God. God had promised David an everlasting family, an everlasting throne, and an everlasting kingdom (II Sam. 7). Some do not seem to mind having David contradict God so long as their theory of inspired translators is not contradicted.

The translation of the KJV does not fit the context in verse 3 and 4 which is about good kings. How could David recall the Davidic Covenant and say: **"Although my house be not so with God?"** **"My house"** does not mean his immediate family, but it means his reigning dynasty. Consider what is said in II Samuel 7. Speaking for God, the Prophet Nathan told David: **"And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom"** (II Sam. 7:11-12).

King David then commented upon this promise of God: **"Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou has spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come"** (II Sam. 7:18-19). Then he continued: **"And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said. . . and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee. For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house. . . Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever"** (II Sam. 7:25-29).

It is far better to represent David in II Samuel 23:5 congratulating himself on the promise of long continuance of his dynasty than dwelling on the wayward members of his family circle.

Generally speaking, David's dynasty was righteous. David himself,

Solomon, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah were very good kings. What a contrast Judah was with the kings of the apostate kingdom of the ten tribes. We must not forget that the Root and Offspring of David was none other than Jesus Christ, who would preserve the house of David for ever. The Davidic Covenant rested on David's great Son, the Messiah, and that promised in Him was ordered in all things and sure.

HIS FAITH IN THE COVENANT

How precious the words: **". . . yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant. . ."** The Scriptures often mention this covenant of grace. It is fitly titled such because it is of pure grace from first to last. The Father's election of a people to be saved was **"an election of grace"** (Rom. 11:5-6). The redemptive work Christ agreed to perform is called **"the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (II Cor. 8:9). Those He consented to die a substitutionary atonement for were given grace in Him before the world began (II Tim. 1:9). The blessings and benefits of the covenant are **"of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed"** (Rom. 4:16). The **"Spirit of grace"** (Zech. 12:10) applies the salvation secured by Christ **"to the praise of the glory of his grace"** (Eph. 1:6). Every branch of the covenant is arranged so **"that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus"** (Eph. 2:7).

Before all creation the trinity entered into an eternal counsel (Acts 20:27; I Cor. 2:7). No man or angel was present at this counsel (Rom. 11:34). In eternity past God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit made a covenant of grace respecting the salvation of the elect. Man did not exist in eternity past, but Christ stood in the covenant as man's representative. Christ agreed to fulfill man's side of the covenant. Hence the covenant runs: **"I will and they shall"** (Heb. 8:10-12). The covenant of grace from then until now stands as a covenant of unconditional promise on the part of God toward His elect people.

David foresaw how Christ the covenant Head would be all his salvation and hope. He had an interest in this before-time covenant, for he said: **"He hath made an everlasting covenant with me."** God had made this covenant known to David, and the king of Israel had laid hold upon it by faith in the coming Redeemer.

While this covenant included millions of souls in the old and new dis-

Continued on page 468

Stability of the Covenant

Continued from page 467

compensations, it was a real joy to David's heart to know he had a personal interest in the covenant. This is true of every believer in Jesus Christ: **"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant"** (Ps. 25:14). The covenant of grace made in eternity past is made known to the covenant people in time. God tells His own many secrets (Gen. 18:17; 15:15; I Cor. 2:9-10), even the secrets of election and predestination.

This covenant is the foundation of God's dealings toward us. It is with regard to the covenant God bears with us in our unconverted state (Eph. 2:1-3). From a regard to it He effects our conversion: **"As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water"** (Zech. 9:11; cf. Isa. 59:21; Ezek. 20:37). From a regard to it God endures our backslidings after conversion: **"If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgressions with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, not suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips"** (Ps. 89:31-34; cf. I Sam. 12:22; Ps. 106:43-45). With a regard to it God restores us after we have fallen (Luke 22:32). With a view to His covenant He gives us our daily bread: **"He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant"** (Ps. 111:5).

THE NATURE OF THE COVENANT

First, it is **"an everlasting covenant."** On this point the Scriptures give no uncertain sound. **"And I will make an everlasting covenant with them. . ."** (Jer. 32:40). **"I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant"** (Ezek. 16:60). **"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant. . ."** (Ezek. 37:26). In Isaiah 54:10 it is written: **"For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee."** Mountains and hills are removed by earthquakes, but God's covenant of peace stands fast. It is immovable and inviolable, for it is built, not on human merit, but on God's mercy, which is **"from everlasting to everlasting"** (Ps.

103:17).

In the New Testament in Hebrews 13:20 we read of **"the blood of the everlasting covenant."** This covenant is everlasting in its conception and counsel as well as in its continuance and consequences. It can never be broken or abolished. God did it all, and **"whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him"** (Eccl. 3:14). This covenant of peace springs from the everlasting love of God: **"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore in lovingkindness have I drawn thee"** (Jer. 31:3; cf. John 17:23-24). It concerns God's everlasting choice of a people to be saved by Christ (Eph. 1:4; II Thess. 2:13). Christ, the Mediator of the covenant, **"was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was"** (Prov. 8:23). In this covenant the elect were promised everlasting life in Christ **"before the world began"** (Tit. 1:2).

When the days of the years of my pilgrimage ends in restful sleep for my body and peaceful enjoyment for my spirit, this covenant will be as full of life as when it was first made. **"My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever"** (Ps. 73:26). When time has turned gray with old age the covenant of grace will still be young and vigorous.

Second, it is a well **"ordered"** covenant in **"all things."** It will advance the glory of God, magnify His moral government in the universe, exalt the Mediator, honor the Holy Spirit, and save the elect. This covenant is the product of perfect wisdom, and, like all of God's works, it reflects His own order and harmony.

Everything pertaining to its execution has been foreseen, and nothing is left to chance or human effort. Even some sovereign gracers have a problem with **"all things"** in II Samuel 23:5, for they do not believe God's foreordination extends to **"all things."** But all things could not be possible to God (Matt. 19:26), unless God worked **"all things after the counsel of his own will"** (Eph. 1:11). God could not give us **"all things we ask in prayer"** (Matt. 21:22), unless His providence extended to **"all**

things." Because this covenant is **"ordered in all things,"** then we can be certain that all things will work together for our good to them who love God (Rom. 8:28). In this covenant God agreed to give His Son to die for sinners, and as a consequence of this He would give us **"all things"** (Rom. 8:32). Well did Paul write to the Corinthian church: **"For all things are yours"** (I Cor. 3:22).

Third, this covenant of peace is **"sure."** In this life there are very few things of which we can be sure. In our experience we cannot be sure **"what a day may bring forth"** (Prov. 27:1). We cannot be sure of our health or the continued prosperity of our nation. We cannot ever be sure of what the weather is going to do. But we can be sure of the blessings and benefits of the covenant of grace. God has signed, sealed, and delivered it for time and eternity. It is **"as a nail in a sure place"** (Isa. 22:23), for **"the foundation of God standeth sure"** (II Tim. 2:19).

The covenant of life and peace is sure because it rests on the unchangeable faithfulness of the all-wise and all-powerful God: **"For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant"** (Ps. 89:2-3). All the future things promised to the covenant people are the **"sure word of prophecy"** (II Pet. 1:19) and they are **"sure to all the seed"** (Rom. 4:16), for Christ **"shall see his seed"** (Isa. 53:10). This covenant makes our salvation and security absolutely certain: **". . .and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David"** (Isa. 55:3).

The word **"sure"** in II Samuel 23:5 is a Hebrew word (*shamar*) which means "to guard" or "to protect." Though ten thousand demons and the Devil may assail this covenant of grace, it shall stand upon its **"sure foundation"** (Isa. 28:16). Liberal theologians and Arminian critics may be in league against it, yet the stability of the covenant is certain. Professed friends may misrepresent it before men, but it will remain a sure and steadfast anchor of our souls (Heb. 6:18-20).

DAVID'S REGARD FOR THE COVENANT

The affections of King David for this everlasting covenant is seen in the words: **". . .for this is all my salvation, and all my desire. . ."** His salvation was provided for and secured by this covenant of peace. Without it he would have no salvation. David rested on Christ who was given **"for a covenant of the people"** (Isa.

42:6; 49:8). This covenant assured him of salvation in the fullest sense—body, soul, and spirit. His salvation would be as everlasting as the covenant.

In this covenant of grace the sweet singer of Israel had salvation from the power, pollution, and punishment of sin. He had deliverance from death and destruction. He knew the Mediator of this covenant would save to the uttermost—to all intents, degrees, and purposes. Christ would be his salvation in and through all times, places, and circumstances. This salvation by Christ included the opening of the grave and eternal glory.

This covenant of peace was all that David desired in his old age, for all his salvation was in it. By nature man wants to be saved by a covenant of works. **"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"** (Acts 2:37). On the road to Damascus Saul of Tarsus asked Jesus Christ: **"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"** (Acts 9:6). The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas: **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"** (Acts 16:30). A renewed soul desires to be saved only by the blood of the everlasting covenant. This is all he can ask, wish, or conceive. All one needs is an interest in the covenant. We can desire no more than **"the Desire of all nations"** (Hag. 2:7).

Sinner friend, if you are ever going to be saved, you must see Christ as He is revealed in the covenant of grace as all your salvation. Some want more than Christ in the covenant. They want Christ and soul-saving ceremonies. They want Christ and the priest. Away with such foolishness! Christ has fulfilled the covenant of grace on your behalf, and He declared: **"It is finished"** (John 19:30).

CONCLUSION

Nothing can save but **"the blood of the everlasting covenant"** (Heb. 13:20). Nothing can sanctify but **"the blood of the covenant"** (Heb. 10:29). Oh, to have an interest in this covenant! What else could a man desire for salvation? Heaven and immortality are secured by this covenant. When temporal things of earth pass the covenant of peace will endure. Death-bed hopes must rest on the covenant alone—not creeds, ordinances, works, or usefulness.

William Gadsby (1773-1844), the old English Baptist, wrote of this covenant in his famous song thusly:

*Come, saints, and sing in sweet accord,
With solemn pleasure tell,
This covenant made with David's Lord;
In all things ordered well.*

*This covenant stood ere time began,
That God with man might dwell;*

Continued on page 469

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
Psalms 37:4,5



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Do Voters Pick Greed Over Character?



Our Sunday morning headline read, "Voters pick effectiveness over morals." Is this a polite way of saying, "Voters pick greed over good character"?

That provocative question comes to mind, considering that, in many cases, we've allowed our leaders to get away with immorality, dishonor and corruption as long as they provide peace, prosperity and fat pocket-books—plus generous handouts and freebies galore to voters who keep them in office.

All this sounds a lot like the decadent culture that caused the decline and fall of the Roman Empire centuries ago.

A VIRGINIA POLL

The Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot* and nearby Old Dominion University have polls to prove that greed may indeed be the creed for Virginia voters—and perhaps for the nation, considering the popularity of Vice President Al Gore on his presidential campaign trail, despite his participation in many of President Clinton's improprieties and, in many cases, criminal involvements.

Pastor Louis H. Burgess of the Chesapeake African-Methodist Church, a veteran of 42 years in the pulpit, declared, "What I care about is that the leader gets the job done. Whether he's a good moral person is between him and his Maker. I want an effective leader."

CAPONE AND HITLER AS LEADERS

I reminded Pastor Burgess that, by his standards, Al Capone, the Chicago gangster, and Adolph Hitler were effective leaders who got the job done. Mr. Burgess had no logical answer—only that they did what their follow-

ers wanted.

This Sunday feature offered no reaction of other religious leaders, and using Pastor Burgess, as a lead-in, was an obvious ploy for the *Pilot's* desired conclusions.

'MORALLY SUSPECT' OK

Old Dominion Prof. Stephen K. Medvic said, "People would rather have someone who is 'morally suspect' than someone who is 'morally upright' but can't run the country." The secret, professor, is to elect qualified leaders of good character. Let's not assume that there are moral men and women out there too dumb to run the country as good leaders.

This *Pilot*-ODU poll of 647 Virginia voters had 52 percent preferring an effective leader over a "morally good person" and only 27 percent favoring good character.

Supporters of presidential candidate George W. Bush were evenly divided between morality and effective leadership—while Gore supporters overwhelmingly wanted effective leadership with morality 10 percent.

POLLS ARE CONFIRMED

A review of the Clinton-Gore Administration confirms the polls' finding of leadership as top priority and that the overwhelming evidence of misdeeds is discounted in the following Clinton-Gore scandals:

* Chinagate where US nuclear technology was sold to the Communist Chinese as a *quid pro quo* for China's donations to their campaign.

* Laundering of campaign donations through legal defense accounts.

* Gore's illegal campaign solicitations from the White House with his pathetic alibi of "no controlling legal authority," when caught.

* Gore's illegal campaign solicitations from the Buddhist Temple and denying its purpose, despite clear incriminating evidence. He lied.

* Travelgate where Travel Office employees were smeared and fired so the Clintons could put in their cronies.

* Filegate where FBI files were illegally used to smear perceived Clinton-Gore enemies.

* Canalgate where Communist Chinese ally Hutchison Whampoa was accepted as "gatekeeper" of the Panama Canal in violation of the Neutrality Treaty.

* IRSgate where tax returns were used to intimidate opponents.

In his recent book *SELL OUT*,

David Schippers, former Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee, reveals irrefutable evidence of perjury and obstruction of justice by President Clinton and the cowardly handling of Clinton's impeachment "trial" by US Senate leaders. Disgraceful!

IS GREED THE CREED?

All in all, this is truly a sad state of affairs when so many Americans, blessed with a bountiful country and a benevolent God, choose self-interest as their priority when their Christian heritage teaches character and morality as foundations.

Since the *Pilot*-ODU report uses religious reaction, let us, in fairness, turn to the 8th century B.C. prophet Isaiah, called the Bible's greatest in majestic eloquence and eternal counsel. Just before the Assyrian invasions of Israel, Isaiah warned the rulers of Jerusalem that they had struck a bargain with Death and sold out to the devil for his protection and had made lies their refuge and falsehood their hiding place (Isa. 28:15).

What better way to close this moralization than with Paul's words to the Philippians, when Paul was a prisoner of Nero, the cruel Emperor of Rome in 60 A. D.: ". . . **whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just, . . . whatsoever things are of good report, . . . think on these things**" (Phil. 4:8).

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

Stability of the Covenant

Continued from page 468

*Eternal wisdom drew the plan;
In all things ordered well.*

*This covenant O believer stands,
Thy rising fears to quell;
Sealed by thy Surety's bleeding hands,
In all things ordered well.*

*"Twas made with Jesus for His bride,
Before the sinner fell;
"Twas signed, and sealed, and ratified;
In all things ordered well.*

*When rolling worlds depart on fire,
And thousands sink to Hell,
This covenant shall the saint admire,
In all things ordered well.*

*In glory, soon, with Christ their King,
His saints shall surely dwell;
And this blest covenant ever sing;
In all things ordered well.*

Does the church you attend ever preach about the blood of the everlasting covenant? What do you know about this subject upon which all your

salvation depends? Do you have an interest in this covenant? Are you sanctified by its blood? Do you know the Mediator of the covenant?

BEREA BAPTIST HYMNAL #3

We have definite plans to publish *The Berea Baptist Hymnal* No. 3 in the early part of 2001. Some 300 copies are already sold before I make this announcement. We plan to include all the songs in the first two plus a few new ones written by our people. It will have GOOD BINDING (not like No. 2 which was a mess). Send no money at present, but let me know as soon as possible how many you might want. I cannot tell you the price until I know how many we will be able to print. Send the number you want to Berea Baptist Church Bookstore, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855.

Webster's American Family Dictionary

\$23.95

This is a dictionary which covers Bible terms, American History and Civics, Proverbs, and much more. It contains 1,124 pages. Add \$4 for shipping & handling.



The Pilgrim Church by E. H. Broadbent **\$24.99**

This book traces the pathway of forgotten saints from Pentecost to the Twentieth Century. It was first published 60 years ago. You will find information about the Paulicians, Bogomils, Albigeneses, Waldenses, Anabaptists, etc. While there are some things in this book that I do not agree with, it is overall a very good book. It also has a helpful timeline and color maps. Add \$4 for postage & handling.

Christ Alone Exalted



By Tobias Crisp, D.D.

Christ Alone Exalted by Tobias Crisp

This four volume set in paperback is

\$41.95. It contains much information about sovereign grace. Add \$5 for shipping & handling.

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum


Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

Is there life on other planets? Will we ever do foreign mission on these planets? --- Alabama




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foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes."

TOM ROSS




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None of us can be sure about the existence or absence of some form of life on other planets. However, I do not believe in the hypothetical theory that other planets can support the life forms that we enjoy upon the earth. Many people seem to be influenced by fiction writers and the Hollywood moguls presentations of fictional star wars and extraterrestrial activities. The movies, TV, books and even children's toys promote the false idea that some form of life (in many ways superhuman) exists on other planets. The Scriptures attest the existence of fallen angels and demon spirits, and Satan as the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2), but I do not find support for any teaching of human life on other planets.

Since I do not believe that our form of life exists on any planet other than earth, it would be ludicrous for me to speak of engaging in mission work on other planets. To speak of foreign missions on other planets raises more questions than it answers. If human life exists on these planets, and Christ died for a people who lives on one or more of these planets, why did He wait until some sort of technology could be developed by us to carry the gospel to them? If human life exists on planets other than earth, what would keep God from getting His Word to them in the same way His Word came to us?

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



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I do not mean to be sarcastic or silly, but I personally do not believe there is human life on other planets as we know human life. I believe the Bible was written for all of mankind and that the only beginning of all humans which are only on the earth was Adam.

This may seem simplistic to many, but I believe God has only created one human race and that race is us on earth. I do not believe in life on other planets or a pre-adamic race.

This being the case there would never be any need for mission work on other planets.

I see no Scripture denying my position.

GARNER SMITH



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"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong

There is no evidence in the Scriptures or science that conclusively proves that there is life on other planets that I know of.

The boundaries outlining the mission outreach of the New Testament Baptist Church are clearly laid out in Acts 1:8 which declares: **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."** Our mission work is confined to the earth among human beings. Jesus Christ identified Himself in the incarnation with man; therefore, the perfect life and death of Christ could only be effectual for man. Hebrews 2:9-11 and 16-18 state: **"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which case he is not ashamed to call them brethren. . . For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."** Christ died for elect people; therefore, the commission is limited to people. Since we don't know who the elect are we are commanded to preach the Gospel to all men and leave the calling of the elect in the hands of God.

II Timothy 2:23 declares: **"But**

unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29).

There are many things that God has not revealed to man. These things are said to be secret things and belong to the Lord. If mankind was more interested in the wonderful things that God has revealed, it would be much more profitable to him.

For many years man has sought the answer to this question. The scientific world, with all of its advanced technology, has spent a great deal of money and time trying to find life on other planets. With all their effort, there has not been one discovery which would prove that this life does exist.

There is always the possibility that God has other creations that we know nothing about, but I do not believe that life, as we know it, exists on other planets. In Isaiah 45:18 we are told that God created the heavens and that it was **". . . God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited. . . ."** The word "inhabited" is used in the Bible 62 times. It is translated "potter" 17 times and "fashion" 5 times. It appears to me that only the earth was chosen by the divine Potter as a special creation and established as a place to be inhabited.

DAVID O'NEAL



Pagan Traditions

by David Ingraham

\$5.95

This writer has spent years researching the remnants of paganism. He tells the origins

of Easter, Christmas, and Halloween. Include \$3 for shipping & handling.

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 9-30-2000 to 10-31-2000

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,743.26
RECEIPTS	
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	100.00
Livingstone B. C., Barboursville, V	249.21
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	165.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	150.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Everson, WA	100.00
L. H. Farrell, Long Beach, MS	155.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR	25.00
.....	944.21
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,687.47
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	1,639.55
Tapes	40.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,679.55
.....	2,007.92
Bank Charge	-10.00
BALANCE	\$1,997.92
CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT	
Beginning Balance	\$523.32
RECEIPTS	
Total	523.32
EXPENDITURES:	
WYWY	175.00
Total Expenditures	175.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$348.32

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

Will there be any small babies on the earth following the rapture? What about the babies in the wombs of an unsaved mother? -- Mississippi



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My views of Biblical Eschatology lead me to the conviction that there will be babies born to unsaved mothers after the rapture.

It is plain to me that salvation comes to many after the rapture has occurred. Promises are abundant in the Old Testament concerning individual salvation to Israel (Paul being one example). The "all Israel" of Romans 11:26 cannot be dismissed from such verses as Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Joel 2:31-32; Zechariah 13:1-9.

Revelation 7:9-17 gives us indisputable evidence of salvation coming to a great number of Gentiles after the rapture.

The Scriptures are clear in informing us that salvation, before and after the rapture is on the basis of Christ's shed blood. The salvation of the 144,000 sealed servants, of Gentiles saved after the rapture, and the national salvation of Israel, is according to God's promise and purpose.

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These are very difficult questions to give a definitive answer to. God knows the exact day and hour of the rapture, so I believe that He has made provision in His sovereign decrees to show mercy and grace to small babies and those in the wombs of all mothers at the time of the rapture. I believe that the Holy Spirit will regenerate them much like He did in the case of John the Baptist who was regenerated while in his mother's womb. God's provision of grace for babies is the only explanation I can

give for the large population of God's elect that will ultimately inhabit glory. Jesus made it clear that the straight gate and the narrow way are entered into by relatively few of the living (Matt. 7:13-14). Yet Revelation 7:9-10 declares: **"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."** Here a great multitude of saved people are assembled in glory which leads me to believe that much of the population in Heaven will be made up of children who were victims of abortion or infanticide throughout the world. I cannot be dogmatic about this since the Scripture has relatively little to say about it. I am basing my conclusions on the merciful nature of God and the great multitude of elect that will ultimately inhabit glory.

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I believe there will be babies or children on earth after the rapture and that it's possible that some of these will be saved during the tribulation (Rev. 7:9-14).

We know there will be children after the tribulation in the millennium (Isaiah 11:8; 65:19-25). When the tribulation ends and the Judgment of the Nations takes place (Matthew 25:31-46), then those placed on the Lord's right hand will be ushered into the millennium. I do not see that those children living then would be cast into Hell but go into the thousand year reign with Christ and grow up during that period.

I have no biblical reason to believe that children would be the object of God's wrath upon the Jews during the

tribulation period; therefore, there will be babies born and live during the tribulation.

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In Ezekiel 8:7-18, we are told that Israel committed great abominations against God. The women were weeping for Tammuz (verse 14), and some of the men of Israel were engaged in the worship of the sun. **"...about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east"** (verse 16). God raised up six men to judge the people. One was to **"...go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sign and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof"** (Ezek. 9:4). Then in verses 5-6 **"...to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary."**

In God's judgment on Israel, only those who were godly were saved. The little children were not saved just because they were little children. The same is true when God destroyed men with water in the days of Noah, and with the judgment of fire on Sodom and Gomorrah. The tribulation period will follow the rapture. A time in which the judgment and wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth. I find no reason to believe that God will save babies from this judgment just because they are babies.

We can not say for sure that all babies that die will go to Heaven, but I believe that there is hope that they will. Job said, **"Why died I not from**

the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly" (Job 3:11)? Job certainly would not have said this if there had been no hope of his salvation in such a death. We do know that some babies will be saved, but can we know for sure that all babies are of the elect?

I know that many believe that all babies will take part in the rapture, but I find no Scripture that would support this. What about babies that will be born during the tribulation? I do not believe that babies will take part in the rapture just because they are babies; therefore, I believe that there will be babies on the earth following the rapture. I believe that God's grace provides for babies that die; and no doubt, many will die during the tribulation. If they are under God's grace, they will be a part of the great multitude of tribulation saints (Rev. 7:9-14).

DAVID O'NEAL



**BEREA BAPTIST BANNER
Financial Report
9-30-2000 to 10-31-2000**

Beginning Balance	\$3,793.95
RECEIPTS:	
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	17.31
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	125.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	200.00
Berea B. C., Stoning, IL	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
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Faith B. C., Seffner, FL	50.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
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Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY	35.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK	45.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL	25.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	25.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
J. B. Wild, Flint, MI	20.00
Landmark M. B. C., Monck's Corner, SC	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	75.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL	400.00
Morris Street B. C., Hobbs, NM	600.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Northland M. B. C., Delaware, OH	50.00
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM	25.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Warren, OH	75.00
South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA	25.00
Temple B. Mission, Johnson City, TN	25.00
The Lord's C., Goose Creek, SC	50.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	100.00
Subscriptions	94.00
Anonymous	256.00
Dividing Check	225.00
Sub Total	\$4,128.31
TOTAL	\$7,922.26
EXPENDITURES:	
Wages	2,465.00
Printing	521.00
Postage	707.22
FICA taxes	170.22
Dividing Check	225.00
Supplies	71.00
Total Expenditure	4,159.44
.....	3,762.82
Bank charge	-7.13
ENDING BALANCE	\$3,755.69

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

UNICEF CRITICIZED FOR ABORTION ROLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—Halloween is a major fundraising time for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. But this year some pro-life citizens will be refusing support for the group to protest its links to a radical agenda for sexualizing youth.

A bulletin from Britain's Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) noted that a memo issued by UNICEF executive director Kul Gautam, "intended for senior UNICEF staff a memo issued by UNICEF executive director Kul Gautam, "intended for senior UNICEF staff around the world," writes SPUC, ". . . insists that 'the gap between children's legal rights and their rights in practice must be closed' and affirms that adolescents should have 'full access to information on responsible sexual behavior [code for contraception], equitable gender roles [code for homosexuality and feminism] and to reproductive and sexual health services [code for abortion].'"

SPUC notes that the United Nations "defines adolescence as beginning at the age of 10."

The *National Catholic Register* also reported that UNICEF helps fund abortion, contraception and sterilization programs in the Third World. For example, in El Salvador controversy is simmering over a sex-education program sponsored by UNICEF. Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador has, from the pulpit, denounced a 170-page sex-education booklet designed by UNICEF and El Salvador's Ministries of Health and Education for training adolescents on sexuality issues including contraception, homosexuality and abortion, the *Register* reported.

"The dignity of people, institutions such as marriage and the rights of the family are all practically demolished with this document," he told Catholic News Service.

"UNICEF and Planned Parenthood are two of a kind," Winifride Prestwich, a founding member of the Canadian political pro-life lobby Campaign Life Coalition, told the *Register*. She is the author of a 1995 booklet, "UNICEF: Guilty as Charged," which documents the agency's cooperation with population-control groups including International Planned Parenthood Federation,

the World Health Organization, the U.N. Fund for Population Activities and the Population Council to support contraceptive, abortion and sterilization campaigns.

Over the years, UNICEF has participated in the distribution of millions of abortifacient IUDs and contraceptives in countries such as Pakistan and China. In 1987, UNICEF formally endorsed a recommendation that "legal, good quality abortion services should be made easily accessible to all women." By 1992, UNICEF was lobbying for abortion in some countries where it is still illegal, the *Register* said.

"UNICEF is pro-abortion," said Prestwich. "They put it so nicely. They don't want poor children coming into the world. It's not hidden. It's a publicly acknowledged agenda that is documented in public records, but most people are unaware that is what UNICEF is about."

"Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these" (Jer. 2:34).

COMMENTARY: BOY SCOUTS STILL FIGHTING FOR RIGHT TO EXCLUDE HOMOSEXUALS

By Doug Trouten

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—When the U. S. Supreme Court ruled earlier this summer that the Boy Scouts of America were within their rights to exclude homosexuals from the ranks of their adult leaders, it seemed as though the fight was finally over. Instead, that ruling merely rang the bell for the start of a new round.

Most people think of the Boy Scouts as a benevolent community organization devoted to teaching boys to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. But to the growing chorus of their critics, the main thing the Boy Scouts teach is intolerance.

Those critics battled the Scouts in court for years, hoping to use the power of government to force this private club to change its membership rules. Girls sued because they thought the Boy Scouts looked like more fun than the Girl Scouts and they wanted to join. Atheists sued, demanding to be permit-

ted to join the Scouts without pledging to do their "duty to God." And homosexuals sued, asserting a constitutional right to be permitted to go on camping trips with young boys.

Now that it's clear the courts won't force the Boy Scouts to change their ways, critics of the organization have turned to new allies, ranging from government agencies to corporate America.

On the federal level, the Justice Department was recently caught exploring ways to ban the Scouts from federal property because of their policy on homosexuality. Justice backed down only when it became clear that the resulting publicity would be damaging in an election year. In Congress, a few members are trying to strip the Boy Scouts of their federal charter and the benefits it provides—a mean-spirited initiative that thankfully has no chance of succeeding.

The United Way recently announced a new policy permitting donors to "opt out" of giving to particular groups. For years United Way has been funding groups that many Christians find objectionable, such as homosexual and abortion advocacy groups, but no opt-out policy was offered. Now that the policy is available, guess what group is being targeted? That's right—the Boy Scouts of America.

Corporate America is following suit, excluding the Boy Scouts from their planned giving. Public schools have voted to forbid recruiting for the Scouts on school property.

To most Americans, the refusal of the Scouts to open its doors to homosexual leaders is such an obviously correct policy as to require no explanation. Homosexuals who are seeking the "right" to lead Scout troops have already demonstrated two qualities that rightly concern parents: a sexual attraction to males, and a willingness to violate the sexual norms of society.

Critics claim that homosexual leaders would pose no threat to boys in the scouting program. Homosexuals aren't all child molesters, they insist, and of course they're right. But some homosexuals are child molesters—and that's enough.

Any question about the link between critics of scouting and homosexual predators was answered in a recent protest against the Scouts led by convicted child molester John Hemstreet. He's president of the Toledo chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and of Scouting for All, a group devoted to forcing the Boy Scouts to accept homosexuals. Hemstreet is also a former Boy Scout leader and a convicted child molester.

In 1993, Hemstreet was sentenced to four years in prison for sexually abusing a 10-year-old boy. Hemstreet, who was a Scout leader for 20 years, admits that he molested the boy but notes that

the boy was not a Scout.

Does that really help? "I may have molested other boys but I've never molested a Scout" isn't exactly the comforting phrase a parent hopes to hear from a Scout leader.

Hemstreet isn't alone. In fact, there are enough homosexual men who want to molest boys that they've formed a national organization: the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA). Years ago it was my unpleasant duty to attend a NAMBLA meeting as a reporter. I heard leaders of the group proclaim in graphic and vulgar terms that every boy in America should have a sexual encounter with an adult homosexual.

The Boy Scout policy is designed to keep that from happening. There are competing agendas at work here, and only one can prevail. Why have public schools, the United Way and corporate benefactors chosen to back NAMBLA's vision for America rather than that of the Scouts? It's a good question—feel free to call or write and ask them. And while you're calling or writing, check with your local Boy Scout Council and find out how you can help them.

The Boy Scouts of America are fighting a vitally important battle. They deserve our prayers and support.

[Doug Trouten is the director of EP News Service.]

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not" (Prov. 1:10).

VIETNAM REJECTS RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION CHARGES IN ANNUAL U.S. REPORT

HANOI, Vietnam (EP)—Representatives of the communist government of Vietnam challenged the accuracy of a report on international religious freedom released by the State Department on Sept. 5. The report was compiled from thousands of reports submitted by U.S. embassies across the world and first-hand testimonies by members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

In its assessment of Vietnam, the report states, "The Government continued to restrict significantly those organized activities of religious groups that it declared to be a variance with state laws and policies. . . [and] uses regulations to control religious hierarchies and organized religious activities closely, in part because the Communist Party fears that organized religion may weaken its authority and influence by serving as a political, social, and spiritual alternative to the authority of the central Government."

The report also claims that Vietnamese police detained persons based on their religious beliefs, and that govern-

Continued on page 473

Bible & the Newspaper

Continued from page 472

ment operatives regularly attend church services to monitor religious activities.

"A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it. . ." (Prov. 26:28).

GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

CLEVELAND, Ohio (EP)—A teacher's union stands accused of discriminating against religious conservatives. The Ohio branch of the National Education Association was cited by the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for "unnecessary delay" in its response to members who apply for "religious objector" status. Such objectors may ask that part of their annual state dues go to a charity of their choice rather than being used to support the union's political agenda. Of 97 applications for religious objector classification in Ohio last year, 46 were denied, and the typical application took six to nine months to be processed. Randy Wanke of the National Right to Word Legal Defense Foundation told *Education Week* the delays are "designed to harass and humiliate teachers of faith."

BEIJING, China (EP)—Sources report that a man arrested by Chinese police during a meeting of an underground Protestant church has died in custody. Liu Haitong, a 19-year-old worshipper, was arrested during a police raid of an underground church service at a private home in Henan province on Sept. 4. According to the Associated Press, Liu was beaten by police and developed a high fever. The Hong Kong based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy said that Liu developed a fever while in prison, but was denied medical attention by his captors. Liu died in the county jail on Oct. 16. Protestant groups in Henan reported increased pressure from police against their activities. According to AP, communist leaders have renewed their resolve to persecute and prosecute Christians who choose to worship outside of state-sponsored churches. Jia Chunwang, minister of Public Security, ordered nation-wide crackdowns on cults, separatists and "religious extremists" in early October.

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (EP)—Around 400 people were in attendance during Sunday service Oct. 1 at Sonmin Grace Church when two bombs went off, killing 10 and possibly injuring as many as 70 others. Tajikistan media attributed the bombings to Muslim fundamentalists, reports Compass Direct. However, Dushanbe police arrested 12 leaders of the church after the bombings. Sources said that some of the leaders were interrogated, tortured and de-

nied food. Compass reports that the country is experiencing a backlash against foreigners, which might explain the persecution of the church leaders. Sonmin Grace Church is supported in part by Korean missionaries and churches. Two days before the church bombing the U. S. Embassy in Dushanbe was evacuated in response to "a confirmed threat against foreigners." In the past, the government of Tajikistan encouraged religious freedom but the recent bombings and threats against foreigners could signal a change in this policy.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (EP)—Three out of four same-sex "unions" recorded under Vermont's new civil-unions bill went to out of state couples, according to Baptist Press. Of more than 800 civil unions recorded from July to Oct. 2, more than 600 went to same-sex couples from other states who went to Vermont seeking government recognition of their relationships. Critics of the policy predicted that couples from other states would use Vermont "civil union" certificates to challenge laws in other states denying legal recognition to same-sex marriages.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (EP)—The apparent ousting of Yugoslavian dictator Slobodan Milosevic through democratic elections in September is encouraging to members of minority churches in the devastated country. Zarko Djordjevic, pastor of the largest Baptist church in Yugoslavia, told Keston News Service that the new administration headed by President-elect Vojislav Kostunica must make deep changes to Yugoslavian society. "We had fifty years of vicious sowing of atheism in the country, and now it is important for people not to be content merely with cosmetic changes, with political changes, but to strive for inward changes. Only the new man can create new relations, and our desire is for people to repent and to believe in the Gospel," Djordjevic told Keston. Leopold Rochmes, vicar-general of the Catholic archdiocese of Belgrade, told Keston that his fellow Catholics are "pleased Kostunica will be the new president. The Serbian people are happy and we're fellow citizens. We always hail democracy." However, many Christian leaders, like Bishop Jan Valenti of the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church, are watching the transition of power cautiously. "We don't know what will be tomorrow. I hope democracy will triumph," Valenti said.

PRINCETON, N.J. (EP)—Bible reading in America is declining. According to a recent Gallup Poll, only 59 percent of the people in the U.S. say they read

the Bible at least occasionally, down from 73 percent in the 1980s. The number of people who read the Bible regularly (at least weekly) has also dropped from 40 percent in the 1980s to 37 percent today. Two out of three people questioned agreed that the Bible answers most of all of the basic questions of life. Only 14 percent said they are members of a Bible study group, but 35 percent said they are "very interested" in deepening their understanding of the Bible.

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP)—The number of Jews living in Jerusalem is at an all-time low, according to a study released by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies and published in the *Jerusalem Post*. Researchers found that in 1998 the growth of Arab populations within the city were three times that of the Jewish population. Jews also have a lower birthrate and higher death rate than their Arab neighbors. According to the *Post*, Jerusalem's Jews will outnumber Arabs two to one, with a population of 434,000 or about 69 percent. However, if current trends continue that number could fall to 62 percent in the next 20 years.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Conservative Christian William Bennett is criticizing his former ally Joseph Lieberman. Bennett and Lieberman once worked together presenting "Silver Sewer" awards which scolded the entertainment industry for its anti-family content, but Bennett says that as a vice president candidate, Lieberman is guilty of "selling out" to Hollywood in exchange for campaign contributions. At a recent fundraiser with entertainment executives, Lieberman said he has "tremendous respect for this industry." Bennett said, "When the money comes out and you get soft, and the voice changes and the tone changes and the words change, then that's called selling out." Bennett noted that neither Lieberman nor presidential candidate Al Gore rebuked an entertainment executive who told an irreverent joke about Jesus Christ. "You've got to walk out," Bennett told the *Washington Times*. "At least you've got to say, 'Gentlemen, this isn't the kind of thing we should be talking about or making fun of.' I can't tell you how disappointed I am in Joe Lieberman."

WETZLAR, Germany (EP)—Approximately 165,000 Christians will die because of their faith in Jesus Christ this year, estimates German statistician David B. Barrett. His conclusions were released in a book titled *Today's Martyrs* published by Idea News Agency and the German publishing house Schulte and Gerth. According to Barrett, over 43 million Christians have been martyred since the crucifixion of Jesus 2,000 years ago. Contributing writer Thomas

Schirmmacher, a professor and missiologist, writes that Christians are the most persecuted religious community in history. Much of the material found in the book was compiled by Max Klingberg, of the International Society for Human Rights. Klingberg claims that Western churches ignore the suffering of persecuted Christians "because they fear it might offset the efforts for an inter-religious dialog."

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—The U.S. government received \$700,000 in repayment from the London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation days before a team from the General Accounting Office was to audit the group at the request of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). The funds were originally given to affiliates in Uganda and India, which used the money to perform abortions and lobby for liberal abortion laws, in violation of U.S. policy. "We owe a lot to Senator Helms because he's been so vigilant on this issue," said Wendy Wright, spokesperson for Concerned Women for America.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—John Paulk, the former homosexual who directs Focus on the Family's "Love Won Out" ministry, was spotted recently in a gay bar in a largely gay neighborhood of Washington, D.C., according to *Newsweek* magazine.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (EP)—Radio personality Mike Trout, who abruptly left Focus on the Family Oct. 11, told the *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph* he quit after admitting to an extramarital affair.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—The International Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution Oct. 3 criticizing European countries for religious liberty violations. The resolution urges President Clinton to stress the issue of religious freedom with the leaders of Germany, France, Austria and Belgium. The resolution specifically mentions a recent French parliamentary report that listed several groups, including evangelical churches, as cults and questionable religious sects. The resolution states that this list has "been used by both private and official entities to harass, intimidate, deny employment and deny commercial loans to listed groups and members" and has singled out groups to subject them to "discrimination and harassment at the hands of the French government." Both the French and German government have come under criticism in recent years from the U.S. State Department for violations of religious liberty.

DELHI, India (EP)—India's govern-

Continued on page 474

Bible & the Newspaper

Continued from page 473

ment should tell all foreign churches and missionaries to pack up and leave, according to a message was delivered to a meeting of Hindu nationalists on Oct. 3. According to an article in the *Guardian*, K. S. Sudarshan told members of his Hindu nationalist group, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), that the Indian government should expel foreign churches and set up a state church similar to the government-controlled church of China.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP)—The U.S. House voted 250-170 Sept. to instruct conference committee members to eliminate federal funding for distribution of “morning-after pills” by school-based clinics. “No longer should Americans’ hard-earned tax dollars be used to undermine parental rights,” said Michael Bowman, vice president of government relations at the Family Research Council. “Both houses of Congress have acknowledged that schools shouldn’t be permitted to use taxpayer dollars to distribute without parental consent a pill that can potentially induce an abortion. It’s ridiculous that a 13-year-old child cannot take an aspirin without her parent’s permission, but she has easy access to abortion-inducing drugs.”

BEIJING, China (EP)—Both native and foreign Christians and missionaries who were killed in China during the 19th and early 20th centuries deserved to die, said Chinese officials and government-sponsored religious groups. These scathing remarks were a reaction to an announcement from the Vatican Sept. 26 that the Catholic Church will canonize 120 people executed for breaking Chinese laws against religious activity.

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—A retired priest who was known for giving food to the homeless and jobs to the unemployed is being investigated in connection with \$2 million in missing church funds. Monsignor Thomas Gradilone, who retired last year after nearly 20 years at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Queens, is being investigated by the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens and by the district attorney’s office in Queens. “I have learned that substantial sums of money have passed from Monsignor Gradilone to one or more individuals in amounts that greatly exceed the bounds of charity,” Bishop Thomas Daily told shocked parishioners. Daily said Gradilone claims that the missing money was given to the poor, but could not provide names for individuals or organizations which re-

ceived funds.

JERUSALEM, (EP)—Christian Arabs are leaving the Palestinian occupied territories in the Middle East in droves, reports the *Jerusalem Post*. The sudden wave of immigration has been caused by the outbreak of violence between Israelis and Palestinians. Christian Arabs have found themselves in the middle of this conflict that started in late September, reports the *Post*. Since the public call for violence against Christians and Israelis by a Muslim leader in Gaza, one Christian group has been attacked and several have been threatened. Homes belonging to Christian families have been taken over by Muslim Palestinians for use as military posts. Due to the increasing danger, Arab Christians have been leaving the area with help from foreign embassies. The embassies reported that a small number of the families leaving the area are of the Muslim faith as well.

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—Corporate America is increasingly involved with pornography, according to an extensive story in the *New York Times*. The *Times* investigation found that General Motors sells pornography through its Direct TV subsidiary, providing nearly \$200 million worth of pay-per-view sex films to some nine million Americans. The nation’s number two satellite company, EchoStar Communications, now makes more money than Playboy Enterprises selling graphic sex films by satellite. A major EchoStar backer is Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the News Corporation, owners of the Fox Entertainment Group. AT&T offers a hard-core sex channel called “The Hot Network” through its broadband cable service, and sells sex videos to more than one million hotel rooms through another subsidiary.

Baptist World Alliance leaders, at the July 3-9 General Council meeting in Cuba, had “an excellent” almost three-hour “very important” meeting with Cuba’s communist leader Fidel Castro (8-1 *CC*). They seemed to have been used by Castro for propaganda purposes. The BWA resolution that gained the most publicity was the unanimous resolution calling for the end of the blockade of medicine and food products to Cuba. A BWA report says “Baptists of the world stated very clearly that they thought it was unfair to punish the poor people of Cuba by such a blockade.” Why not a resolution against Castro’s “unfair” denial of freedom to poor Cubans? If Southern Baptists are as conservative as they claim, why do they remain members and major supporters of such a left-wing organization as the Baptist World Alliance? (*Calvary Contender*, 9-15-00).

The London Times for August 4th reported that Britain’s teenage girls “are showing unprecedented interest in witchcraft, with about 100 every month wanting to join covens to learn about casting spells.” Citing a study published in the September issue of *Youthwork*, a monthly magazine published by the Premier Christian Media Group, the *Times* noted that boys, too, “are rejecting Christianity and the Church for witchcraft, inspired by television programs such as Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Sabrina the Teenage Witch and the Harry Potter books.” But the “greatest demand is for young women seeking female empowerment,” a trend “being accelerated by thousands of pages on the Internet offering anything from ‘poison’ rings to spells (*The New American*, 9-29-00).

Former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican and President of the Catholic Alliance Raymond Flynn told a 1,000-member Catholic Order of Hiberians audience (July 3): “We (Rds) must unite and send a message to our country that the more than 62 million American Catholics intend to turn out in Nov. and support only candidates who support us” (July-Aug. *Fund. Digest*). Of course, the major news media “overlooked” this item! (*ibid.*, 9-1-00).

The woman who sharply questioned Vice President Al Gore at a town-hall meeting about Juanita Broaddrick’s rape accusation against President Clinton has become the subject of an inquiry by the Internal Revenue Service (*The Washington Times*, 9-4-00).

Nearly half of the schools participating in Milwaukee’s private school-choice program had to return money to the state last year, according to the American Enterprise Institute. Under the program, low-income students were given vouchers to attend private and religious schools. As hard as they tried, the private schools just couldn’t spend the \$4,897 they were given to educate each of their school choice children. St. John Kanty School, the lowest-cost school in the choice program, spent \$3,096 to educate each student last year. School administrator Lois Maczuzak explained, “We don’t have to pay for a huge administration and a lot of red tape.” Meanwhile, Milwaukee public school officials are preparing to approve a 2000-01 budget that comes to about \$9,500 per student (*Human Events* 9-22-00).

“It shall be unlawful for any authority, military or civil, of the United States, a State, or any district, possession, commonwealth or other territory under the authority of the United States to carry

out a sentence of death on a woman while she carries a child in utero. In this section, the term ‘child in utero’ means a member of the species homo sapiens, at any state of development, who is carried in the womb” (Text of the Innocent Child Protection act, H. R. 4888, adopted by the House of Representatives, 417-0 July 25, 2000).

Christian News has shown over and over again that officially-recognized China Christian Council and Three-Self Movement leaders Wenzao Han and Bishop Ting are spokesmen for the Communists and have defended even such mass-murdering Communist leaders as Mao Tse Tung (7-17, *CM*). They approve of Communist China’s murderous one child per family abortion policy. They promote Marxist socialism and do not believe that Christ is the only way to Heaven and that Christianity is the only saving faith. Yet many Christian leaders in the U.S. praise them (*Calvary Contender*, 8-15-00).

The “hate crime” law may ultimately be used to punish Christian pastors who preach that homosexuality is sinful—that is, a sermon against sodomy could be considered as hate speech. The law would make some victims more worthy than others, thus denying Equal Protection. The way liberals seem to apply it is that to murder a homosexual would likely be a hate crime, but for a homosexual to murder someone would likely not be (*Calvary Contender*, 10-15-00). Editor’s Comment: I am fearfully afraid of the so-called “hate crime” law. It seeks not to control what people do or say, but what they think!

Mass-murdering communist atheist Fidel Castro spoke for four hours to a crowd of 2,000 admirers at notoriously liberal Riverside Church in New York after attending the UN Millennium Summit (9-18 *Chr. News*). Former NCC head Joan Brown Campbell and Maxine Waters were in the crowd that applauded. Riverside, located adjacent to Union Seminary and NCC headquarters, has long been a hotbed for subversive activity. (See 10-15-88 *CC* for a report of our 1988 visit to Riverside, etc.) It was built by John D. Rockefeller and made famous by liberal Harry Emerson Fosdick. Left-wing demonstrator William Sloane Coffin and James Forbes were more recent senior ministers there. But all kinds of political and theological left-wing radicals have spoken at Riverside through the years. So Castro fit in rather comfortably (*ibid.*).

In 1960, nine percent of American couples were said to be cohabiting. Today the estimate is 45 percent (*Straight Talk*, 9-28-00).

A quick view of history shows us what
Continued on page 475

Bible & the Newspaper

Continued from page 474

has happened in various nations after gun controls were imposed. In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun controls, and from that year until 1953, 20 million people were rounded up and exterminated. Turkey established gun control in 1915, and over the next three years, 1.5 million Armenians were rounded up and exterminated. Germany established gun controls in 1938, and over the next seven years 13 million people were rounded up and exterminated. China established gun controls in 1935, and over the next 17 years, 29 million people were rounded up and exterminated. In 1964, Guatemala established gun controls, and during the next 17 years, 100,000 people were rounded up and exterminated. In 1970, Uganda established gun controls, and during the next eight years, 300,000 people were rounded up and exterminated. In 1956, Cambodia established gun controls, and from 1975 to 1977, 1 million 'educated people' were rounded up and exterminated. Thus, in the 20th century, 56 million people unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated. Now Bill Clinton, Al Gore, and others of that mind are pushing like mad to disarm the people of the U.S. (David J. Meyer, *Last Trumpet Newsletter*).

In response to questions about why CBS did not hire Green Bay Packer star Reggie White as a sportscaster, a CBS spokeswoman denied White's condemnation of homosexual activity was involved, but told *Human Events* that the company believes employees should check their Christian beliefs at the door of the workplace. Like the White House (*Straight Talk* 9-21-00).

Americans spend as much time filling out tax forms as Chevrolet spends making cars and trucks! That's a million vehicles a year! Just our federal taxes (not including State and local) could buy 70 million new cars (at \$20 thousand each!) a year! It would take the entire U.S. auto industry four years to make that many cars! If all money spent on welfare actually went to people on welfare, each family on welfare would get over \$40 thousand a year! (*ibid.*).



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Unwrapping Xmas

Continued from page 461

today.

Evidence of the worship of "father sun" and "mother earth," and the many religions that have developed from it, can be found world-wide and in almost every time period.

In *The Two Babylons*, Alexander Hislop traces the development of the Babylonian mystery religion back to Semiramis, the wife of Noah's great-grandson Nimrod. Speaking of the worship of Semiramis by the Babylonians, and how she bore a child whom she declared was miraculously conceived, Hislop says on page 21 that, "It was from the son, however, that she derived all her glory and her claims to deification. That son, though represented as a child in his mother's arms, was a person of great stature and immense bodily powers, as well as most fascinating manners. In Scripture he is referred to (Ezek. viii. 14) under the name of Tammuz, but he is commonly known among classical writers under the name of Bacchus, that is 'The Lamented one.'"

On page 291 of *Lectures on the Revelation*, H.A. Ironside says, "From Babylon this mystery-religion spread to all the surrounding nations, as the years went on and the world was populated by the descendants of Noah. Everywhere the symbols were the same, and everywhere the cult of the mother and the child became the popular system; their worship was celebrated with the most disgusting and immoral practices. The image of the queen of heaven with the babe in her arms was seen everywhere, though the names might differ as languages differed. It became the mystery-religion of Phoenicia, and by the Phoenicians was carried to the ends of the earth. Ashtoreth and Tammuz, the mother and child of these hardy adventurers, became Isis and Horus in Egypt, Aphrodite and Eros in Greece, Venus and Cupid in Italy, and bore many other names in more distant places. Within 1000 years Babylonianism had become the religion of the world, which had rejected the Divine revelation."

In Egypt was the myth of Isis, "the Great Mother." Will Durant, in volume one (pages 200-201) of his nine volume *The Story of Civilization* says, "The Egyptians worshiped her with especial fondness and piety, and raised up jeweled images to her as the Mother of God; her tonsured priests praised her in sonorous matins and vespers; and in midwinter of each year, coincident with the annual rebirth of the sun towards the end of

our December, the temples of her divine child, Horus (god of the sun), showed her, in holy effigy, nursing in a stable the babe she had miraculously conceived."

In a later chapter of volume one of *The Story of Civilization* (page 235) Durant says, "Ishtar (Astarte to the Greeks, *Ashtoreth to the Jews*) interests us not only as analogue of the Egyptian Isis and prototype of the Grecian Aphrodite and Roman Venus, but as the formal beneficiary of one of the strangest of Babylonian customs. She was Demeter as well as Aphrodite—no mere goddess of physical beauty and love, but the gracious divinity of bounteous motherhood, the secret inspiration of the growing soil, and the creative principle everywhere. . . . her worshipers repeatedly addressed her as 'The Virgin,' 'The Holy Virgin,' and 'The Virgin Mother,' . . ."

Durant then quotes from *The Mothers* by Robert Briffault, a Babylonian litany in which they address Ishtar as "Queen of Heaven."

A couple of pages later (p.238) Durant says, "*Tammuz*, son of the great god Ea, is a shepherd pasturing his flock under the great tree Erida (which covers the whole earth with its shade) when Ishtar, always insatiable, falls in love with him, and chooses him to be the spouse of her youth. But Tammuz, like Adonis, is gored to death by a wild boar, and descends, like all the dead, into that dark subterranean Hades which the Babylonians called Aralu, and over which they set as ruler Ishtar's jealous sister, Ereshkigal. Ishtar, mourning inconsolably, resolves to go down to Aralu and restore Tammuz to life by bathing his wounds in the waters of a healing spring."

On the next page, Durant says, "To the modern scholar it is only an admirable legend, symbolizing delightfully the yearly death and rebirth of the soil, . . . to the Babylonians it was sacred history, faithfully believed and annually commemorated in a day of mourning and wailing for the dead Tammuz, followed by riotous rejoicing over his resurrection."

Two chapters later, on page 295, Durant says, "And as Ishtar had loved Tammuz, so Astarte had loved Adoni (i.e., Lord), whose death on the tusks of a boar was annually mourned at Byblos and Paphos (in Cyprus) with wailing and beating of the breast."

Encyclopedia Britannica (1957), which also contains much of this information, says, "The liturgical wailings for Tammuz during the period of his sojourn in Aralu are numerous and describe every aspect of the theological doctrines concerning him."

In Persia, at the time of Artaxerxes II (404-359 B.C.), the worship of Mithra became strong. In chapter 13,

on page 372, Durant says, ". . . in the first centuries of our era, the cult of Mithra as a divine youth of beautiful countenance with a radiant halo over his head as a symbol of his ancient identity with the sun—spread throughout the Roman Empire, and shared in giving Christmas to Christianity."

Encyclopedia Britannica mentions the date of December 25 as being a Mithraic feast in the fourth century.

Instead of believing the first verse of the Bible that, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," those worshipers believe that the gods were created by the earth and sun.

In *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1957), the article on "Christmas" says, "In the beginning many of the earth's inhabitants were sun worshipers because the course of their lives depended on its yearly round in the heavens, and feasts were held to aid its return from distant wanderings. . . . Thus these ancient peoples held feasts at the same period that Christmas is now observed; they built great bonfires in order to give the winter sun god strength and to bring him back to life again. When it became apparent that the days were growing longer, there was great rejoicing because of the promise of the lengthening days to follow. . . . when the fathers of the church in A.D. 440 decided upon a date to celebrate the event, they wisely chose the day of the winter solstice which was firmly fixed in the minds of the people and which was their most important festival. Because of changes in man-made calendars, the time of the solstice and the date of Christmas vary by a few days."

Notice that God did not instruct us to have any such celebration or observance and gave us no date for it. It was "the fathers of the church" who "decided" upon the celebration and the date. It is important to recognize that the "church" we are talking about here is the "church" whose "father's" also had earlier "decided" on the false doctrine of baptism being necessary for the obtaining of salvation, and that babies must be baptized to keep them from going to hell. It is the same "church" that has killed over fifty-million people for refusing to recognize their baptism as valid.

Bede was born in 672 or 673, and lived until 735. He was a Catholic priest and according to his autobiography, spent his whole life, from the age of seven, in a monastery. In 731 Bede wrote the *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*. *Encyclopedia Britannica* says of Bede, ". . . he showed a very unusual conscientiousness in collecting his information from the best available sources, and in dis-

Continued on page 476

Unwrapping Xmas

Continued from page 475

tinguishing between what he believed to be fact, and what he regarded as rumor or tradition."

Bede had at his disposal the library of books collected by Benedict Biscop. In *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation*, Bede quoted instructions given by Pope Gregory I, in 601 A.D., to missionaries sent from Rome. In those instructions, Pope Gregory I said, "Let the shrines and idols by no means be destroyed but let the idols which are in them be destroyed. Let water be consecrated and sprinkled in these temples; let altars be erected . . . so that the people, not seeing their temples destroyed, may displace error, and recognize and adore the true God. . . . And because they were wont to sacrifice oxen to devils, some celebration should be given in exchange for this . . . they should celebrate a religious feast and worship God by their feasting, so that still keeping outward pleasures, they may more readily receive spiritual joys."

That quotation is in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1957), under "Christmas."

In 719, Pope Gregory II commissioned St. Boniface as a missionary to Germany. While in Germany, St. Boniface found that the Teutonic people had a tradition of sacrificing a child each year under a large oak tree. St. Boniface suggested that rather than sacrifice the child, they should cut a fir tree and celebrate around it at home. The Christmas tree tradition continued down through the years in Germany and, in the sixteenth century, Martin Luther decorated one with candles. From that, the decorating with lights and ornaments caught on. Early in the nineteenth century (less than two hundred years ago), the Christmas tree tradition was brought into America by German settlers. Most of this information can be gleaned from *Encyclopedia Britannica* under "Boniface, Saint," "Christmas," and "Teutonic Peoples."

World Book Encyclopedia (1985) says, "The popularity of Christmas grew until the Reformation, a religious movement of the 1500's. This movement gave birth to Protestantism. During the Reformation, many Christians began to consider Christmas a pagan celebration because it included nonreligious customs. During the 1600's, because of these feelings, Christmas was outlawed in England and in parts of the English colonies in America. However, *people continued to exchange Christmas gifts and soon started to follow the other old customs again.*" Often, those who have learned the truth about the holiday claim to no longer celebrate it but continue to exchange gifts around that time. It should

be no surprise when their children, after they are grown, begin to practice all the other pagan customs. I believe it is imperative that God's people get completely out of it lest we be perceived, like Lot was by his family, "**as one that mocked**" (Gen.19:14).

Let us now look at what the Bible says about the worship of these gods and goddesses of the sun and the earth. Remember the things said earlier about Ashtoreth, Ishtar, and Isis. In Judges 2:13 we find that Israel was worshipping Ashtaroth: "**And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.**" Baal is also synonymous with Tammuz. Notice God's response in Judges 2:14-15. Notice that the worship of Baal is often spoken of in the Bible, and often, as in Judges 2:13 in connection with Ashtaroth. *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1957) says, "Of the worship of the Tyrian Baal, . . . The solar character of this deity appears especially in the annual feast of his awakening after the winter solstice."

I Kings 11:5 says, "**For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians. . . .**" Verse 6 says, "**And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.**"

God considers participating in the worship of those gods and goddesses to be spiritual adultery. It is not that Solomon totally renounced God, or came to the point of no longer believing in God, but that he tried to serve both; he "**went not fully after the LORD.**" Notice also that spiritual adultery is far more serious than physical adultery. David had committed physical adultery with Bathsheba, which was wrong, and even had her husband murdered, which was wrong, but Solomon's spiritual adultery was far worse.

Nergal, mentioned in II Kings 17:30, is the sun god Horus, the "divine child" of Isis ("Mother of God" to the Egyptians), mentioned earlier.

In I Samuel chapter 7, we also find record of a time when the Israelites were worshipping Ashtaroth. Note that they had not intentionally abandoned God and renounced Him, but were trying to hang on to both. Verse 2 says that, ". . . **all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.**" They wanted God and His blessings, but they were sinning against Him, committing spiritual adultery with the "**strange gods and Ashtaroth.**" I Samuel 7:3-4 says, "**And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand**

of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only." Not long afterwards, in I Samuel 12:10, the same people were again serving Baalim and Ashtaroth.

In II Kings 23 we see the proper action taken by Josiah, regarding the "**high places . . . which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth**" (v.13). In verse 14, Josiah "**brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves.**"

Look at the celebration going on in Jeremiah 7:17-19. Notice that the "queen of heaven" was being worshiped there by the people of Judah. Remember this was one of the titles given to Ishtar/Ashtaroth by the Babylonians. Judah had learned "the way of the heathen" in that holiday celebration. Jeremiah 10:2-4 says, "**Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.**" In Jeremiah 44:15-29, the people were again worshipping "the queen of heaven," Ashtaroth, the mother of Tammuz, the sun god.

This is one of the major subjects of the Bible, and is addressed repeatedly from cover to cover. Participation in the pagan holy-days is as sinful and damnable now as it was four thousand years ago. The Israelites were always in trouble over it. We are more accountable now than ever before. If dabbling in pagan practices and learning "**the way of the heathen**" (Jer. 10) was so wrong for God's chosen nation, how much the more for the Lord's New Testament churches!

The gods and goddesses of the Babylonians and Romans are the very gods and goddesses that are worshipped and honored in the so-called, "Christ-mass" and Easter celebrations. The refusal to acknowledge the gods and goddesses of these holidays was the primary reason the Christians of the first three centuries, A.D., were persecuted by the Roman pagans. They were not persecuted because they believed in God, but because they believed in God *only* and refused to acknowledge the other gods. The populace considered the Christians the enemies of their gods and blamed them for anything that went wrong. The Christians were then called "the atheists" or "the deniers of the gods." There was a time when everyone was required by law to worship the false gods of the Romans by celebrating their holy-days,

and the Christians were killed for refusing to do so.

People claiming to be Christians, but defiling themselves with those pagan gods and holy-days, is the very thing that, in the year 251 A.D., led to the Novations declaring dis-fellowship with the church at Rome, and others who compromised with paganism to escape persecution rather than go "fully after the LORD." Before baptismal regeneration, infant baptism, or church government became an issue, that was the reason Jesus' true congregations refused to recognize the baptism of those who compromised, and as a result, were persecuted as Re-baptizers. On page 126 of *Ecclesiastical Researches* Robert Robinson wrote of Novation: "He saw, with extreme pain, the intolerable depravity of the church. Christians, within the space of a very few years, were caressed by one emperor, and persecuted by another. In seasons of prosperity, many rushed into the church for base purposes. In times of adversity they denied the faith and ran back to idolatry again. When the squall was over, they came again to the church, with all their vices, to deprave others by their example. The bishops, fond of proselytes, encouraged all this, and transferred the attention of Christians from the old confederacy for virtue, to vain shows at Easter, and a thousand other Jewish ceremonies, adulterated, too, with paganism. . . he saw no prospect of reformation, but on the contrary, a tide of immorality pouring into the church, he withdrew, and a great many with him."

On pages 52-56 of *History of Baptists* G.H. Orchard gives a similar account and notes, "There was no difference in point of doctrine between the Novationists and other Christians" but separated themselves, in their words, "for the purity of our communion." The tolerance of paganism within their membership was the primary irregularity of those "irregular churches" of the first two centuries represented on the "Trail of Blood" chart. Down through the centuries one of the common charges brought against the Waldenses by the inquisitors was that they contemned the Roman Catholic holy-days. It was on Christmas day of the year 1400 when an armed troop led by the Roman Catholic Inquisitor named Borelli descended upon a village of Waldenses at Pragelas, killing all they could and driving the rest into the mountains where they froze to death.

The evidence of the pagan origin and Catholic development of Christmas is overwhelming. The Scriptures are clear. The reason the truths of the subject may sound so foreign to true Christians is that they have not been adequately taught. The logical remedy

Continued on page 477

Unwrapping Xmas

Continued from page 476

is to teach the truth. Teaching the truth necessarily involves exposing error, but it must be done in Christian love and patience. This is not some gray area upon which we should be able to agree to disagree. I have found that an uncompromising and consistent stand against the holiday has provided many opportunities to tell the truth about other Bible doctrines. If we only drive out the spirit of Christmas and fail to tell the truth about Jesus, the last state may be worse than the first.

Sometimes people will deny that their participation in the holiday is paganism and defend it as "just for fun." Why not use the same defense for gambling, fornication, or drunkenness? Do not people do those things "just for fun?" If it is wrong it is wrong. How

sad it is to see many of the Roman relics brought into Baptist meeting-houses. I thank God for the churches that have kept the holiday out of their church-house and for the faithful pastors who have preached the truth about it, but let us not forget that a New Testament church is NOT a church building. It is made of people and does not temporarily cease to exist when we say "amen" and go home. If paganism is in our homes and in our lives, it is in our church. And if it is, it is only because we allow it. May God grant of His grace that we get back to the purity of communion that was once demanded by the Baptists.

"Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD" (Joshua 24:14).

(Theodorich) and in order to please him proposed to adopt the religion of the king. The king ordered the priest to be beheaded, because if "he was a traitor to the King of kings, he would be a traitor to Theodorich." If all such traitors were put to death now we should need more undertakers to bury the dead. The man who shapes his creed to suit the company he is in is a traitor to God.

IV. We are taught to pray for the triumph of the Lord's Kingdom. In the Lord's model prayer we are taught to say, **"Thy Kingdom come."** This does not mean for us to ask that the kingdom come into existence, but it means that we want the kingdom to come in triumph. It is already in existence, but will triumph when the Lord descends from Heaven with a shout. **"Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly"** (*Baptist and Commoner*, September 20, 1922).

God's Sovereignty

By Ben M. Bogard

(1868 - 1951)

"The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth" (Rev. 19:6).

I. This text is a prophecy of the final glorious triumph of the Lord. The final success of our cause, and the final triumph of God over evil is the optimistic note in the Bible. Appearances are discouraging. The devil is supreme in the affections of the people now, but the devil will one day be bound and the Lord's reign will be undisputed.

The Lord is coming to take the world for Himself. Matthew 25:31: **"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."**

II. There is a sense in which the Lord is sovereign now. All the powers of evil operate by His permission, and all earthly rulers rule by His permission. When He has wrought His purpose with them they shall cease. Just why God permits evil and evil doers is beyond our comprehension, but He has set the limit for all evil forces. Thus far they can go and no further. Matthew 8:28-29: **"There met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"**

Earthly kings rule by God's permission. Proverbs 8:15-16: **"By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all**

the judges of the earth." God has decreed civil government, and this means that some must be in authority. Those who hold positions of power should recognize God and if they fail to do so, their downfall is certain. When Herod forgot God and arrogated to himself divine power he was stricken by the angel of God and was eaten of worms. (Acts 12:21-23). The greater the height the worse the fall. So with Nebuchadnezzar and Belteshazzar. (Dan. 4th and 5th chapters.)

These devils recognized the Lord and His power over them and they realized that their time was short, and that they must be cast into torment. Even the devils were subject to the Lord. Why does not God kill the devils? Such a question is prying into the hidden mysteries of the Lord. When they shall have served God's providential purpose they will be cast down into Hell. Those who serve the devil are serving only a temporary ruler whose reign must cease and his kingdom come to ruin. The pleasures of sin are but for a season, and the season will be wonderfully short. Those who serve God may suffer some inconvenience for a time, but their prosperity will be eternal.

III. The Lord is the Sovereign of His people. He is our BISHOP. We acknowledge no other ruler in spiritual affairs. We owe allegiance to God first. Acts 5:29: **"We ought to obey God rather than man."** These words of Peter clearly declare our attitude. Some people obey their wives or their husbands or their parents or their children, in order to have united families. A true child of God would rather die than to betray his Lord in any such manner. It is related in *Menzel's History of Germany*, that a priest came to the king

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELDER C. L. CURTIS PASSES

Elder C. L. Curtis was born October 5, 1922, and he departed this life



C. L. Curtis

October 31, 2000, at his home in Rives Junction, Michigan, after an extended illness. He leaves his wife, Mary and five sons, Bruce, Gregory, Timothy, John, and Steve; ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. He was a navy veteran of World War II. He was pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church for 35 years. His memorial service was held at the church on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2000, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Richard Miller officiated.

GLEANINGS



A GLASS OF MILK

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He

decided he would ask for a meal at the next house.

However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water.

She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."

He said. . . . "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Year's later that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease.

Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room.

Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life.

From that day he gave special attention to the case. After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room.


She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words. . . .

"Paid in full with one glass of milk"

(Signed)

Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank you, God, that Your love has spread abroad through human hearts and hands."



**Directory of
New
Testament
Churches
by
John Heading
\$8.99**

The writer holds to a dispensational view of the church with which I do not agree, but he has some good information about the local churches of the New Testament with a map showing where they were located. Add \$3 for postage & handling.

GLEANINGS



HOW THE GOVERNMENT WORKS

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of a desert. Congress said "Someone may steal from it at night." So they created a night watchman position and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said, "How does the watchman do his job without instruction?" So they created a planning department and hired two people, one person to write the instructions, and one person to do time studies.

Then Congress said, "How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" So they created a Quality Control department and hired two people. One to do the studies and one to write the reports.

Then Congress said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So they created the following positions, a time keeper, and a payroll officer, then hired two people.

Then Congress said, "Who will be accountable for all of these people?" So they created an administrative section and hired three people, an Administrative Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, and a Legal Secretary.

Then Congress said, "We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$18,000 over budget, we must cutback overall cost."

So they laid off the night watchman.

THE WISDOM OF CAREY

William Carey, before his call to the mission field, used to go about from village to village preaching, for his soul was filled with the love of God. One day a friend came to him and said, "Mr. Carey, I want to speak to you very seriously." "Well," said Mr. Carey, "what is it?" The friend replied, "By your going about preaching as you do, you are neglecting your business. If you only attended to your business more you would be all right, and would soon get on and prosper; but, as it is, you are simply neglecting your business." "Neglecting my business," said Carey, looking at him steadily, "My business is to extend the Kingdom of God, and I only cobble shoes to pay expenses."

Crowning Insult: Clinton Demands Apology

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia

The crowning insult to the American people may well be President Clinton's contention that "Republicans owe the country an apology for their railed effort to remove me from office," adding, "I have apologized for what I did wrong, (but) they never apologized to the country for impeachment and for all the things they've done" (Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot*, Oct. 31).

President Clinton apologized because *he got caught*. Does anyone doubt that if it hadn't been for the little blue dress with the white stain this man would still be out there denying any "improper relations" with that woman: Monica Lewinsky, the young White House intern?

THE CLINTON LEGACY

Mr. Clinton wants a legacy. his legacy will be: *The most corrupt administration in history* with junior partner Albert Gore, proved over and over, despite the media bias to protect them. The facts are out there.

The first line in his legacy may be: "First elected president ever impeached." The second line may say: "Not removed from office in a cowardly Senate trial." The third line may say: "Clinton demanded apology for his impeachment." And the fourth line: "Crowning insult to voters was Clinton demand for apology!"

These lines would be objective and accurate—but that doesn't mean it will happen. Historians are adroit to skewing facts to fit their agenda.

CLEVER LAWYERS

Surrounded with their team of clever lawyers, Bill and Hillary have played shady deals up to the very edge of the law. When trapped, they deny and stonewall to the bitter end, exploiting presidential privilege to wear out opponents or gain finding "insufficient evidence" from liberal independent counsels—always backed up by the insuperable Janet Reno, attorney general extraordinaire of the most politicized Justice Department in history.

The Clintons don't lose. Besides the slavish backing of the whole Executive Branch of government, they are masters of feigned innocence and pretended persecution to hoodwink the public into tear-jerking sympathy for their plight—sufficient for the president to demand apology for mistreatment.

If it works, that would be a classic in turning the tables!

I PAID A HIGH PRICE

President Clinton said, of his impeachment, "Most Americans think I

paid a pretty high price." Not so, said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS). "This shows you something about his thinking and judgment. Look, he disgraced the office and did things absolutely incredible, and then lied about it."

Senator Lott has come alive; he can talk, but take no action. He could have punished Clinton at the Senate impeachment trial for lying and obstruction of justice, but instead, told the impeachment managers not to "dump this garbage on us." He restricted the prosecution—and despite irrefutable evidence, the Senate acquitted Clinton on the two articles of impeachment. Many senators refused to examine evidence.

DENY AND STONEWALL

It took four years and \$40 million for independent counsel Kenneth Starr to produce mountains of powerful evidence to try Clinton in the Senate on the charges of lying under oath and obstruction of justice—with no time and money for more serious charges. The Clintons throughout had denied and stonewalled to run out the clock and the money for the investigations.

Similar delaying tactics largely defeated investigations of the more serious offenses, such as selling defense technology to Communist China (potential treason) and unlawful use of FBI files (felony). Chairman Fred Thompson (R-TN) of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee was blocked and obstructed by the tactics of Senator John Glenn (R-IL) until time and money ran out. Glenn was rewarded by a space flight in the shuttle, apparently a sort of *quid pro quo* for stellar work in protecting Clinton.

OTHER CLINTON SCANDALS

Shocking evidence on the public record points to many other White House scandals in addition to perjury and obstruction of justice, as follows:

* *Chinagate* where missile secrets were sold to Communist China, apparently in exchange for donations to the 1996 Clinton-Gore reelection campaign.

* *Filegate* where FBI files were illegally used against Clinton-Gore "enemies."

* *Travelgate* where loyal Travel Office employees were smeared and fired so the Clintons could hire their own cronies.

* *Canalgate* where Red China was accepted as gatekeeper of the Panama Canal in gross violation of the Panama Canal Neutrality Treaty.

* *IRSGate* in use of tax returns to intimidate Clinton-Gore opponents.

* *Laundering* money through legal defense funds.

* *Gore fund-raising* from a Buddhist Temple.

Two thousand years ago, the Roman poet Ovid taught that the best defense is a good offense. The Clintons are classic examples!

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



GLEANINGS

THE BIBLE, THE NATIONAL TEXTBOOK

By Clarence H. Benson

The place of the Bible among American people makes this recognition of supreme importance. There is no question but that the foundation of America was built upon the Bible. Not only did it for many years form the content of the curriculum of the public school, but there have been many official declarations to that effect by government authorities. So large a place did the Bible hold in the lives of the founders of our Republic, that when the Revolutionary War cut off the supply of Bibles from England, the Continental Congress, in 1777, took action to obtain copies from Holland. The thought of Congress in authorizing the printing of the first American Bibles was audibly expressed by President Grant nearly a century later, when he said, "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of our liberty. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future."

Recognition and encouragement of Bible instruction have not only been given by national statesmen and government officials too numerous to mention, but the Bible has been accorded the highest honors by Congress itself. In 1844, in 1866, and in 1874, the hall of the House of Representatives was opened to meetings in the interest of the American Bible Society. On the first occasion, the venerable John Quincy Adams was in the chair and delivered a masterly address. In 1866, the jubilee of the Bible Society was celebrated in the hall of the House of Representatives by several addresses on the influence of the Bible in the building of the nation.

Continued on page 479

Gleanings

Continued from page 478

In a national appeal issued in 1904 and signed by Theodore Roosevelt, Grover Cleveland, Chief Justice Brewer, Justice Fuller, Chuncey M. Depew, William Jennings Bryan, and many other leaders of note, we find the following significant statement:

“The social fabric of modern states has no surer foundation than the Bible, especially in a Republic like ours, which rests upon the moral character and adequate judgment of the individual. No thoughtful man can doubt that to decrease the circulation and use of the Bible among the people would seriously menace the highest interest of civilized humanity.”

The fact that these eminent statesmen have testified that the Bible is America's textbook; also the fact that it has been so closely associated with our government functions is eloquent proof of its worth. The initial act of the First Continental Congress was to make a provision that all of their sessions should be opened with Scripture reading and prayer. When the First National Congress met, one of the first rules to be adopted provided for daily devotions in each House. The daily act of religious worship begun by the founders of the nation has continued to this day in all American legislative bodies, and some state legislatures specifically require a copy of the Bible to be on the desk of the presiding officer.

THE BIBLE, THE GREATEST BOOK OF TODAY

Not only have official declaration and usage given recognition to the Bible as America's foremost book in the past, but there are other facts which must lead every American to give the Bible the place of preeminence. There are three tests of a book: How does it sell? How long will it last?

Can it be translated?

The Bible is still the world's best seller. For every copy of the most popular novel in America scores of Bibles are sold. The American Bible Society, in conjunction with the European society, is printing 70,000 Bibles every working day of the year. The output of the British and American Bible Societies for one year would load 225 trains, which coupled up would be twenty-five miles in length. If these Bibles could be placed one above another they would constitute a column sixty-three miles high.

While books come and go, and for the most part are quickly forgotten, the Bible lives today just as forcefully as it did when the original autographs were prepared.

But the most severe test of the greatness of any book is its translatability. Homer has been translated into twenty languages, Shakespeare into forty, but the Bible has been printed and circulated in more than 1,050 languages, spoken by nine-tenths of the human race. Of these 1,050 languages, 300 had no written form until the dialect was reduced to writing and a grammar built to put it into print. No other book has ever been worth the laborious task of creating 300 written languages in order that it might be given to benighted men and women.

Prof. William Lyon Phelps, of Yale University, has said: “Every one who has a thorough knowledge of the Bible may be truly called educated; and no other learning or culture, no matter how extensive or elegant, can among Europeans or Americans form a proper substitute. I thoroughly believe in a university education for both men and women, but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without a knowledge of the Bible.”

1999 - 2000 INDEX

A

A Biography of Eld. Wayne Cox by Milburn Cockrell-April 2000.....pg. 301
 A Charged Battery or A Living Connectio? by Curtis Pugh- March 2000.....pg. 281
 A Church Dedication Service in 1859 by J. P. Boyce Part 1- July 2000.....pg.361
 A Church Dedication Servive in 1859 by J. P. Boyce Part 2-Aug. 2000.....pg.395
 Adding Insult to Injury at the Panama Canal by G. Russell Evans - July 1999.....pg. 140
 A Letter From the Past by Elvis Gregory Part1-Oct. 1999.....pg. 181
 A Letter From the Past by Elivs Gregory Part 2- Nov.1999.....pg. 201
 A Missionary Looks at The Commission by Curtis Pugh- January 1999.....pg.1
 A Paganization of our Society by Dan T. Wooding- March 1999.....pg. 52
 A Review of 1999 by Milburn Cockrell-Feb. 2000.....pg. 261
 A Runaway Prophet by Milburn Cockrell- Dec. 1999.....pg.221
 A Tribute to Bill DeRossitt by Milburn Cockrell- March 2000.....pg.284
 All Things New By Jesse E. Cobb- May 2000.....pg. 321
 An Explanation Offered by O. L. Hailey- June 1999.....pg.118
 An Arminian Bible by Milburn Cockrell- Feb. 2000.....pg. 261
 An Open Letter to Senator John Warner by G. Russell Evans - Aug. 1999.....pg. 160
 Anger Backlash Follow Clinton Impeachment by G. Russell Evans- Feb. 1999.....pg. 40
 Arguments in Favor of Apostasy Refuted by John Hall - Nov. 2000.....pg. 441

B

Being Conformed by Todd Bryant- May 1999.....pg. 81
 280 Big Thumbs and Toes by Milburn Cockrell - June 1999.....pg. 101
 Brief Catechism of Bible Doctrine by J. P. Boyce Part1- Sept. 1999.....pg. 161
 Brief Catechism of Bible Doctrine by J. P. Boyce Part 2- Oct. 1999.....pg. 181
 Brief Catechism of Bible Doctrine by J. P. Boyce Part 3- Nov. 1999.....pg. 208

C

Carter Should be Careful about Name-Calling by G. Russell Evans- Feb. 2000.....pg. 278
 Catechismed by the Crew by Milburn Cockrell - Feb. 2000.....pg. 276
 Clearing the Clintons is No Surprise by G. Russell Evans-Nov. 2000.....pg. 454
 Clinton Should be Removed by Adm. Thomas H. Moore- Feb. 2000.....pg. 21
 Children in the Home by Milburn Cockrell - Dec 2000.....p. 461
 Chosen from the Beginning by Thomas Bradburg- March 2000.....pg. 281
 Christ is All in All by Milburn Cockrell- June 2000.....pg. 341
 Congressmen Seek Cooperation, Get Confrontation by G. Russell Evans - Dec. 1999.....pg. 240
 Consider Christ by Milburn Cockrell - March 1999.....pg. 41
 Consistent Strict Communion and Inconsistent Loose Communion by William Ashmore- Jan. 2000.....pg. 249
 Coming Persecution of Christians in American by Milburn Cockrell- Sept. 2000.....pg. 401
 Church Organization in 1600's by Nathan Wood- Sept. 2000.....pg. 408
 Church at Rome by George McDaniel Part 1-April 2000.....pg. 301
 Church at Rome by George McDaniel Part 2- May 2000..... pg. 321
 Church at Rome by George McDaniel Part 2- June 2000.....pg. 341
 Court Not “Hypocritical” about Death Penalty by G. Russell Evans - April 1999.....pg. 80
 Crowning Insult: Clinton Demands Apology by G. Russell Evans - Dec. 2000..... p. 478

D

Dead Flies and A Little Folly by Todd Bryant- Nov. 1999.....pg. 201
 Degrees of Punishment in Hell by Thomas T. Martin- Sept. 1999.....pg. 161
 Differences Between Baptists and Campbellities J. W. Porter- May 1999.....pg. 92
 Do Voters Pick Greed Over Character by G. Russell Evans - Dec 2000 p. 469
 Doing A Deadly Thingpg. 273

E

Ejection from the Fish by Milburn Cockrell- May 2000.....pg. 321
 Evils of Union Marriage by John Hall- Nov. 2000.....pg. 458

G

Gays in the Military by G. Russell Evans - March 2000.....pg. 300
 General Marshalls: No ‘Man of the Century’ by G. Russell Evans - April 2000.....pg. 320
 Gleaning from J. R. Graves-June 2000.....pg. 341
 Gleanings from the Baptist Flag by John Hall-Oct. 2000.....pg. 421
 Glorious Celbration Marks Canal Surrender by G. Russell Evans -Feb. 2000.....pg. 280
 God's Estimation of the Death of A Saint by Milburn Cockrell-Oct. 2000.....pg. 421
 God's Sovereignty by Ben M. Bogard - Dec 2000 p. 477
 Gourds or Souls by Milburn Cockrell-Nov. 2000.....pg. 381

H

Helping Children Grow by Curtis Pugh- July 1999.....pg. 121
 High Court Still Hostile to Religion by G. Russell Evans- Sept. 2000....pg. 401
 Hillary for US Senate: The Real McCoy by G. Russell Evans - Jan. 2000.....pg. 260
 His People by William Tiptaft- Part 1-Dec. 1999.....pg. 221
 His People by William Tiptaft- Part 2- Jan. 2000....pg. 241
 Honor-The Missing Link by G. Russell Evans - March 1999.....pg. 60
 How About ‘Normal Trade’ with China by G. Russell Evans-June 2000.....pg. 359
 How Christ Saves Sinners by William Tyndale- Feb. 2000.....pg. 261
 How the Clinton-Kosovo War Got Started by G. Russell Evans-Oct. 1999.....pg. 194
 How To Prepare for Church Services by Medford Caudill- Feb. 1999.....pg. 38

I

I'd Rather Be a Baptist by Gene Hensley - March 2000.....pg. 287
 Is Faith Necessary? by Todd Bryant- Aug. 1999.....pg. 141
 Is Same-Sex Civil Union' What's Right?' by G. Russell Evans - July 2000.....pg. 380

J

John Clarke, Pioneer of Freedom by Edgar Stone-April 1999.....pg. 61
 John McCain: The Unexamined Man by G. Russell Evans -May 2000.....pg. 340
 Jordon and Canaan Typical of Death and Heaven by Milburn Cockrell- May 2000.....pg. 321
 Joy Over One Repenting Sinner by Milburn Cockrell- July 2000.....pg. 361

K

Koimeterion by John Osburn- June 1999.....pg. 101
 Korea—The War I Can't Forget by Clyde Hancock- Nov. 2000.....pg. 441

L

Let's Take on the Anti-Christian Bigots by G. Russell Evans- Oct. 2000.....pg. 421
 Life in the Early Church by Milburn Cockrell- Part 1- Feb. 2000.....pg. 261
 Life in the Early Church by Milburn Cockrell- Part 2- March 2000.....pg. 281
 Loneliness by Rodney C. Minney- Sept. 1999.....pg. 172

M

“Man Overboard” by Milburn Cockrell- March 2000.....pg. 281
 Message from Heaven by Ralph Harrelson- Dec. 1999.....pg. 238
 Millenarianism by A. J. Gordon- Sept. 1999.....pg. 168

N

NEA Influences School Violence by G. Russell Evans- July 1999.....pg. 121
 Nebeculaest, Cito Transibit by A. R. Randalls- Part 3 - June 1999.....pg. 116
 Nebeculaest, Cito Transibit by A. R. Randalls- Part 4- July 1999.....pg. 135
 New School Prayer-April 2000.....pg. 292
 New Testament Baptism by Immersion Vindicated by A. G. Randalls Part 1- April 1999.....pg. 61

New Testament Baptism by Immersion Vindicated by A. G. Randalls Part 2- May 1999.....pg. 94
 No Succession -No Perpetuity by Curtis Pugh- Feb. 2000.....pg. 21
 Noteworthy Statements about Christ's Limited Atonement by Bruce Oyen- March 1999.....pg. 41
 Noteworthy Statements about God's Irresistible Grace by Bruce Oyen- Jan. 1999.....pg. 1

O

One-Upmanship is the Name of the Game by G. Russell Evans- May 2000.....pg. 338
 Our Eternal Home by Robert Lee- Sept. 2000.....pg. 401

P

Perpetuity of the Church by Billy Holbrook- March 1999.....pg. 46
 Prayer in the Fish's Belly by Milburn Cockrell- April 2000.....pg. 301
 Prayer for Revival by Milburn Cockrell- Nov. 2000.....pg. 441
 Pray Through to What? by Buell H. Kazee- March 1999.....pg. 49
 Preaching: False and True by A. W. Pink- March 2000.....pg. 281
 Precept Upon Precept by Todd Bryant- Oct 2000.....pg. 433
 Prerequisites to Spiritual Fruitfulness by Tom Ross- March 1999..... pg. 41
 Prophetic Vivions have Literal Fulfilment by G. E. Jones- May 2000.....pg. 338
 Putting God Back in the Public Square by Roy S. Moore- Oct. 1999.....pg. 181

R

Regeneration by Christmas Evans -April 2000.....pg. 301
 Remembering How It Was? by John Osburn- Aug. 1999.....pg. 141
 Repent or Perish! by Rosco Brong- Jan. 2000.....pg. 241
 Repentance of Nineveh by Milburn Cockrell- June 2000.....pg. 341
 Revisiting the Nixon Legacy by G. Russell Evans - Oct. 1999.....pg. 200
 Runaway Immigration Still a National Scandal by G. Russell Evans - Sept. 1999.....pg. 180

S

Second Ammendment Rights Are Still Sound By G. Russell Evans - Sept. 2000..... pg. 420
 Sentate Sell Out of Impeachment Exposed by G. Russell Evans - Nov. 2000.....Pg. 460
 Signs of a Dying Age by Roy Mason - Jan. 2000.....pg. 241
 Sodomities in the Land by John Osburn -Sept. 2000.....pg. 401
 Some Baptist Answers about Baptistmal Regeneration by Troy Sheppard-Nov. 2000.....pg. 441
 Soul Winning by Todd Bryant- July 2000.....pg. 377

T

Thanksgiving Proclamation- Nov. 2000.....pg. 459
 The "Authority Theory" (Theory???) by Mark Minney- Aug. 2000.....pg. 381
 The Blood by Wayne Cox- Jan. 1999.....pg. 1
 The Case of Lt. Daly and the Pentagon by G. Russell Evans - Nov. 1999..... pg. 220
 The Church That Jesus Built by David A. Shott- Feb. 2000.....pg. 261
 The Coming Glory by William L. Pettingill- Sept. 1999.....pg. 161
 The Danger of Being A Dog Catcher by Billy Holbrook - July 1999.....pg. 134
 The Delay in Divine Justice by Milburn Cockrell -Sept. 1999.....pg. 161
 The Doctrine of Adoption by Wayne Bowling- Jan. 1999.....pg. 1
 The Eternity of God by Milburn Cockrell- March 1999.....pg. 41
 The First Marriage by Milburn Cockrell- Oct. 2000.....pg. 401
 The First Resurrection by Milburn Cockrell- Part 1-Nov. 1999.....pg. 201
 The First Resurrection by Milburn Cockrell- Part 2-Dec. 1999.....pg. 221
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Faith by Tom Ross-Oct 1999.....pg. 181
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Gentleness by Tom Ross- Aug. 1999.....pg. 141
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Goodness by Tom Ross- Sept. 1999.....pg. 161
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Joy by Tom Ross-May 1999.....pg. 81
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Longsuffering by Tom Ross-July 1999.....pg. 121
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Love by Tom Ross-April 1999.....pg. 61
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Meekness by Tom Ross- Nov. 1999.....pg. 201
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Peace by Tom Ross-June 1999.....pg. 101
 The Fruit of the Spirit is Temperence by Tom Ross- Dec. 1999.....pg. 221
 The Furnace of Affliction by Milburn Cockrell- Jan. 1999.....pg. 1
 The God of All Things by Milburn Cockrell- July 1999.....pg. 121
 The Holy Scriptures by Willard Willis- Feb. 2000.....pg. 261

The Husband's Place in the Home by Milburn Cockrell- Oct. 2000.....pg. 421
 The Independency of God by Milburn Cockrell- Feb. 1999.....pg. 21
 The Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures by Robert Haldane Part 2-Jan. 1999.....pg. 12
 The Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures by Robert Haldane Part3- Feb. 1999.....pg. 29
 The Inspiration of the Holy Scrpitures by Robert Haldane Part 4- March 1999.....pg. 52
 The Inspiration of the Holy Scrpitures by Robert Haldane Part 5- April 1999.....pg. 75
 The Judson Baptist Association by Milburn Cockrell -Aug. 1999.....pg. 141
 The Justice of God Satisfied by Christ Alone by Tobias Crisp - Dec 2000 p. 461
 The Limitations by O. L. Hailey- May 1999.....pg. 81
 The Lord's Supper by Timothy J. Hille-May 1999.....pg. 81
 The Merit of Man by Ernest W. Parks -Nov. 1999.....pg. 209
 The Objects of Our Lord's Intercession by Milburn Cockrell- Aug. 1999.....pg. 141
 The Petulant Preacher by Milburn Cockrell-July 2000.....pg. 361
 The Real Lesson Not Learned in Vietnam by G. Russell Evans - Aug. 2000.....pg. 400
 The Real Reasons for Trade With China by G. Russell Evans - June 2000.....pg. 360
 The Sacrifice of Christ by Milburn Cockrell- May 1999.....pg. 81
 The Servant of the Lord by Milburn Cockrell-Oct. 1999.....pg. 181
 The Slain Lamb by Milburn Cockrell- Jan. 2000.....pg. 241
 The Sleeping Servant by Milburn Cockrell- Jan. 2000.....pg. 256
 The Scriptual Use of Eccelesia by J. R. Graves - Oct. 2000.....pg. 421
 The Spiritual View of Church Succession by Randy Graber- June 1999.....pg. 101
 The Stability of the Covenant by Milburn Cockrell - Dec 2000 p. 461
 The Three Prophetic Days of Matthew 12:40 by O. L. Bailey -April 1999.....pg. 61
 The Tithe is the Lord's by Milburn Cockrell - Part 1- May 2000.....pg. 321
 The Tithe is the Lord's by Milburn Cockrell- Part 2- June 2000.....pg. 349
 The Wife's Place in the Home by Milburn Cockrell- Nov. 2000.....pg. 441
 The World's Greatest Book by I. M. Haldeman Part 1- July 2000.....pg. 361
 The World's Greatest Book by I. M. Haldeman Part 2 - Aug. 2000.....pg. 392
 The Year of 1998 in Review by Milburn Cockrell- Feb. 1999.....pg. 21
 Three Prophetic Days Some Proofs by O. L. Hailey Part 1- July 1999.....pg. 121
 Three Prophetic Days Some Proofs by O. L. Hailey Part 2- Aug. 1999.....pg. 157
 Transforming Grace by Milburn Cockrell - Aug. 2000.....pg. 381
 Twin Gifts by Milburn Cockrell- April 1999.....pg. 61

U

Update Romania - Get Involved by Curtis Pugh - Jan. 2000.....pg. 256
 United Nations Call for Global Democracy by G. Russell Evans - Oct. 2000.....pg. 440
 Unwrapping Xmas by Steve Flinchum - Dec 2000 p. 461

W

Walking with God by Milburn Cockrell - April 2000.....pg. 301
 Was John Glenn's Trip a Quid Quo Pro? by G. Russell Evans - Jan. 1999.....pg. 9
 We Believe in Total Depravity by Willard Willis - Nov. 1999.....pg. 206
 What Business Do We Have in Kosovo Anyway? by G. Russell Evans Part 1 - May 1999..... pg. 100
 What Business Do We Have in Kosovo Anyway? by G. Russell Evans - June 1999.....pg. 120
 What did Happen to Pentecost by Curtis Pugh- Aug. 2000.....pg. 381
 Whatever Happened to the Other Scandals? by G. Russell Evans -Jan. 1999.....pg. 20
 What it Takes to Make a Home - Feb. 2000.....pg. 266
 What Kind of Church Is Your Church? by Clyde Hancock - Dec 2000 p. 461
 What's the Good News? by Rosco Brong - March 1999.....pg. 41
 Where is the Authority in Acts 13:1-4? by William Stang - Dec. 1999.....pg. 221
 Who Is to Blame for School Shootings by G. Russell Evans - June 1999.....pg. 101
 Who Should Baptize? by J. M. Pendleton- June 2000.....pg. 341
 Why A Baptist ? A. G. Randalls - Feb. 1999.....pg. 21
 Why Be A Non-Denominational Baptist by Bruce Oyen - Aug. 1999.....pg. 159
 Why Don't You Invite Us? by James M. Pendleton - Jan. 2000.....pg. 241
 Why Don't You Just Leave Us Alone? by Doug Newell - Aug. 2000..... pg. 381
 Why They Serve-Why, Indeed! by G. Russell Evans - May 1999.....pg. 99
 Words to the Georgia Baptist Association in 1811 by Jesse Mercer - July 2000.....pg. 361

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Ray Sexton resigned the pastorate of the Berea Baptist Church, Collinwood, Tenn., to accept the pastorate of the Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Lynn, Ark. The Berea Baptist Church in Tennessee has called Elder Steve Martin as pastor, and he has accepted the call.

The Opolkas have a new tape *Heaven's Road* which will be released the last of this month. The tape is \$6 and a CD is \$8.00. They also have some copies of *Trust Him* for \$5.00. Please add \$1 for shipping. Order from George Opolka, 722 E. US HWY 40, Troy, IL 62294, or e-mail geo.opolka@juno.com, or phone (618) 667-6785.

Coming in the next issue . . .

Authority in Baptism by Rosco Brong
The Purpose of the Seventy Weeks by Milburn Cockrell
The Evidence of Sonship by Milburn Cockrell

INDEX

Bible and the Newspaper p. 472
 Children in the Home by Milburn Cockrell p. 461
 Cockrell's Corner p. 463
 Crowning Insult: Clinton Demands Apology by G. Russell Evans p. 478
 Forum pp. 470 - 471
 Funnybone p. 466
 Gleanings p. 477, 478
 God's Sovereignty by Ben M. Bogard p. 477
 The Justice of God Satisfied by Christ Alone by Tobias Crisp p. 461
 The Stability of the Covenant by Milburn Cockrell p. 461
 Unwrapping Xmas by Steve Flinchum p. 461
 What Kind of Church Is Your Church? by Clyde Hancock p. 461
 World Scene: Do Voters Pick Greed Over Character by G. Russell Evans p. 469

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bro. Steve Flinchum has written a book in defense of chain-link succession, *A Great Mystery*. It was published by the New Bethel Baptist Church and Pastor Coy Cox, Somerset, Ky. A single copy costs \$1.50 plus postage and packing. Postage for one (first class) is \$1.25 or \$3 for ten (library rate). Order from Steve Flinchum, P. O. Box 121, Annville, KY 40402 or e-mail flinchum@prtcnet.org.

OOPS! We Goofed...

We left out a part of Isaiah 11:8 in *The Peaceful Kingdom* last month.
