

The Berea Baptist Banner

Volume XXI, Number XII

Mantachie, Mississippi, December 5, 2001

Whole Number 273

With What Body Do They Come?

By John MacNeill

"But some man will say; How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" (I Cor. 15:35).

Of all the revelations brought by the Gospel of Jesus into the world, the newest and most arresting was the doctrine of the resurrection. In the days of Paul it was supposed that everything original in the world of thought took its rise in Athens. It was difficult for any man to bring the story of anything new among the Greeks. But Paul had that great distinction. He brought to Athens the doctrine of the bodily resurrection. If he had spoken to them about the immortality of the soul, they would not have wondered for that sublime doctrine was taught by their own philosophers and poets. But when Paul stood on Mars Hill in



John MacNeill

the learned assembly of the Areopagus and declared that the bodies of the dead should rise again, that the flesh which had become the dwelling place for worms would start to life once more, he created a sensation throughout the city, and there were some who were indifferent, some who mocked, some who were interested and some who said; **"We will hear thee again of this matter."** For the doctrine of the resurrection is a doctrine peculiar to

Continued on page 225

Your Pastor and You

By Clyde Hancock

Wayne, West Virginia

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:15).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:11).

There are pastors, elders, and bishops.

INTRODUCTION

The first thing I wish to do is to define the word "pastor." According to Vine's Dictionary of N. T. Words, "pastor" means "a shepherd, one who tends herds or flocks, not one who just feeds them." A pastor is a guide as well as feeder of the flock.

Now note with me I Peter 5:1-2 and notice the phrase **"taking the oversight thereof."** This is in



Clyde Hancock

addition to the feeding. So then a pastor is one who feeds, tends, leads, and looks after the flock. The pastor or elder is made an overseer by the Holy Spirit according to the book of Acts 20:28.

It has been my wonderful and cherished privilege to serve the Lord of Glory as a minister of the gospel for over 29 years now, and as a pastor over 25 of those years. In fact, I was ordained June 28, 1975 by the Bryan Station Baptist Church, and approved

Continued on page 228

The Day the Lord Ousted the Bigots

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia



Russell Evans

Not one peep have we heard lately from the anti-Christian bigots. We mean the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Americans

United for Separation of Church and State (AUSCS) and People For the American Way (PFAW). They are very quiet—maybe ready to go out of business?

Before the horrendous terrors of Sept. 11th, they were out in full force to complete their job of removing every vestige of God from the public domain. Will they now let religion take its natural place in the life of our country? Don't bet on it!

DAY OF CHANGE

September 11th was the day of monumental change for America: the day the Lord ousted the anti-Christian

Continued on page 236

The Eighth Commandment

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Thou shalt not steal" (Ex. 20:15).

"Thou shalt not steal" (Matt. 19:18).

"Thou shalt not steal" (Rom. 13:9).

The Eighth Commandment concerns our own and our neighbor's wealth, estate, and material goods. It is God's law protecting all private property and



possessions. To steal is a universal temptation common to all kinds of people. Hence this commandment prohibits all forms of stealing from both God and man. It also implies we should seek to obtain and maintain our own wealth by lawful means. Our desire for worldly gain must not exceed what the kind providence of God has appointed us in this life of vanity.

Continued on page 229

Grace Defined

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Tit. 2:11).

My text speaks of the saving grace of God, or grace which actually brings salvation. In this text "grace" especially means "the gospel of grace" which is the declaration of the free love and favor of God as manifested in Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament the gospel was hid in types and shadows (Eph. 3:3-9), but in the New

Testament dispensation Jesus Christ is the personification of the grace of God. This grace has appeared to all kinds of men by the preaching of the gospel.

THE WORD GRACE

In the Old Testament the word "grace" comes from a Hebrew word (*chen*) which means "kindness or favor." In the New Testament the Greek word (*charis*) means "the kindly

Continued on page 222

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



Editor: Milburn Cockrell
Foreign Correspondent: Curtis Pugh

THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$3.00 per year by the authority of the Berea Baptist Church, 3881 Highway 363, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855. Periodical Publication postage paid at Mantachie, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855-0039.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts are to be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of BBB and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean the editor is in complete agreement with the writer, nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

COPIING PRIVILEGES: Unless otherwise stated any article published in this paper may be copied by other publications, provided they give proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication; provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on an exchange list with the publication copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the article be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials may not be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY with paid circulation in most states in the U.S.A. and some foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year.....	\$3.00
Two years.....	\$5.00
Five years.....	\$12.00

PLANNING TO MOVE? Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward second class mail for 90 days. They charge us \$5.00 for each "change of address" they have to send us. Please save us this expense and the post office time.

BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$2 per paper for a year. An example: 10 papers for one year at \$20 or 20 papers for one year at \$40.00.

LOCATION OF PUBLISHING CHURCH: Our church is located on state highway 363 about one mile south of Mantachie, Mississippi. Readers are always welcome to visit our services.

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

EDITOR'S PHONE: 1-662-282-7233.

A PAPER WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION: Some times people write to us and say that they did not subscribe for the BBB. They are receiving our paper because someone else has paid for their subscription. We trust the BBB will be received as an outstretched hand to you. Take what you find helpful and discard what you cannot use.

If you do not want to receive such a gift subscription, please write to us. We are happy to cancel such a subscription. We do not want to go where we are not wanted.

DISCLAIMER: The Editor assumes that the articles submitted for publication in the BBB are written by the person whose name they bear, unless otherwise indicated by a quote from another writer. However, the Editor cannot personally guarantee that this is the case in all articles which appear in the BBB.

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:

www.bereabaptistchurch.org

Our email address is:

bbchurch@intop.net

bereabaptistchurch@bereabaptistchurch.org

Grace Defined

Continued from page 221

disposition from which the kindly act proceeds, graciousness, longkindness, goodwill generally" (*An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* by W. E. Vine, p. 170). It is related to the Greek word for gift (*charisma*), and in the King James Version the word for grace (*charis*) is translated "gift" in II Corinthians 8:4. Our English word "grace" means "favor or goodwill. . .the freely given. . .unmerited favor and love of God. . .the condition of being in God's favor or one of his elect" (*Webster's Family Dictionary*, p. 409).

Perhaps one of the most concise definitions of grace was given by an old black brother who had been a slave for 40 years. When asked, "What is grace?" he replied, "Grace is what I should call giving something for nothing." I doubt you can improve upon this simple definition.

Abraham Booth (1734-1806), the Baptist theologian, said grace "is the eternal and absolutely free favour of God, manifested in the

vouchsafement of spiritual and eternal blessings to the guilty and unworthy" (*The Reign of Grace*, p. 47). A. W. Pink (1886-1952) tells us that grace "is a perfection of the Divine character which is exercised only toward the elect. Neither in the Old Testament nor in the New is the grace of God ever mentioned in connection with mankind generally, still less with the lower orders of His creatures" (*The Attributes of God*, p. 60).

Another good definition is given by Burton Scott Easton in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. He declares that grace "is an attitude on God's part that proceeds entirely from within Himself, and that is conditioned in no way by anything in the objects of His favor" (Vol. II, p. 1291).

SCRIPTURAL DEFINITIONS

Any reader of the Bible can see the word "grace" means "goodwill and favor" (Ruth 2:2; I Sam. 1:18; II Sam. 16:4). In Ephesians 1:5 "the good pleasure of his will" is the same as "the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7). The grace of God is "the kindness and love of God" (Tit. 3:4), the love and pity of God (Isa. 63:9).

The Lord styles Himself: "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth. . ." (Ex. 34:6).

GRACE EXCLUDES HUMAN MERIT

Grace means unmerited favor, mercy shown when punishment is deserving. What is done in grace is done graciously. Grace is unattracted by anything in, or from, or by the objects upon which it bestows blessings. It can neither be sought nor bought by the recipients. If grace could be merited, it would cease to be unmerited favor. As A. W. Pink expressed it: "When a thing is said to be of 'grace' we mean that the recipient has no claim upon it, that it was in no-wise due him. It comes to him as pure charity, and, at first, unasked and undesired" (*Attributes of God*, p. 60).

The word "grace" presupposes unworthiness in its object. It cannot be exercised where there is the slightest degree of human merit recognized. Romans 11:6 declares: "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." God's grace and man's works are diametrically opposite and totally irreconcilable. When you add works to grace, then grace changes its meaning; it is no longer grace. The idea of being saved by merit contradicts the very idea of grace. Grace is not grace unless it is

altogether free from human merit. When you hear someone talking about what we do to earn God's grace, you can mark it down that such a person does not know "the grace of God in truth" (Col. 1:6).

Grace cannot be withheld because of demerit in its object. It would cease to be grace, if God withheld it because of human failure and sin. Grace in salvation can only be exercised by God where worthiness is banished forever. God's grace saves the chiefest of sinners (I Tim. 1:15), the ungodly (Rom. 5:6), the enemies of God (Rom. 5:10); yea, even those who are "by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Eph. 2:3).

GRACE CANNOT INCUR DEBT

Grace is no sense gracious if God is under any condition of a debt incurred. There is no payment required, past, present, or future. God saves undeserving sinners by unrecompensed and unconditional free grace. "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Rom. 4:4-5). Grace and debt are distinct and different; they are irreconcilable. When a man works for wages, the wages are due him as a debt. But God is not a debtor to any man. The payment of an honest debt can never be an act of grace. When you hear a person talking of God owing man salvation and saying God must give every man a chance to be saved you can be certain he is a stranger to grace and to God.

Man being a sinner by nature, practice, and choice could never make God a debtor. Men are "children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2) and "condemned already" (John 3:18). They are "under sin" (Rom. 3:9; Gal. 3:22), "guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19), and in "unbelief" (Rom. 11:32). There is no possibility of such people putting God under obligation to them.

SOVEREIGN GRACE

Grace reigns in man's salvation (Rom. 5:21), and the God of all grace Who sits upon the throne is sovereign. God told Moses: "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy" (Ex. 33:19). The God of all grace dispenses grace according to His goodwill and sovereign pleasure. It is not dispensed to all without exception, but to all God has appointed to obtain salvation by

Jesus Christ. This is all to the glory of God's grace (Eph. 1:4-11).

There can be no election without reprobation. "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded" (Rom. 11:7). "And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people. . ." (I Pet. 2:8-9). God does not show His grace to the reprobate. Of the Anakims it is written: "For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour (Hebrew *techinnah* translated "grace" in Ezra 9:8 in KJV), but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses" (Josh. 11:20).


FREE GRACE

Grace must always be free, for none ever purchased it. Romans 3:24 tells us: "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." The word rendered here "freely" (*dorean*) is rendered "without a cause" in John 15:25. We are justified "without a cause", or without any meritorious cause in ourselves. We are justified wholly and solely by God's grace or favor, plus nothing, minus nothing. The word "freely" excludes all consideration of any thing in man as the cause of his justification.

Arminians are more concerned with man's "free will" than with God's free grace. They contend that man's will can never be other than free, for the person using it can never be prevented from willing, any more than thinking. They say it is either free will or no will. Arminians fail to consider that man's will is under the control of his totally depraved nature. Paul wrote: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not" (Rom. 7:18). According to holy Scriptures, man is a bound immoral agent, and not a free moral agent. To boast of the freedom of the will to do anything spiritually good is unscriptural, for man's evil will is not free till it is by grace made free. We have no power to become the sons of God until God's grace gives us the faith of God's elect (Tit. 1:1; John 1:12; Phil. 1:29). Acts 18:27 speaks of some who "had believed through grace." Arminians cheapen God's grace; yea,

Continued on page 224

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.)

CHRISTMAS OR THE SATURNALIA?

There is no command to celebrate the birth of Christ in the Bible. There is not one word in the Bible about Jesus Christ being born on December 25. According to Holy Scriptures, the most likely date would be in September, as many scholars concede. No verse in the Bible commands us to exchange gifts among ourselves on December 25. The wise men did not exchange gifts among themselves, but they gave gifts to Christ (Matt. 2:11).

I heard some person ask, "Then why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25? Where did this custom come from?"

I will let history give the answer. The Christmas celebration came from a pagan festival of ancient Rome called the Saturnalia.

My first quote is from *History of the World* by John Clark Ridpath. This is the man who wrote W. A. Jarrell a letter in which he said: "I should not readily admit there was a Baptist church as far back as A. D. 100, though without doubt there were Baptists then, as all Christians were

then Baptists" (See *Baptist Church Perpetuity*, p. 59).

"The great festival of FLORA was celebrated by the women. It was given when the wheat fields were in bloom, and was conducted with much beautiful display peculiar to the season of flowers. But the most elaborate of all the celebrations of Rome was that of SATURN, held at the winter solstice, and afterwards extended so as to include the twenty-fifth of December.

"Saturn was regarded by the Romans as the god of that primitive peace which once held sway in the world before the age of devastation and war. In that pacific era all men held the same rank and had their enjoyments in common. It was fitting, therefore, that in the festival of Saturn—though the world had forgotten the old-time goodness—all men should be regarded as restored for a brief season to their primitive equality. So the great and the humble, the rich and the poor, the young and the old, were all given the license of a common freedom, a common immunity. The festival was called the Saturnalia. Labor ceased, public business was at an end, the courts were closed, the schools had holiday. Tables, laden with bounties, were spread on every hand, and at these all classes for the nonce sat down together. The master and the slave for the day were equals. It was a time of gift-giving and innocent abandonment. In the public shops every variety of present from the simplest to the most costly could be found. Fathers, mothers, kinspeople, friends, all hurried thither to purchase, according to their fancy, what things soever seemed most tasteful and appropriate as presents. The fair of Rome exhibited in plentiful profusion every variety of articles brought from every quarter of the world. There were knickknacks for the children, ornaments for the ladies, little trophies of the toilet, ornamental tapers in wax,

and, indeed, whatever the fancy or caprice of Rome could well imagine or create. It was a season of mirth and jollity; of feasting and hilarity; of games and sports." (Vol. II, pp. 743-744).

Next I call attention to the *World Book Encyclopedia* which is found in many Christian homes in America:

"SATURNALIA, sat er NA lih ah, was the name of an ancient Roman festival. The feast was given in honor of Saturn, the Roman harvest god. The festival began on December 17 and lasted for seven days. On the first day, public religious ceremonies took place, and sacrifices were offered to Saturn. On the second day, many families offered their own sacrifices of a young pig.

"The Saturnalia festival was a gay occasion. Schools observed holidays and all public business was halted. Courts of law closed their doors, and no criminals could be punished. Families held gatherings and elaborate banquets. Even Roman slaves were free to attend the festival.

"The last days of the festival were given over to visiting and exchanging presents. Some of the gifts were little clay images. They were called *sigillaria*, from the Latin word *sigilla*, which means *small images*. The last days of the festival were also called the *sigillaria*" (Vol. 15, p. 7234, 1956 edition).

Some contend that the Saturnalia ended on December 24th, but Ridpath says it included December 25. Please don't forget December 24 is Christmas Eve.

The Encyclopedia Britannica has a good article in it among which you will find the following information: "The streets were infected with a Mardi Gras madness. . . the seasonal greeting *io Saturnalia* was heard everywhere; presents were freely exchanged. . . The influence of the *Saturnalia* upon the celebrations of Christmas and the New Year has been direct. . ." (Vol. 19, pp. 1084, 1971

edition).

Some sincere Christians will say, "But we have Christianized this day for Christ. It is no longer a pagan celebration to the Roman god Saturn." How can you Christianize a pagan day? Can you reform the Devil? Can you use heathen customs in the worship of Jehovah? What does the Bible say about this practice? The answer is found in Deuteronomy 12:29-31: "**When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; Take heed to thy self that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God. . .**"

THE PURPOSE OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST

VII. THAT A PEOPLE MIGHT LIVE UNTO HIM.

It is written in II Corinthians 5:14-15: "**For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**"

The Apostle Paul acted differently from other men because of "the love of Christ." He often mentioned the love of God, but only in two other places does he write of the love of Christ (Rom. 8:35; Eph. 3:19). Some scholars debate as to whether Paul speaks of Christ's love for His people, or the love of His people for Christ. It is best to understand it as a reference to Christ's love for His people, for Paul goes on to speak of the Savior's death (John 15:13; Gal. 2:2) and resurrection.

Note the words, "**that if one died for all, then were all dead.**" A better rendering of the Greek is "**that if one died for all, therefore all died**" (See *Pulpit Com.*, Vol. 19, p. 122; *The Second Epistle to the Corinthians* by Philip Hughes, p. 193; *Word Pictures in the New Testament* by A. T. Robertson, Vol. IV, p. 230-231). The idea here is that One died for all and so all died when He died. The all for whom Christ died, themselves died. Such was His relationship to them as their covenant Head and Representative that His death was their death. Our Lord died all the spiritual death possible for



The devil by the tail.



The wise men bring presents to the Jesus.

Continued on page 224

Cockrell's Corner

Continued from page 223

those for whom He died. His death delivered them from spiritual death to which they were exposed on account of their sins.

Paul says that Christ "**died for all.**" The preposition "for" in the Greek is *huper*. A. T. Robertson says: "*Huper* (over) here is used in the sense of substitution as in John 11:50; Gal. 3:13, death in behalf so that the rest will not die" (*ibid.*). *Huper* has the general sense of "for the benefit of, in behalf of, in the place of." The preposition must have this meaning in this verse, for the only way the death of a victim benefits the offerer was by substitution. When Christ is said to die a sacrifice for us, it means He died in our room and stead. His death took the place of ours so as to save us from spiritual death. If Christ died the death belonging to all, than all died in and with Him.

Verse 15 would better be translated: "**And that he died for all, that the living may no longer live unto themselves; but unto him who died and rose for them.**" Those who died with Christ also rise and live with Him. In Christ they died to sin, but they are "**alive unto God**" (Rom. 6:4-6). There is seen here a co-death, co-burial, and co-resurrection with Christ our covenant Head. The purpose of the death of Jesus Christ was that those He died for might share with Him new spiritual life. His death not only delivered us from spiritual death, but it also restored us to spiritual life we had lost in Adam. Those give spiritual life in Christ are to cease the old life of selfish living to walk in newness of life (Col. 3:1-3).

Christ died as the Representative of His people. We were crucified with Him and through His death we became dead to the curse and condemnation of the law. Christ's death was the death of His people. We were united to Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:4-8; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:5-6). We were spiritual dead, and Christ paid the Hell-debt we owed to the justice of God. His death brought us spiritual life. Those who have been brought to see this by the Holy Spirit and the Word, will live in obedience to Christ who redeemed them from eternal death and rose again for their justification. A person who fails to live a Christian life has no business assuming Christ died for him.

The passage does not say, as Arminians would wish, that Christ died for all men without any exception. Rather it says: "**One died for all**" and the all Christ died for

died when He did. If Christ put away spiritual death for all the race of Adam, surely no person who is a part of this race will be eternally separated from God. Only universalists contend for this. The "**all**" must be understood as all the subjects of redemption, all His people, all His sheep, all who live unto Him. Christ brought spiritual life to those who had a co-death, co-burial, and co-resurrection with Him. Those Christ died for are dead to both the law and sin, for when He died, they died. His death was their death and His life is their life.

Arminians attempt to weaken the sense of II Corinthians 5:14-15. They say it means that all potentially died with Christ—died to their life of sin, and rose to the life of righteousness. But the passage does not say all of Adam's race died potentially at Calvary. It says: "**One died for all, and then were all dead.**" It does not say "might die" or "could die." It plainly says: "**One died for all, and then were all dead.**" The people He died for at Calvary died when He died.

The death of our Lord secured for His people biological life (regeneration), judicial life (justification), and Christian life (sanctification). If just one for whom Christ died and rose again goes to Hell, then Jesus Christ was a failure. His death was in vain. This cannot be, for the old prophet said of Christ: "**He shall not fail**" (Isa. 42:4).

Grace Defined

Continued from page 222

they are haters of the doctrine of sovereign, free, distinguishing grace!

Mr. McLaren, and Mr. Gustart, were both ministers of the Tolboth church. When Mr. McLaren was dying, Mr. Gustart paid him a visit, and put the question to him: "What are you doing, brother?" His answer was, "I'll tell you what I am doing, brother; I am gathering together all my prayers, all my sermons, all my good deeds, all my ill deeds; and I am going to throw them all overboard and swim to glory on the plank of Free Grace."

Hervey once said: "Had I all the faith of the patriarchs, all the zeal of the prophets, all the good works of the apostles, the constancy of the martyrs, and all the flaming devotion of seraphs, I would disclaim them all in point of dependence, and rely only on free grace. I would count all but dung and dross when put in competition with the infinitely precious death and meritorious righteousness of my dear Saviour Jesus Christ. . ."

ETERNAL GRACE

Grace is as old as the covenant of grace and the eternal council of the Godhead. God purposed to give us grace before He imparted it: "**Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began**" (II Tim. 1:9). Our calling and salvation must be traced back to God's eternal purpose of grace. He was self-moved, impelled by motives, not from without, but from within Himself. The purpose of God to save us was not called forth by any worthiness in us, but it was "**according to his good pleasure which he had purposed in himself**" (Eph. 1:9).

This grace was given to us in our covenant Head "**before the world began.**" We did not exist in eternity past, but our Redeemer and Representative did. This grace was given to Christ for us when we were chosen in Christ (Eph.1:4). This donation of eternal grace occurred before we existed and before we had done any good or evil (Rom. 9:11). Grace that began in eternity past will last till eternity future.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE GRACE

In Ephesians 3:8 it is written: "**Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ**" (Eph. 3:8). "**The unsearchable riches of Christ**" means the riches of God's grace which center in Christ. There is a mighty treasure of grace and love laid up in Christ Jesus. The length, depth, breadth, and height of God's grace is incomprehensible. Grace is like a boundless, shoreless, bottomless ocean.

IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

What does the term "irresistible grace" mean? It means the love and favor of God in Christ is irresistible in the elect when it pleases God to reveal His Son to them (Gal. 1:15-16). I do not mean by this term that God

drags rebellious sinners to Heaven against their will. This is the lie told by our opponents to prejudice people against what we believe. I mean the power of God's grace makes the sinner willing to come to Christ. I mean, as the Bible teaches, that all the Father gave to Christ in the covenant of redemption will come to Him (John 6:37). Nothing can prevent the eternal purpose of God to save His people by grace. We sometimes speak of this as effectual calling.

The grace of God attacks hostile thoughts of men and brings every thought into obedience to Christ. In II Corinthians 10:4-5 it is written: "**(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.**" Ignorance and love of sin are Satan's strongholds in the mind of man. Vain imaginations, carnal reasonings, and high thoughts exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. All of these strong holds are pulled down by victorious grace and the power of God.

The term "irresistible grace" does not mean that the sinner may not for a time resist God, for he certainly does. I mean invincible grace will triumph over all human resistance. No sinner is saved without his own hearty will and concurrence. But he is not willing to be saved till victorious grace makes him so. "**Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power. . .**" (Ps. 110:3). The gift of saving grace involves "**the effectual working of his power**" (Eph. 3:7).

Why does the sinner at first refuse the call of the gospel? Because he is unconscious of his ruined condition. He knows not the evil of sin nor the strictness of God's moral law. He has never become mindful of the majesty of God whom he has offended. He does not realize he possesses an incurably wicked heart. He sees no beauty in Christ that he should desire

Continued on page 225

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
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

Grace Defined

Continued from page 224

Him. The sinner is perfectly content to rely on his wisdom, his power, and his supposed self-righteousness. Nothing but irresistible grace can awaken him from this condition.

Arminian Baptists are very inconsistent. They say that a man may resist God's saving grace, but then once saved by grace it becomes irresistible (man can't fall from grace). Fallen man can will himself into Christ, but he can't will himself out of Christ. This gives more liberty to the unsaved man than the man who is saved!

Victorious grace comes to show the sinner how terrible his plight is and that he deserves the wrath of God. The Spirit of grace causes the sinner to see he is a lost, condemned, helpless creature, standing on the brink of Hell-fire. At this point the poor sinner throws his supposed good works to the wind and flees to Christ as his only refuge. He casts himself upon free grace, for free grace alone can meet his need. Then he sings:

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

GRACE AND CHRIST

Jesus Christ is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14, 16). All the fullness of the God of all grace (I Pet. 5:10) dwells in the Son of God (Col. 1:19; 2:9). There was found in Christ both the graciousness which bestows favor and the actual gift bestowed. Christ was full of the grace of God. There is enough grace in Christ for all His people.

In II Timothy 2:1 it is written: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." In Christ is a fountain, redundant, overflowing, ever-flowing for believers, for "of his fullness have we all received, and grace for grace" (John 1:16). Christ is not only the fountain and foundation of grace, but He also gives us grace to receive grace, one grace after another, grace upon grace.

As God, Christ is the Author and Giver of grace. As the Mediator, He is the Purchaser and Procurer of grace.

All the grace in us comes to us by Christ as a conduit. This is why Paul speaks of "the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ" (I Cor.

1:4). This grace was given us in Christ before the foundation of the world (II Tim. 1:9). Adam was the conveyor of sin and death to his seed. Even so, Christ, the Second Adam, is the conveyor of life and grace to His seed. From Adam we received corruption upon corruption, and from the Second Adam we receive grace for grace. We have no grace but what we received from Jesus Christ.

There is no grace for those who live and die outside of Christ. I believe I heard someone ask, "How do you get into Christ?" I answer by an act of God the Father: "But of him (God the Father) are ye in Christ Jesus. . ." (I Cor. 1:30). God put us in Christ by sovereign election: "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world. . ." (Eph. 1:4). In time God creates us in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:10). As a consequence of this election and regeneration, these people believe the gospel: ". . . and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48; cf. John 10:26; 17:20; Phil. 1:29). In this sense they believe into Jesus Christ (John 3:15-16, 36). Then to declare this experience of grace before the world they are baptized into Jesus Christ: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:26-27; cf. Rom. 6:3).

GRACE AND GLORY

In Psalm 84:11 it is written: "For the LORD God is a sun and a shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." Thomas Brooks well said, "Grace is glory in the bud, and glory is grace at the full." Another has said, "Grace is the bud of glory; glory is the flower of grace." God will give grace and glory, both in due time, both as needed, both to the full, both with absolute certainty. All grace and all glory is a free gift of God's unfathomable love displayed in Jesus Christ.

What more could we ask of God? What more do we need in time and eternity? Heaven be praised! God gives grace and glory. You cannot separate the two. In II Timothy 2:1 we see Christ as the fountain and foundation of grace: ". . . the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Then in verse 10 of this same chapter we see the same Christ who give us grace also give salvation "with eternal glory." Thus there is an inseparable union between grace and glory. They are related as cause and effect. God gives grace to save our souls from sin and glory to sanctify us for the eternal kingdom. Indeed Christ will bring

MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 12-01, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of green-backs. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.



many sons to glory.

CONCLUSION

1. Grace does not offer salvation upon certain terms and conditions to enfeebled and sin-ruined creatures. Grace begins, carries on, and completes the work of man's salvation: ". . . by grace ye are saved" (Eph. 2:5). By God's goodwill, His free mercy, His lovingkindness, we are really and truly saved. God's grace brings salvation (Tit. 2:11); it does not merely offer it.

2. Sinner, do not despair. Men are not saved by their good works, for no man can do enough to be saved. Neither do bad works prevent a man from being saved by grace. "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men. . ." (Matt. 12:31). The grace of God saves the very chiefest of sinners. Oh, friend, Christ is full of grace. Then why not say: "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

3. John Bunyan (1628-1688) wrote: "But, methinks, we should not have done yet with this grace of the Son. Thou Son of the Blessed, what grace was manifested in Thy condescension! Grace brought Thee down from heaven; grace stripped Thee of thy glory; grace made Thee bear such burdens of sin, such burdens of sorrow, such burdens of curse as are unspeakable! On Son of God, grace was in all Thy tears. Here is grace indeed—unsearchable riches of grace—grace to make angels wonder, to make sinners happy, to make devils astonished!"

With What Body Do

Continued from page 221

the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Before we pass on to deal directly with the doctrine, let me remind you how deeply such a doctrine meets the craving of the human heart. We shrink from the thought of life without a body. Even although the soul is the gem within the casket, we are not altogether careless about the casket in

which it is encased. When Joseph Parker was asked if he believed in the resurrection of the body, he replied; "Body! what do I care about my body? Let the worms have it, if they will, or the devil! Christ has my soul and that's enough for me." But that is not the normal experience. Life has a sense of incompleteness without the body. There is an inner and an outer man and both are necessary to the perfection of our life. A spirit without a body, whatever else it might be, could scarcely be regarded as a man. When God redeemed us, He redeemed us completely. It is a redemption that sweeps the whole realm of man's nature and Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians was that they might be preserved spirit, soul and body, unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now I am not so much concerned tonight with the proofs that men shall rise again from the dead. It seems to me that all that is put to rest when we look into the empty grave of our Lord. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." It is not the fact so much as the process that concerns the minds of men. The two questions that Paul met in his day are the two questions still to the fore: "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" How does it happen? What are the qualities and the powers of the resurrection body? These are the questions we shall attempt to answer tonight.

THE RESURRECTION PROCESS

When Paul undertook to answer that first question, "How are the dead raised up?" he did what his master had done before him, he used a parable. There are some truths too big for words; they can only be put in a picture. There are some phases of the Divine life, which cannot be explained; they are miracles. The resurrection of the body is one of them. You cannot explain it; you can only glimpse it through the analogy of nature. And so Paul says; Here you have, he says, a grain of wheat or of some other grain. You plant it in the earth; it crumbles into dust; it decays and dies. It is absorbed in the soil, but out of that dead seed you get the harvest. And the seed you get back is not the identical seed you sowed but it is like it. If it was wheat, you get wheat; it barley, you get barley. You get a harvest, but the seed you cast down is gone forever and absorbed in the great laboratory of nature.

And so, says Paul, is the resurrection of the body. The body is like a seed that is sown. It decays and dies; it crumbles into dust and is

Continued on page 226

With What Body Do

Continued from page 225

absorbed in the soil. But it bears a new harvest—a new body. It is not the same body that is sown but there is some connection. It retains the identity but it is greatly changed. **“It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.”**

Now I am very well aware that that parable of the wheat does not fully answer all the “how” of the resurrection, but it helps us at least to get three things very clearly in our minds.

1. For one thing, we can see that such a resurrection of the body is not utterly unreasonable and impossible. The parable of nature tells us that. You know that one great objection raised to the resurrection of the body is this. Men say, How can this decaying dust yield a harvest? And why not? It happens in the realm of nature and why not in the realm of the spiritual? **“Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone.”** And Paul is very plain as he says; **“Thou fool, that which thou sowest can not live except it die.”** The only way to a new body is by the death of the old. For what happens in the resurrection is not a reanimation. Reanimation is simply the restoration of the same body to life again. But this is the raising of a new body in a new and higher form of life. “A celestial body,” Paul calls it, which, though celestial, appears to have some form of material basis.

But even there, faith need find no difficulty. We are finding out today that matter, as we call it, is more wonderful than we imagined. Light, it is said, is a manifestation of matter. Ether waves pass through the solid walls of your house into your radio. This solid desk, from which I preach, under certain rays becomes transparent. The scientists tell us that the atoms of which matter is composed are made up of electrons, and that each electron is a complete miniature universe in itself. Who knows what mystery is hidden there? Wheat that has been lying in the hands of an Egyptian mummy for five thousand years will spring to life when planted, and in the great new street that was projected through London some years ago, out of the ancient soil that was excavated, there sprang flowers such as were never seen in England nor native to her soil. No, the resurrection of the body is neither unreasonable nor impossible.

al:2. Paul makes it clear in the second place that *there is no identity of particles between the new body and the old*. The seed of grain you sow you never get back again. **“That which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be.”** The particles you sow perish and never return again. And so it is with the body. The new body will not be composed of the actual particles of the old body that was put within the grave. And it seems to me that this answers one of the chief objections that staggers many minds at the idea of a resurrection body. They say the resurrection of the body is absurd, for you could never find the particles of the body to call them back to life again. Here is a body, let us say, lost at sea, devoured by the monsters of the deep and passing into animal life. There is another body burned in the flames, and the very ashes scattered to the four winds of Heaven. There is another which has gone into the soil and is taken up into vegetable life. You say these particles can never be found again. There is no need to find them. The Scripture does not teach us that they are found for it is just like the seed **“that which thou sowest thou sowest not that body that shall be.”**

3. But while there is no identity of particles, *there is an identity of character—a continuity of life*. There is some aspect in which the new will resemble the old. The identity will not be lost. There is a connection between the two. It is so in the realm of nature. God gives to every seed its own body, and the seed of wheat will bring forth wheat, the seed of corn will bring forth corn, and the seed of barley will bring forth barley. And so we shall have some relation to our former selves even in our bodies. We will not be all one row of monotonous saints undistinguishable in any way. In the case of Jesus, we know that His body retained its own identity and character. There were the wound prints in His hands and the mark of the spear in His side. And I believe that He still bears those marks upon Him, and our song is based upon the Scripture when we sing:

*“Five bleeding wounds His bears,
Received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers,
They strongly plead for me;
Forgive him, Oh, forgive!” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die.”*

It may be that our spiritual history will be written in our faces. Perhaps the martyr will wear his scars and they will not be a blemish. He will wear them as a soldier wears his medals of honor. Perhaps the men of the catacombs will wear a pallor on their

brows recalling the darkness of the temple where they worshipped Christ. Even if all that is only fancy, I am certain that our identity will continue. We shall be ourselves. **“One star,”** says Paul, **“differeth from another star in glory.”** I am quite sure we shall know Isaiah there and the great saints of the church. We will speak with Peter and talk with Paul, and we shall know even as we are known, for the identity of personality is carried forward into the spaces of eternity.

THE RESURRECTION BODY

So much for the first question—How are the dead raised up? And now let us find out what Paul has to say in answer to the second question; **“With what body do they come?”** According to the Apostle, that new body is distinguished by four great qualities in contrast to the qualities of the present **“earthly house”** of this tabernacle.

1. First of all, *it is incorruptible*. **“It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.”** The body in which we now live is only a muddy vesture of decay. It is only a poor tent at best, with the canvas torn, the cords loosed and the tent pins pulled. It is a crumbling house with trembling walls, foundations in the dust; with many a scar, a house in which we shiver in the cold of winter and suffer in the heat of summer.

When John Quincy Adams was eighty years old, he met on the streets

of Boston an old friend, who shook his trembling hand and said: “Good morning, and how is John Quincy Adams today?” “Thank you,” replied the former President, “John Quincy Adams is well, sir; quite well, I thank you. But the house in which he lives at present is becoming dilapidated. It is tottering upon its foundation. Time and the seasons have nearly destroyed it. Its roof is pretty well worn out. Its walls are much shattered, and it trembles with every wind. The old tenement is becoming almost uninhabitable, and I think John Quincy Adams will have to move out of it soon; but he himself is quite well, sir; quite well.” How easily is this body injured! How quickly is its machinery disorganized! How rapid the marks of decay! Truly, **“it is sown in corruption!”**

But it will not be so with that new body. **“It is raised in incorruption.”** **“We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”** This is a tent; that is a building. This is a tabernacle; that is a house. There is no storm that shall ever shatter that mansion. It will never weary; it will never decay. The tooth of time will leave no mark upon it; the dart of death will never pierce it through. It will never be bowed down by age; it will never be worn by weakness; it will

Continued on page 227

Funnybone

“... A time to laugh...” (Eccl. 3:4).



Pastor Brown told Deacon Jones this past Sunday after the services that the trouble in their area was there were too many whiskey Calvinists.

The deacon inquired, “What do you mean by ‘whiskey Calvinists?’”

Pastor Brown said, “Deacon, I mean that they only believe in one-fifth of the doctrines of grace—eternal security.”

Deacon Jones asked, “Did you hear about little Jimmie Johnson who swallowed a quarter, a dime, and a penny?”

Bill Tightwad, “No, I have not, but how is he progressing?”

The deacon replied, “There’s no change yet.”



Hospital administrator: “It’s wonderful how much you have donated to this hospital.”

Sadie Smith said, “Well, I feel I owe so much to this hospital—you know my husband died here.”



With What Body Do

Continued from page 226

never be touched by disease. "It is incorruptible." The spring tides of untainted youth are in it, and the energies of the eternal spheres pulse steadily within its form.

2. The *second mark of the resurrection body is its beauty*. "It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory." Did you ever look into the heart of an Easter lily and think of what it came from? It was sown in dishonor, it was raised in glory. It was sown a rough, forbidding bulb, and it was raised a matchless bloom that makes it a thing of beauty and a joy forever. So it is with the resurrection of the body. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. Of course, it is a glory that is spiritual. Do not imagine that the beauty is merely the beauty of form. The beauty of life is not the beauty of form but of spirit. It is the spirit that lights the face and oftentimes we see in faces here the foretokens of the future glory, the faint prophecy of that body which is beautiful because it is suffused and glorified by a radiant spirit within.

Benjamin Franklin prepared his own epitaph: "The body of Benjamin Franklin, like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stripped of its leather and gilding, lies here, food for worms; yet the work itself shall not be lost for it will, as he believes, appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by its author."

3. The *third quality of the resurrection body is power*. "It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power." We cannot guess the wonders of the powers those bodies will possess. For they will transcend the handicaps that are put upon them here. No weakness, no deformity shall they know. There will be no limitation of space for we shall pass from place to place, as Jesus did in His resurrection body by the mere volition of His will. There will be no barrier of matter for, like Jesus, we shall be able to pass through closed doors with this resurrection form. The eye will be strong enough to see through any distance. The ear will be keen enough to hear through any space. From strength to strength, the Spirit will leap onward to obey the behests of God, and upborne upon the wings of ether it shall flash its way across the shoreless sea.

4. The fourth quality of the resurrection body is that *it is spiritual*. "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." I hope you will notice that the word "spiritual" is not put into contrast with the word "material." It does not say "it is sown a material body"—but "it is sown a

natural body." It is altogether likely that the spiritual body is material. It is not natural. The natural body means the body of the natural man—the body that fulfills all the desires of the natural, sinful life. But the spiritual body will be the body of the spiritual man, fulfilling all the desires of the spiritual life. Here we know that "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." There the spiritual body will be a perfect vehicle for the ransomed soul. All that the spirit desires to do the body will fulfill and there will be no task for which the soul may prove itself equal, in which the resurrection body cannot bear it through.

Before I close, I must remind you that this is only one side of the picture. These words apply to the saints of God. These glorious promises are written for His own. "As we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." That is a blessed promise, but it does not apply to those who have not yielded unto Christ. We are either preparing for a harvest of great glory or a harvest of great shame. We

are shaping even now the body that is to be. Life is all one piece. There may be a little interruption at the point that we call death, but it is all one piece. It is in the making now. "He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." What are you hoping that resurrection body will be? O, my friend, there is no cheating of the harvest. The life of sin will bring the body of sin, the life of Christ the body of glory, for if you abide in Him and His life and spirit abide in you, then and then only can we claim that great promise which we pronounce so often beside the open grave: "For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself." Into that hope may we all come, through Jesus Christ our Lord!

insulate you with wisdom and discernment. "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Ps. 119:165). People who are easily offended are usually immature and selfish. Those individuals with a healthy degree of maturity (from the Word), who put others first in Christian service, aren't easily offended.

WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE.

A two and one half week calm between Israel and the Palestinians has ended. Israeli snipers have killed a Palestinian militant who was believed to be the instigator behind the June disco bombing that killed 22 people, mostly teens. Israel considers it retaliation and the Palestinians call it terrorism. Abed-Rahman Hamad was killed by two bullets while on his roof. He was a member of the Hamas, a radical Islamic group. Regardless what people say, the common denominator among these terrorists is Islam. The thousands of Palestinians who attended the funeral are calling for revenge.

Israel asked for the Palestinian Authority to handle Hamad, along with other militants, and the PA did arrest him, but released him a month ago. Most of the news media will not mention this fact, that Israel, through patience, was trying to allow the Palestinian Authority to handle the problem, but that's like asking Hitler to reprimand the Gestapo. It just won't happen, since they are of like mind. Since the PA dropped the ball, Israel handled it. Remember, this guy was responsible for the death of 22 people and most of them were Israeli teens.

Are you starting to get the picture? It was okay for a radical suicide bomber to go into the disco and kill himself and others, but now Israel is a villain for killing the mastermind. Do you see a parallel here? What's the difference if one of our guys takes out Osama with a bullet. He was responsible for a mass suicide terrorist act and we are after him. As with Israel, our motivation is not so much revenge as it is justice and prevention. When Osama is killed, justice will be served and a certain amount of prevention will be in place against future acts. But how many Arab and non-Arab nations are going to view us as the bully, when we do get him? Don't be surprised when Saudi Arabia, Libya, Iraq, Iran, and some European countries rise against us. They are not on our side now. Expect their true colors, after we wipe out the

Continued on page 228

Mini Edition

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



ARE YOU OFFENDED?

"Don't wave that American flag! Foreigners might get offended. Change the school mascot from the redskins to something else or Native Americans might get teed off. Burn the Confederate flag, or African Americans will get stirred up (yet the Civil War was not really over slavery, but state's rights). Destroy your fur coat People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will hiss and growl." Sound familiar? Yet, we shouldn't be surprised, because statements similar to these are the end result of a "multicultural society" which stresses diversity, leading to division and a one-sided tolerance.

Yet, as a Christian, we should be concerned about not causing offences. Where do we draw the line? How do we walk the tightrope of never offending anyone, yet standing for what we believe simultaneously? It is important to stand with the right attitude. Even then, some are looking to be offended. I could get offended all the time, if I so chose. Here's a list of some things that light my fire. I could get offended:

* When Bible believing, conservative Christians are portrayed as backward, illiterate fools, which is usually the way the media and

entertainment industry portrays them.

* When The Australian boxer, Anthony Mundine, remarked that America brought the recent terrorist attack on itself. This guy should never be allowed in this country for any reason, boxing or otherwise, without a sincere apology. Period!

* When "partners" of gays demand to receive spousal benefits, this could offend my decency.

* When "transsexuals" (whatever that is) claim they were born the wrong gender and want insurance companies or taxpayers to pay for the "handicap" they have had to endure. God doesn't make mistakes. Live with what you have.

* When people say we shouldn't seek justice by retaliation through the Taliban, because "two wrongs don't make a right." Well, we are not talking about two wrongs, only one. The terrorist did the "wrong" by killing 5000 (and that includes those who harbor and protect them). We are doing the "right" by seeking out and killing the evil ones in the name of justice and for future prevention.

So what answer do you give to people who propound these issues? I want to say, "Get a life" but that might offend someone. Instead, I'll just say get in the Word of God. It will thicken your skin, ground you in reality, and

Mini Edition

Continued from page 227

Taliban. The true battle always has been between those on God's side and the God haters. It's no different now. Regardless which nations are affected, notice how everything always comes back to Israel. It always will. Godless, God hating nations, including the Islamic world, will *continually* wage war on Israel until God Himself appears to straighten out the whole mess.

The Palestinians can't have it both ways. If they instigate acts of war through terrorism, then they shouldn't cry "terrorism" when retaliation comes back home. In other words, what's good for the Palestinian goose is good for the Israeli gander, to borrow and update an old expression.

STAND UP TO THE BULLY

By now, most people who keep up with the news have heard about the "God Bless America" sign that has placed Breen Elementary School, in Rocklin, CA in hot water. The ACLU (Atheistic Communists who Love Ungodliness) are the ones boiling. Breen Elementary officials took a bold step in placing this message on their marquee on *public school state property!* They have also continued to stand unwavering for their freedom of *religious* expression. In a letter to the school, the ACLU said the sign was "sectarian" and no school may "...support religion and may not teach religion..." which is, by the way, their opinion, based on a faulty, prejudiced interpretation. "Illegal" and "unconstitutional" were other words they used to describe the school's desecration.

Religious? Yes, in a general sense. Sectarian? No. Which sect was being promoted? Go to Breen's website, www.rocklin.k12.ca.us, and read the ACLU letter for yourself. You decide whether or not it's one of the most twisted, biased, discriminatory, agenda-driven documents you've ever seen. But here's what disturbs me. Even though the school has the intestinal fortitude to stand, their reasoning needs fine tuning. They claim, in defense, that the statement is not religious, but patriotic. That's only half right. The statement is religious and patriotic, and there's nothing in the US constitution to prohibit a religious statement from being spoken or displayed on government, public, national, state, or local taxpayer owned dirt! I'm not castigating the school. I'm just saying,

go the full gamut and call it what it is: a *religious/patriotic* statement that is not illegal or unconstitutional.

I have a few vivid memories of my days in public school. One such memory is of a bully who tortured and taunted me for months. I finally got enough one day and launched a very direct, physical attack. He crawled away groaning and I never had another problem with him. We actually became friends after that incident. Surprisingly, the ACLU has stated that they have not currently filed suit. Keep standing up to the bully, Breen Elementary, but don't expect the ACLU to become friends.

Your Pastor and You

Continued from page 221

by several great men of God of whom some are here this evening and some have since moved to glory.

I have experienced the blessings of being the pastor of four mission works that were organized into New Testament churches and am presently being blessed above measure pastoring a great New Testament church of the Lord's for now over 3 years. There is no higher office in our land than that of pastor of a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no work on earth more satisfying and rewarding or that involves more difficulties, trying, discouraging, and disappointing experiences than that of a pastor. These experiences can and do sap the energy and frustrate the efforts of even the most dedicated men of God. There is no pastor exempt from these.

I wish that I could say as a truth that I and all the pastors that I know, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, continue right on without complaint in spite of the temptation to give up and say, "what's the use?" but we don't. We keep on but not without complaining nor without times and things that we just as soon forget.

It is not only the work, study, preaching, and administrative duties that tax the energies and endurances of a pastor, but the physical weariness that results from strained relationships between the pastor and his congregation. When there is a misunderstanding and opposition involving honest differences of opinion and earnest convictions on the part of respected and loved members of his congregation, it is then the pastor feels the pressure of his position most greatly.

It is then his inability to please the very ones he loves the most, and the disappointment of being opposed by those he was depending upon for moral support that prompts the pastor

on occasions to throw up his hands in despair. And no matter how hard the pastor may try, or how sincere he may be, there are always some who will stand ready to find fault and criticize.

A good pastor will do his best to shepherd the flock faithfully. He will long for the rich blessings of the Lord upon himself and those that he pastors. He will make an earnest effort to earn the respect and approval of his people as a whole, and yet there is always someone, or some group to find fault, pick him apart, oppose him behind his back, or publicly denounce his actions.

Recognizing that these conditions do exist and that they mar the effectiveness of any church, and being convicted that these conditions exist because both pastor and congregation fail to understand fully what the pastor and congregation's relationship should be, I am bringing this message on the subject of "Your Pastor and You."

I now plead with you to pray with me and for me that my motives are correct and that I might not be misunderstood. That the message will be for the glory of God and for our good.

Lord willing in this message we will

note three things which are: 1. The Example of the Pastor. 2. The God-called Man. 3. The Congregation's Responsibility to the Pastor.

Now I know that each of these could be a message so please pray that the Almighty God will be pleased to allow the Holy Spirit to be our teacher as we hurry through these points.

THE EXAMPLE OF THE PASTOR

John 1:6-8 says: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light." In this passage we find three things said of John the Baptist that are also true of every genuine God-called man. I am convinced that if these three things were kept in mind by each pastor and each and every member of his congregation, much, if not all of the difficulties and problems that exist between pastor and members, could be avoided.

Now let us note these three significant things mentioned here about John and apply them to the pastor.

Continued on page 229



Your Pastor and You

Continued from page 228

1. We are told that **“there was a man.”** He was a human being, subject to the same weakness and limitations as other men. He was made of flesh and sinful. He had need of goods, water, rest, clothing, shelter and sleep.

John was not an angel. Neither is your pastor nor am I. John was not a supernatural creation but rather, as the record stated it, **“He was a man.”**

2. We are told John was a man **“sent from God.”** Although a man with human limitations, John was distinguished and set apart from others in that he was a special chosen one. Your pastor is a chosen one also, and he is a gift from God to the church, according to Ephesians 4:11. My heart greatly rejoices to hear the men that I pastor pray thanking God for the man that He sent to be their pastor. It is a very humbling thing to hear.

Like members in a church not placed by God, pastors will not fit, if not placed by God.

3. The third thing we are told about John is he was a man **“sent by God to bear witness of that light.”** So John came to preach Christ, the light of the world. There are many subjects to be preached but Christ must be the center of all preaching. John was not the light and neither are pastors, they are sent of God to bear witness of the light.

We learn from this passage of John 1:6-8 three things about John the Baptist that applies to your pastor. (1) He was a man. (2) He was sent from God. (3) He was sent to bear witness of the light.

In addition to the above we add these things as a reminder to you about your pastor. They all have human limitations. None can walk on water, read minds or perform miracles. They all have divine authority to preach Christ and oversee the church where they are placed. They have a special calling. Their primary duty is to preach the living Word as revealed in the written Word.

THE GOD CALLED MAN

“There was a man sent from God.” I am sure that all of you have heard remarks from time to time about pastors such as: “Our pastor is a good man but. . . .” “Our pastor is an excellent Bible teacher, but. . . .” “Our pastor has a wonderful personality, but.”

It seems in spite of his many commendable virtues there is always that some one or some group that will find fault with the pastor and, in some cases, almost the whole church will find at least one thing about the pastor

that is lacking, or they can't accept like: “He works well with the old folks but he can't reach the young or vice-versa.” “He is a powerful preacher but a poor pastor.” “He is a capable expositor of the Word but such an ineffective evangelist.”

Because of this many pastors are waging a difficult and discouraging battle, and the reason for this in most cases is a misunderstanding of the nature and work of the pastor, both by the church and the pastor himself. Please don't forget the pastor is a man.

1. Let us think about the fact that all God-called pastors and preachers are men. They are hampered by human limitations, temptations and sins like all other humans. God has ordained that men, in spite of all these faults and shortcomings, should be the channels through whom the Word be proclaimed to others.

2. Next in considering the man of God let us not forget it is God's choice. I don't understand nor do I cease to wonder why He should choose me, a rotten no-good, always failing, stumbling and unworthy vessel to bear the good news of the gospel to the lost and feed the flock over which He has made me the overseer. From the purely human standpoint God might better have sent angels to do the job, but He chose me. Praise the Lord oh my soul!

The Lord takes those who were themselves in need of a Savior and places them in a position of privilege to proclaim the glorious message of redemption to others.

Now the fact that pastors are but men with all the imperfections, deficiencies and characteristics of other humans should be evident to all, however this truth is very easily overlooked and forgotten when folks began to make demands upon the lives and ministry of pastors. As a result too many people in Baptist churches today are expecting far too much and continually criticize their pastor, who is but a man sent from God.

As a man, your pastor cannot be or do everything to perfection. He is going to have his ups and downs and his shortcomings, simply because God chooses men and in many cases weak men like me. So don't forget your pastor is God's choice, and if your pastor fails to live up to all that you expect of him, then pray for him. It will do more good to talk to the Lord about him than to criticize him to others.

THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PASTOR

This is not intended to come across as me telling you all what you should do, but rather some suggestions from

twenty-five years of experience as a pastor.

1. The church needs to pray and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit as to whom the man of God is for them as well as being in harmony about whom to call as pastor.

2. The church should not worship the pastor and he should not want them to. Don't put him on a pedestal, he may fall. However, if he is indeed the God-called and God-sent man and called by the church, then the church as a whole should respect him and his office. I have heard members refer to their pastor by just about every term except “pastor.” Take care of him in accordance with your means to do so.

(1) The pastor should be the number 1 missionary in your church and no others should be supported until you can take care of your pastor. (This is my convictions).

(2) He is worthy of a good salary with pay raises as often as others in the church get raises. Remember if the church does not give the pastor a raise, he doesn't get one.

(3) A good pastor is worthy of an expense account. Don't overlook the fact that he has expenses that he would not have if he were not your pastor.

Don't put burdens on your pastor you don't have to. And don't expect more of him than he can produce. Don't ask the pastor to do what you should be doing.

Don't compare your pastor to other pastors that you have had or that you know. If he is worth his salt, he already knows he doesn't compare to more able pastors.

Take time out to talk to your pastor, get to know him and give him a chance to get to know you. You both will be richer for it.

Trust and believe your pastor until he proves otherwise. Tell him if he is a blessing to you and let him know that you love him.

Don't forget your pastor has a wife and both of them are members of the church. They are tithers and givers and when you give to them you are giving to the church.

Invite the pastor and his family to your home.

Desire the same things for your pastor as for you and your family, such as a good car to drive, vacations, good clothes, etc.

The church, as a whole, needs to know when the man of God is no longer the man for them.

(1) If you keep him after the Lord is finished with him, you will hurt him and the church.

(2) When a church calls a pastor, they do so in love and harmony and the same should be the case when you let him go. All pastors should be able

to leave a church the same way they came, in love and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Now a few questions for all of you here:

1. How long has it been since you thanked your pastor for being a good pastor to you?

2. How long has it been since you as an individual member said to your pastor, “How are you doing? Do you need anything? Can I help you in some way?”

3. How long has it been since you invited your pastor and family to dinner?

4. How long has it been since you said, “I love you pastor?”

5. How long has it been since you prayed for your pastor and his ministry?

Don't forget this about your pastor. He is a man sent from God to bear witness of the light.

Eighth Commandment

Continued from page 221

THE RIGHT OF PROPERTY

The right to own property rests on obedience to the Creator's mandate to subdue the earth (Gen. 1:28). A man has the right to own what he wins, provided he wins it under the authority and according to the terms of the Divine Charter.

Unless there is such a thing as ownership of property, it would be impossible to have a commandment: **“Thou shalt not steal.”** This commandment is based upon God's sanction of man's right to private property. The word “property” comes from the Latin *proprius*, which means “peculiar to one” or “personal to one.” Hence property is something which is yours and not another's.

The rights to property are essential to the cultivation and development of the nature of man. Apart from these rights, all motive and stimulus to labor would disappear. It is only because corn belongs to the farmer and bread to the baker that men work in order to have corn and bread. The existence of the rights of property require that if we are to live, we must work. **“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. . .”** (Gen. 3:19). **“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. . . that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread”** (II Thess. 3:10, 12).

Houses, ships, cars, airplanes, clothes, furniture, books, pictures, and machinery are produced by hard labor. The stimulus to production

Continued on page 230

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

If scientists are able to clone a human being, will he have soul and spirit? --- Mississippi



Garner Smith
113 Keith Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043

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

The cloning of any living being is not the creation of life, but it is the continuing of and encouragement of life already created by God. Cloning comes from the DNA of an already existing being.

Cloning is no surprise to God but no doubt was included in God's original plan and purpose, just as was the fall of man and redemption of man.

I believe that what makes a body have life is the soul. The soul is planted in the body by God whether in natural reproduction, genetic engineering, or cloning.

I believe the soul is the living conscience of all animate beings even animals, but it is the spirit of man that distinguishes him from all other animate beings. The soul is what gives the body life, which comes from God. If a soul is absent from a body it died (I Kings 17:21).

GARNER SMITH



David O'Neal
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

Pastor
**Grace Missionary
Baptist Church**
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

It appears that there are many things being done to disprove the existence of creation and God. This lost world is much like those in Psalms 2:1-3: **"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."**

"Cloning is the duplication of genetic material which is common in nature. Plants and animals are said to

be master cloners. The fertilized egg from which a human develops contains DNA from both mother and father. The egg divides into two identical cells, then four, then eight, and so on. These cells are clones and so is the DNA within them. In time, the cells begin to differentiate, or become specialized, into skin cells, eye cells, liver cells, and so on. They still are a single clone with respect to their DNA, each cell having the same DNA as the original fertilized egg" (*Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*).

I do not know if the scientists will be able to clone a human being from an adult cell, but I do know that God is the author of this process of reproduction. This is much like the test-tube baby. A physician removes an egg from the mother and fertilizes it with sperm from the father. It is then placed in the mother's womb to develop into a baby. It is still the process of reproduction that God has created. I believe that only God can give life. Man can involve himself in the process, but life itself must come from the Giver of life. If God gives human life, that human would be a moral being designed to exist in one of two places in eternity.

DAVID O'NEAL



Tom Ross
6339 County Rd. 15
South Point, OH
45680

Pastor
**Mount Pleasant
Baptist Church**
6939 County Rd. 15
Chesapeake, OH
45619

This is a rather difficult question. I am not sure that I am qualified to give an accurate answer. However, I do know that in the original creation of man it was God Who breathed into Adam the breath of life, which enabled him to become a living soul. Man is certainly not capable of giving the breath of life or of creation a soul. These are moral faculties that only a moral Being has the ability to create. Numbers 16:22 states: **"And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh. . ."**, indicating that God is the Creator of the spirits of all man (cf. Col. 1:16-17). Therefore, I would conclude that if it were possible to clone a human

being (a hypothesis which remains to be seen) he would not have a soul or a spirit. Zechariah 12:1 declares: **"The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundations of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him."**

TOM ROSS



Jimmie B. Davis
309 Carroll Road
Fulton, MS 38843

Pastor
**Sovereign Grace
Baptist Church**
100 James Street
Fulton, MS 38843

There are some in the scientific community who seem to be very radical in a desire to clone human beings. Other scientists, both Christian and non-Christian, oppose any attempt to enter into experimental efforts in the matter of cloning humans. There is great concern among the latter groups, as well as Christians in all nations, that attempts to clone human beings could result in catastrophic and devastating physical mutations.

Since man was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26) I doubt that any attempt by man to change this will be successful, including cloning. There can be no doubt that attempts will be undertaken to clone human beings, whether done legally or illegally. But we must keep this fact in mind. Man does not have power to create human life, he only has power to reproduce. If scientists are able to clone a human being it will be no more than a reproduction. Cloning of a human being will not give to man the right to claim creative power. Common sense would teach us that an original must exist before there can be a reproduction. Since the original man had soul and spirit any true reproduction would have the same.

Children of God need not have worry or anxiety in this matter, even if the cloning of human life is successful. Why? some may be prone to inquire. Because the infallible WORD OF GOD says, **"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole**

spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thess. 5:23).

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

Eighth Commandment

Continued from page 229

would be altogether destroyed, if what the working man produced belonged to nobody. If people who do not work could use the things produced as freely as those who work to produce them, then there would be no need for any person to work. No fields would be cleared, no marshes would be drained, no building erected, no ship would be built, and there would be no clothes to wear. The material wealth of the world would disappear. Poverty would abound in every place, if the rights of property were abolished.

Some would say that covetousness and dishonesty are terrible sins. They would say that if you abolish the rights to property, you could rid the world of these sins. These same people tell us there should be a fair distribution of wealth among the people of each nation so inequalities might disappear. They would also say let no man have any exclusive right to anything, and then the wretchedness of the world will disappear. But this idea is Satanic and a mental and moral delusion. This idea would ignore the Eighth Commandment and bring gross injustice to the world. This plan of socialists and communists would have a terrible effect on the production of material wealth, as well as moral and intellectual conditions of mankind.

The Eighth Commandment forbids all forms of Communism which denies man's right to own property. Communism is nothing but legalized thievery in which the government forcibly confiscates and steals the property and possessions of their own citizens! The Bible nowhere tells us the state must own all property. All men under God have the co-equal right to own something, but they do not have the right to co-equally own what belongs to their neighbor, as the Communists false teach.

Sad to say, but America has become a socialist nation. Our government takes almost half of what we produce in various forms of taxes. More and more, we as a people want big government and little people. We expect the government to furnish us with a job, health insurance, and a retirement plan (Social Security—good communistic terminology).

Many thieves who steal private property spend their lives in prison

Continued on page 231

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

We're thankful to be enlightened on the Xmas issue (thanks to Steve Flinchum), but how do you handle the others who want to do season (in church)? -- Louisiana



Garner Smith
113 Keith Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043

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

If what some practice in church is wrong or unscriptural, it is the pastor's responsibility to refuse to be involved in such practice. The pastor must teach the truth and also practice it. We as pastors cannot lord it over churches and force them to do something, not to do something, that the majority approves of, but we must protest and refuse to be a part of it and teach against the wrong practice.

There is no middle ground for the pastor. He must make his position steadfast. A pastor must be in a position to be voted out at any service to be able to scripturally pastor a church. For a pastor to compromise on a plain and clear Bible doctrine is to betray the Lord Who called him and deceive and mislead the church the Holy Spirit has made him overseer of (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-3).

GARNER SMITH



David O'Neal
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

Pastor
**Grace Missionary
Baptist Church**
2750 South 53rd
West Ave
Tulsa, OK 74107

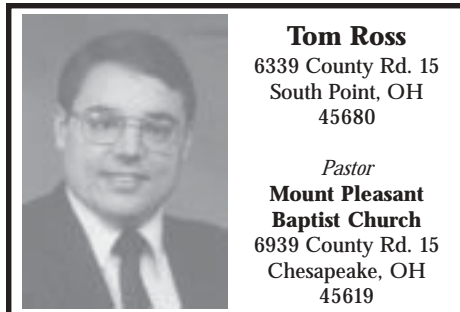
"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them" (Jer. 10:2).

I know that many do not agree with me, but I consider it an act of idolatry to take part in the celebration of Christmas. Christmas is of pagan origin and was not practiced by the churches of the New Testament; therefore, any customs associated with this holiday are idolatrous. **"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry"** (I Cor. 10:14).

Let us remember that we all must

stand before the judgment seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10). Many church members are involved in Christmas and will give an account to the Lord as to whether it is wrong or not. I could not be a part of this in the church. A New Testament Church must see that all that is done is done for the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31). Each member of a church must follow the will of the church or be disciplined. If the majority of the church was involved, I could no longer worship with them.

DAVID O'NEAL



Tom Ross
6339 County Rd. 15
South Point, OH
45680

Pastor
**Mount Pleasant
Baptist Church**
6939 County Rd. 15
Chesapeake, OH
45619

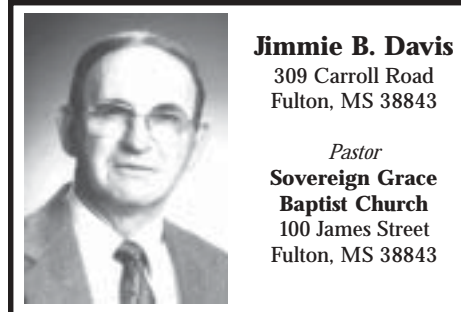
You should simply state your convictions clearly and graciously with scripture to support your position. Ephesians 4:15 declares: **"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."** In your presentation of the facts you must be careful not to be mean-spirited, harsh, or unloving. I have known people who believed the truth and were mad about it! Usually an attitude like that accomplishes very little in the spiritual realm.

Ultimately God must show and convince others of the unscriptural notions associated with Xmas through the Word and the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:5 states: **"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."**

It is between you and the Lord as to whether or not you should leave a church that promotes the false notions associated with Xmas. If you cannot learn to agree to disagree peaceably with those in the church who promote Xmas, then you may want to look for a church that doesn't practice it. Otherwise, you will be miserable and you will make every one around you miserable as well. Romans 12:9-10 declares: **"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is**

evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

TOM ROSS



Jimmie B. Davis
309 Carroll Road
Fulton, MS 38843

Pastor
**Sovereign Grace
Baptist Church**
100 James Street
Fulton, MS 38843

We can and should be thankful for articles like Bro. Steve's on the Xmas issue. His, and articles by other brethren have been most helpful in calling our attention to paganish observances, practiced not only by unbelievers, but by some of the Lord's people as well. Some may dwell on the perfect scenario where no believer would be guilty of engaging in paganish practices, but the history of Israel's succumbing to paganism is clearly seen. Epistles written to New Testament churches point out that Christians of today are not immune to becoming involved in such observances.

The only things that a church might do, in my estimation, would be to take the extreme action of denying membership to any who engaged in the observance of Xmas, or to lovingly teach them the truth about the practice trusting that they will be enlightened to the point of forsaking the practice. My recommendation would be to preach the truth in a loving and straightforward manner. After all, many who reject the practice of Xmas did so many years after trusting Christ.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

Eighth Commandment

Continued from page 230

or jail, but political thieves who steal both private and public property are elected as congressmen, senators, and maybe even as president. We continue to elect, more and more, those who take from the "haves" to give to the "have-nots." We are rapidly headed to total government control of all property. The people of the United

States would never accept open Communism, but we will gladly travel down the road of socialism to camouflage Communism!

MAN A STEWARD OF GOD

When I speak of property and possessions, I speak only in a relative sense. Man is not the creator of the earth; he is only the administrator of it under God. In the absolute sense, God is the owner of everything (Ex. 19:5; Job 1:21; Ps. 24:1; 50:10; 115:16; Hag. 2:8). Man is God's steward to take care of property as a trust. This makes property a Divine institution and the right of owning property a sacred right. Property is communion with God through the material world. **"Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase"** (Prov. 3:9).

Strictly speaking, man does not own property, but as the steward of God he has things in his possession. We are to manage what belongs to God. We must use the material things we possess within the scope of our Christian stewardship. We are to use our property for the glory of God and the good of mankind. At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will give an account of our stewardship (Matt. 25:14-31; Luke 19:11-27).

INCREASE WEALTH LAWFULLY

"Thou shalt not steal" implies it is our positive duty to seek wealth and increase it by labor and sound judgment. This commandment requires proper diligence and industry to provide for ourselves and our family (I Tim. 5:8; Prov. 22:29). Romans 12:17 commands: **"Provide things honest in the sight of all men."** We should have a suitable amount of this world's good so we will not be tempted to steal from others. Ephesians 4:28 says: **"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."**

The Eighth Commandment requires honesty and uprightness in our dealings with others. We should render to all their dues and **"owe no man any thing"** (Rom. 13:7-8). As Bible-believing Christians, we must be true to our engagements, promises, and contracts (Lev. 6:2-5). In all business transactions we must use just weights and measures. Leviticus 19:35-36 declares: **"Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt."**

Continued on page 232

Eighth Commandment

Continued from page 231

ALL STEALING FORBIDDEN

Stealing is a sin of great antiquity. The first sin committed by the human race was theft. Eve stole the forbidden fruit. The first sin recorded against Israel after they entered the promised land was theft. Achan stole the spoils of wars which belonged to Jehovah (Josh. 7:21). The first sin which defiled the New Testament Church was theft. Judas stole money from the church treasury (John 12:6). Theft continues to be the most common sin committed by the human race. The Eighth Commandment is violated in thousands of different ways through our watered-down system of morality. On every hand there are professional robbers, smugglers, burglars, pick-pockets, shoplifters, forgers, and swindlers.

Direct stealing is condemned by this commandment. **"Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him"** (Lev. 19:13). **"When thou comest into thy neighbour's vineyard, then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill at thine own pleasure; but thou shalt not put any in thy vessel. When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbor, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbour's standing corn"** (Deut. 23:24-25).

Stealing seems to be the order of the day. Banks, grocery stores, and even some churches are robbed in broad open daylight. Thievery is so bad that most people are afraid to leave their homes to go to work or church (Matt. 24:43). While a man tries to sleep at night the thieves are busy taking away his property. If nothing else, they will at least steal the gasoline out of his gas tank. The prophet Ezekiel well wrote: **"The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor an needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully"** (Ezek. 22:29).

SUBTLE DECEPTION

In some cases business men have made themselves believe that the art of lying advertising is "good" business. After a meeting involving false measurement, poor quality, and misleading advertising, a businessman will say, "What difference does it really make? If I don't take their money somebody else will. There is a sucker born every minute." This may be good business, but it is very poor religion. The ancient Jews were condemned for **"making the ephah**

small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit" (Amos 8:5; Hos. 12:7).

Fraud is forbidden in the Old Testament: **"And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another"** (Lev. 25:14). The same is true in the New Testament: **"That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the LORD is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified"** (I Thess. 4:6). Many a respectable businessman has attained his position and power largely through lying advertising and mass deception. What the law of the land permits and what people consider respectable is forbidden by the Lord.

SOME BORROW NEVER TO REPAY

There are some people who borrow money from others never intending to repay it. **"The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again; but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth"** (Ps. 37:21). People buy items on time payments, knowing full well they have not the means to pay for such. Those who buy and do not pay are thieves.

There is also a more respectable form of this which is taking bankruptcy. Such persons have the court to legally declare them unable to pay their debts. A Christian cannot scripturally take bankruptcy. Romans 13:8 says: **"Owe no man anything."** The prophet Elisha told the Shunammite widow: **"Go, sell the**

oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest" (II Kings 4:7).

OFFICIAL STEALING

Office in its very nature is a trust. To betray this trust is the worst kind of stealing. In all too many cases our elected officials use their office to feather their own nest at the taxpayers expense. Often in the newspaper or on TV we hear of some elected official who has misappropriated funds. This is a nice way of saying that this public official is a rotten, low-down dirty, stinking thief! The ancient race of Roman publicans is not yet dead!

In all too many cases these respectable thieves use their power and money to avoid punishment. It is amazing how these crooks can remain in good standing with the people they have robbed. They brave the courts with success. These scoundrels are pitied and nursed by a sympathizing host of people. A sickly sentimentality hinders the administration of justice and unrepentant thieves run loose. Then in some cases these thieves are elected to a second term so they can continue to rob the people they were elected to serve!

Isaiah 10:1-2 says: **"Woe to them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless."**

THE CONFLICT OF CAPITAL AND LABOR

"Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth" (Jas. 5:4). Here James sounds like a modern labor leader. He condemns the rich for hoarding their wealth and of obtaining it by defrauding their help. They for some petty reason never paid the laborers their wages. As an excuse they claimed the work was not done right, or accused the workers of stealing a portion of the crop, or claimed that they could not pay until the crop was sold. God condemns this evil under the sun: **"Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning"** (Lev. 19:13).

Jesus Christ said: **"The labourer is worthy of his hire"** (Luke 10:7; cf. I Tim. 5:18). It is a serious sin for an employer to reduce to starvation those who supply him with food (Matt. 21:33 -35). Deuteronomy

24:14-15 says: **"Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates: At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee."**

Any employer who underpays his employees, withholds their wages, or abuses them in other ways, is a thief and a robber. The very wages held back by fraud cries out into the ears of the Lord. A God of justice will take vengeance upon such thieves. This goes for an employer who secures their wealth by an unnecessarily high death rate in his plant or factory. Such ill-gotten gain makes him in some cases both a thief and a murderer!

The Eighth Commandment has a message to employers and to employees. To employers: **"A fair day's wages for a fair day's work."** To employees: **"A fair day's work for a fair day's wages."** There is conflict between capital and labor because both want to violate this commandment. Employers want inadequate wages and employees demand a wage which employers cannot afford to pay.

It would surely be wrong to blame capital for all the ills in the business world. In the past the poor were deprived of reasonable wages, but the scales have now turned in the other direction in this era of corrupt unionism. Many a working man robs his employer by not giving a day's work for a day's wages. Sometimes an employee will say to a fellow-employee, "Don't work so hard. If you keep on working that hard we'll all have to work hard around here." I fear there is too much time spent on "coffee breaks" and "cigarette breaks." This lack of productivity is causing American industries to be badly beaten in the worldwide trade war now going on.

STEALING A MAN'S FREEDOM

When we deprive a man of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we rob him of his freedom. Totalitarian regimes deprive a person of the freedom God intended a man to have on this earth. Some religious orders would take a small child from his parents to a monastery to make them monks and nuns. Often a young man will steal a man's daughter and run off to get married. Morally bankrupt terrorists take hostages for their own political purposes.

On one occasion in the New Testament when it refers to the Eighth

Continued on page 233

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sister Janet Pugh has written a series of Sunday School Lessons, which can be used by pre-school to young teens. We are considering printing these for use for other churches who have requested such. These will be put in booklets, which can be used for about 3 months (13 lessons) per printing. We have 123 lessons and some can be used for more than one Sunday, which would give well over 2 years worth of material if all printings are purchased. These lessons include the story text, memory verse and craft pattern. Sister Pugh designed these lessons to be used with "Betty Lukens Through The Bible In Felt" visual aids, however, they can be used without the visual aids. Would you be interested in these? and if so, how many? They will be sold at a reasonable price plus shipping. If you are interested in such, let us know. This is a new adventure for us, but we hope to start it by the first of the new year. Our church already uses these lessons.

Eighth Commandment

Continued from page 232

Commandment it is called slavery. The verse says in modern English that the law was made for **"fornicators, sodomites, slavedealers, liars, perjurers"** (W. J. Conybeare's Trans.). Our version has **"menstealers."** Exodus 21:16 reads: **"And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death"** (cf. Deut. 24:7). Kidnappings are common in our society. Posters, milk cartons, and news bulletins remind us some people have their lives stolen from them. Some who are kidnapped are returned in exchange for a ransom, while others are sold into the black-market slavery. Many persons who are kidnapped are never heard from ever again.

STEALING FOR SELF

A man can rob himself by sinful spending. The prodigal did this. Or a man may rob himself by sinful sparing. Some rob themselves of the necessities of life to have a big bank account. **"A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease"** (Eccl. 6:2). Then a person may rob himself by idleness and too much pleasure. He can rob himself of the precious time God has given him. A person may also rob himself by being a surety for a debt and having to pay another man's debt (Prov. 22:26).

The worst thief is the man who deprives himself of knowing and serving God. It is bad to rob the body, but it is worse to rob the soul. Some deceive themselves into believing they are not sinners and, therefore, do not need the salvation which in Christ Jesus. Such a man is a thief and a robber of himself. A Christless eternity await him.

ROBBING GOD

It is not only possible to rob others or ourselves, but it is possible to rob God. In Malachi 3:8-9 I read: **"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."** There are some Christians who would not rob man, but these same people have no scruples about robbing God! Such are under the curse of God and cannot prosper in this world. In the light of Malachi 3:8 it would appear that a number of our Baptist churches **"have**

made it a den of thieves" (Mark 11:17). I refer to members who do not tithe their income to the church.

God may be robbed in other ways. Those who do not observe the Christian Sabbath are thieves who rob God of His day. God is robbed when we withhold from Him the glory due to His name, or when we arrogate to ourselves the glory and honor which belongs to Him alone. We can also rob God by being an unfaithful steward in His kingdom. When such things are done the guilty party has committed sacrilege. He is a **"thief and a robber"** (John 10:1).

Religious racketeers rob both God and God's people. In our modern world religion has become "big" business. Some men use their religious office as a means to deceive church people and to feather their own nest. A few who claim to be missionaries are in reality mercenaries. They falsify their mission reports and constantly beg for more money. Instead of doing God's work on the mission field they run secular businesses, enjoy the pleasures of this world, pay mistresses, and engage in homosexuality. Such men are thieves and robbers, and they should be exposed as being what they are.

What I cannot understand is how some godly men labor hard to carefully shield and protect these racketeers. In at least some cases pastors know that some missionaries are really mercenaries, but they keep their churches in the dark. These pastors appease their conscience by saying they are remaining silent for "the truth's sake." This can hardly justify their actions before God, for in remaining silent they are consenting that thievery is okay. Surely such men will not be guiltless at the judgment seat of Christ as they are a partaker of this man's evil deeds. The psalmist said: **"When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother. . ."** (Ps. 50:18-20).

THE WRONG OF THIS SIN

First, it is a great wickedness: **"The bands of the wicked have robbed me"** (Ps. 119:61). In the Eighth Commandment God sets a hedge about a man's estate, and this hedge is only broken by a wicked man who despises God's law.

Second, thievery is as bad a sin as murder and adultery. They are listed by God side by side in the Bible. **"By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood"** (Hos. 4:2).

Third, it is a sin which God hates: **"For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering. . ."** (Isa. 61:8). Robbery is most hateful to God when it is covered over with a pretense of religious piety (Jer. 7:9-10).

Fourth, it is a sin which contains the seeds of its own punishment: **"The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them: because they refuse to do judgment"** (Prov. 21:7). Consider what the robbery of Achan and Gehazi brought to them (Josh. 7:21-26; II Kings 5:20-27). Short indeed was the enjoyment of the part of the price kept back by Ananias and Sapphira. Many thieves end up in jail or prison.

Fifth, this sin is so awful it banishes one eternally from God's presence, unless repented of before death. **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? . . . Nor thieves. . . nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"** (I Cor. 6:9-10).

Sixth, stealing puts one under the curse of God: **"Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it. . ."** (Zech. 5:3).

Seventh, stealing is a sin of which

no Christian should ever be guilty. **"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters"** (I Pet. 4:15). A truly converted person will restore anything he may have taken by false accusation as far as possible. When the Lord saved Zacchaeus, he said: **"If I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold"** (Luke 19:8).

About 4 million people are caught shoplifting each year in the United States alone. For every person caught, it is estimated that 35 go undetected. Most people of today do not think stealing is wrong, unless you get caught at it. Dishonesty is viewed as smartness and as an acceptable sin.

One of the worse forms of stealing is gambling, for by it a person comes to possess something for which he did not work. State sponsored gambling is legalized thievery and a clear violation of the Eighth Commandment. Those who sponsor such laws and those who vote to accept them are equally guilty before God.

CONCLUSION

Let all born-again believers avoid the sin of stealing. Our God has said: **"Thou shalt not steal."** The apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians: **"Let him that stole steal no more"** (Eph. 4:28). May we learn to be content with what God has given us in this world (I Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5). How suitable that we pray the prayer of the wise man who said: **"Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain"** (Prov. 30:8-9).

Someone who may read this message is today knocking at the gates of Hell for ill-gotten wealth. My friend, don't go to the Devil for your livelihood. Don't worship Satan so that he may make you rich. Take heed of getting the world by thievery at the loss of Heaven. You may rob others of their property and possessions and at the same time rob yourself of salvation which is in Christ Jesus. **"Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways"** (Hag. 1:5-7).

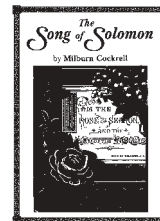
Books by Milburn Cockrell

The Seventy Weeks
\$4.00



Studies in the Book of Jonah
\$4.00

The Song of Solomon
\$4.00



The Doctrine of Hell
\$1.50

Please add \$2.50 for P/H.

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

THREATEN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

BERLIN, Germany (EP)—Could other European nations follow France's lead in enacting strict laws against minority religious groups? The Institute on Religion and Public Policy (IRPP) in Washington, D. C. reports that Otto Schily, the Federal Minister of Interior of Germany, proposed changes in German law to ban and dissolve religious organizations. Schily said the proposed laws are designed to ban extremist Islamic factions and religious groups that include anti-government elements, but IRPP says "the amendments he proposed to the law would extend far beyond these targets."

An "anti-terrorism package" that includes Schily's proposal has already been approved by two federal councils and is currently being debated by the Federal Parliament of Germany. If passed, the law would give government officials the power to determine whether the purposes or activities of a group "are in violation of penal laws or directed against the constitutional order" of Germany and the world.

If such a determination is made, officials would then have the power to dissolve the group in question without any further legal proceedings. An appeals process would be possible, but would not overturn the dissolution of the group. The dissolution order would not only affect the main organization, but would dissolve all affiliated groups and ban foreign chapters of the religious organization from the country.

IRPP says critics of new and minority religions in Germany are using the imposing threat of terrorism to push an anti-religion agenda. The proposed changes to German law were first proposed in 1998 by a federal commission "well known to have consisted of long-term critics of new and minority religious movements," says IRPP. "One could 'prove' and 'interpret' the Talmud, the Koran or the Bible as being anti-constitutional, yet this law would allow any relevant state official to interpret selected religious beliefs in his own way." That, says IRPP, is a danger to religious freedom in Germany.

IRPP officials are comparing this law to the one added to law books in France on May 30, 2001. Known as "anti-sect" legislation, French lawmakers said that the

law was designed to stop damaging cults from seducing impressionable people into their ranks through the use of mind control. However, religious liberty defenders around the world denounced the bill as hostile to religious freedom. The new law, they said, created new avenues for the legal dismantling of legitimate religious organizations that the government had labeled as cults.

This new action by the German government has caused alarm among defenders of religious freedom, some who predicted that other nations would follow France's lead.

"The rights of freedom have been hard fought for. Even in the wake of severe terrorist assaults, citizens should never be deprived of fundamental rights—especially when the perverted reasoning is that the removal of a right is serving their protection," the IRPP concludes.

"The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor. . ." (Ps. 10:2).

RELIGIOUS CENTER CLAIMS CHINESE POLICE CAUSED THE DEATH OF THREE MEMBERS

QICHENGZI, China (EP)—Did Chinese police throw a woman out of a fourth story window for refusing to give up her religious beliefs? Followers of the Falun Gong religion say that Yu Xiuling, a 32-year-old female, fell to her death after she was forced out of a government detention center window for refusing to renounce her religion and reveal the identity of fellow believers to police.

Yu was taken into custody by police Sept. 14 for practicing Falun Gong. She was held for six days. The Falun Dafa Information Center in New York reports that during that time Yu was continuously beaten by police who were trying to force her to reveal other followers of the religion. Yu was near death when her torturers allegedly pushed her out a window sending her 40 feet to the street below.

Police reported to Yu's husband, Feng Dianziang, that she had committed suicide, but after examining the body Feng said both Yu's arms were broken and she had severe bruises. Further examination was not performed because the body was quickly cremated by police.

"Mrs. Yu's death is not all an accident or a result of the evil intent of just a few

individuals," said Gail Rachlin, spokesperson for the center. "What we are witnessing here is the implementation of a policy sanctioned by Jiang Zemin's regime."

The center claims that over 289 followers of Falun Gong have died in police custody during the last two years. Falun Gong is one of many religions, including Christianity, that is either banned or tightly restricted by the communist Chinese government. Falun Gong was specifically banned by Jiang Zemin in July 1999. Sources claim that more than 100,000 members of the religion have been arrested and detained since then.

The center also claimed that two other members of the Falun Gong religion died due to police brutality in August and September. On August 22, 30-year-old Gao Mei died in police custody after being repeatedly tortured for refusing to renounce her beliefs. Her husband is still in police custody and has been subjected to the same treatment, the center reports.

Falun Gong followers in America also say that Wang Yongdong, a 38-year-old man from Yishui, died when police raided his home. Wang reportedly resisted the police, was severely beaten and thrown from the roof of his apartment building. Police claimed that Wang's death, like Yu Xiuling's, was a suicide.

Both Wang and Gao are from Shandong, a Chinese province where over 50 members of Falun Gong have died because of persecution, claimed the center.

"The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him" (Ps. 37:32).

EXPERT SEES LINK BETWEEN BIN LADEN AND WORLDWIDE CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

COSTA MESA, Calif. (EP)—One of the world's leading authorities on religious persecution sees a connection between the Osama bin Laden terror network and persecution directed against Christians around the world.

"He's tied in with a lot of persecution," Dr. Paul Marshall told ASSIST News Service. Marshall, the British-born author of *MTheir Blood Cries Out*, and a senior fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C., continued, "In many settings it's radicals within his network who are carrying out persecution. This is going on in the Philippines, Indonesia, and to some extent Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan—and of course, Afghanistan."

Marshall told ASSIST's senior correspondent Mark Ellis that bin Laden is allied with terrorist groups in Algeria and Nigeria that have been killing Christians. "Bin Laden's had a lot of cooperation with Sudan—a major country in the world killing Christians," Marshall

says. "The death toll in Sudan since 1998 is two million; that is more than every war in the Middle East in this past century. Most of these victims are Christians."

Marshall describes bin Laden as the figurehead of a far-reaching organization with little hierarchical structure. "If Osama bin Laden drops dead tomorrow, the situation has hardly changed," he says. "Zawahiri would take over—and he's probably worse." (Egyptian doctor Ayman al-Zawahiri is bin Laden's top lieutenant.)

The exact nature of bin Laden's involvement with worldwide persecution of Christians by Muslims is uncertain, admits Marshall. "It's not as if an order comes down from Kabul or Kandahar to Indonesia to go out and attack these people. They are allied; they have common goals—it's not top-down."

Even Muslim nations with no ties to bin Laden persecute Christians, says Marshall. "You get persecution in the Islamic world apart from bin Laden. Most notable is the Saudis—who are his enemy number one. They have arrested 15 Christians in the last two months. In the last week, they have tortured at least three of them."

"America is only beginning to share the experience of nations around the world where persecution at the hands of Islamic radicals is the norm," Marshall says. "In Kaduna, Nigeria, over 5,000 people have been killed since the imposition of Islamic law. In Pakistan in 1997 the city of Shantinagar was leveled—razed—a city of 20,000 people. The death toll in Ambon, Indonesia is 5,000 to 6,000. The worst is Susan, where an estimated 2 million have been killed by militant Muslims."

"This is a great evil and we can fight it and reduce it," Marshall says. "But we can no more end all persecution than we can end all terrorism. . . It should also be a wake-up call for Christians. Be informed and pray. No congregation in America should meet without praying for the persecuted church."

"Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil" (Ps. 56:5).

MADISON SCHOOL BOARD BACKS OFF PLEDGE BAN AFTER PUBLIC OUTCRY

MADISON, Wis. (EP)—As a new wave of patriotism sweeps the nation, one Wisconsin school board was ready to hold out. The Madison, Wis., school board voted Oct. 8 to ban recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, because it included the phrase "under God." However, the school board reversed its position a day later in response to the public outcry generated by the decision.

A new Wisconsin state law requires schools to play the national anthem or allow students to recite the Pledge of

Continued on page 235

The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 234

Allegiance each day. Participation in the pledge or anthem is strictly voluntary. The Madison board voted 3-2 against the pledge after hearing complaints that the words describing America as a nation "under God" have no place in a public school.

But after board members received hundreds of angry calls, e-mails and faxes, they reversed their position, and by the following afternoon dropped the ban, allowing schools to offer either the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem. The board's initial decision was publicized by radio personalities Paul Harvey and Rush Limbaugh. Wisconsin's Gov. Scott McCallum issued a press release that questioned the patriotism of the board's members, who he refereed to as "oddballs." The board received hundreds of negative comments, and only five supportive messages.

Board member Bill Keys, who introduced the original proposal, tried to justify his action, stating, "What I wanted to do was eliminate that which would be repugnant to those who believe very strongly and would have their personal and political beliefs violated by group coercion."

GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (EP)—Persecution against religious believers is intensifying in Saudi Arabia, a nation classified by the U. S. as one of the worst violators of religious freedom in the world. Advocacy group Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) reports that 15 Christians were arrested and detained by Saudi police during the summer. The most recent arrests occurred in the coastal city of Jiddah where, during a campaign against Christians in that city, six people were taken into custody by police. The majority of those arrested were foreigners from Africa and Asia. "Recent international events have led to a global call for the eradication of radical Islamic terrorism. At the same time, intolerance against peace-loving Christians quietly continues in Islamic regimes and must also be stamped out," said Mervyn Thomas, chief executive of CSW. According to Saudi law, its citizens must be Muslim, but officials have said that expatriate non-Muslims are free to worship in private.

AUSTIN, Texas (EP)—Texas Gov. Rick Perry was criticized for participating in prayers with public school children recently, but told the Dallas Morning News that he saw nothing wrong with having a Baptist pastor open a public school assembly with prayer. "Any time you have a crisis that faces you either in your personal life or as we have now in

our country, reaching out to a Supreme Being is a very normal act," said Perry, who added that he disagrees with the Supreme Court's restrictions on organized school prayer.

MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho (EP)—The first announced American casualty in the war on terrorism was a Christian man known for his Christian faith and willingness to help out his friends. Master Sgt. Evander Earl Andrews, 36, died Oct. 10 in a heavy equipment accident while helping build an air base in Qatar, on the Arabian Peninsula. In a statement read by her minister, Thomas Westall of the Mountain Home Bible Church, widow Judy Andrews said she accepted "the death of my husband in defense of our nation. He was a proud, professional, career airman of 18 years. I also know with all my heart as a Christian that Evander, my husband, is home with the Lord."

KANO, Nigeria (EP)—At least 200 people died during fighting between Christian and Muslim groups in Kano, Nigeria. Riots broke out on Oct. 13 after Christian gangs clashed with Muslims staging anti-American protests with religious slogans and pictures of Osama bin Laden. The official death toll from the two days of conflict was placed at 13, but residents claimed the dead numbered in the hundreds. One eyewitness claimed that Christians in Muslim-dominated areas were slaughtered outright. Soldiers were deployed in order to restore order to the city. City leaders claim that the rioting was caused by the criminal element of the city and pointed to the many shops owned by Christians and Muslims alike that were looted. Kano has been the setting for previous violence between Muslims and Christians during the past two years.

e.*****

KHARTOUM, Sudan (EP)—Bombing raids made by the Khartoum regime of northern Sudan on Oct. 7 allegedly killed 15 children and one woman. Christian Solidarity International (CSI), a Christian rights organization, reported that eight children were also wounded in air raids on the villages of Gukie and Mayom Deng Akol, in the Mangok district of southern Sudan. Six bombs were reportedly dropped on each village. The youngest child among the dead was four years old, the oldest was 13. CSI said that instead of responding favorably to the lifting of sanctions by the UN, the Sudanese government has intensified its aerial bombardment of civilian targets, including UN humanitarian aid centers. Since 1983, the predominantly Arab Muslim population of northern Sudan has waged war against the Black, Christian and animist south. Over 2 million people have died in the civil war, which northern Muslims claim is a jihad,

or holy war, against non-Muslims. Since the beginning of October, Muslim clerics in the northern capitol of Khartoum have joined Sudan's Vice President Ali Osman Taha in condemning the U. S. Sudanese clerics have released a fatwa, or religious ruling stating "America is the greatest enemy of Islam and it embraces blasphemy, guards the Jews and protects their terrorism."

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (EP)—A Florida Baptist association voted against suspending a member church which ordained a female staff member. Parkview Baptist Church in Gainesville retained full membership in the Santa Fe River Baptist Association after a 133-121 vote Oct. 14 which rejected a committee's recommendation that the church be disciplined.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Former President George Bush says the current national crisis has shown the nation that his son's religious faith is real. "This thing about faith—I mean this is real for him," the senior Bush told "NBC Nightly News" anchor Tom Brokaw. "Here's a man that's read the Bible through twice, and it's not to make him holier-than-thou or not to make a political point. It's something that is in his heart. And we see it all the time."

Oklahoma City's historic First Baptist Church, founded the year of the Oklahoma land run of 1889, has ended its 87-year affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention. The church voted 300-69 Sept. 23 to sever ties with the SBC, citing disagreement with "dogma" that a resolution says the national convention is trying to impose on independent congregations. The church, one of the first in the state to ordain women as deacons, specifically cited new tenets in the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message limiting the pastorate to men and calling on wives to submit to their husbands. The late Herschel Hobbs, the church's pastor from 1949-1972, was chairman of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message study committee (*Western Recorder*, 10-2-01).

Time Magazine (9-17) has named Dallas' Bishop T. D. Jakes "America's Best Preacher." But it says he lives in a \$1.7 million pillared mansion and claims Jesus must have been rich to support His disciples (*Christian News*, 9-17-01). Jesus said He was not rich. Norm Geisler said Jakes promotes the "old, old heresy" of modalism which denies the trinity (*Calvary Contender*, 10-15-01).

Pope John Paul II has said for years that Jews, Muslims and other non-Christians worship the same God Christians worship. But Muslims and the others deny the deity of Christ and other key doctrines. Last month the Pope called for Christians and Muslims to unite and said; "... I invite both

Christians and Muslims to raise an intense prayer to the One, Almighty God whose children we all are. . ." He said the Catholic Church has nothing but respect for "authentic Islam." The Pope does not believe Christianity is the only saving faith and Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven (*Christian News*, 10-1-01). He even said last December that unbelievers will be saved if they live a just life (1-1-01 CC). (*ibid.*).

The U. S. Census Bureau last week raised its estimate of illegal aliens living in this country from six million to between seven and eight million. Northeastern University researchers have estimated 11 million (*Human Events* 10-29-01).

Along with Marc Rich, another beneficiary of Bill Clinton's last-minute clemency spree was Susan Rosenberg, a former member of the Weather Underground terrorist group who played a role in a murderous 1981 armed robbery in Nyack, New Jersey. The robbery of a Brink's armored car was carried out to finance terrorist activities by the Weather Underground, the Puerto Rican FALN, and the Black Liberation Army. Two police officers—Sgt. Edward O'Grady and Officer Waverly Brown—were killed during the crime. (It will be recalled that Clinton commuted the sentences of 11 FALN terrorists in 1999.) (*The New American*, 3-12-01).

The public school system has become worse each year since the Department of Education was created by President Jimmy Carter as a payoff to the teacher's unions. 44.5 billion tax dollars are wasted each year. In the final three years of the Clinton administration, the department lost track of \$450 million through waste, fraud and errors, according to a report by its Inspector General. \$150 million in grants were paid twice, before recipients returned the extra payments (*Straight Talk*, 10-25-01).

What are the rights of a child? Most of the world believes this question has been answered with a U. N. treaty that says children have basic rights to survive, develop, be protected from harm and exploitation, and fully participate in society. However, an alternative list of children's rights, which was presented last week at an international conference on families, says the U. N. treaty "misses larger truths" about children and their basic needs. Children need a mother, a father, a home built on marriage, siblings, religion, and a healthy community, says Allan Carlson, president of the Howard Center for Family Religion and Society (*The Washington Times*, Oct. 29-Nov. 4, 2001).



The Day the Lord

Continued from page 221

bigots—the day the Lord calmed the nation—the day the Lord skewered the ACLU—the day the Lord proved the power of trust—the day the people, the government and all known authorities turned eagerly to God for consolation, confidence and healing—after the utter devastation and cowardly massacres of thousands of innocents by the agents of Hell.

Such a spontaneous outpouring of religious faith and rededication may never before have been equaled in America. In one fell-swoop, the terrorists and those who harbor them aroused a sleeping giant. Suddenly, it was OK for everyone to pray anywhere—almost. The Supreme Court could do it. The President could. Senators and congressmen could. So could governors, legislators, mayors and city councilmen—but *not the school children!*

CHILDREN SHUT OUT

Our school children could not pray in school that day—nor read the Bible, nor do any of the religious things the grownups were doing. The part of our society most needing Biblical guidance and reassurance that day had been shut out by our Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court decided in 1962 (*Engel v. Vitale*) that our children could not have any kind of prayer in school—not even a simple non-denominational prayer. Next year (1963), the Court went further: Absolutely no Bible reading (*Abington School Board v. Schenpp*).

Subsequently, the Court continued its hostility toward religion and recognized atheism as a religion (1977) and in 1982, banned posting of the Ten Commandments. The shut out was complete.

CHILD ABUSE

What the Supreme Court has done to our children is *child abuse*—depriving them of the “free exercise” guaranteed by the First Amendment. On September 11th though frightened and confused, our children were denied the right to assemble for prayer meetings and consolation—but the Justices could, also the President and the Congress—all with humility and supplication, and, we should note, with a degree of hypocrisy for what they had denied our children.

What a spectacle we saw: Congress on the House steps singing “God Bless America,” prayer meeting in the Capitol Rotunda and later, in the National Cathedral with President Bush as Prayer-in-Chief—all proper and all signifying the religious foundation of America.

DEFYING THE BIGOTS

What a convincing and spectacular way to defy the anti-Christian bigots, who had been trying for generations to undermine our foundation, bit by bit and lawsuit by lawsuit, to remove every reminder of God, no matter how small, out of public sight and out of the public domain.

Our schools have long been a target of the anti-Christian bigots—and subverting our children is a cowardly way to condition them for the New Age World Order. School time is training time and the exclusion of Biblical teachings has powerful derogatory influence.

LEAR'S SUBTLE ATTACKS

Perhaps no organization is more subtle in attacking school children than Norman Lear's left-wing People For the American Way (PFAW), now complaining about using the “Bible as history,” as a violation of “religious liberty in public schools.” What violation?

Mr. Lear is trying to scare off teachers and school officials while his PFAW promotes courses attacking the Bible, Christianity and Christian morality. He is horrified at the prospect of posters proclaiming “In God We Trust!”

Says Professor John Bolton of Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, “What seems to terrify these ‘protectors’ most is not the dangers of drugs, violence, sexualizing young children or even teacher incompetence—but rather, they aim to protect America's impressionable youth from corruption by—God!”

BARRY LYNN, AS ‘PROTECTOR’

Another subtle “protector” of our school children has long been Barry Lynn and his Americans United for Separation of Church and State. First, Americans are *not* “united” for his cause and polls prove it. Second, nothing in our Constitution calls for separation which is an invention of our Supreme Court of long ago and perpetuated largely by radical lawyers and weak Justices.

Mr. Lynn is a clever lawyer and some-time preacher for the United Church of Christ. His liberal views fit the agendas of many of our Big Time media where his op-eds are often published. He stars on liberal radio-talk shows. Review of a recent transcript suggests pre-screened sweetheart questions, relayed by a buddy-buddy em-cee for Lynn's pat answers—everything just perfect!

His resume is also pat—but not a peep about his days with CARD (Committee Against Registration and the Draft) when the naughty boys

dodged the draft, burned draft cards, poured glue into door locks of post offices and bombed some of them.

COMMUNIST-BASED ACLU

Last but not least on our “subtle” list is Protector-in-Chief of our school children—Robert Baldwin's world-famous American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), founded by the great Baldwin in 1920.

Baldwin, now deceased, had a radical career of association with Communists and Socialists for over 50 years. He was a member of the subversive Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and a convicted draft-dodger of World War I.

However, his major contribution to unAmericanism was his 47-year career with the ACLU, which today, along with Barry Lynn's Americans United, want every symbol of God *forever banned* from American public life: all prayer, Bibles and the Ten Commandments from public schools; nativity scenes and religious displays; Christmas as a national holiday; “In God We Trust” from our money; use of the Bible in administering oaths; crosses and Scriptural passages from military cemeteries—and any other religious implications they can dream up.

WHY THE MORAL BREAKDOWN

Our moral breakdown has been brought on by the relentless and vicious assaults on Christianity, foundation of our nation, by the courts, the government, the schools and the media—all condoned by a

liberal Supreme Court.

But now, we are at war and the horrors of September 11th have changed perceptions and hearts. Gone is the *national atheism and complacency*. Even Big Media finds it OK to pray in public, display the flag and sing hymns.

We see congressmen and senators who once voted so sanctimoniously to ban public prayer, suddenly getting religion, rushing to public prayer meetings and singing the praises of the Lord.

Question is will they be so moved as to institute a constitutional amendment for prayer and Bible reading in public schools? If not, then we have to think of hypocrites.

In 1775, during the dark days of the American Revolution, the great patriot Thomas Paine wrote, “These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

Jesus told His disciples, “**But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father, who is in heaven**” (Matt. 10:33).

It took a catastrophe—a day of infamy—to bring our nation back to its roots. Truly, the day the Lord threw out the anti-Christian bigots and gave America's leaders a second chance!

(Capt. Evans is author of *The Church and the Sword* (St. Thomas Press, 1982).

NASA and the Big Bang Theory

By Philip C. Parks

Lexington, North Carolina

Have you ever considered what the main purpose and focus for the existence of our nation's National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) is? Let's venture an answer: It exists solely to propagate the groundless theory of evolution and to refute the Biblical truth of creation. NASA considers any knowledge gained over and above its quest for refuting God's Word, whether proven to be true or touted as the theoretical truth, a windfall. NASA is one of America's most beloved institutions and it is enjoying a great success in mocking God and America is swallowing NASA's “gospel” hook, line, sinker, float, and pole (to use a watery euphemism for a space program).

Actually, the scientists who make up NASA's esteemed bank of corporate knowledge, can push practically any theory it collectively



Philip Parks

desires as the truth. Who can refute them? They have billions of taxpayer dollars at their disposal which is spent on very expensive and elaborate gadgets such as countless satellites, telescopes (land and space based), and the space shuttle program. Anyone brave enough to challenge the brilliance of NASA's scientists is doomed to failure for who can measure up to such worldly wisdom.

One of NASA's love affairs is with the theory of the “Big Bang.” That is a very catchy little name given to an oversized and pretentious lie. NASA

Continued on page 237

NASA and the Big Bang

Continued from page 236

has touted this theory for so long and so extensively that the definition for the term "Big Bang" is rarely provided when it appears in any media form. This is because the media is a willing partner and also enjoys a love affair with any who refute God's Word. The result is that the informed public have at least a simple knowledge of what the Big Bang theory is. The woeful fact is that all who embrace this theory believe a lie and **"whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things"** (Phil. 3:19).

Check any number of sources and you will find an extravagant description of the Big Bang. One descriptive example is under the heading *"How Was the Universe Formed?"* The explanation reads: *"The universe probably began some fifteen billion years ago with the Big Bang, a fiery explosion from a point of infinite density that propelled time, space, energy, and matter into being. Seconds after the explosion, the universe was a seething soup of radiation and exotic particles. As the universe expanded, it grew cooler and less dense. After hundreds of thousands of years, electrons, protons, and neutrons joined to form hydrogen and helium atoms. One billion years after the Big Bang, gravity pulled these gasses into enormous clouds, known as protogalaxies. A billion years later, the protogalaxies spawned the first stars. Today, the universe looks like a giant bubble, with clusters of galaxies forming walls around great voids."*¹ This explanation is surrounded by very impressive artistic color depictions with further explanations. The unfathomable numbers given are so overwhelmingly imposing that they are incomprehensible. Few ordinary minds are capable of understanding any of the other given terms as *"infinite density," "seething soup," "exotic particles,"* and *"protogalaxies."* Yet the worldly minded public is enthralled with them. To most, they are so outlandish they must be true. Besides, who is intellectually worthy enough to challenge the propagators of these terms? This is exactly what NASA purposes with this lie. Besides, this is also that the greatest majority of our government, school, and many religious leaders subscribe to. Can you spell "p-o-l-i-t-i-c-a-l-l-y c-o-r-r-e-c-t"?

Uncontested, NASA is free to carry on its ungodly work unabated. The Hubble telescope, a very exquisite space based toy which was launched into its orbit in 1990, is used for this very purpose. The telescope is capable of taking pictures into deep space for

Big Bang research purposes. Astronomers hope these pictures *"will help to unravel the mysteries of how and when galaxies—such as the Milky Way, which contains the earth the sun and all the stars we can see—were born and how they have changed over time."*²

Another example is the voyage of NASA's NEAR (Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous) space vehicle which was sent to the asteroid Eros in 1996. Its purpose was to obtain *"clues to the birth of the solar system"* and, *"Once at Eros, NEAR will measure the mass, density and composition of that asteroid and, it is hoped, provide a better understanding of how Earth and the other planets formed."*³

NEAR didn't come close to answering questions regarding the origin of the solar system but NASA's deep pockets of resources are bottomless. NASA's search to prove the Big Bang theory will go relentlessly on using other space vehicles such as the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory, launched in 1991. More space observatories and spacecraft are planned to be launched every year or so by NASA.

In the eyes of the Big Bangers, any who defend the Biblical record of creation is a fool for Creationists use the Bible as their proof. The Creationists' presentation of the creation fall on deaf ears because those who use the Bible to present their belief are immediately dismissed. You see, the Bible is not an acceptable authority outside the ranks of those who defend it. In fact, it is ridiculed as an unproven fiction in most intellectual circles. Presenting the Biblical account of creation has brought persecution, bodily harm, and death to many of God's true witnesses. This is one of the reasons why Christ said, **"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you"** (Matt. 7:6).

But the proof is there in irrefutable records of eye witnesses. Adam was created by God and was a direct witness of God's creative power. "Ah," the skeptic will quickly point out, "you are wrong, for even if the creation story is true, and it is not, it is said that Adam was created last and did not exist until the creation was finished." This is easily rebutted for Adam was not the last of God's created work. God performed one more creation in which Adam was a direct witness and participant: **"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the**

man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Gen. 2:21-23).

Adam lived 930 years and witnessed God's creative power. Enoch, **"the seventh from Adam"** (Jude 1:14), was a contemporary of Adam and knew Adam personally. Adam told Enoch of the creation. Enoch not only **"walked with God"** (Gen. 5:22), but it is also written that Enoch **"had this testimony, that he pleased God"** (Heb. 11:5). What is more pleasing to God than witnessing a true testimony of the attributes of God, one of which is God's creative power. Enoch begat Methuselah. Methuselah certainly heard his father Enoch's **"testimony"** of the creation many times for glorifying God is what Godly fathers do. Methuselah was Noah's grandfather and both lived on the earth simultaneously for a number of years. Noah learned the creation story from his grandfather Methuselah. Not too many years later Abraham came on the Biblical scene through Noah's lineage. Abraham, **"was called the Friend of God"** (James 2:23) and believed the story of the creation as it was handed down from generation to generation.

And certainly the greatest Biblical recorder of the creation is Moses. Moses personally and literally was taught the

creation story from God Himself: **"And the LORD said unto him [Moses], Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?"** (Ex. 4:11). Moses, under God's authority, inspiration, and personal instruction, recorded the account of the creation in the writings of the Bible, God's Word, in the Book of Genesis.

That creation story is still being told today because Bible believers have the account of these eye witnesses. **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses"** (Heb. 12:1), whose story is more credible, or authentic—NASA's theoretical gobbledygook about some hyper-sensationalized explosion which it says happened many billions of years ago but is still trying to prove, or the account of the creation handed down from those who witnessed God's creative power?

(Footnotes)

¹ *Space & Planets – Understanding Science and Nature*; Time-Life: Alexandria, Virginia; Page 108

² Chandler, David; *"Hubble peers into far reaches of the universe"*; *Anchorage Daily News*; Anchorage, AK; January 16, 1996; Page A1

³ Dunn, Marsha; *"NEAR aims for '99 date with Eros"*; *Anchorage Daily News*; Sunday, February 18, 1996; Page A1

Judging the Law

By B. E. James Jr.

Pfafftown, North Carolina

"Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge" (James 4:11).

Having devoted the whole third chapter to the unruly evils of the tongue, James now shows us what actually takes place when we speak evil of a brother. He equates speaking evil of and judging a brother with speaking evil of and judging the law. This is rather difficult to fully understand, but we offer the reader an explanation in this article. First, we would like to discover in the context the *cause* of evil speaking before we look at the *crime* of evil speaking in our text. Then we shall conclude by showing the *condemnation* of evil speaking.

The *cause of evil speaking* is indicated in the verse before the text. **"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up"** (10). It is *pride* then that motivates people to

judge a brother or speak evil of a brother. James has already, earlier in this same chapter, pinpointed the cause of strife and unrest among brethren. He says that they lust to envy and God resisteth this kind of pride. Compare these verses in order: 1 and 2 with 5 and 6. Pride is at the bottom of all such contentions. **"Only by pride cometh contention"** (Prov. 13:10). Again we read, **"He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat"** (Prov. 28:25). You will note here that pride is antagonistic to faith or trust. Pride being impatient can not wait for or trust God to lift one up. Jesus taught us that if we would hide ourselves in our alms giving, praying, and fasting that God would reward us openly (Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18).

Pride craves recognition and acclaim because it feels deserving of the same. You might ask, how does this relate to evil speaking? One may feel superior by underscoring the faults and failures of others. Pride is

Continued on page 238

Judging the Law

Continued from page 237

not above discrediting others either openly or covertly. This may be done by open indictment or subtle insinuations. Matthew Henry said that pride makes men impatient of contradiction, competition, contempt, and concession. We might see how one could judge a brother in these situations. Pride is so struck on its own notions that it is intolerant of what appears to contradict them. Pride is extremely intimidated by what appears to be as good or better than what it possesses. Pride is incensed by any apparent slight or token of disrespect for its exalted image. Pride is irritated by concessions or giving up any of its perceived rights. So you may see then how pride lashes out in hard sayings and judgments against others.

The *crime of evil speaking* is clearly seen in our text. Evil speaking may be defined as: harsh criticisms, damaging insinuations, needless exaggerations, motive assessments, and spiteful excavations of past events. Generally when this is being done the circumstances of the one under attack is not mentioned because that would weaken the charge or show its unkind temper. The evil speaker is also likely to intentionally suppress the worth and good qualities of the one under attack as this too would steal their thunder. The evil speaker is totally oblivious of the boulder in his eye as he tediously attempts the shaving from his brother's eye. Whisperings and backbitings are earthly, sensual, and devilish. God's Word declares it to be criminal.

How may we show that this evil speaking of a brother is at the same time evil speaking of the law or judging the law?

(1) First of all, the one speaking evil acts as though the law does not apply to him in this evil speaking. If it can be shown from the Holy Scriptures that this practice is wrong then the evil speaker actually approves of something that the law frankly condemns. In this way he actually judges the law.

(2) Secondly, the matters under scrutiny may be matters of indifference such as eating herbs and esteeming certain days (Rom. 14). Since the eating of or abstaining from herbs has absolutely nothing to do with the spirituality of a person all judging of persons for such things is but judging the law. You may ask how this is so. Since God does not have a law for such things the person judging a brother actually judges God's law to be inadequate as though God was

not thorough enough. I'm told the Pharisees added over 600 additional laws to God's existing law. No wonder Jesus said they made the commandment of God of none effect by their tradition. Thomas Manton put it this way. "To make more sins than God hath made is to judge the law. . .we must judge as the Word or else we judge the Word."

(3) Finally, the evil speaker may be censuring others for actions that the Bible actually approves of or allows. We've probably all criticized others for their unconditional love for people or loving others to the degree that the Scriptures teach (See Matt. 5:38-48). This is nothing less than judging the law. Remember that love is the fulfilling of the law. The law works no ill to one's neighbor. Often, judging others violates the law of love (Rom. 13:10).

To illustrate this point I'll tell you about a traffic situation I had recently. I was driving along on the interstate and came up on a driver in the fast lane. Traffic in the slower lane prevented me from going on and I found myself wishing this fellow in front of me would go on and get out of the way. Then I looked down at my speedometer and realized the man in front of me was doing the speed limit. I had judged him for what the law approves of. Since obeying every ordinance of man is Scriptural I was judging God's law by being critical of the one abiding by the law.

The *condemnation of evil speaking* is apparent in verse 12. **"There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"** For those who judge the law a word of warning is issued. This practice is a glaring usurpation. Pride would intrude itself into God's role and prerogative also. What arrogance! What provocation! God's judgment alone is thorough and final seeing that **"all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."** None of us have any authority to give the law or to save or to destroy. Obviously we are wanting in authority as well to judge in the sense of the evil speaking spoken of in James. In a context of unwarranted judging the Apostle Paul says: **"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand"** (Rom. 14:4).

We all have quite a task on our hands to judge and examine ourselves aright. If we judge ourselves we'll not be judged (I Cor. 11:31). May we all repudiate our pride as being the cause of this evil practice. May we take God's view of it and consider it

criminal and damaging. May we realize afresh that God loves, forgives, provides for, and intercedes for all our brethren even as He does for us. They are His servants accountable to Him. Let us truly marvel that He is not ashamed to call each of us His brethren.



Gentlemen:

In reading the January 5, 2001, issue, I was reading "Evidence of Sonship" page 34, continued on page 35. I found there is something left out. Please "fill me in"—I really enjoyed the sermon Milburn Cockrell wrote on "Evidence of Sonship."

I enjoy all the sermons he writes in each issue of *The Berea Baptist Banner*.

Hope Milburn Cockrell is beginning to feel better since his heart attack.

I have taken the paper for a long time. It is hard to find "the truth" preached.

I pray that the Lord will lengthen his life.

—Colorado

Dear Pastor:

The Lord's richest of blessings to you all there. I received the fourth box of tapes today. We are all very much thankful to you all for such a great blessing as these messages bring to us. The men who do listen to them keeps wanting them back to go through them again. Now we take notes on them and talk some about what we learn from them. I wish that every man here, who is called Christian, would do the same with them.

One of the tapes that came in the last box was solid black, not see through. In order for us to be able to hear it, I had to donate it to the chapel library. I'm keeping a list of all the tapes and who has them, so I can get them back in time. We are learning very much from them, and I know for myself, I have had prayers answered through them as to questions from my personal studies. Also the two Bible studies came in. I always enjoy more study of God's Word. I'm now working through Exodus. I have already done Survey's of the Bible a couple of times before in the past, and my own studies on such. Still there is much to learn.

Since by God's will, I have been put under your teaching for the time, which I'm thankful for. Through your tape ministry, the BBB, and now the Bible Studies.

—A prisoner in State of Washington

Pastor Cockrell,

I have intended to write to you for some time to tell you how much my wife

and I enjoy your broadcasts over K. A. R. I. station in Blaine, Washington. They are a light in a world of apostasy and unbelief.

Another outreach of the Berea Baptist Church we enjoy is your newspaper, the Banner. We look forward to it each month, and find the 'Funnybone' most refreshing. Of the many fine articles, there are a couple I want to comment on. The first is the article by Henry A. Griesemer in the May issue, titled 'Crucifixion day'. I have read it over and over, enjoying it more each time. It confirms what my wife and I believe and yet find so few who come to this conclusion in spite of the words of Jesus in the Gospel accounts.

We are amazed at how many believers, including scholars, who are holding to the Friday date, created by Rome during their 'Christianization' of pagan celebrations. We have tried to tell people, but they refuse to listen, clinging to that old deception that the Reformation did not cast aside. Lately we read an article by a celebrated author who supports the position of Dr. Harold Hoehner of the Dallas Theological Seminary, who in determining the 70 weeks of Daniel, arrives at Friday, April 3rd, 33 AD. I wrote to that author pointing out that simple mathematics in reverse from the first day of the week takes us to Wednesday, not Friday. I doubt if he will agree, or respond. Thank the Lord for clear sighted men like Pastor Griesemer and publications like the Berea Baptist Banner.

Another article that caught my attention was yours in the June issue, dealing with your home state. Here in Canada we have been programmed by the U. S. media and told that all white southerners are rednecks and ignorant. Even before your article that picture had been cast aside by Canadians who recognize such journalism, being accustomed to similar media lies in our own country. It was proven that there is a hidden agenda that foments trouble between ethnic groups, much along the line Jesus spoke of in Matthew chapter 24 about 'nation rising against nation'. What it tells us is that we are indeed in the last days and awaiting that trumpet call that will herald our departure. Your article was a breath of fresh air in the volume of hate that is printed and sorely needed in this day of deception.

We were sorry to hear of your ailment, and trust you are on the road to full recovery, carrying on in the Lord's work. We pray for the ministry of the Berea Baptist Church nightly and seek the Lord's hand upon it to sustain it in this day of apostasy. Thank you again for the fine work you and your staff are doing.

—Canada

Dear Brother,

My prayers are with you and family. I appreciate the BBB and the truth that you

Continued on page 239

From the Mailbox

Continued from page 238

and your church stand for.

—New Mexico

Dear Pastor Cockrell,

We are enclosing a check for the Banner. We like it very much.

We hope you are doing much better and it won't be long before your eye and heart are back to being close to normal, clear of cancer and heart problems.

—Kansas

Dear Brother Cockrell,

You have been in my thoughts and prayers since I learned of your health problems. I know the LORD is with you and I pray that it is His will to restore your sight and to make your heart strong again.

I am sending some money that I would like for you to use where ever it is most needed (the *Banner*, radio broadcasts, library, missions, or other needs.)

I appreciate the truths written in the *Banner* and pray the LORD will continue to bless you and the others who labor, in its production and in all other endeavors in His name.

Thank you and God bless you!

—Alabama

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Greetings in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Pleased to hear that your health has improved some, and asking the Lord that it might please Him to improve your sight. We know He is faithful.

Praying that Chris has improved and the Lord has been gracious to all.

Praise and thanksgiving to Jesus Christ for His greatness and goodness to us.

—North Carolina

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

We pray for you every day that God our heavenly Father will heal your heart and remove all cancerous cells from your body.

Hope Chris is doing better.

Enclosed find check to help in the expenses of the tape ministry.

We are returning 4 tapes today, which you should receive shortly.

—Florida

SUBJECT: Subscription Renewal

We wish to renew our subscription to the *Berea Baptist Banner*. The amount of \$5 is enclosed.

—G. B. Vick Memorial Library, MO

Bro. Milburn & Bro. Chris.

Our prayers are still with you, also for those who help and care. Whether at 68 I am an old man is only man's judgment. HA! But this I have learned. What a great gift we have in a true and living God we can call on. Truly to be able to call on the

Almighty God is a joy, a blessing and comfort.

We also pray for and have a keen interest in the work of Bro. and Sis. Pugh.

—North Carolina

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Our church (mission) will support your printed ministry to \$20.00 each month.

Enclosed is our first money order (for August, 2001).

We pray for your health and the Lord's blessing as you serve our Lord.

—Texas

Hello Everyone!

It was so great to read about everyone. I hope that Chris will get better and Milburn and you. In fact, I hope that you all will be better. I pray for you all often. You were always like family to me.

I wanted to thank you for sending me the BBB. I have really enjoyed it. I have kept all of them. I think of you all often and miss you and will keep you in my prayers. Remember all of our family in your prayers.

—Ohio

Greetings Bro. Cockrell,

I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your sermon printed in the latest BBB titled "Faith Establishes the Law," mainly because I had preached much the same message in our church just a few weeks before. You can find it in my web site titled – "Salvation – our own works or Jesus

Christ's." That web page again is. . .

—Canada

Dear Milburn Cockrell:

I occasionally enjoy hearing your broadcast on KARI in Blaine, and am interested in obtaining a copy of today's broadcast – Saturday August 11, 2001 on the subject of : "The Sin Unto Death."

~ After this morning's broadcast, I visited your website at www.bereabaptistchurch.org and got as far as the 3 menu selections: 1) Stations and Times, 2) Messages and 3) Obtaining copies, but in the case of the latter two the screen just went blank when I clicked on them.

It would be great if I could download your message, listen again and record it, such as is available from other ministries – for example Southwest Radio Church, using Real Player. Please do let me know whether you have this sort of thing available.

Thanks kindly,

—Washington

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Baptist Mission, Erin, Tenn., and Pastor Troy McGahan will have special services Dec. 3-8. The speaker is Elder Wayne Reynolds of Foristell, Mo. The theme of the meeting is "What is an Independent Baptist?" Other brethren will speak on different topics. For more information write Elder Troy McGahan, P. O. Box 186,

Erin, TN 37061 or email at erintenn@hotmail.com.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Northport, Ala., and Pastor Todd Bryant will have a special fellowship meeting Saturday, Jan. 19, 2002. Various men will speak. For more information call Pastor Bryant at (205) 333-8449 or email toddbryant@juno.com.

Sister Imogene Farnham, P. O. Box 23, Whitestown, IN 46075 has written a new book, *Adam's Rib*. The book retails for \$9.95. You may order the book from her at the above address. Some will remember her column in *The Baptist Examiner* called "Adam's Rib."

Elder David Arthur Phelps departed this life Sept. 30, 2001, in Niagara Falls, N. Y. after a brief illness. He was born Sept. 20, 1942, in Logansport, La., to Enoch S. and Thelma Phelps. He lived in Kounce, Texas, before moving to Wren, Mississippi, where he was pastor of the Wren Baptist Church for a number of years. He was a U. S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War. His services were held at E. E. Pickle Funeral Home Chapel in Amory, Miss., with Elder Jack Duplechain officiating. He was buried in the Community Cemetery in Catuna, La. ". . . **thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty**" (I Sam. 20:18).

FINAL WORD ON HYMN BOOKS

To the best of our knowledge, we have shipped to the churches and individuals all the books that were ordered. Those ordering 50 or more books were shipped directly from the printer in Georgia by UPS to those ordering them. Orders of 49 or less came to us by truck from Georgia. We then had to box these up and ship them by the U. S. Post Office on the media mail rate. Hence those ordering 49 or less will pay double shipping, and this price is reflected in their shipping bill.

Many problems arose during our attempt to get the books ready for printing. The first problem was a misunderstanding about the number of pages. I told the printer 180 pages, meaning actual pages. He understood 180 songs and many less pages. When he saw the complete book as sent, he called, telling me he could not print the book at the price agreed upon. Since we had gone from 1,000 (as originally agreed upon) to 2,000, the books would come down, but it would still be \$2,000 more than we originally agreed upon. My church decided to pay the \$2,000

rather than take this back to the churches, creating much confusion and distrust. Hence the books for my church cost us \$20 each, while all others cost only \$10. I say this because we ordered 200 books. I noted today that the hymnbook (Church Hymnal) in Herald Press catalog (about the size and quality of ours) is \$16.00.

My staff worked many hours checking copyrights and looking for good copies of old songs in about 1,000 songbooks. Some songs had to be set with both words and music (most printers charge \$75 to \$100 for this). I worked with failing vision during much of this time. We checked and double-checked on many of these items, but after sending it to the printer some more errors were discovered. He returned them and we corrected them. Some blunders still remain and I am sure some brethren will gladly point these out to me in the near future.

Most churches, pastors, and individuals understand at least some of the problems involved in such an undertaking. A very few seem to think we say "presto" and the books suddenly jump up all printed and bound in one day. If the project is delayed

some by problems, at least one or two thinks you have boarded a plane for South America with all their money in your pocket. I probably should tell them that printers require at least half of the money before they even start printing, and a few require all the money before they will start.

I personally think it is a good hymnbook with more songs in it by our own people than any hymnbook we have printed to date. It has a good cover on 60 pound paper with 93 brightness. The covers alone cost \$5 each. My church invested many hours of labor and money to make this project a reality. It is good to know that independent churches can work together on such a project with all the isms and schisms among us.

If for any reason you do not have your books in about two weeks after reading this article, please contact me at once. If you receive a shipping bill, please pay it promptly, as we have already had to pay it for you from money set aside to print my next book, *Death and the Hereafter*.



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Runaway Immigration Begets Terrorism



A man not afraid to speak out against runaway immigration is the congressman from North Denver, Tom Tancredo (R-Colo). This second term representative, already famous for speaking his mind on national security matters, told the world on October 24th, when lesser souls were scrambling for stop-gaps after the catastrophic massacres of Sept. 11th: "The U. S. can bomb Afghanistan to dust but terrorism will remain. In some bizarre thought process understood only in Washington, D.C., the possibility of tightening up immigration laws paralyzes most politicians."

WILL NOT WIN FRIENDS

This kind of talk is not going to win friends among politicians whose top priority is more votes—and somehow, perceive immigrants as a plus in votes for their side and never mind national security and stability if they get the votes.

For years, runaway out-of-control immigration, both legal and illegal, has flooded us far beyond our means to assimilate. Now, we have an estimated eleven million illegals. The nineteen airliner hijackers easily passed through our lax controls.

So, we say, runaway immigration begets terrorism—and our borders, both north and south, are easily penetrated, thanks to loose enforcement of immigration laws and an undermanned U. S. Border Patrol.

NO MORATORIUM

As for a moratorium on immigration, even a temporary one, some members of Congress are still not convinced despite the Sept. 11th connection: Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.) would "have to think about it." Even conservative Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.) "wouldn't see any reason to support that."

Feisty Rep. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.): "Yes, absolutely. We need to slow down and regroup." But not California firebrand Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) who said, "I'll have to write my responses"

BUSH WANTS 'LEGAL STATUS'

President Bush's scheme for "legal status for three million Mexicans living illegally in the United States," i.e., blanket amnesty, has apparently gone to the back burner since Sept. 11th. He knows the American people know such a program breeds

terrorism. That's a program he should take off the stove entirely.

Mexico's President Vicente Fox, Bush friend and fellow rancher, made a big pitch during his recent visit to the United States for "as many rights as possible for as many Mexican immigrants as possible as soon as possible." He wants open borders to which Bush replied, "That may be the best way."

REWARDS ILLEGALS

Such a program of amnesty rewards illegals for breaking the law and penalizes those waiting in line for years for U. S. citizenship. Open borders is unacceptable at any time, particularly wartime.

President Bush boldly claims his proposed immigration policy with Mexico is not "blanket amnesty," but "legalization" or "earned adjustment" or "regularization" or "permanent status." Shades of Bill Clinton in defining "is" for us—with a smile, of course.

MEXICO DEPORTS ILLEGALS

Mexico has no amnesty program for the illegals invading its borders with Guatemala and Belize—and deported 250,000 of them within the past 18 months.

Even so, Fox and his Marxist foreign minister Jorge Gastaneda complain that their illegals are a national security problem that wouldn't "be such a big problem if they got through to the United States, but they hang around making trouble, sleeping in the streets with no money." They want American taxpayers to take their problem.

How hypocritical can Fox & Co. get? They are working to shut down their own border with Guatemala and Belize, but piously plead for open borders with the United States so they can unload.

SPARKS WILL FLY!

When our leaders in Washington accept the reality that unprotected borders and runaway immigration breed the terrorism they all fear, then, they will act to tighten up our immigration laws, restrict our borders and deport illegal immigrants. Then and only then will we get a handle on terrorism—and, then the sparks will fly as the Mexicans and the United Nations will scream "racism, racism and more racism."

Let them scream. It is our country—and our leaders who took oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" which says, "provide the common defense. . . and secure the blessings of liberty."

TRUTH IN ACTION

What could be clearer? Or truer? Or more just? Besides, "Justice is truth in action" (Joseph Joubert, 1842).

Our president can't be thinking about justice, based on truth, when he promotes expansion of the "guest-worker program" and amnesty for illegals who may be plotting the next terrorist attack against America—right now and right in our backyard.

The World Trade Towers-Pentagon nightmare should be a signature wake-up alarm against loose borders and undermanned and under trained security forces.

We better let our president, our senators and congressman know we know that—and ask if the Bush "open border - amnesty" deal is still on.

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

Coming in the next issue . . .

When Is A Man Righteous in God's Eyes by Curtis Pugh
The Ninth Commandment by Milburn Cockrell
The Prayers of the Saints by Milburn Cockrell

INDEX

Bible and the Newspaper	p. 234
Cockrell's Corner	p. 223
Forum	pp. 230 - 231
From the Mailbox	p. 238
Funnybone	p. 226
<i>Grace Defined</i> by Milburn Cockrell	p. 221
<i>Judging the Law</i> by B.E. James Jr.	p. 237
Mini Edition	p. 227
<i>NASA and the Big Bang Theory</i> by Philip Parks	p. 236
<i>The Day the Lord Ousted the Bigots</i> by G. Russell Evans	p. 221
<i>The Eighth Commandment</i> by Milburn Cockrell	p. 221
<i>With What Body Do They Come?</i> by John McNeil	p. 221
World Scene: <i>Runaway Immigration Begets Terrorism</i> by G. Russell Evans	p. 240
<i>Your Pastor and You</i> by Clyde Hancock	p. 221

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

Financial Report
9-30-2001 to 10-31-2001

Beginning Balance	\$163.54
RECEIPTS:	
A. D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV	100.00
B. A. Langford, Pasadena, TX	10.00
B.C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	28.17
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	200.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Bethel B. C. Pasadena, TX	20.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	150.00
Bruce Allen, Clarksville, IN	14.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	25.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	20.00
Dan Hammerly Omaha, NE	100.00
Donal James, Aztec, NM	55.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL	100.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
George Opolka, Troy, IL	50.00
Gerald Price, Johnson City, TN	30.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY	35.00
Grace B. C., Tulsa OK	100.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL	25.00
Herbert H. Cole, King, NC	20.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	150.00
Letson Farrell, Long Beach, MS	235.00
M. D. Blackburn, Nauvoo, AL	8.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL	200.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM	300.00
Mt Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Ocoonia M. B. C., Keokee, VA	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM	25.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR	50.00
Rebecca Williamson, Huntingburg, IN	15.00
Solid Rock B. C., Kenedy, TX	20.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Galena, OH	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA	50.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC	50.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	100.00
Subscriptions	212.00
Anonymous	75.00
Dividing checks	328.00
Sub Total	\$4,305.17
TOTAL	\$4,468.71

EXPENDITURES:

Wages	2,375.00
Printing	502.00
Postage	794.88
FICA taxes	181.62
Supplies	148.63
Dividing Checks	328.00
Total Expenditures	4,330.13
	138.58
Bank charge	-18.29
ENDING BALANCE	\$120.29

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST

Financial Report
9-30-2001 to 10-31-2001

Beginning Balance	\$169.71
RECEIPTS	
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	175.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	100.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	297.00
Calvary I.B. C., Everson, WA	350.00
Dividing checks	350.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,397.00
TOTAL	1,566.71

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time	919.00
Postage	12.10
Dividing checks	350.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,281.10
	\$285.61
Bank Charges	-10.00
BALANCE	\$275.61

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$573.32
RECEIPTS	
Total	573.32
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT (Apr)	160.00
Total Expenditures	160.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$413.32