

The Berea Baptist Banner

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

Eunice, Timothy's Mother

By Charles Leach
(1847 - 1919)

The great families of England are proud of their noble ancestry. And in many cases they may well be proud of them, for their very names are suggestive of all that is brave, true, and honorable. These families have their picture-galleries, in which they can point out the portraits of the great men and the noble women from whom they inherit their name and their estates. And they are always deeply anxious to maintain the ancient dignity

of their houses, to preserve the estate intact, and to secure a real succession which shall prevent their fair fame from being darkened, and their name from sinking into oblivion.

Many of these people are to be envied. To belong to a great and illustrious house is no small privilege. To inherit centuries of history and noble traditions, and stand possessed of all the advantages which they confer, is a prize to be desired. But there are blessings which even these things cannot surpass, blessings, which

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Why Believers Compared To Sheep

By Benjmin Keach
(1640 -1704)

(Continued from last issue)

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

Fourthly, Christ's sheep will, and do follow Him; and this our blessed Savior lays down as an undoubted character of all that are His.

They follow His example, His steps. The good Shepherd "when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him" (John 10:4). Jesus Christ hath gone before



His sheep in His obedience to the Father, "leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Pet. 2:21).

1. They follow His steps in humility: He bids us to learn of Him

upon this account; "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matt. 11:29). How did Christ deny Himself?

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The Relation of Baptism to Salvation

By James Robinson Graves
(1820 -1893)

(Continued from last issue)

Before entering upon the examination, I will assume four plain statements to be granted, and will therefore lay them down in the form of Axioms:

AXIOM I.

Contradictory propositions can not be equally true; if one is true, the opposite of it must be false.

AXIOM II.

The Holy Scriptures, rightly translated and interpreted, in no instance contradict themselves.



teachings of Scriptures, it must be interpreted by the secondary or figurative sense of the term, and, vice versa.

AXIOM IV.

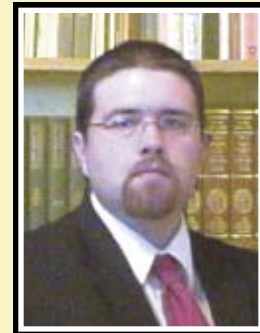
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President

By Doug Newell IV
of Wake Forest, NC

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding" (Dan. 2:20-21).

I wrote this article exactly two weeks before election day. Both sides are busy in the final push for the White House. I am certainly discouraged, and concerned about the future of our nation, but I don't now, and will not in two weeks, find peace in comfort from the Oval Office. There is peace for us, knowing that it is the Lord that sets up kings and removes them, and indeed, blessed be the name of the Lord



for wisdom and might are His, not the RNC or the DNC or any third party group you care to name. I have one vote, and I'll use it, but my thoughts are, at this

time, focused on what happens after the election. The title "President ____" was used, because no matter who wins, our responsibility as the children of God doesn't change, and our duty to our country, and our government shouldn't change. Fill in the blank with either candidate, and the message doesn't change.

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Christ's Body

By Larry J. Killion
of Tacoma, Washington

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:4-6).

Brethren, we have a common misunderstanding in Christendom today regarding the Body of Christ. The most popular teaching on the subject is a very creative idea from the imagination of depraved hearts. Rather than taking God's Word at face value and believing the Bible for what it literally says, man has invented an imaginary new meaning for words like BODY. Now we know



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Eternity Without Christ

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come" (John 8:21).

In our text Christ warns the unbelieving Jews of the consequence of their infidelity. These words should strike terror to the heart of every unbeliever. This solemn statement reveals the dreadful doom of all unbelievers. Those who reject Christ in this life can never join Him in eternity. Christ-rejecters seal their doom for eternity. The soul that continues to go without Christ is choosing its own course, not only for this present life, but forever.

"THEN SAID JESUS AGAIN"

Notice the word "again" in the first part of the text. "Then said Jesus again unto them." This was one of the

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A ROTTEN APPLE SPOILS ITS NEIGHBOR.
Such is the power of an evil example. One sickly sheep infects the flock, and poisons all the rest.
"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (Gal. 5:9).

December 5, 2008
Volume XXVIII, Number 12
Whole Number 354

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THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$6.00 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.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - U.S.

One year.....\$6.00
Two years.....\$10.00
Five years.....\$24.00

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - FOREIGN One Year \$45

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BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$4 per paper for a year. An example: 10 papers for one year at \$40 or 20 papers for one year at \$80.00.

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.

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1. To honor God and to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To preach the gospel to lost sinners.
3. To spread the whole counsel of God's Word.
4. To encourage God's preachers and to strengthen His churches in the most holy faith.
5. To motivate God's children to a closer fellowship around His Word.
6. To inform people of world events in light of Bible prophecy.
7. To condemn and expose error wherever it may rear its ugly head.
8. To stimulate Christian growth in grace.
9. To make the Devil and his demons as mad as possible.

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Eunice, Timothy's

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have fallen to the lot even of laborers, and which may fall to the lot of thousands still unborn, blessings which all earthly pomp and pageant cannot buy, and these are *the blessings of having a godly ancestry, and of living a godly life.*

The titles and honors of earth fade. Those who have them now cannot hold them always. A few fleeting years, at most, will the coronet deck the brow of the earthly noble; then death, the great leveler, will lay his cold and icy fingers upon the heart-strings of the proud possessor of the broad acres. Then the purple and the gaudy show must all be laid aside; for all these things are of the earth. But to the man who inherits sincere piety from his mother, and who translates that piety into actual life, death is the gate of life. No glittering crown may encircle the brow of such a man on earth, but a crown of life, which shall never fade away, awaits him in Heaven. He may never have sat upon an earthly throne, indeed he may never have seen one, but for him there is a kingly seat in the world to come. His hand may grasp no scepter among men, but a palm of victory shall be his among the redeemed. No stately mansion may bear his footprints, but Christ Himself is preparing a mansion for him in His own bright home.

Such a man was Timothy, one of the first bishops of the early Christian Church, and in such a line of godly ancestry he had the privilege to stand. His mother was a woman of faith, and so was his grandmother, and so was Timothy, and there can be no doubt that he was led into this faith by the woman who gave him birth, for we are told that from a child he knew the Holy Scriptures.

Mothers, how true it is that your children will be largely what you make them. If you are good, gentle, holy, your children will probably become the same. We are not unmindful of the fact that there are many exceptions. We do not close our eyes to the solemn and heart-searching truth that some parents whose lives were all one could wish, have had children whose lives were such as no one could wish. Still the truth holds good, that mothers can mould their children for God.

There is living today a minister of the Gospel, able, eloquent, honored, and known to the writer of these lines, whose mother was a deeply pious woman. She has been in Heaven many years now. When she died her son had to settle all her worldly affairs. When examining her private papers, he found one, in her own handwriting, which bore a date long way back. It was written when she was a young wife, before her first baby was born, but not before she was expecting it to be born. It contained an earnest prayer

that the unborn child might be a boy, and the earnest wish that if a boy it might grow up to be a servant of Jesus in His ministry of the Gospel. And before it saw the light, that young mother dedicated her offspring to God. She lived to see him an earnest, faithful, and successful minister.

Such a child was Timothy.

At a ministerial conference once held, each one was asked to state what human instrumentality led, under the Divine blessing, to his salvation. They made their statements. There were one hundred and twenty of them present. Of that number of ministers, how many, think you, gave the honor to their mother?

About one hundred of them!

Here then, my friends, you see what influence a mother has.

Can it be said of you, as of Timothy's mother, that you are women of unfeigned faith? If so, then there is reasonable ground to hope that your children, like Timothy, from their childhood will know the Holy Scriptures, and that they will become wise unto salvation.

Has it ever struck you, mothers, how some of the noblest characters in the Bible were marked by early piety?

Look, for example, at a few of the brightest names, the greatest saints mentioned in the Scriptures. There was Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, the righteous judge in Israel, the child of prayer. From his birth trained in religion. Then, too, look at David. See him called in his boyhood, by Samuel, to be king. See how wonderful his faith in God, how marvelous the courage which led him as a mere youth, in God's name, to fight with the giant of Gath. Look at Josiah wearing the crown of the kingdom when eight years old, the youngest king who ever sat on Israel's throne. See this same boy on David's throne, working religious reforms with a zeal and fervor almost equal to those of a Luther. Look at Daniel and his youthful companions, maintaining their integrity, and honoring their mothers' God, even amid the seductions of a heathen court. What mattered it to them that they were carried away from their home! What mattered it that they were exiles and strangers in a foreign land! They had learned unfeigned faith in the Almighty, and preferred death rather than dishonor their mothers' God and their own God. Unless piety had struck its roots in their early life, while the soil was yet young and tender, they had been lost, and their noble example would not have been on the pages of God's book to encourage young men in all ages till time be no more. And I need not here further speak of Timothy's early piety.

Childhood is the best time in which to impress the human heart for God. And it is just in this time when you mothers have them in hand. Once they leave you, once they get away into the world and mix with men, so many of whom, alas,

are destitute of honor, without principle, and regardless of God, your children may be lost.

It is far easier for the youth to be led to Christ than for the aged man. Of course, God can convert men at any age. With Him nothing is impossible. "With equal ease the great ocean bears ships and seaweed in its bosom, the earth carries mountains and molehills on its back; and still more all things are equally easy to God---to preserve, for instance, an angel or an insect in life, to kindle a sun or a glow-worm's fire, to create a world or a grain of sand. And as it had been as easy for Divine power to raise Adam, who had been dead four thousand years, as Lazarus, who had been dead only four days, it is not more difficult for God to convert an old than a young sinner. The dying thief was saved in the jaws and in the very throat of death---he stepped into Heaven from the jaws of Hell." None need, therefore, despair.

Still there is a very true sense in which the difficulties of conversion increase year by year. "Take a sapling, for example. It bends to your hand, turning this or that way, as you will. When seventy springs have clothed it with leaves, and the sun of seventy summers, ripening its juices, has added to its height and breadth, who is strongest? Now, it scorns not yours, but a giant's strength. Once an infant could bend it; but, with head raised proudly to Heaven, and roots that have struck deeply in the soil and cling to the rocks below, now it braves winter's wildest tempests. Who, wishing to give it a peculiar bent, would wait till the nursling had become a full-grown tree, or stood in its decay, stiff and gnarled, hollow in heart and hoar with age? None but a fool; yet, with folly greater still, we defer what concerns our conversion, and our everlasting welfare, till long years have added to the power, and strengthened the roots, of every wicked, worldly habit."

Oh, that mothers were wise to look at this!

Mothers, the sapling is in your hands. God gives you the power to train it until it shall become a tree of the Lord's right-hand planting.



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Compared to Sheep

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In taking our nature upon Him: In this ought His sheep to follow Him; **“Let this same mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”** (Phil. 2:5). O let the same humble spirit, and self-denying temper be in you, which was in Him; **“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant”** (Phil. 2:6-7). Saints are, or ought to be, of a humble frame, having mutual love, and a condescending Spirit, even to them that are in the lowest and meanest condition, bearing with the weak, and not exalting themselves, nor offending one another in any thing that is indifferent in its own nature: “I become all things to all, that I might gain some.”

2. Christ's sheep do follow Him in love, and bowels of compassion: **“Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children: And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us”** (Eph. 5:1-2). By this all men may know we are His disciples, even when we have this mark of His sheep, namely, that we love one another. Husbands are exhorted to love their wives, as Christ also loved His church and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25); even with a sincere, pure, ardent and constant affection. And thus ought all Christians to love each other also, being united as brethren together, and members of the same body of which Christ is the Head. “He that loveth not his brother, is in darkness” (I John 2:9-11), he is none of Christ's sheep. “He that saith he abideth in the light, ought also to walk even as he walked” (I John 2:9-11), and love as He loved.

3. They follow Him in holiness. **“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”** (I Pet. 1:15-16). God the Father is holy, and Christ is holy: He was **“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”** (Heb. 7:26). Therefore in this we should follow Him in the whole course of our lives, and in the several parts of our conversations. All those who are His sheep, they are such who are sanctified persons, who laying aside **“all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, (they go on) perfecting holiness in the fear of God”** (II Cor. 7:1).

4. They follow the example of Christ, their holy Shepherd, in obedience. **“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”** (Heb. 5:8-9). Christ's meat and drink was to do the will of Him that sent Him; and thus we ought to follow Him; it ought to be

our joy, our delight, to do His will, and attend on His work: And this mark have all Christ's sheep, *i.e.*, they keep Christ's Word; if a man love me, he will keep my Word. And again, **“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me”** (John 14:21): Not he that hath the knowledge of them; it is possible men may have Christ's commandments in their heads, and in their mouths, may know which they are, but they may not do them: It is he that doth His Word, that doth His sayings; that keepeth His commandments, that loves Him; **“Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you”** (John 15:14). This is a mark of Christ's sheep, of one of Christ's friends, or of a sincere Christian and follower of Him: He will be obedient to Christ, not in some things only, but in every thing that He requires or enjoins him to do in His Word.

5. They follow Christ in the hardest things, in such things that seem grievous to the flesh. Like as “Abraham,” when he was commanded to offer up “his son, his only son,” his only son “Isaac” whom he loved, went presently about it, he made no pause, did not consult with flesh and blood: And Abraham **“rose up early in the morning,”** with an intention to do this hard work. And now saith the Lord, **“I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.”** God knew it before, tho He speaks here after the manner of men: but He would have “Abraham” to know it, and all men to know that this is a mark of one that feareth Him, that loveth Him, he will do any thing God requires of him, even sacrifice up all that is near and dear to him, when called for. O see how obedient Christ was to the Father; **“The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting”** (Isa. 50:5-6). This was hard work, yet Christ readily passed through it; **“He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross,”** the worst of deaths, exceeding ten thousand deaths, considering what He felt and did undergo for us.

6. They follow Christ whithersoever He goeth. Some will not do this; they may go a great way after the Lord Jesus, but then make a halt, and give over following of Him. Some are like Orpah, who kissed her mother-in-law, and departed from her, **“But Ruth clave unto her”** (Ruth 1:14-15). Even so such who are sincere Christians, they keep following Christ, when others leave Him and cleave to the world, to their lusts, to their cursed idolatry; but these say to Jesus Christ, as Ruth to Naomi, **“Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following of thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people;**

and thy God my God” (Ruth 1:16). Those that are wise virgins, or the sheep of Christ, the Holy Ghost gives us their character; **“These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth”** (Rev. 14:4). They will not follow God and Baal, Christ and Antichrist; receive Christ's institutions, and Rome's vile idolatry and superstitions; or follow some precepts of Christ, and reject others: No, no, they follow Him in all His holy laws, keeping close in all things to the rules of His worship, both in doctrine, discipline, and conversation; in all duties of religion, both natural and supernatural, whether towards God, or towards men. They are like unto Joshua and Caleb, they follow Christ fully; **“But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it”** (Num. 14:24). He followed God when others forsook Him, being not acted by that evil Spirit of cowardice, slavish fear and unbelief which ruled in others, but was a man of another temper, *i.e.*, courageous, faithful, obedient; as it is said of the righteous, he was **“bold as a lion”**; and universally, thro all difficulties, deaths and dangers, followed God: And thus do all the true sheep of Christ follow Him.

7. They follow Christ in sincerity, not for loaves, etc.

8. They follow Christ constantly to the end, and faint not. We read of some that followed our blessed Saviour for some time, but then they were offended at His doctrine; **“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him”** (John 6:66). This showed they were not His sheep or disciples indeed, for these returned no more; they, it is evident, drew back to perdition. A godly man may, under a temptation, seem to faint and draw back, as Peter did, but he returns by repentance and follows Christ again. **“But we are not (saith Paul) of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul”** (Heb. 10:39). The sheep of Christ hold on their way, they having clean hands, grow stronger and stronger; they can never perish; therefore, shall follow Christ always, or persevere in well-doing to the end of their days. The good ground brought forth fruit unto eternal life: such who fall away were not sincere and honest-hearted ones, but are either like the stony or thorny ground hearers (Matt. 13).

Fifthly, Christ's sheep have His character by which they are known. Men mark their sheep so; we read in the Revelations, that the servants of God were sealed; they were marked in their right hands, and in their foreheads, etc. God gave a charge of old, to set a mark upon the men that sighed and mourned

for all the abominations that were committed in the land. Merchants, and others, commonly set a mark upon their goods, by which they lay claim to them, and know them: So Christ sets His mark, His seal, upon all His saints. By their Father's mark on their right hand, some understand the heart: A mark in the hand is a secret mark.

1. No doubt the mark of Christ's sheep, is the mark of regeneration, or that holy image of God which is stamped upon them all, as I hinted at first: And if Christ sees not this mark on the soul, He will not own that man or woman actually to be His.

2. The Holy Spirit is expressly called the Seal with which every true believer is sealed: **“Also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory”** (Eph. 1:13-14). And again He saith, **“Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”** (Eph. 4:30). Whosoever hath the Spirit of Christ in them, or hath received the saving graces thereof, are Christ's sheep, they have His mark; these He will own, and say, (where ever He find this seal) this man and this woman is Mine. And on the other hand; **“Now if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”** (Rom. 8:9), he is none of His sheep, he hath no special interest in Him. Remember the Spirit of Christ, true grace, faith, love, humility, etc., is the ear-mark of Christ's sheep.

3. And why may not inward sincerity be Christ's mark also? For that I am sure does distinguish them from all others, from hypocrites, and all unsound and false-hearted professors whatsoever.

(2ndly), The mark in their foreheads is seen by all; that may denote their holy carriage, behavior, and deportment in this world, to all that behold them.

1. It may show that they hate idolatry, and all false worship.

2. It may signify their holy conversation; for holiness is written, as it were, in legible characters, on all their foreheads: There is not one of Christ's sheep without this mark; for without holiness **“no man shall see the Lord”** (Heb. 12:14). This shows who they are, and whither they are going, and to what country they do belong.

Sixthly, Christ's sheep follow the footsteps of the flock, *i.e.*, the primitive Church, in Church-constitution, doctrine and discipline. They **“contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”** (Jude 3), and keep the ordinances as they were at first given forth (I Cor. 11:2); they are for no mixture in doctrine nor discipline; be sure before all things, they keep pure the doctrine of justification, and do not join work and grace together: Their great care

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Compared to Sheep

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is to exalt the free grace of God, and abase the creature, accounting all their own inherent righteousness as dung (Phil. 3:8-9), or dogs-meat, in comparison of Christ, and the righteousness of Christ.

Seventhly, They love to drink in pure crystal, soft and gentle streams. Sheep do not love to drink of muddy, rough and raging rivers: No more do Christ's sheep; **"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters"** (Ps. 23:2). They will not forsake the waters of Shiloh that run softly, and drink of the proud, swelling, and troublesome rivers of Babylon, Tigris, and Euphrates. They like the teachings of God's Spirit in the meanest instrument, tho such who are despised and contemned of men, better than the highest elegance, and loftiest rhetoric of all the Cicero's and Plato's of the world. What are the artificial flourishes of Deinosthenes, or exact method of Aristotle and Galen, or all human curiosities or itch of words, to the teachings of the Holy Ghost? Paul spoke not in the wisdom of this world, or with the **"enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit, and of power"** (I Cor. 2:4). These waters believers choose and love to drink of. I am afraid some men are more nice in studying words, than matter, to affect the ear rather than to work upon the heart of their hearers. Though human learning is not to be despised, yet no doubt Dr. Carlton was in the right, "That a Lay-man that has "the Spirit of God, is better able of spiritual things, than a man in ecclesiastical function, destitute of the Spirit of God."

Our annotators say well, "1. Ministers ought to speak intelligibly, so as the people may understand.

2. That they speak gravely and decently; all other study of words and phrases in a Divine, (say they) is but folly and vanity."

Eighthly, and Lastly, Christ's sheep do rely upon the care and faithfulness of their Shepherd. They know on Whom they have believed, and can and do venture their souls on Him, knowing He will keep that which they have committed to His charge: They depend on Christ, rest on Christ, believe in Christ, rely on His Word and Promises for all things they need: They can say with David, **"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want"** (Ps. 23:1), neither any thing for this life, which is really necessary, nor for the life which is to come: They leave the Almighty to choose for them, knowing they are not competent judges, as touching what is best for themselves: **"Though he slay me, (saith Job) yet will I trust in him"** (Job 13:15); Let God do what He will with me, yet I will rest upon Him; my hope shall be in Him, and

I will not be offended if I have poverty, sickness, persecution, reproaches, or whatsoever else: I know, saith a true Christian, God sees it good for me, and I will not murmur nor complain.

APPLICATION

1. We may infer from hence, that Christ hath but a few sheep, but a few followers: O what a small number have these characters upon them!

2. It may be for lamentation. Cyprian brings in the Devil triumphing over Jesus Christ, after this sort: "As for my followers, I never died for them as Christ did for His; I never promised them so great rewards as Christ hath done to His, and yet I have more followers than He, and they do more for me than His do for Him."

O how blind and deceived are poor sinners, that they choose to follow Satan rather than Jesus Christ! What a great multitude hath the Devil! His flock is a mighty flock, Christ's flock is a little flock: **"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"** (Luke 12:32). Every saint shall have a kingdom, a crown; this is Christ's promise to all His sheep, and yet how few are they that cleave to Him, that believe in Him, and follow Him!

3. By what you have heard, you may try yourselves: O see, have you these characters, these marks of Christ's sheep? Certainly if so, you have no cause to doubt but your state is happy; if not, labor for them.

4. The way to be one of Christ's sheep, is to believe, and to pass under the new birth.



Relation of Baptism

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There is but one way revealed in the Scriptures by which a sinner can come to God through Christ, and receive the blessings of pardon, regeneration, and salvation.

From the examination of the symbols of faith of the various denominations as expressed above, I will take it for granted that only two ways have yet been proposed; and from the Word of God we are justified in stating that there are only two ways conceivable by which sinful man may come to God for pardon and salvation.

1. By an "act of faith," an individual "mental act" upon repentance.

2. Through some "overt act" or "sacrament," dependent upon the will of others.

In scriptural terms:

1. By grace only, without works; or,

2. By works only, which God is graciously pleased to make efficacious.

There are a few cardinal truths which underlie and form the foundation of the gospel plan of salvation, which all who have rightly apprehended the gospel,

and tasted of its blessedness, know to be "saving truths."

1. That there is but one Mediator between God and man, and He the Priest of Calvary, who once offered Himself up for us all. No "human" priest or mediator is therefore tolerated in the gospel, because there is no physical "sacrifice" to offer, no "sacrament" to perform, no visible "seal" to be fixed. "There is no priest but Jesus."

2. That not "by," or in connection "with, or because of," works of any description or deeds of law of any character, moral or ceremonial, legal or ecclesiastical, does a sinner come, or is a sinner brought to Christ and saved, but by unmerited grace alone.

No denomination of professed Christians is entitled to be considered or called evangelical, that does not at least admit, hold vital, teach the above two truths, and whose practice does not accord with them.

It is a flagrant misuse and abuse of the term "evangelical," to apply it to a denomination that either "theoretically" or "practically" deny either of the above saving truths. What shall we say of those that both theoretically and practically deny both? It is to be an accomplice of most pernicious error to indorse such as evangelical, which means according to the teachings of Christ and His apostles.

Now in the light of the above axioms and truths, let us inquire for the true relation of baptism to salvation, for I concede, in the out-start, that there is "some," and, indeed a "scriptural" and "intimate relation"; but not as "a means to an end," but the evidence visible and proof of an end: not the cause of a certain effect, but the effect of a certain cause---salvation.

Then, 1st.---If baptism is inseparably connected with our salvation as a means to an end, or cause to an effect, then it must be as a means:

(1.) To secure the actual remission of sins; or,

(2.) To effect the actual cleansing away of our sins; or,

(3.) To secure our justification before God; or,

(4.) To effect and secure the regeneration of our moral natures---i.e., the birth from above; or,

(5.) To secure our living union with Christ; or,

(6.) To "seal" all the blessings of the everlasting covenant to us, ---which is salvation.

There is a process in mathematics, called elimination, by which the number of factors in two equations can be reduced. Let us see how many of the above hypotheticals can be eliminated, disproved, and so dropped out of, as not to encumber the operation.

I. Baptism is not a divinely appoint means to secure the actual remission of our sins.

I will make this evident from two considerations:

(I.) It contradicts both of the two great fundamental "vital" truths of Christianity---which all evangelical Christians of every nation admits and teaches---that in connection with, or because of a work, a specific physical act, the remission of sins can be obtained; and more, those who teach this are wont to call baptism "the" law of pardon. If it is only in or by obedience to it sins can be remitted, then it is by a deed of law that salvation is obtained.

It violates the first great truth; because the sinner not being allowed to baptize himself must depend upon the will and physical assistance of another, as the administrator of baptism, thus exalting him to all intents and purposes into a real priest, a mediator between the sinner and God, for there is no other name given among men by which baptism can be administered, except the minister or official servant of a church; and if baptism brings the sinner into saving relations to Christ, or the efficacy of the blood of Christ to the soul, the administrator, by whatsoever name called, or in whatsoever habits dressed, he is "a real priest."

But the "express letter" of the Word of God also condemns this theory, since it positively teaches that by and through faith alone the remission of sins are secured and enjoyed.

"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

This was the gospel preached by all the prophets when they preached the plan of salvation, and it was this doctrine that all the saints of the Old Testament believed, and by which they were saved before the rite of "water" baptism was originated. Nor was there any rite in the Old Testament by which the actual remission of sins was in that age connected. There is, there never has been but one way of pardon, one plan of salvation, and that has been by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In connection with the above declaration of Paul in his sermon in the house of Cornelius, the Holy Ghost demonstrated then and there, and before the eyes of Jews and Gentiles, that the remission of sins and salvation were not depending upon the physical act of baptism. Let us read on:

"While Peter yet spake these words, [i.e., 'that whosoever believeth on Him shall receive the remission of sins'], the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any

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man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? (Acts 10:44-47).

All these, the first converts of the Gentile world, were actually pardoned and regenerated before they were baptized. There can be no cavil about this, on the part of any who are willing to bow to the clear and positive teachings of God's Word.

But this forever decides that remission of sins is not secured through baptism as a means to an end, a cause for an effect.

I might pause here and multiply the clear, obvious statements of Scriptures until it filled pages.

Christ promised salvation to the believing, the unbaptized, thief upon the cross. Say not "he could not have been baptized, and, therefore," etc., but "believe" the great fact of the Gospel that Christ never promulgated Heaven, never revealed but one act by which remission could be obtained, and that is through penitential faith on the Son of God; therefore the thief could be saved while nailed to the cross, otherwise he could not have been saved; for without remission of sins there is no salvation.

"John the Baptist baptized his subjects to secure for them the remission of sins." "I" answer, not for the actual remission of their sins did he baptize any, nor did he ever teach that baptism was a, or "the," condition of salvation. If we know certainly what he taught, in one sermon, we know he did not teach differently at any time. By turning to John 3:35, we find his very words:

"The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things unto his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Christ taught the same doctrine:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-17).

2. Baptism is not a sacrament in and by which our sins are actually cleansed away.

In all the Old Testament there was no typical atonement without the "blood" of sacrifices---

*And all the blood of beasts,
On Jewish altars slain,*

Pointed to the blood of Christ that was to be shed for the "actual" remission of "all" sin---the "fountain that was to be opened for sin and uncleanness." Therefore when

we enter the new dispensation, the first thing that greets our eyes is the rent veil and the open mercy-seat, over which we read:

"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

There is not, therefore, a sin for baptism to wash away, since we come to the blood first. The baptismal cleansing can not be "real" but "declarative" only, since it does nothing towards the actual cleansing away of sin.

Nor can it be said that it is "through baptism" we reach His blood but through "faith." Paul is very clear on this point:

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom. 3:25).

3. Nor is baptism an act or sacrament by or on account of which we obtain "justification" before God.

The Word of God everywhere teaches that our justification is not conditioned upon our "works"---by deeds of law of any description whatever, or the grace of God is made of none effect---and how much less then to make it depend upon a deed or transaction which we are unable to perform, but must secure the consent of third parties---a church or priest---to do for us, thus making our justification before God depend upon the "will" and "act" of others, as well as our own, which is subversive of the whole plan of salvation. Faith, and faith alone, independent of all overt acts, does this, and consequently secures our salvation.

Let this question be forever put to rest by the clear and explicit teachings of Paul in his Epistle to the Romans, in which he emphasizes the fact that the saving righteousness of Christ is bestowed through faith in Christ, without any deed of law whatever, whether it be the law of baptism or of circumcision.

"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:22). **"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus"** (Rom. 3:26). **"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law"** [any law] (Rom. 3:28). **"Seeing it is one God, who shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith"** (Rom. 3:30). **"Now to him that worketh [seeks justification by baptism] 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). **"Therefore it [salvation] is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end that the promise might be sure to all the seed"** (Rom. 4:16). **"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (Rom. 5:1).

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without deeds of the law" (Rom. 3:28).

To faith, as the medium of justification, nothing can be added, or the whole scheme is destroyed.

"Christ is become of none effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law: ye are fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4).

How then can baptism be required except as the profession and evidence of this?

The work of Christ is the only "efficient," and faith the only "instrumental," agency in our salvation. Neither baptism, nor any "rite or ordinance of religion is a means in order to this end":

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth these things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed" (Rom. 10:4-11).

It is perverting the plan of salvation to its utter subversion to teach that baptism is "the" law of pardon and justification before God.

4. Nor is it in, or by, baptism that we receive the promise of the Spirit.

This is a cardinal doctrine of the Campbellites---that the gift of the Holy Spirit is conditioned upon baptism, and that no one is justified by God's Word to hope for the promise of the Spirit, except through water baptism. But the Scriptures teach us that we receive the promise of the Spirit "through faith," and "not" through "baptism":

"That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Gal. 3:14).

If by the gift of the Holy Spirit is meant remission of sins, or regeneration of heart or justification unto life and

salvation, then from the Scriptures we learn that no one ever received the gift before pardon and regeneration, etc., had been enjoyed; for believers in Christ, and "believers only," ever received the "baptism" or "the gift of the Holy Spirit:"

"In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13).

This regeneration Paul explains by indicating its results, and tells us clearly by what means it is wrought in us:

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, Even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:1-7).

Now "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things [of the flesh, as above enumerated.] are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

This is the work of the Spirit operating from above, and not through physical media, dependent upon the will of man---the administrator of baptism, by the minister or priest.

It is the Spirit of God that quickens, begets within us the divine life, and renews our souls in the likeness of Christ. This regeneration is not a change of state---merely professed relations---but the renovation and regeneration of our moral natures; and, I again emphasize it---it is not effected in, and by, the act of baptism as a means, any more than it was through the bloody sacrifice or ablutions under the legal dispensation.

*"Not all the outward forms on earth,
Nor rites that God has given,
Nor will of man, nor blood, nor birth,
Can fit a soul for heaven.*

*The sovereign will of God alone
Creates us heirs of grace,
Born in the image of his Son,
A new, peculiar race.*

*The Spirit, like some heavenly wind,
Breathes on the sons of flesh,
Creates anew the carnal mind,
And forms the man afresh.*

*Our quickened souls awake and rise
From their long sleep of death;
On heavenly things we fix our eyes,*

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And praise employs our breath.

5. Baptism is not the means by or through which we are regenerated or born again, as all the Protestant, as well as Catholic creeds do teach.

Christ in His explanation of the new birth to Nicodemus, denominates spiritual regeneration a birth "from above," and not from "below."

"**Verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born---anothen---not "again"---but "from above" he can not see, comprehend, understand, even the nature of "the kingdom of God," i.e., Christ's visible, though "spiritual" kingdom on this earth. That He evidently referred to His visible earthly kingdom,---the qualifications for entering which Nicodemus came that night to inquire,---we learn, 1. From the fact that John thus denominated it when he announced its approach (Matt. 3:18); the kingdom of Heaven (The phrases "kingdom of heaven," "kingdom of God," "kingdom of God's dear Son," "kingdom of Christ," all refer to the self-same thing---Christ's visible kingdom on this earth, consisting of all His true churches.) has approached, and, 2. From Christ's use of the phrase (Matt. 4:17), also (Luke 17:21) the "kingdom of God is among"---not within---you," and even in this same conversion, "for if I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" Thus clearly implying that this kingdom, though heavenly in its origin, was located upon the earth. By being "born from above," Christ taught the ruler of the Jews, and every inquirer of the way of salvation in subsequent ages, that it was not through earthly agents, as "human priests," or ministers, in administering church rites, or sacraments, and the use of "earthly elements," as water, or chrisms, that the regeneration of the heart could be effected, but alone through the direct agency and efficient workings of the Holy Spirit---that power which brought Christ alive from the dead---that the soul of a sinner, "dead" in trespasses and sins can be "quickened" and made spiritually alive.**

6. Nor is baptism appointed to secure

our spiritual union with Christ, by which we become the children of God.

Ritualists, who have perverted the whole plan of salvation, to the subversion of the souls of men, hold and teach that baptism is the first act in which a sinner can meet with Christ, or be united to Christ; and therefore, the sinner is directed to the river, pond, or pool, as his first act, and his first step toward Christ; and they teach that by baptism he is literally introduced into Christ, and spiritually united to Him. This is placing "water" before "blood," and making the baptizer---be he Protestant, or Catholic, or Campbellite---a "human priest"---a mediator between the sinner and the Savior.

This doctrine is abhorrent to the Word of God, which everywhere teaches us that we become the children of God by becoming one with Christ, God's Son; and that the "nexus"---the uniting link or act---is "faith," and faith only---a mental operation, and not a physical act.

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26).

By no other way, then, did any one ever become united to Christ, and become a child of God, in virtue of his union with Christ, since "all" become Christ's, and the children of God, by faith alone---no act of the creature is necessary to be added to faith, and certainly "much" less an overt act of a third person can not be necessary; since this would be making our filial relation to God depend upon the will and pleasure of a sinful man, or men.

7. Nor does baptism in any way introduce us into, or secure for us the grace of God, by which we receive remission of sins and salvation.

If this were true, then would it be true that the grace of God was dependent upon our merits---upon works of righteousness that "we" may do by the will and assistance of others---which doctrine is dishonorable to God, and destructive of the whole scheme of salvation by grace. But what saith the Scriptures?

"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2).

"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him" (Eph. 3:12).



President

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Our first duty to our new president is to pray. **"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour"** (I Tim. 2:1-3). We are told specifically to pray for both kings and all that are in authority. The passage doesn't say to pray for the Republican Party, but to pray for the individual leaders. These candidates are people, like you and I. They have eternal souls, they are sinners, and they are in need of a Saviour. Speaking as a man, these candidates have a lot going against them. They are wealthy (Matt. 19:24), they are full of worldly wisdom (I Cor. 1:26), and they are born of Adam and guilty sinners (Rom. 3:19-20 and 5:12-21). Thankfully, we serve a mighty and powerful God, and all manner of sins shall be forgiven. We believe that men can be saved in the pew, or in the streets, from good homes and from no homes at all, that God saved the fishermen, He saved the harlot, He saved the beggar and He saved a wicked king like Manasseh. Would to God, that whomever is our next leader, that God would show mercy upon them, and save their eternal soul, that they would repent of their sins, and trust only in the finished work of Jesus Christ, for their salvation. Do we pray for them? Will we pray for them? No matter who it is, whether you like them or not, your Christian duty is to pray for them, and not only them, but our leaders in Washington, our state representatives, all the way down the line. We pray for them as men, and we should pray for their decisions and judgments. So that we can live a **"peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."** There are issues that we feel strongly about, there are issues in which morally, we must as Christians stand for and support, but our purpose is not to transform government, but to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and our prayer should be that government would allow us to live peaceably, godly and honest lives. Pray that we could continue to have the great opportunities we have now to freely publish the good news, to freely preach, to have the liberty of conscience that so many of our brothers and sisters outside the United States no longer, or never have enjoyed. Let's not waste this blessed opportunity!

Secondly, regardless of the President elected, we should live submissive lives. **"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of**

God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake" (Rom. 13:1-5). Our republic has been going down the road of socialism and Marxism for many years, and sadly it doesn't look like it will change for the better, but regardless of the administration, we must be subject to them. Who ever is leading our country, they are there because God has placed them in power. Whether for blessing or for judgment, there is no power but of God, and President _____ was providentially placed into office by our Sovereign God. Rebellion is not a Christian attitude. Children rebel against the parents, teenagers rebel against the police, the parents rebel against their employers, and it goes on and on. No sinful person likes to submit, especially to someone they do not like, but we have a command from God that we must. People will not go to church, because they have to submit to the Word of God. Some will not join a church, because they do not like any authority, they deem themselves autonomous, but this is anti-Christian behavior. I know that the changes that could come about would set this nation on a course that would be difficult, if not impossible to right again, but our duty to obey this passage doesn't hinge on the justness or righteousness of a government's policy. Whomever our next president is, I know they will not be as bad as Nero. Nero had his mother murdered, and made killing Christians a sport. Some of the slaughter was so vicious, it is reported even the pagans began to feel sympathy for the Christians. And yet, what does Scripture say, **"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers."** Paul died at the hands of this wicked government, so I don't think it will be as bad as it could be. Paul didn't spend his time fighting for reform in the Roman Empire, but preaching the gospel. If we want to have a lasting effect on the nation, then we should preach the gospel! Debate will not change the minds of most people on abortion, but the Holy Spirit will. What our country needs more than tax cuts is a revival, and effectual gospel preaching would unify our country more than universal health care. Our duty to our president is obedience. **"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for**

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| DXDS, Digos City, Philippines.... | Sunday 12:00 - 12:30 p.m..... | 1161 Khz..... | 1,000 AM |

President

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the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (I Pet. 2:13-15). It is God's will that we submit ourselves to whomever next sits in the Oval Office. Notice what has happened when many groups under the name of Christianity have become political extremists, we all get lumped in together with them. No longer do we have a voice of morality as a whole, but are a voting block, no different than Pat Robertson to our leaders. We need to live such lives that our leaders would desire that their country would be filled with Christians. This is the Baptist way. In 1352 Pope Clement VI issued a decree for a "purification" of France of the Baptists. In "The History of the Waldenses" by J.A. Wylie it is documented how many of the Baptists were saved from the sword. "The zeal of the Pope, however, was but indifferently seconded by that of the secular lords. The men they were enjoined to exterminate (Baptists) were the *most industrious and peaceable of their subjects*; (Emphasis DN) and willing as they no doubt were to oblige the Pope, they were naturally averse to incur so great a loss as would be caused by the destruction of the *flower of their population*." (Emphasis DN). Our Baptist forefathers, who suffered the heavy hand of persecution, were the prize citizens of their country, and even though their leaders were commanded by the pope to murder the Baptists, they didn't because they were the best citizens they had. They were hard working, peaceful, godly people, and what Kings wouldn't want that? We are to submit to our leaders, except when their command is contrary to Christ's command (Acts 4:19). We do not have licenses to rebel against our government, because we don't like our leaders. Our government should look upon the populous and say that if every citizen acted like the Christians, this country would be a better place. If we suffer, if we are persecuted and hated, let it be for righteousness sake: not for the Republican or Democratic parties' sake.

The next President has been put into power to be our servant. The government is the minister of God for us for good. Government is set up by God as a servant to man. "**For he is the minister of God to thee for good.**" This just doesn't apply for Americans, but for all people and all government. Paul was in the midst of the Roman empire, the same empire that would put him to death. For the most part, in most situations, being a good citizen, loving your neighbor, and obeying the laws of the government will put you in a position of good with

them, but if you break the law, be afraid because the authority that government has been given by God isn't in vain. God has given government authority and power to judge civically, apprehend and punish evil doers, even to death. Some Christian groups are against the death penalty, but "**he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**" God uses governments and kings to punish criminals. God is good, and has blessed sinful humanity in providing some protection from evil, in the form of armed forces, and police. I am thankful for our armed forces, police officers, and others who carry the sword, so my family and I can live in relative safety. Without them, it would be like in Shamgar's day when the "**highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways.**" What about Hitler, Hussein and other brutal leaders? Our duty is to be good citizens; it isn't to be trouble makers. "**If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men**" (Rom. 12:18). Even wicked governments are still for the good of the people, whether we see it or not. If God providentially puts anti-Christian governments in place, then they are there for our good. It was said that even the government that fed the Christians to the lions was there for good, for if the citizens, who equally hated Christ, had no fear of the death penalty for murder, they would have killed all the more. If we are troublemakers, then we have reason to fear the government. "**Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.**" Not only for our conscience sake, that we are not rebels, and instigators or the scourge of our nation but that we have no fear of governmental persecution, for any other reason than righteousness sake. Consider the words of Robert Murray McCheyne on his poor health as he was dying. "God gave me a message to deliver and a horse to ride. Alas, I killed the horse, and now I cannot deliver the message." Let's not kill our horse, so to speak, by becoming the enemies of the very people we should be witnessing to, and giving the gospel to. What profit would it have been to Paul if he had spent all his time fighting Agrippa's tax plan? Pilate found no wrong with Christ, there was no grudge to settle, Christ didn't engage in politics, but was busy about His Father's business. "**Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence**" (John 18:36). We all have political opinions, and know the harm that would come to our country with bad policies, and the hatred some political groups have against conservative ideology and Christians in particular, but even if they are our enemies, they shouldn't be ours. We

should love our enemies, and bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us, and pray for them which despitefully use us, and persecute us. I am not saying that Christians shouldn't be in government, or run for office, there were Christians, like Erastus the chamberlain of the city, in the New Testament, but how should we the people, as a whole react to our new President and our leaders?

What ever President _____ puts in place as our tax code, we are duty bound to pay them. "**For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing**" (Rom. 13:6). No one likes to pay taxes, but regardless of the justness of the tax code, or the burden "Caesar" puts on us, we are required to pay them. Our liberty in Christ does not free us from our responsibilities as citizens of this government. "**Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's**" (Matt. 22:17-21). Really, there is simply no argument to the contrary. It really doesn't matter if we like the code, or like paying it, render you taxes to Caesar.

"**Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour**" (Rom. 13:7). We are to pay our taxes, and we are to fear and honor those in authority. Don't antagonize, whomever carries the sword, the sword demands fear, so fear them. The youth of our nation today, and for many years, have little or no respect for authority. I recall my grandmother saying to the family, when President Clinton came through our town, during his tenure as president, "whether you like the man or not, he is still your president". The Scripture tells us that we should respect the position of power, not necessarily the man. No matter who our president is, he will be our leader, and is in a position that demands our respect. No one said to blindly follow him, to adopt his morality, to believe and stand for all he stands for, but it is scriptural to have a respect for positions of power that they rightfully are due.

When the election is over, it's over. We have the God given right to make our voices heard. God has given each of us a government in which we can cast a vote for a particular person. We have the right to compare, contrast, voice our opinions, support those who hold to the value of life, and Christian morals. But once they are our leaders, and not campaigning,

they are our leaders whether we like it or not, and whether they are going to be good for our country or not. You might disagree with me, but if I meddle with the politicians, who are given to change, I am linked to them, when they aren't the same person they said they were going to be down the road. "**My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both? These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment**" (Pro. 24:21-23). I have a bumper sticker on my Jeep that says "We Vote Pro Life". As for me and my house, we will not knowingly vote for anyone that supports abortion. I have a vote, and in two weeks from today, I'll prayerfully cast it. I have fears about the direction of our nation, and will trust in God. When we have elected our new president, and he is inaugurated in a couple months, our attitude towards them should be exactly the same, no matter which person won. They are men, they are sinners, they and their followers are also our mission field. There are millions of McCain supporters that need to hear the gospel of Christ. There are millions of Obama supporters here that need the gospel of Christ, and we owe it to our next leader to be good Christians, and good citizens.



Christ's Body

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and we understand that a properly put together assembly of parts makes a body. There are many properly assembled bodies throughout creation. I know you could name several kinds of bodies in the world if you were pressed to do it. Wherever you are in creation, if there is a body of some kind there, and if you are not blind, you can see it. The Bible also tells us about a certain kind of body that is one of a kind. It is called the body of Christ. As far as the basic definition of the word is concerned, the body of Christ is not that different from any other body in the world. It is local, it is visible and it is fitly framed. In other words, when the right parts are properly put together, there you have it. Let us consider three things about the body of Christ in our text.

THE ONENESS OF CHRIST'S BODY

According to Ephesians 4:4 there is one body... The one body is the New Testament kind of body that met in the upper room and took the Lord's Supper the night before our Lord's crucifixion. It is what Christ called "my church". It is a local, visible assembly of scripturally baptized believers in Christ who were fitly framed for doing the will of Christ

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Christ's Body

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in the great commission. If it meets these New Testament criteria, it is the body of Christ where ever you find it in this world.

The one Spirit of Ephesians 4:4 is the kind spoken of in the New Testament that has all of the same divine attributes as the Father and the Son. He only does the will of the Father and the Son according to the full and complete Word of God. If He meets these New Testament criteria, He is the one true Spirit.

The one hope of Ephesians 4:4 is the kind in the New Testament that has its foundation on Christ and His finished work of redemption. If your hope meets these New Testament criteria, you have the one and only hope that really matters for eternity.

In Ephesians 4:5-6 the Bible speaks also of one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God. Using the same basic rules for Bible interpretation we must see that each one of these is also the kind spoken of in the New Testament. It is important to know that your Lord, faith, baptism and God are the right Lord, faith, baptism and God. The way that you can know that is to examine them very closely according to the New Testament and if they are the kind of Lord, faith, baptism and God that meets the criteria of the New Testament then they are right.

THE GRACE OF CHRIST'S BODY

"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Eph. 4:7). Every member of a true New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ has been given grace to serve Him within that local body. This grace is given by measure and it comes according to the divine wisdom and sovereign pleasure of the Lord Himself.

Grace is the New Testament giving of a gift or gifts to the undeserving. The gifts Christ gave to His local church were for the perfecting and edifying of her members in particular and as that happens He is all the more glorified. **"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"** (Eph. 4:11-12).

According to the Bible it is our Lord's design that the members of the local New Testament body of Christ mature into the fullness of Christ in the unity of the Faith. This can only happen in His kind of local New Testament assembly. **"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine,**

by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:13-14).

This so-called universal invisible church could never have this New Testament kind of unity and love. The only way for a true believer to possibly strive for the fullness of Christ is to first of all follow the Lord in Scriptural baptism and be added to a local New Testament body of Christ. All those who are not so joined to one of the Lord's assemblies shall be tossed and carried with every wind of the doctrines of men and devils. It is the Lord's local New Testament church that is the pillar and ground of the truth. **"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth"** (I Tim. 3:15).

THE LOVE OF CHRIST'S BODY

Christ would have His people, especially those who are saved and set in a true local church, (the New Testament Body of Christ) to show forth the love of Body of Christ according to the scriptures. **"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ"** (Eph. 4:15).

The Love of Christ constrains us to be truthful. The New Testament way to truth and maturity for a believer is to be fed from the Word of God as a member of a local New Testament body of Christ being taught by the Holy Spirit, Christ's Comforter in that body.

According to Scripture, the body of Christ is one that is fitly joined together and compacted with every member supplying his part according to the effectual work of God in him by the Love of Christ unto edification. **"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"** (Eph. 4:16).

In case the reader is not aware of it, this is STRICTLY local New Testament Baptist church doctrine and it can in no way be realized by the heresy of the papal hierarchy or the imaginary inventions of reformed ecclesiology. The great whore is wrong on the nature of Christ's body and so are all her harlot daughters. The same goes for the false cults and the Johnny-come-lately fellows with their so-called self-authorized pop-up churches.

CONCLUSION

I fear for the souls of many in the world today who name the name of Christ. Most of Christendom is made up of professors of Christ who do not actually possess Christ. I say that because so many professed Christians are not willing to serve Him the New Testament way in a true New Testament church and I would ask you, are you truly saved? Do you know what it means to be saved?

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy

of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (I Tim. 1:15). **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"** (John 3:16). **"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"** (I Cor. 15:1-4).

If you are saved, the first act of loving obedience for you to do is to submit to Christ's authority in baptism and be added to one of His New Testament assemblies. **"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"** (Acts 2:41). **"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"** (Eph. 3:21).

Salvation puts you in the family of God. If you are saved, God is your heavenly Father and all true believers are your brothers and sisters in Christ. After salvation comes service and in order to Scripturally serve the Lord, you need to do that as a baptized member of the body of Christ – a local body of Scripturally baptized believers that was fitly framed to do the will of Christ in the great commission. AMEN.



Eternity Without

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many warnings Christ had given these unbelieving Jews. These Christ-rejecters had been given the light of nature, the light of conscience, the light of Holy Scripture and now the light of Christ's Divine presence.

The light of creation alone is enough to leave intelligent creatures without excuse for failing to recognize their Creator. Romans 1:20 declares: **"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."** Man's conscience testifies against him as a sinner. Romans 2:14-15 says: **"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness,**

and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."

For sinners too blind to see the light of God in creation and too dull to perceive the accusations of conscience, God has given the light of His Word. The Holy Spirit uses the Word **"to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"** (II Cor. 4:6). Even today God speaks to sinners through His ministers, for **"these men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation"** (Acts 16:17).

"I GO MY WAY"

Jesus Christ came into the world to accomplish His mission. He came down from Heaven to do the Father's will. There was a limit to how long He could be in this world in a bodily form. By these words Jesus predicted His approaching separation from this world and from those to whom He was speaking. These Jews had said unto Him: "Depart from us, we desire not the knowledge of thy ways." Now Christ is about to write Ichabod on the souls of these unbelievers, for when Christ departs from a people His glory departs.

God's ways cannot be altered or changed to please men. If we would be with Christ, we must go His way. We must believe in the One Who said: **"I am the way"** (John 14:5). Men who prefer their own way are soon to discover that their ways run together in the broad way that leads to destruction. God's way is not only the best way; it is the only way that leads to an eternity with Christ.

Shortly after Christ uttered these words, He went His way to the cross, to the tomb and eventually to His Father in Heaven. He still goes His way today. Through His ministers He still invites disciples to follow Him, and He still warns that to reject Him now is to be separated from Him for eternity.

"YE SHALL SEEK ME"

These Jews rejected Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah. They continued their expectations of the Messiah. Even today their descendants are the self-seekers of a Christ to come, even though Christ has already come. Many times as at the destruction of Jerusalem, they have sought deliverance from impending doom by the Messiah but in vain.

It is possible for men to seek God without finding Him. Some time ago a Russian cosmonaut sought God in the heavens and found Him not. Infidel scientists seek God in their test tubes in the laboratory but they, too, are unable to find Him not. Hippies seek God in drugs yet find Him not. Distressed sinners seek God for deliverance from approaching doom out of the interest of self-preservation but never find Him. Such individuals seek God the wrong way.

If men do not like to retain God in their knowledge, He may give them

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over to a reprobate mind. Romans 1:28 reads: **"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."** If men receive not the love of the truth, God may send them a lie. II Thessalonians 2:10-12 reads: **"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."** Those who reject Christ will be left to accept Antichrist: **"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive"** (John 5:43).

"DIE IN YOUR SINS"

To live in sin is bad, but to live and die in sin is worse. To die in sin is to die unforgiven. It means that the sinner is still liable to the penalty of his individual sins. Ezekiel 3:19 makes it plain that if the wicked man does not turn from his wicked way, **"he shall die in his iniquity."** Those who die under the guilt of sin can never find relief. Their sins shall follow them to the dust of death and the destruction of eternal Hell. Those who are from beneath must go beneath!

All of the elect lived at one time in their sins. Then the grace of God brought them to repentance of sin. Through repentance they did not die in their sins. When they die, they die in Christ, in His love and in His arms. They sleep in Jesus, and so are saved from dying in their sins.

Those who live in unbelief are forever undone if they die in unbelief. Jesus declared: **"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."** Men are called upon to believe that Jesus Christ is what He claims to be. Without faith in Christ you cannot be saved from the punishment of sin when you die. The wrath of God is upon unbelievers: **"He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"** (John 3:36). The unbeliever is condemned already: **"He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"** (John 3:18). Unbelief is the damning sin; it is a sin against the remedy: **"He that believeth not shall be damned"** (Mark 16:16). Revelation 21:8 reveals that Hell will be populated with the **"unbelieving."** Those who live without faith in Jesus Christ cannot be saved while they live. They shall die in their sins and continue in

them throughout eternity.

Do you not realize, poor sinner, that with your sinful nature you are not fit for Heaven? Do you not know that it is only in Christ that you can get rid of the sin nature and become a partaker of the Divine nature so as to be fit for Heaven? Have you never read in God's Word or heard from one of His faithful ministers that it is only by faith in Christ that you can obtain the forgiveness of sins and escape just punishment in Hell? Are you not aware that you must be saved in this life if you are ever to be saved at all? Do you think you have forever to repent? to believe in Christ? Why should God spare your life another day while you continue to despise and reject His Son?

"WHITHER I GO"

By way of the cross, the tomb, and the cloud, Jesus was going to Heaven. To His disciples He said: **"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"** (John 14:2-3).

When do saints follow Christ to Heaven? Paul gives us the answer: **"We are confident, . . . and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord"** (II Cor. 5:8). When we die and leave these mortal bodies we that are saved go immediately in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. To impatient Peter, Jesus said: **"Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards"** (John 13:36). Some of Stephen's last words were: **"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit"** (Acts 7:59).

"YE CANNOT COME"

The awful tragedy of sin is that the sinner who dies in sin can never be with Jesus. Christ is the Living Water. Those without Him must thirst forever. Christ is the Bread of Life. Those without Him must hunger forever. Christ is the Light of the world. Those without Him must forever walk in darkness. Those who die in their sins are eternally separated from Him. They will be **"punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"** (II Thess. 1:9).

When Jesus Christ left this sin-cursed world, He went to the Father in Heaven. Heaven is a place without sin, and only those who have been delivered from sin can enter Heaven. Revelation 21:27 says: **"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."**

We cannot properly comprehend the horrors of eternal Hell. But the most awful revelation about Hell is seen in our text. Jesus Christ will not be there. Horror of horrors! Tragedy of tragedies! is the thought of an eternity without Christ. Woe is the man who has a Christless life,

a Christless death, a Christless funeral, a Christless coffin, and a Christless eternity!

Wretched souls, bearing just punishment for every sin! Still sinful and becoming more sinful, ever multiplying their sins in the midst of the flames. Hell all about them and hell in their hearts. Living in a world where Christ can never come. Oh, the tragedy of a mis-spent life that carries one on the primrose way to the everlasting bonfire!

Has the Spirit used this message to convict you of the evil of dying in your sins? Do you see yourself to be unrighteous and under the judgment of God? Do the sorrows of death compass you? Have the pains of hell got hold upon you? Are you crying: **"Woe is me! for I am undone!"** Are you inquiring: **"What must I do to be saved?"** Then I say unto you: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"** (Acts 16:31). After the Lord has saved you, it is your duty to follow Him in baptism and to become a member of His church where you can grow in grace.



The Chief Obligation of Every Christian

By Oswald J. Smith
(1889 - 1896)

The passage I am going to draw your attention to is without question one of the most terrible warnings in the Bible. I can never read it without having a shudder pass through me. I am convicted every time I dare to face it in a serious way. It forces upon me a picture of myself standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ with the blood of multitudes dripping from my hands. It charges home upon me the awful sin of omission, and I cannot escape. Let us examine it now, and may God help us to weigh every word as we read:

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life: the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand, Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because thou hast

not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered: but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou has delivered thy soul" (Ezek. 3:17-21). (Emphasis OJS)

It is the fearful sin of omission, the sin of withholding the Glad Tidings. It is what A. B. Simpson would probably call "Christianity's Crime." So important does God consider it that twice He gives the same warning, for it is found again in the thirty-third chapter of the same book. It lays upon me the obligation of telling others. And to fail in my duty is to put my own life in peril.

Naturally we think first of the heathen lands where darkness reigns and where Christ has never been preached. And well we may. Has not God commanded us? Did He not bid us go and take the gospel to all the world? Has He not made our orders clear and plain? And have we any excuse? If we cannot go, can we not pray and give and send others? And yet nineteen hundred years have passed and still the larger portion of the world has never yet heard the message.

Far away in the closed lands there are cities where no Christian has ever yet set foot. Such great cities as Mecca and Medina in Arabia; Heart, Cabul and Khandabar in Afghanistan; Thassa in Tibet and Bokhara have never yet seen the face of a preacher of the gospel, for these cities are officially closed. They still wait, untouched, unreachd. My brethren, are we not guilty, guilty of our brother's blood? Does it not cry to us from Mecca and Medina, from Thassa and Khandabar?

Yea, let us come closer home. What about the souls in our own land? How many there are who in spite of all our religious work have never yet heard the gospel? Think of the thousands and tens of thousands in the Roman Catholic and so-called State churches, that have still to hear the Good News of a free salvation for the first time.

But let us come still nearer home. There is the city, town or village in which we live. Have we been true? Can we point to any tangible effort that we have put forth for its evangelization? Dare we stand before God and say we have done what we could to warn the people? For if not, mark you, their blood is upon us.

Oh, yes, you say, we have prayed, and wherever we have gone men and women have felt the influence of our silent Christian testimony. And very frequently we have spoken to them of Christ.

Yes, and is that all?

No, we have built a great church, a large tabernacle, into which we have invited them to come and hear the gospel.

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. We know people are not saved by works or circumstantial decision making and that God brings vengeance at the last trump. So what is the purpose of the tribulation period before the wrath of God?

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I will try to be as brief and informative as possible as this question is a mighty course of study indeed. The Scriptures report in the book of Revelation the wrath of God upon those who reject Christ, judgment will fall upon all the inhabitants of the earth. There will be no Goshen, as there is no report of such, to escape God's judgment upon earth during the tribulation period.

The judgment of the Saints will occur also during this period, for works done before the rapture. A wedding will occur in which the Lamb will marry His Bride, a Baptist Bride.

The war in heaven will occur, which is the start of Jacob's trouble or as Jesus called it the great tribulation.

Next will be the Second Advent when Christ stands upon the mount and restores Israel as a nation.

"So what is the purpose of the tribulation period before the wrath of God?" Is not God sovereign? Is He not deserving of the glory and honor and praise of His creation? **"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created"** (Rev. 4:11).

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Those who receive and read this paper have a lot of different views on the Tribulation Period, ranging from what will happen, if Christ is coming to "rapture" His church before, in the middle of, or after the tribulation period, and even if there actually will be a tribulation period. It is sad, at least to this writer, that churches and associations will split over this question while seeing no reason to separate over "3 or 4 point Calvinism."

Some see the tribulation as a sort of last ditch stand by the evil forces of the

world to destroy the people of God, even having the church to go through the tribulation. These will assert that if the church is taken out before the tribulation, the Holy Spirit would be taken out also, leaving behind no effective witness to save men. The illogic of that view is far too detailed to deal with in this forum, save to remind the reader of the 144,000 sealed JEWS and Revelation 14:6: **"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."** Surely the gospel is being dispensed among the people, and surely the Holy Spirit, Who is God and therefore omnipresent, is not confined because He indwells the church.

Others seem to see the "tribulation period" only as the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 9, with the "church age" as an "inserted dispensation" interrupting the "dispensation of law," making the "tribulation period" the **"time of Jacob's trouble"** (Jer. 30:7). This would make the tribulation period a time of last chance earthly chastisement of unbelieving Jews. But I suggest that such a confined interpretation would confine that chastisement to just the Jews who refused to accept the Messiah during His earthly ministry. But hold that thought!

Others, like this writer, see the "tribulation period" as a time of God's wrath and chastisement on an unbelieving and un-repentant world. I see nothing in Revelation 4-21 that seems to indicate the people of the world persecuting the church but rather that the people of the world are the ones being tormented. For instance Revelation 9:5: **"And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man."**

Either of these last two views are basically the same in nature, differing only in the scope of the people involved in the chastisement. There are two concepts which taken together should answer this question.

One, God's elect are not appointed to wrath (1 Thess. 5:9: **"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ"**), but rather, having been cleansed, forgiven and justified, we are delivered out of God's wrath.

Secondly, and in the light of the way the question is worded, I think we can

actually see the "tribulation" almost as an act of grace, sort of a last minute chance for the unbelieving and un-repentant people on earth to get a glimpse of what awaits them in eternity, and a last chance for repentance and turning to God; similar I suppose to Jeremiah's ministry to Judah. The impending judgment on the nation (in this case the world) was irrevocable but individuals who would believe and repent could/would be saved.

How about you, dear reader? The impending doom on this world is irrevocable, but if you believe and repent, committing your life and soul to Jesus Christ, you can/will be saved out of it. Will you?

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Below you will find an excerpt from a book I have written: **Elementary Eschatology: A Study of Premillennial Prophecy** which will be printed in 2009, Lord willing.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

The first great purpose of the Tribulation Period is to prepare Israel for the reception of her Messiah. Since the days of Christ's ministry the nation of Israel has been blinded to the glories and salvation of their Messiah. God has worked chiefly among the Gentiles during the past two thousand years. Romans 11:25-27 declares: **"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."**

The Tribulation Period is referred to as **"the time of Jacob's trouble"** (Jer. 30:7) because God will be dealing with the nation of Israel specifically. The conversion of multitudes of Jews will occur during this period of time. Their eyes will be opened to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and they will be saved. The salvation of elect Israel during the Tribulation Period will be for the purpose of preparing them to enter into the glories of the Millennial kingdom. God is going to use Daniel's seventieth week as a means to accomplish His purpose with regards to the nation of Israel as revealed in Daniel 9:24 which

states: **"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."** These things have not yet happened with regards to the nation of Israel, but they will be accomplished during the Tribulation Period when God turns to His chosen nation. God's purpose concerning Israel during the Tribulation was revealed long ago in Deuteronomy 4:30-31 which state: **"When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them."** It is also significant to note that many Gentiles will also be saved during the Tribulation through the witness of converted Jews. The converted Gentiles will comprise the sheep nations mentioned in Matthew twenty five, who will also enter into the glories of the Millennial kingdom.

The second major purpose of the Tribulation Period has already been alluded to. For thousands of years of human history man has been defying the holy government of God and rebelling against His laws. During the Tribulation Period God will pour out His judgments upon an ungodly world. Those who have been deceived by the false prophet and who have submitted to the unrighteous rule of Antichrist will be damned. II Thessalonians 2:11-12 declares: **"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."**

A third purpose of the Tribulation Period will be to judge the apostate church known in Scripture as **"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"** (Rev. 17:5). She is called a whore because of her spiritual infidelity and prostitution of spiritual powers. This church, under the guise of Christianity, has perverted the true ways of God, given birth to numerous heresies, and has promoted a false worship during her existence. Through the centuries she has hounded, hated, and persecuted the true saints of God and is said to be **"drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus"** (Rev. 17:6). She is also in league with Satan and the Antichrist. The false prophet who acts as the head of this ecclesiastical organization will aid the Antichrist and

◊ (Continued on page 471)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. How can we encourage our Christian brothers and sisters who have become discouraged from the many things that are happening in our Baptist churches? i.e. poor attendance, lack of interest in the church, carelessness for the lost, etc.

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"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58).

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

"But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing" (II Thes. 3:13).

This is a difficult question. There really is no definitive answer, no "one size fits all" verse or practice of encouragement. As a matter of fact, the closer we get to the end days the more discouraging things will look to us. Our Lord's own words in Luke 18:8 speak of the greatness of the spiritual "falling away" just prior to His coming. **"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"**

I offer these three concepts for consideration and encouragement.

One: We may very well learn from the parable of the wheat and tares that professing Christendom (i.e.: the kingdom of God) contains a goodly number of false professors who are "look a-likes" but will blend in unnoticed until the fruit develops. The same is true in our local churches. We are rapidly moving into a period of time when the popularity and acceptability of Christianity will be at an all time low, comparable to the persecution years before Constantine. The "falling away" in our own churches is simply the developing fruit of the "tares" which the Evil One has planted in our field.

Two: And closely related to the other question this month is the "end of the age" when Christ will come for His own. Many people, even otherwise pretty sound theologians, argue about when He will come. They talk about the "signs" in the current events and all the things that are happening which, they say, must occur before His coming. I recently wrote that to talk about the "imminent return of Christ" and still be looking for "signs" (i.e.: the Anti-Christ, etc.) is a contradiction in terms. The only "sign" that Christ gave us is the sign of unbelief. **"For as in the**

days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:38-39). Their lack of knowing, of course, was not lack of information but refusal to believe the information they were given.

The problems listed in the question are all symptoms of unbelief. The unbelief of the world around us – and in our churches – while saddening and discouraging may also be seen as encouragement because they may be any indication that our Lord's return for His own is near.

Three: Heb. 10:25, among other things, can be seen as the most definitive answer to this question. **"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."** A pastor friend of mine once said that our carelessness in attendance not only showed lack of respect for the Lord, but lack of respect for our fellow church member. I suggest that one of the best ways to encourage our Christian brethren is to be faithful in worship ourselves. There is little that is more discouraging than getting to the regularly scheduled worship service and finding out that half of the congregation "had other things" to do, which they deemed of greater importance than the worship service. If you want to be an encouragement to your brethren, don't be one of those with "other things to do," or some other lame excuse for not being at worship---and on time.

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The discouragement that is felt by many Baptists concerning the lack of overall circumspsect Christianity is something that I myself am deeply concerned with. I write this thinking to myself that the things I am going to recommend are the same things we hear of all the time. I do not mean to minimize the importance of the question, just to echo what has always been instructed to

us from God's Word. I feel these words are the key to any of the saints of God who desire to honor God in His or Her Life.

"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (I Tim. 6:11, 12).

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph. 6:18).

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Rev. 3:3).

Work, watch, pray and obey.

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Psalm 60:11-12 declares: **"Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies."**

Things may appear to be bleak and troublesome to our eyes, but we have a Great God Who can do what men cannot. We are commanded to walk by faith, to regulate our lives by the Word of God, to be led by the Spirit, and to press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. My personal philosophy has always been to focus on the Lord first and foremost, and strive to be the very best Christ-like example I can be to others in my family, my church, and my community. If you set your eyes on the failures and shortcomings of men it will drag you down into the depths of despair.

How do we overcome? **"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God"** (I John 5:4-5). God has given me the gift of faith to believe that His Son died in my stead and rose again from the dead. Jesus Christ has set me free from the penalty of sin. God has sent His Spirit into my heart enabling me to commune and fellowship with the Father. Every believer has the Word of God, all the promises of God, and the surety of reaching Heaven's glorious shores! Learn to meditate upon the

glories of Christ, the power of the Spirit, and the blessedness of the eternal state to stave off discouragement.

Instead of looking at what others are not doing, strive to be the example wherever you are. Are others forsaking the Lord's House? Resolve that by God's grace you will be a pillar in the house of God, standing firm and faithful until Jesus comes. Are others careless concerning the souls of sinners? Determine that your heart will be burdened to pray and witness every time the door of opportunity swings open. Pray for God to revive you. Ask God to fill you with a burning zeal. D.L. Moody said once you are set on fire for God others will begin to take notice. Oh, that our hearts would be inflamed with love to Christ and others! We must take personal responsibility and do what we can to encourage others. Let's make sure that our lives are not a source of discouragement to fellow Christians. **"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance... hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God"** (Psa. 42:5, 11). Keep your eyes on the prize. Don't let anyone or anything dampen your zeal for the glory of God. Stay focused, be joyful, and hopeful. Speak the truth in love. Your life will have a positive impact and influence for good.

TOM ROSS



Forum #1

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encourage idolatrous worship. She will be an apostate church with a universal appeal, allowing several beliefs to exist under her ecclesiastical umbrella. This **"MOTHER OF HARLOTS"** is the Roman Catholic Church and her apostate Protestant daughters who unite with her. She will unite with political Babylon only to be destroyed by it according to God's sovereign will (Rev. 17:15-18). Her final judgment by God will be the cause for rejoicing and praise among the saints of God in Heaven as Revelation 19:1-3 declares: **"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever."**

TOM ROSS



Chief Obligation of

(Continued from page 469) ♦

And many, very many, have accepted the invitation.

Well, and is that all?

Is that all! Why, what do you mean? What more do you expect?

My friend, what about the multitudes that have never come? And what about the foreigners, the Jews and Chinese, the Finlanders and Poles, the strangers within our gates? And what about the Roman Catholics and all those who believe in salvation by works? Yes, and what of the rich who would never deign to darken our door, and the poor who feel we do not want them? What of the prostitutes who walk our streets, and the frequenters of questionable houses? Yes, and the inmates of our jails and prisons, our reformatories and hospitals? In a word---what about the multitudes who will never come to us, whom we can never hope to meet, but who are perishing because they have never heard the warning?

Did God ever tell us to build churches then expect sinners to come to them? Never! His Word is not "Come," but "Go." Again and again He emphasizes it. "Go out" is His order; "Go ye" His command. And if we don't, if we fail, if we disobey, ---"his blood will I require at thy hand."

Is it not true that God has spoken? Do we not even now hear Him say: "**The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.**" And dare we answer with Cain: "**Am I my brother's keeper?**"

Responsible we surly are. "**This day is a day of good tidings,**" cried the lepers of Samaria, "**and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell.**" Could they keep it to themselves? Of course not. And neither can we if we are to be clear of the blood of all men. It is our solemn obligation to warn all we can. God help us to be faithful.

Think of such cities as Chicago and New York. How many do you suppose, in spite of all the missions and churches, in spite of the thousands of Christian people, preachers and evangelists, have ever heard the gospel of Jesus Christ? Think of the multitudes of foreigners in these two cities alone. I wonder if even a tenth of the entire population have ever really heard and understood God's plan of salvation. And yet our Lord's command was, "**Go ye, . . . and preach the gospel to every creature**" (Mark 16:15). Have we done it?

The most tragic picture imaginable is that of a small church, attended by the same little group Sunday after Sunday, perfectly satisfied, emphasizing their own peculiar doctrines, and making no effort to reach the Christless masses

surging around on every side. Sinners but seldom attend, new faces are hardly ever seen; and yet if one of their number gets under conviction and leaves to go where souls are being saved and the crowds are attending, they almost anathematize him. There is nothing in their service to attract; they consider that they are better than others, and they never pause to ask why the world leaves them alone. They are satisfied to go to Heaven themselves while millions are perishing. Oh, how far from the vision of the Master! What a travesty of Christianity! Better a thousand times to close the doors of such a church, scatter the members and trust God to attract the unsaved, especially the younger generation, where souls are being brought to Christ.

When the wild Tibetans were about to massacre all our missionaries on their territory, friendly Tibetans warned them, and thus saved their lives. When the lookout on the great liner saw the ice-berg he gave warning and saved the ship. When the boy saw the broken rail he warned the train and saved the people. When the workman saw the broken dyke he gave warning and saved the city. When the Germans were to shell the French village, the British herald warned the people, and gave them a chance to escape. And when the Christian sees the dangers ahead it is his solemn duty to warn sinners and thus give them a chance to escape.

Now, they may not heed the warning given. It was so in the case of the French village. Some listened and fled, but others would not believe it, and that night they were, every last one of them, killed. That, however, is not the question. You are responsible only until you have warned them. But what would be thought of the man who saw the danger, but gave no warning?

Noah saw the coming judgment and warned the people, though they heeded not. The angels destroyed Sodom but first warned Lot. Moses knew that the destroying angel was coming and warned the Israelites. God has declared that terrible judgments are soon to be hurled upon the earth, that a tribulation such as has never been known is near at hand, that Hell awaits the impenitent, but He has commissioned us His servants, to go out and warn the people while there is an opportunity to escape. And woe betide us if we fail.

My friends, I am through. My message has been given. It now remains with you. Will you be true to God and warn the perishing around you? Soon it will be too late. Oh, then, hurry and tell them of their danger.

"If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not

he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?" (Prov. 24:11-12).

"When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die: if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it: if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul" (Ezek. 18:18-19).

(Excerpts---"The Work God Blesses").



Mini-Edition by Joseph Harris

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Snow White and the Seven Church Members

Several years ago, when my daughter was around five years of age, we rented the Disney classic, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. I vividly remember the scene where the dwarfs came in and found Snow White asleep in their loft. Some of them had apparently never seen a woman and didn't know "what" she was. Grumpy recognized her and said, "Stay away from her. She's a woman and they've got wicked wiles." One of the other dwarfs asked him what wicked wiles were, and he paused then said, "I don't know, but I'm agin 'em."

I had never realized before that Grumpy was an old hard headed Baptist. Of course then my mind began to wander and before long, the preacher in me took over and I had a sermon with a parallel between the seven dwarfs and seven different kinds of church members that can be found in just about every Baptist congregation today. Some are good, others bad, and a few just downright worrisome.

Doc was the first dwarf and obviously the leader of the group. He pulls them all together and keeps things going. He could be called "Doc" because he might effect healing when it is needed. Docs are a healing balm in each church and provide direction, calm the storms and bring peace through their spiritual maturity and leadership.

Sleepy was the dwarf who was always sleepy, night or day. He can be seen yawning and snoozing throughout the film. I've known several church members who are sleepy. Some actually do sleep during the church service, but the average "sleepy" member is asleep at the wheel, snoring while Rome burns, the devil destroys their home and church and souls go to hell. The Bible says to "**Awake**

thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Eph. 5:14).

Grumpy's name speaks for itself. Though very perceptive, he was never happy. He chose to be a grump, always emphasizing the negative, walking on the dark side. The only time he ever smiled was when Snow White kissed him on top of his bald head, then when he realized he was actually happy, he immediately wiped off the smile with a "Harumph!" It seems there is always a Grumpy in every church whose motto is, "Every silver lining has a cloud" when their motto should be, "This is the day the Lord hath made, I will rejoice and be glad in it, even if it is a rotten day." Grumpys have few friends, but need loving, because their grumpiness is often an attention ploy.

Happy was the exact opposite of Grumpy. He saw the positive in every situation and spread cheer and hope. The Happys in every church are a needed blessing as they lift the fallen and bind the wounded. Their "**cheerful heart doeth good**" to all as the goodness of the light of God shines in the darkest of valleys that every church must sometimes pass through.

Sneezy was apparently allergic to something. He was often seen with his finger under his nose, trying to stifle a sneeze. Now let me use a little sanctified imagination here (which is the birthright of every preacher) and describe the Sneezy in every church. They are allergic to work and commitment. Ask them to help in Vacation Bible School and you get an allergic reactive sneeze. Challenge them to be faithful to church and another "ACHOO" spews out. Preach on tithing and a fit of violent sneezes come forth. Sneezy just can't handle it.

Bashful was just as his name stated: extremely shy. He could talk, but hardly did. He wasn't a bad guy, didn't cause any trouble and was not disliked. He was just bashful. Churches are full of his brothers and sisters today. They are good people and they will talk about golf, deer hunting, fishing, shopping and the latest styles, but are tight lipped when it comes to talking about Jesus. They spend hours a day with family, school mates and co-workers, and never even mention Jesus, much less tell of His saving grace. These incognito Christians would probably cause their friends to drop dead of shock if they began telling the wonderful words of life in their daily conversation.

Dopey is last but not least, though he appeared to be the youngest. One thing was for certain about Dopey. You never heard him say a negative or derogatory word about the other dwarfs, Snow White, or even the wicked queen. Of course he never said a word about anyone or anything.....period. Dopey never talked. Often times, people talk too much and when they do, the conversation can turn

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negative, ungodly or destructive. In the Disney film, Bambi, Thumper said that his father told him that "If you can't say somethin' good about somebody, don't say nuthin' at all." Oh, for more Dopey Christians in churches today. **"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you"** (I Thess. 4:11).

Now which one are you?

Character

When we say an individual has character, we usually mean that person has the positive virtues of honesty, decency and integrity and will make right decisions in life. Actually, everyone has character, according to the book definition of character, which is, "Distinctive qualities of a person or thing" or in other words, good or bad characteristics. Every individual has either good character or bad character. Listed below are some of my thoughts on good character.

(1) *Character is doing the right thing simply because it's the right thing to do.* Dr. Bob Jones Sr. used to say, "There is never a right time to do the wrong thing." Amen! In today's society of relativism, people are often more concerned about making decisions based on expediency, convenience, popularity or profit, rather than on what is right. Consider modern politicians. The old proverb of "The squeaking wheel is the one that gets the grease" is true as politicians bow to the demands of those who apply the most pressure. We are told that WE should apply the pressure concerning moral issues, but even then, they would be bowing to our pressure and that would be wrong. Politicians should vote for right not because they are pressured into it, but because right is right. Period! But don't hold your breath.

(2) *Character is consistent.* Someone else has said, "Character is what you do in the dark"....and I will add it is also what you do when away from home. Character will stay on course when others are watching us and when they are not watching, because character knows God is always watching, and He is the One who defines right and wrong, not circumstances and situations.

(3) *Character makes decisions for you.* This is just good practical sense. There should be no debate in decisions when you know right from wrong. If it's wrong, don't do it. If it's right, do it. I know it sounds too simple, but sometimes the truth is so simple, it is profound.

(4) *Character produces peace and paves the way for happiness.* Too often, a wrong decision is made to avoid

discomfort, unhappiness or hurt feelings, but happiness is not to be the final goal in every situation. Kids are allowed by parents to run wild just to keep them happy. An individual once told me that she just wanted children to be happy. This was to justify allowing them to do anything they desired. Well, I just want children to have character. Happiness will follow from the peace produced by character. Besides, happiness is not a commodity that can be given. People choose to be happy or unhappy. Even our forefathers knew they couldn't grant happiness, that it must be secured by the individual, hence the phrase, "the pursuit of happiness." Giving things to people does not guarantee happiness. It actually impedes it. Happiness is the by-product of doing the right thing and aligning life's priorities correctly. Here's a word for Grandparents of today. A lot of Grandparents need to wake up and break the destructive cycle of permissiveness they started with their own children and are now perpetuating tenfold in their grandchildren, other wise, they become double failures as parents and unleash a generation of ingrates on society. Grandparents should love their grandchildren by re-enforcing the right teaching of their parents, not counteracting it.

(5) *Character determines actions.* Except of course, for Bill Clinton. Remember the lie we were told, that character doesn't matter, that what a man does in private has nothing to do with who he is publicly and that it will not affect how he makes decisions? Yeah, right! I remember the words of an actor who played the character of Bugsy Malone, the notorious gangster, on a radio drama. Bugsy was trying to win over his latest girl and said, "All this business you see me do (murder gambling, prostitution), it's not who I am; it's what I do." Sorry Bugsy, the two can't be separated. WHO we are determines WHAT we do, for "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" and "from the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh" Jesus said.

Character is not stumbled upon and seized by chance. It is instilled on purpose through diligent teaching and modeling. Who will this current generation of children look to for examples of character?

Insanity

What is sanity? Clear, sound rational thinking. Insanity is the opposite. Insane people do crazy things because they think crazy thoughts. We live in an insane society that perverts (reverses) truth and calls Christianity insane. A Biblical example of this is found in Isaiah 5:20, "**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**" As usual, the Bible

has something to say about insanity.

Notice first a Biblical view of insanity from a person full of the devil. Mark chapter 5, A Wild Man. There are parallels today in people who may not be totally possessed as this man was, but who are influenced by the devil as they exhibit certain characteristics that parallel this Biblical account. Notice, he had unrest and was crying. Insanity or mental problems are often characterized by emotional unrest and outbursts of crying. He was also unloved by himself and others as shown by the self destruction as he cut himself with stones. Lack of love for self today is also exhibited by people who cut, pierce and mark their bodies in a permanent, self destructive way in the piercing and tattoo culture, usually done in the name of style and fashion. Notice the man was also unclothed and this is certainly seen today as nakedness in public is more and more common. But look at verse 15 ... after coming to Jesus, he was sitting, clothed and in his right mind. He had peace, love and covering.

Next, notice a Biblical view of insanity from a person filled with the world and self. Luke chapter 15, A Worldly Son. He was rash in his thinking as he requested his inheritance early. He was riotous in his living as he spent all in partying. He ended up in poverty and filth in the pig pen. He was drunk with insanity on the wine of the world, but then verse 17 states he...**"came to himself"** which means he was out of his mind (insane).

For a third example, look at a Biblical view of sanity from a person filled with the Spirit. Acts chapter 26, A Witnessing Preacher. Paul is accused of being insane by the governor, Festus, simply because he was living for God, doing what comes natural for a believer. Paul has: (1) Given his testimony of salvation, verses 12- 15. This should be normal for every believer, but the world will look at you cock-eyed if you go around telling how you were saved. Paul also: (2) Witnessed to everyone, verse 20, which every believer is called to do. Paul also was: (3) Obedient to God, verse 19. Obedience to God often brings mocking and ridicule from unbelievers because they just don't understand why real Christians do certain things. Paul was accused of being insane (verse 24) simply by being an obedient believer in Christ. The world still does the same today to true believers. So do not be dismayed. To live for God is sane.

A fourth example from the Bible is found in II Timothy 1:7, A Well Taught Convert. Paul told Timothy that God has given a "**sound mind**" to His children, verse 7. Living for God is sane. Doing the right thing is sane. Insanity is when the world says black is white and white is black and bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter, but rest assured, living for God is right and sane. Stay grounded and assured in the Word of God. "**The**

thoughts of the righteous are right..." (Prov. 12:5). Life is easier and less complicated if you live by God's rules. Breaking His law brings complications, troubles, sorrows and consequences. People who do not steal have less complications and consequences in life. People who do not kill have better lives than murderers. People who do not lie live easier lives than liars and deceivers. Doing right has its rewards.

To live for God, we must guard our sanity. Titus 2:6, II Cor. 10:5, Phil. 4:8, A Walk of Watchfulness Think purposefully on the virtues of Phil. 4:8. Guard your mind as ordered in II Cor. 10:5. Doing right is done on purpose and rarely by accident. Doing wrong comes naturally. Think right and sanely.

Insanity Says, "Live for now".....Sanity Says "Live for eternity"

Insanity Says, "If it feels good, do it"..... Sanity Says, "If it feels good, watch it"

Insanity Says, "Live together first, and see if it will work".....Sanity Says, "Commit to marriage first, then make it work"

Insanity Says, "All religions lead to Heaven".....Sanity Says, "Jesus is the Door"

Insanity Says, "Wait until later to accept Christ".....Sanity Says, "**Boast not thyself of to morrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth**" (Prov. 27:1).



Jesus as King

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

"Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what has thou done? Jesus answered, My kingdom of not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king, To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness of the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:33-37).

The first question Pilate asked our Lord was whether He admitted that He was the King of the Jews. Looking at Christ's humble attire and lack of servants, he asked: "Are you really a King? Do you lay claim to royal authority? Are you the

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anointed King of the Jews?" The main thought in the mind of Pilate was the kingship of Jesus. As a King he examined Him, and as a King he sentenced Him to crucifixion.

If ever there was a moment when Christ might desire to deny His kingship it would have been at this moment. He stands there as a prisoner, mocked and helpless, crowned with thorns, before the governor. Jesus Christ answered Pilate: **"Thou sayest that I am a king."** He adopts the language of Pilate as an expression of truth. **"Thou sayest"** is equivalent to an affirmative. Our Lord went on to say: **"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world. . ."** His birth as a man was with the distinct view in the Divine Mind to His kingly office. He was a predestinated Ruler, and, should He fail to be a King, He would fail to accomplish the great end of His incarnation.

CHRIST AS GOD AN EVERLASTING KING

Jesus Christ is King by nature being God. **"The LORD is King for ever and ever"** (Ps. 10:16). **". . . the LORD sitteth King for ever"** (Ps. 29:10). **". . . he is a great King over all the earth"** (Ps. 47:2). **"For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods"** (Ps. 95:3). **"The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all"** (Ps. 103:19). **"But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king. . ."** (Jer. 10:10). Christ, as well as the Father and the Holy Spirit, reigns supreme. The kingdom of nature and providence belong to Christ because He is God. This is essential to His eternal power and Godhead.

As the Creator He has the right to rule over all His creatures (John 1:1-3). His dominion is universal and from everlasting. It reaches to all creatures visible and invisible, to all in Heaven, earth, and Hell. It takes in good and bad angels as well as good and bad men. The very kings of earth reign by Him and are accountable to Him as God. **"Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee"** (Jer. 10:7). **". . . for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all"** (I Chron. 29:11).

A KING BY DIVINE DECREE

As I have shown, Christ as God is an everlasting King (Heb. 1:8). But as the Mediator of the covenant the Father invested Him with a kingly office before the morning of time. In Psalm 2:6-7 it is written: **"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare**

the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son: this day have I begotten thee." From eternity past the Father purposed to anoint Christ as King upon the southern hill of Jerusalem in spite of all human opposition (Ps. 2:1-4; Matt. 23:13). Because He purposed to do it, He speaks of it as already done. The Father called Christ **"my king,"** meaning that the Father decreed His appointment to be the King of Zion. The kingship of Christ is founded upon an eternal decree of God the Father, and Christ exercised His kingly office according to the decree and commandment of His Father.

Our Lord spoke about this kingdom as something appointed Him: **"And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me"** (Luke 22:29). This was the kingdom covenanted to Him from eternity. This is His mediatorial kingdom which includes the kingdom of grace and the Millennial Kingdom to come. In the sense that this kingdom is founded upon an eternal decree of the Father, it is called **"the kingdom prepared. . . from the foundation of the world"** (Matt. 25:34).

CHRIST, THE KING OF ISRAEL

As God and the Mediator Christ was the supreme ruler over Israel during the theocracy and even during the times of the kings of Judah and Israel: **"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king: he will save us"** (Isa. 33:22). The whole nation of Israel was unto Christ **"a kingdom of priests"** (Ex. 19:6). Whenever a prophet wanted to get the attention of the people, he would cry: **"Thus said the Lord the King of Israel. . ."** (Isa. 44:6). The psalmist often spoke of his Redeemer and Savior as His King: **"Thou art my king, O God"** (Ps. 44:4). **"For God is my King of old. . ."** (Ps. 74:12); cf. Ps. 84:3; 98:6).

As the supreme King of Israel Christ was responsible to protect and defend Israel as a nation: **"For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king"** (Ps. 89:18). As subjects of the great King they were to be His willing and obedient servants. They were responsible to yield their allegiance to Him.

THE FIRST COMING OF THE KING

The Old Testament prophecies made it clear that the Messiah would be the King of Israel. Melchizedek, the king of Salem (Gen. 14:18), was a type of Christ. The Messiah was predicted to be the Scepter-Bearer, or the anointed King, to rise out of Israel in the prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17). David was told that the Messiah would be from his family and rule upon his throne (II Sam. 7:12-13; Ps. 89:4, 29, 36-37, Jer. 33:17, 20-21). Isaiah spoke of Him as **"the Prince of peace"** Who would have the government upon His shoulders (Isa. 9:6-7). The Prophet Micah foretold that He would be born at Bethlehem Ephratah and that He would **"be ruler in Israel"** (Micah 5:2). The

Prophet Zechariah predicted the King would come into Jerusalem, riding upon a donkey (Zech. 9:9).

The angel Gabriel announced that Christ would be a King at His birth: **". . . and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end"** (Luke 1:32-33). His words show Christ as the King promised to David Who would rule over an everlasting kingdom. This prophecy demands that Christ yet be a King and rule over a regathered and regenerated house of Jacob.

Jesus Christ was born a King: **"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him"** (Matt. 2:1-3). These Magi did not hesitate to speak of Him being the King of the Jews. These men knew that a great King had been born.

Christ's disciples called Him the King: **"Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel"** (John 1:49). These words can mean no less than that Nathanael believed Jesus to be the promised King of Israel. The Lord never refused the title **"King of Israel,"** although He did not at that time take to Himself His great power and reign in the sense that He will in His latter-day glory. We see Nathanael here as a faithful subject who salutes his King.

At the triumphal entry into Jerusalem Jesus was publicly acknowledged as King: **"And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen. Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord; peace in heaven, and glory in the highest"** (Luke 19:37-38). When the multitude styled Jesus as King, they distinctly recognized Him to be the Messiah, the anointed King of Israel (Ps. 118:26).

Christ was publicly charged with making Himself a King: **"And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King"** (Luke 23:2). Before Pilate He freely confessed that He was the King of Israel (John 18:33-37). The Roman soldiers mocked Him as a King: **"And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews!"** (John 19:2-3; cf. Matt. 27:29).

THE KING IS MURDERED

Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified as

a King: **"And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. . . . And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. . . . Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written"** (John 19:14-22). While He hung upon the cross the leaders of His nation said: **"He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the king of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him"** (Matt. 27:42).

Instead of the nation of Israel repenting and receiving their King, they conspired through their representative men to murder their King! By this action they said: **"We will not have this man to reign over us"** (Luke 19:14). By wicked hands they crucified and slayed Him (Acts 2:23; I Cor. 2:8). By such cruel conduct they demonstrated how utterly unprepared morally and spiritually they were for a restored Davidic kingdom under the Messiah. They chose Caesar instead of Jesus their true and rightful King (John 11:47-48; Luke 23:2-3). Because of this the kingdom was for a time taken from them (Matt. 21:43). The kingdom will be restored to them (Acts 1:6-7) when the King returns and the whole nation repents (Deut. 30:1-10).

The kingdom was offered to Israel in the person of the King (Matt. 4:17; 12:28; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 11:20; 16:16; Rom. 15:8). To bring Israel to repentance God sent John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-2) and Christ to preach repentance to them (Mark 1:15; Luke 4:43). Christ sent the twelve apostles to Israel (Matt. 10:1-7) and the seventy missionaries (Luke 10:1-10). Nevertheless, Israel refused His reign and the children of the kingdom were cast out (Matt. 8:12).

In His early ministry Christ preached that the kingdom was nigh, but toward the end of His ministry He preached it was not nigh. **"And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return"** (Luke 19:11-12). This nobleman is Christ Who has gone to Heaven to receive the kingdom from His Father. The setting up of the kingdom awaits the return of the King. Jesus went on to say of this nobleman: **"And it came to pass, that**

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when he was returned, having received the kingdom. . . (Luke 19:15). In Luke 21:24-28 our Lord announced signs of His second coming, adding: **“So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is now nigh at hand”** (Luke 21:31).

THE KINGDOM OF GRACE

Some of the Israelites did receive Christ as King, and they became His willing subjects. This is the kingdom in its mystery form which is to grow until the return of the King and the establishment of His glorious Millennial Kingdom (Matt. 13:1-50). Christ as the mediator of the covenant rules in the kingdom of grace in the hearts of His subjects. Christ did establish a spiritual kingdom on earth at His first advent. He said: **“The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you”** (Luke 17:20-21). His spiritual rule was established in the hearts of all who received Him as their King. This rule did not come in a way the Pharisees could observe it. This kingdom was already among them. The King was in their midst and so were His subjects. This kingdom is inward, or spiritual (Rom. 14:17; I Cor. 15:50).

The kingdom of grace is entered by the new birth: **“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”** (John 3:5). By the regenerating of the Holy Spirit and the imparting of a new nature we become Christ's willing subjects. True conversion and a child-like attitude are required to enter this spiritual reign of Christ: **“Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven”** (Matt. 18:3). All of the born again, all truly converted persons are already citizens of the kingdom of Heaven (Eph. 2:19; Phil 3:20). Such persons entered the kingdom in the days of Christ (Matt. 21:31; Luke 16:16).

Paul wrote to the Colossians: **“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”** (Col. 1:12-13). The born again have already entered into the kingdom of God's dear Son--the spiritual kingdom of grace! In this sense Christ is already the **“King of saints”** (Rev. 15:3).

The writer of Hebrews said: **“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom, which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”** (Heb. 12:28). Christ has already

established His kingship over all believers who are the subjects of the kingdom of grace. Though He sits personally upon His Father's throne in Heaven, yet He rules in believers by His Spirit and Word. They have received the law of His Kingdom and submitted to its authority (Rom. 6:17; 7:22). They already enjoy its privileges of righteousness, peace, and joy (Rom. 7:22). They are already unto God kings and priests (Rev. 1:6; 5:9-10). This is why we must be obedient to our King (Acts 17:7).

CHRIST TO BE KING OVER ALL THE EARTH

God did not lie to Israel about the glorious kingdom which would be ruled by the Messiah from Jerusalem. The kingdom promised to Israel was not the kingdom of grace, but the Millennial Kingdom, the Davidic Kingdom! The angel Gabriel did not lie to Mary concerning her Son being a King over the house of Jacob. The eternal purpose of God to anoint Christ upon the southern hill of Jerusalem shall not be defeated by rebellious men. When Christ returns to His earth He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 17:14; 19:16). The Apostle said: **“That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords”** (I Tim. 6:14-15).

Christ is destined to return from Heaven, having received the kingdom (Luke 19:12, 15). He is to receive the kingdom from His Father up in Heaven. Daniel foretold the inauguration of Jesus Christ as King in Heaven during the coming tribulation: **“I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed”** (Dan. 7:13-14). At this point Christ will take His great power and reign (Rev. 11:15-17). He will take His universal kingly office because it was promised Him upon His request (Ps. 2:8) and because it is His by an eternal decree.

Christ will not sit upon the throne of His glory until He returns to earth in glory: **“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, . . . then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory”** (Matt. 25:31). When Christ takes His seat upon His earthly Father's throne **“a king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth”** (Jer. 23:5). **“At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD”** (Jer. 3:17). **“Then the moon shall be**

confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously” (Isa. 24:23). The Prophet Zechariah tells us: **“. . . and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. . . And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one”** (Zech. 14:5, 9). In that day the whole world will acknowledge Christ's kingship (Phil. 2:9-11) and be His subjects (Dan. 7:27).

BRING BACK THE KING

During the reign of David he was rejected as the king of Israel. Absalom had obtained the kingdom by flatteries (II Sam. 15:1-6) and had promised them peace but delivered war. The situation got so bad until the elders of Israel started a “bring-back-the-king” movement and it took fire and spread (II Sam. 19:10-14). So the king returned with his servants (II Sam. 19:14), and he forgave his enemies (II Sam. 19:16-23) and established his kingdom. The men of Judah were the last to desire to bring back the king to Jerusalem (II Sam. 19:11), but when he returned they welcomed him back to his capital (II Sam. 19:15).

What a picture of present day conditions and the future that awaits this world! Our King is now rejected and by the world disowned. Strife, war, and terrorism is on every hand. Antichrist is soon to take the world by flatteries (Dan. 11:21) and bring wars upon wars (I Thess. 5:3; Rev. 6:1-4). O how we need the rightful King to come back!

As of old, the men of Judah, Christ's brethren according to the flesh, are the least desirous of His return. Too long we have borne the bitterness and fruits of the rejection of King Jesus. Too long we have looked to earthly Asboloms to bring peace and prosperity. O let us bring back the King!

I personally do not believe that it will be too long before the King will come back with His servants caught out at the Rapture (I Thess. 4:14; Zech. 14:5). A penitent nation of Israel shall mournfully receive their long-rejected King (Rom. 11:25-29). King Jesus will forgive those who have been His former enemies (Zech. 12:9-13; 1, 6). O glorious day! When Christ shall be King over all the earth!

CROWN HIM KING

Men are so depraved that they all want King Caesar, and want King Jesus crucified (John 19:14-16). The world is no different today than it was nearly two-thousand years ago. Christ should be on the throne of our heart and self on the cross. But many have it in the reverse order! You need to be a willing subject to King Jesus. You should “Bring forth the royal diadem. . . And crown Him Lord of All.” If He is your King, you will exalt Him as the unqualified Ruler of your life and “Hail Him as thy matchless King, thro' all eternity.” If you have never crowned Him as King of your life, why not say now: “King of my life. . . I crown Thee now. . . Thine shall the glory be.”



THE

BIBLE 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.

MONTANA JUDGE CONSIDERS LEGALIZING ASSISTED SUICIDE

(EP News)--A district judge in Helena, Mont., is considering whether to allow doctors in the state to prescribe lethal doses of medication to terminally ill patients. A lawsuit brought by a terminally ill Billings man, four Missoula doctors and a nonprofit group argues that mentally competent, terminally ill Montanans should be able to kill themselves, with help from their doctors. Montana Assistant Attorney General Anthony Johnston disagreed. “The laws governing the medical profession say the medical profession is to heal, not to kill,” he told Montana's CBS affiliate. Wesley J. Smith, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and an attorney for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, said the culture has become obsessed with death. “Hopefully, the court will understand that

it is a proper purpose of the state to protect everyone from self-destruction,” he wrote on his blog.

OKLAHOMA ULTRASOUND LAW PUT ON HOLD

(EP News)--An Oklahoma law that requires a woman to undergo an ultrasound and receive a description of her baby before aborting it has been blocked by court order just days before its scheduled implementation. The Center for Reproductive Rights sued in October, claiming the bill violates a woman's privacy, endangers health and assaults dignity. The center, which aborts about 200 preborn babies a month, also claims the law would put it out of business. The bill's sponsor, Republican Sen. Todd Lamb, told The Associated Press: “If any abortion clinic shut down, my hope would be that they shut

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down through a lack of demand." The law will remain on hold until March 27.

JUDGE THROWS OUT LAWSUIT AGAINST GOD

(EP News)--A Nebraska judge has dropped a lawsuit against God because there is no way to properly serve Him legal papers. State Sen. Ernie Chambers sued God last year for causing "calamitous catastrophes resulting in the wide-spread death, destruction and terrorization of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants." Chambers said he may appeal. "Since God knows everything, God has notice of this lawsuit," he told The Associated Press. Chambers said he filed the lawsuit to make a point about frivolous lawsuits.

ADF SUES PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL AFTER IT BANS CHRISTIAN FLIERS

(EP News)--The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) has sued a Pennsylvania school district after it refused to allow the distribution of Christian fliers. Haverford Township school officials prohibited Child Evangelical Fellowship from passing out fliers because of their religious nature. However, the school district allows fliers from other groups. "Christian groups shouldn't be discriminated against for their beliefs," ADF Senior Counsel David Cortman said. "The courts have repeatedly ruled that government schools cannot treat people with non-religious viewpoints more favorably than people with religious viewpoints."

FOOTBALL COACH ASKS U.S. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR PRAYER CASE

(EP News)--A New Jersey high school football coach is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review his case after the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled he cannot kneel or bow his head during team prayer. "The Supreme Court needs to hear this case because it is a matter of national importance, not only for public school coaches but for public school teachers and administrators," Ronald J. Riccio, the former dean of Seton Hall University Law School, told MyCentralJersey.com. Riccio, who is representing Marcus Borden pro bono, is joined in his petition by some of the country's largest and most prestigious law firms, including Sidley Austin LLP, which at one time employed Sen. Barack and Michelle Obama. The American Football Coaches Association, with more than 10,000 members nationwide, is expected to file its own petition in support of Borden. The group estimates more than 50 percent of coaches nationwide engage in team prayer.

SAME-SEX COUPLES 'MARRY' IN CONNECTICUT

(EP News)--Homosexual couples began getting "married" in Connecticut today, after the state Supreme Court struck down

the marriage law Oct. 10. Connecticut joins Massachusetts in court-ordered same-sex "marriage." A constitutional amendment approved by California voters put an end to the practice in that state. The Family Institute of Connecticut called the high court's decision undemocratic. "Unlike California, we did not have a remedy," said Peter Wolfgang, the group's executive director. "It must be overturned with patience, determination and fortitude." Gay activists reportedly are turning their efforts to five other Northeastern states: New York, Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Gay "marriage" legislation already has been introduced in all five states.

REPORT CALLS U.S. CHURCH GIVING 'LUKEWARM'

(EP News)--The annual report, by the Illinois-based group empty tomb inc., said there has been a general "downward trend" in church member giving through 2006. The study's authors are calling for a "global triage" to treat the church. "It's difficult to avoid the label of 'lukewarm' when analyzing the church's level of response to Jesus' Great Commandment and Great Commission," said John Ronsvalle, who co-authored the study with his wife, Sylvia. "The total portion of per capita income given to churches in 2006 was lower (in 2006) than in the worst year of the Great Depression," the authors found. The report estimates that for only \$26 a year per evangelical, U.S. evangelicals as a whole could fund \$544 million in efforts through evangelical-affiliated denominations and other missions agencies.

Rev 3:16

"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:16)

CIRCUIT COURT SAYS 'JESUS' CAN BE PART OF PUBLIC PRAYERS

(EP News)--The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta has ruled that praying in the name of Jesus or other religious leaders is permitted at government meetings. Taxpayers in Cobb County had complained that their county commission and planning commission opened meetings with prayers assigned among local religious leaders on a rotating basis.

GINSBURG CRITICIZES ROE V. WADE ABORTION RULING

(EP News)--While conservatives worry about the kind of Supreme Court justices a President Obama might appoint, new questions about the rightness of the high court's abortion rulings have arisen from within. In remarks in October at Princeton University, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was highly critical of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which effectively allowed abortion on demand nationwide. She suggested the court had gone too far and that a more incremental decision "would have been an opportunity for a dialogue with the state legislators" and a chance for states to take the lead on the issue.

Ginsburg also lamented the "rallying point" it provided for launching the pro-life movement. "I never questioned the judgment that it has to be a woman's choice, but the court should not have done it all," she said.

POLL: U.S. IS BLESSED

(EP News)--Six in 10 Americans think the U.S. is "blessed" by God, but 79 percent think the country sometimes does more harm than good when it relates to the rest of the world. These are the results of a study by the television program "Religion & Ethics News Weekly" and the United Nations Foundation. Among other findings: 68 percent of people who attend services at least weekly said the country has a moral obligation to take part in world affairs, compared with 54 percent of less frequent attenders, and 67 percent of those with strong beliefs about God's unique blessing on America said the U.S. has a moral obligation to be a leader in world affairs, as did 72 percent of those who thought the U.S. should set a Christian example.

ADF SUES OVER PLANNED PARENTHOOD CONTRACTS

(EP News)--The Alliance Defense Fund is asking a Colorado court to cancel \$18 million in state contracts awarded over the past year to a Planned Parenthood affiliate and a Boulder abortionist in violation of a state constitutional amendment that forbids taxpayer-funded abortion. The lawsuit says the five contracts — awarded to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains Services Corp. and the Boulder Valley Women's Health Center — unconstitutionally used taxpayer funds to subsidize abortion.

EXIT POLL SHOWS MOST U.S. JEWS, HALF OF CHRISTIANS VOTED FOR OBAMA

(EP News)--Preliminary exit polling has shown that 78 percent of American Jews cast their ballots for winning Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama in Tuesday's national elections, while Republican challenger Sen. John McCain received only 22 percent of the Jewish vote. The margin was slightly higher than Democrat John Kerry secured over George Bush in the 2004 race for the White House (74 to 26 percent). This year, the traditional American Jewish voting pattern of supporting Democrats stands in stark contrast to Jews living in Israel, where several recent polls indicated Israelis preferred McCain by a 20-point margin. Meanwhile, the number of voters who identified themselves as Christians in an MSNBC exit poll totaled 81 percent, with 45 percent of Protestants and other Christians and 54 percent of Catholics saying they voted for Obama.

TWO NORTH CAROLINA MEN ARRESTED FOR SHARING THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST

(EP News)--Two brothers, Jesse and Matthew Boyd, were arrested in Hickory, N.C., for sharing their faith on a public street during the Jaycees' "Hickory Alive" event. "It

is truly a sad day in America, the supposed 'Land of the Free,' wrote Jesse Boyd, 32, president of Full Proof Gospel Ministries shortly after being charged with second-degree trespassing for "distributing Gospel tracts freely at a free public access event on the town square in Hickory." The Christian Law Association of Seminole, Fla., is representing the Boyds and Gibbs Law Firm, general counsel for CLA, issued a letter to the City of Hickory, the Hickory Police Department and the Hickory Jaycees asking that charges be dismissed and that the organizations not interfere with the Boyds' First Amendment right to distribute religious literature at future events in Hickory. Hickory Police Chief Tom Adkins said that his department has launched an administrative investigation to gather "all the facts and circumstances of the incident."

MICHIGAN GETS FIRST FEMALE MUSLIM LEGISLATOR

(EP News)--Michigan is getting its first female Muslim legislator, thanks in large part to her Jewish boss, the incumbent. Rashida Tlaib, a lawyer, community activist and daughter of Palestinian immigrants, easily won a House seat in the Nov. 4 general election after emerging from an eight-way Democratic primary with 44 percent of the vote in August. Tlaib, 32, said she wouldn't have run but for the repeated urging of Democratic state Rep. Steve Tobocman, who is stepping down because of term limits. Once she decided to run, she threw herself into it, knocking on 8,000 doors and hitting each household twice. Southeastern Michigan has about 300,000 people with roots in the Arab world, but few of them live in Tlaib's largely black and Hispanic district in southwest Detroit. "We view her victory as a sign that Michigan Muslims are welcomed as a part of our state's multi-faith and multiethnic society," said Dawud Walid, Michigan director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

MARRIAGE AMENDMENTS PASS IN CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, ARIZONA

(EP News)--On election day, Florida, Arizona, and California became the 28th, 29th, and 30th states to amend their constitutions to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. These battles were not without significant financial costs. At least \$50 million was spent in California alone by both sides in the fight. In California, Proposition 8 will reverse the state's Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex "marriage" earlier this year. "We know God has gone before us," said Ron Prentice, executive director of the California Family Council. "Tens of thousands of people were praying over the weekend ... praying and fasting for 40 days to give victory to California and protect marriage." James Tonkovich, of the Institute for Religion and Democracy, told EP News that "Tuesday's vote reveals the broad support for protecting marriage among the American people."

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Bible & Newspaper

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PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S CHRISTMAS WISH LIST FOR OBAMA INCLUDES FORCED ABORTIONS

(EP News)--In its first email to supporters following pro-abortion presidential candidate Barack Obama's victory, Planned Parenthood announced its Christmas wish list for an Obama administration. Included in the list is a request for funding for a UN agency involved in forced abortions in China. "People around here are finally exhaling, after eight long years," Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards told donors in the email. "Just think, the massive amount of time, energy, and resources that the Planned Parenthood community had to spend shielding women and teens from the harm caused by the Bush administration

can now be directed to expanding women's access to [abortion]," she added. Richards also thanked her supporters for their hard work to also defeat pro-life ballot measures in California, Colorado and South Dakota.

ADF SUES UNIVERSITY OVER RESTRICTIVE SPEECH POLICY

(EP News)--The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) sued Southeastern Louisiana University on Nov. 4 after officials told a Christian man he couldn't share his faith on campus without a permit. Campus police told Jeremy Sonnier he must have a permit in order to speak at a campus location where outside speakers typically are allowed to speak. The permit application must be filed seven days prior to the event and grants speakers a two-hour block every seven days. "Christians shouldn't be discriminated against for expressing their beliefs on public university campuses," said ADF Senior Counsel Nate Kellum.



Grace Abounding to the Chiefest of Sinners

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (I Tim. 1:15).

The Divine Spirit demonstrates the art of condensation in this text. The sum and substance of the whole gospel is here in a nutshell. Before us in this single verse is one precious drop of essence, distilled from gardens full of fragrant flowers. The true depth of this wonderful text has never been exhausted. It is an ever-gushing fountain of the pure waters of Heaven.

I urge you to listen closely as I speak to you from this great, glorious, gracious text. This one verse has been used by the Spirit to bring many to the Savior. It is my prayer that God the Holy Spirit will use it to bring salvation to some poor, struggling, judgment-bound soul who lingers on this side of eternity.

THE PROVERB---"THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING"

There are five of these sayings in the pastoral epistles of Paul (I Tim. 3:1; II Tim. 2:11; Titus 3:8). Each of them preceded an important truth. **"This is a faithful saying"** speaks of the certainty and worth of what is about to be said. What Paul is about to utter is one of the "true sayings of God," a thing most surely believed by all true Christians. It was something Paul believed with all his heart. If he were uncertain of it himself, how could he expect others to believe it?

This proverb is worthy of credit because God Who says it is always

faithful to His Word. There is not one bit of error in the statement of Paul. It was a certainty never to be doubted or disputed. The apostle was fully persuaded of its truthfulness because it was attested by miracles. It had proved its power upon his own heart on the Damascus road. This saying was an everyday truth to the apostle to the Gentiles.

The word **"faithful"** here reveals that the gospel of grace displays the faithfulness of God in His nature and attributes. It reveals how Christ was faithful in fulfilling His covenant engagements with the Father. The gospel demonstrates the faithfulness of Christ in keeping the law and making it honorable. In it we see the faithfulness of God's Word in His fulfilling His promise of a Savior. Throughout the world faithful ministers preach this faithful saying faithfully.

THE PROPOSAL---"WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTATION"

This faithful saying commands our attention. It is good news, worthy of being received by all sorts of persons; yet not too good to be true, for it is a true saying. The gospel of Christ is worthy of being welcomed by all men and by the whole of each man. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. Those who hear it must believe it to be the very truth. They must appropriate it to themselves. This must be done for it is worthy of all acceptance.

The gospel of Christ is worthy of being received by the understanding to which it brings truth. It is deserving of reception by the will to which it brings the freedom of submission. It ought to be received by the affections to which it brings perfect

love. Thank God for the gospel of His saving grace! For hope it brings a certainty to gaze upon. For passions it gives a curb; for effort a spur and a power. The gospel of Jesus Christ gives desires satisfaction and the whole man healing and light.

Men are unworthy of the blessings of the gospel, but the gospel is worthy of the acceptance of all men. Not all men will accept it, for millions die in unbelief. The important question is: Have you accepted the Christ of the gospel? Are there any reasons why you should not receive the saving message? Are there any reasons why you have not? II Corinthians 6:2 says: **"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."** To reject the Christ of the gospel is an awful sin. Jesus Christ said: **"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"** (John 12:48).

THE PERSON---"CHRIST JESUS"

Let us meditate on the double name of the Savior. The word **"Christ"** means "anointed of God." The One here referred to is no mere man. He is the One the angel Gabriel called **"the Son of the Highest"** and **"the Son of God"** (Luke 1:32, 35). This is none other than **"Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us"** (Matt. 1:23). In this name we are to see the Wonderful Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of Eternity, and the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6). This is Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8), the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:22), the Beginning of the Creation of God (Rev. 3:14). He is the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley (S. of S. 2:1), the Chiefest among ten thousand (S. of S. 5:10), the One Who is altogether lovely (S. of S. 5:16). He is the Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), the Star out of Israel (Num. 24:17), the Day-Spring from on High (Luke 1:78), the Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4:2).

The first part of the double name speaks of Christ as the pre-incarnate Son of God. It suggests His Divine appointment and preparation in the Covenant of Grace before the world was. It declares Christ to be the One to Whom prophets and ritual witnessed, the One men looked for wearily through the ages. The One Who was equal with God, was with God, was in the form of God, and was God from eternity past.

Now look at the second part of His name. It is **"Jesus."** This means savior or deliverer. This name tells us of the child born in Bethlehem as the Son of man. In the name **"Christ"** we see a Son given, and in the name **"Jesus"** a child born (Isa. 9:6). Our Lord was commonly called **"Jesus of Nazareth."** In Luke 2:11 the angel of the Lord said to the shepherds abiding in the fields: **"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."** This verse shows how fitting the name of Jesus is since He came to be our Saviour. We

read again in Matthew 1:21: **"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins."**

Men need to hear about Jesus Christ the Saviour of sinners. Tell them not of politicians, physicians, preachers, priests, popes, professors, and potentates. Tell them of Christ and Him crucified. Oh, that we could realize the need of doing this more each day of our life.

One of the last visitors to the great missionary, William Carey, was Elder Alexander Duff, who talked with him of his past life, and then knelt down and prayed by his bedside. Leaving the room Bro. Duff thought he heard himself recalled. He turned back, and the dying man addressed him in a whisper, "Mr. Duff, you have been talking about Doctor Carey, Doctor Carey; when I am gone, say nothing about Doctor Carey---speak about Doctor Carey's Saviour."

THE PLACE---"CAME INTO THE WORLD"

The expression, **"came into the world,"** implies His pre-existence with the Father. Indeed if **"Christ Jesus came into the world,"** then He existed before He came into human history. His own will impelled His feet and brought Him to earth. While on earth He testified: **"I proceeded forth and came from God"** (John 8:42; 16:27; 17:8, 25). He was the Son of man which came down from Heaven (John 3:13).

I preach that God incarnate came to this planet. Christ left the bosom of the Father to come to the bosom of a woman. He left the fellowship of saints to come to the filth of sinners. He forsook the adoration of the elect angels to come to the antagonism of the evil angels. He departed from the celestial city to come to a terrestrial city. He cast off the form of God that He might be made in the form of a man.

The Saviour came to mix and mingle with sinners. The Creator came among His creatures. The world He came to was not only the enemy of God, but it was enmity against God. Christ left a life of glory and took upon Himself manhood in order to deliver His people from danger, disease, and death. Such condescension is beyond our comprehension. It was the love and tender mercy of the Father which sent Christ to be the Saviour of His elect, not the goodness of men.

Christ Jesus came into the world by His lowly birth as a man. Philippians 2:7-8 reveals that He **"took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."** Romans 1:3 declares that He **"was made of the seed of David according to the flesh."** Galatians 4:4 informs us: **"But when the fulness of time was come, God**

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Grace Abounding

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sent forth his Son, made of a woman." Hebrews 2:14 declares: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same." Then verse 17 of this same chapter says: "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren."

Jesus Christ came as the Son of man to mingle with the sons of men. He went with the masses during His earthly ministry, and His delights were with the sons of men. Of Him John said: "Which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life" (I John 1:1). Peter declared: "We were eye witnesses of his majesty." Yes, the Christ of God lived among men about thirty-three years.

Christ came into the world as the eternal Word. He is the Revealer of the Godhead. Only a Being Who is God could come forth from the bosom of the Father to interpret and to reveal the hidden Godhead. In the Bible we read of "Christ, who is the image of God" (II Cor. 4:4). He is also called "the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15) and "the express image of his person" (Heb. 1:3). In the coming of Christ into the world the essence of God is made clear; in Christ the revelation of God's character is seen.

What if Christ had not come into the world? We would have never known the real character of God. All the promises given by God of a coming Saviour would have been broken. Then, worst of all, the world would still be looking in vain for a Saviour, and you and I would be "without hope and without God in the world."

THE PURPOSE---"TO SAVE"

The Redeemer came into the world, being sent of the Father, but not against His will. He came voluntarily in the fulness of time to this sin-cursed earth to be ill-treated by His own nation. He came not on a sight-seeing trip. He came to save all sorts of sinners. He came to make an atonement for His people. He Himself said: "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). He came to lay down His life for the sheep (John 10:11, 17).

Christ repeatedly called attention to His mission into the world. He said in Luke 5:32: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Then in chapter 9, verse 56, He declared: "For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." In chapter 19, verse 10, He remarked: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." In John's Gospel, chapter 12, verse 47, He said: "I

came not to judge the world, but to save the world." He again said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

The Father sent His Son to save those He had chosen to grace and glory. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17). "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal. 4:4-5). The Apostle John wrote: "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (I John 4:14).

Some miss the mark in regard to the mission of Christ into the world. They say that He came to be our example, to show us how to obey the law and to be saved. This false idea did not originate in Heaven, but in Hell. The Holy Spirit never put such a dogma in the minds of men. This erroneous notion was hatched up in Hell, and it is preached by "the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:18).

He Who preached the greatest sermon ever delivered, did not come into the world primarily to preach. He Who gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and speech to the dumb did not come primarily to heal. He Who exercised power over death, disease, and demons did not come into the world just to demonstrate His power to frail man. He Whose lofty ideals and principles radiated from a sinless heart and a flawless character did not come into the world only to establish an example for conduct. He Who organized His church and decreed that the gates of Hades should never overcome it did not just come into the world to organize an institution which would have perpetual existence. He Whose fidelity in life and courage in death will forever be incomparable did not come into the world merely to teach men to live honestly and to die bravely. These attributes, however commendable and worthy, are insufficient to tell the motive which moved Him from realms celestial to regions terrestrial.

In the life of Jesus Christ there was one momentous accomplishment that surmounts all others. What is it? Spirit-prompted, Heaven-sent, faithfully recorded, the text says: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

As a preacher Christ excelled; as a teacher He predominated; as a philosopher He was unequaled; as a man He was unsurpassed. Yet His prime glory lies in none of these virtues. We dare not minimize the effects of His code of ethics in elevating society. We dare not slight His ability to inspire us to planes of holy principles and hallowed conduct. We dare not belittle His philosophy of love toward God and fellow man that would

give us a blessed world to live in. We dare not ignore the perfect pattern of His life, exciting men to strive for all that is noble and good. But more important than all these is His coming to bear our sins that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Cor. 5:21).

How wonderful is the expression that Christ came to save. It implies that the gospel I preach brings effectual deliverance. He came to save sinners, not try to save them. Not to half save them. Not to make them savable. Not to help them save themselves. Not to save them because they kept the law. But to save them wholly and effectually from their sins by His atoning blood. He will not fail in the saving of so much as one soul which was given to Him in the Covenant of Redemption.

THE PEOPLE---"SINNERS"

The Son of God was called the "friend of . . . sinners" (Matt. 11:19). He came to save and help those who could not save and help themselves. Jesus Christ witnessed to sinners, ate with them, healed them, slept with them, taught them, prayed for them, and died for them. As the Head of the church, He has commissioned His churches to preach the gospel of peace to lost sinners. He is in Heaven at the right hand of God pleading for sinners.

Paul went on to say "of whom I am chief." What a statement! This is the man who said "touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless" (Phil. 3:6). Now he says he is the chiefest of sinners. Paul in his unconverted state was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious person. He breathed out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord. By receiving the gospel of grace Paul has become the chiefest of pardoned sinners. The chiefest of sinners was made to become the chiefest of saints, for Paul was not a whit behind the chiefest of the apostles (II Cor. 11:5).

CONCLUSION

Our text teaches the evil of sin. The proof of the fatal effect of sin is seen in what God had to do to stop it. The wound of the fall in Adam was not a small, superficial cut, for it took the pierced hand and bruised head of Jesus Christ to heal it. Measure the intensity of the danger of sin by the cost of deliverance. Judge how grave are the wounds for healing of which stripes had to be laid on Him! The Saviour died for our sins so sin would not destroy us.

Like the Apostle Paul, I can say Christ saved a Hell-deserving sinner like me. Millions of others in ages past and living at present would gladly join chorus with Paul. My experience cannot be your certitude. But if you are suffering from the same disease that I once had--the disease of sin, then let me tell you of the cure that I experienced. Jesus Christ can and does save sinners. He saved me. He can save you!

There has never been one who claimed Christ as Saviour and was disappointed. No one has ever called the gospel a sham who really believed it with all his heart. There is no one who can say, "I asked Christ to forgive me and He has not. I asked Him to cleanse me and He has not." This can never be for Christ says: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Perhaps you are saying, "I know all this is true, but I can do nothing." Yes, I know, you think that there is a missing link. The gospel does ask sinners to do what they cannot do. Our Lord's words are emphatically true: "Without me ye can do nothing." Yet again the Bible says: "For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Believe this until it perfumes all your thoughts and makes you rejoice even though you are without strength, seeing the Lord Jesus has become your strength and your salvation. If you will believe this truth, your faith will save you and you can go in peace.

Will you not believe a saying so sure? Will you not accept a truth so gladso? Will you not come to a Saviour so suitable? Remember that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If you are a sinner, be assured that Christ came to save you.



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Beginning Balance\$8,881.49

| | |
|---|-------------|
| RECEIPTS: | |
| Amazing Grae B. C. , Stockdale, TX..... | 10.00 |
| B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL..... | 20.07 |
| Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS | 200.00 |
| Berea B. C., Stonington, IL..... | 60.00 |
| Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN | 150.00 |
| Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX..... | 100.00 |
| Bible Believer's B. C., Naples, ID | 100.00 |
| Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV | 300.00 |
| Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY..... | 150.00 |
| Buffalo Valley B. C., Clay, WV | 50.00 |
| Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL..... | 25.00 |
| Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR..... | 25.00 |
| Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME | 20.00 |
| Grace B. C., Corbin, KY..... | 100.00 |
| Grace B. C., Marion, IL..... | 50.00 |
| Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC | 50.00 |
| Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK..... | 35.00 |
| Indore B. C., Indore, WV | 200.00 |
| Joseph Jurzek, Richmond, IL | 50.00 |
| L. H. Farrell, Des Allemands, LA..... | 120.00 |
| Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM..... | 100.00 |
| Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH..... | 100.00 |
| New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN | 50.00 |
| Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA..... | 40.00 |
| Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL..... | 100.00 |
| South Park M.B.C., Seattle, WA | 25.00 |
| Southside B. C., Fulton, MS | 50.00 |
| Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS | 50.00 |
| Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL..... | 100.00 |
| Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC..... | 100.00 |
| Victory B. C., Courtland, VA | 25.00 |
| Walnut Creek B. C., Grove City, OH | 50.00 |
| Wayne Huffman, McNeil, AR..... | 160.00 |
| Subscriptions | 231.00 |
| Anon..... | 205.00 |
| Dividing checks | 150.00 |
| Sub Total | \$3,351.07 |
| TOTAL..... | \$12,232.56 |

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|--------------------------|------------|
| EXPENDITURES: | |
| Printing..... | 581.71 |
| Postage | 761.29 |
| Wages | 2,000.00 |
| FICA | 182.76 |
| Supplies | 104.92 |
| Dividing checks..... | 150.00 |
| Total Expenditures | 3,780.68 |
| ENDING BALANCE | \$8,451.88 |

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 10-1-2008 to 10-31-2008

Beginning Balance\$12,839.82

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| RECEIPTS: | |
| Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS | 225.00 |
| Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN | 50.00 |
| Grace B. C., Corbin, KY..... | 100.00 |
| Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY... .. | 100.00 |
| | 475.00 |
| TOTAL | 13,314.82 |

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|--------------------------------|-------------|
| EXPENDITURES: | |
| Radio Time | 560.00 |
| Tape Production..... | 130.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 690.00 |
| | \$12,624.82 |
| Check #0617 never cleared..... | +200.00 |
| Interest | +2.82 |
| | 12,827.64 |
| Less Corbin, KY des. | -2,010.92 |
| ENDING BALANCE | \$10,816.72 |

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance \$2,170.92

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|------------------|----------|
| RECEIPTS: | |
| | 2,170.92 |

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|----------------------|------------|
| EXPENDITURES: | |
| WCTT | 360.00 |
| ENDING BALANCE | \$2,010.92 |

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| Late Mantilla \$8.00 Colors: Light Blue, Yellow, Black, Cream, White | Cap Mantilla \$2.00 Colors: Yellow, Black, Pink, Cream, White, Black/Gray, Mint Green, Red, Navy, & Black/Silver | Comb Mantilla \$2.50 Colors: Light Blue, Yellow, Black, Pink, Cream, White, Brown, Navy, Mint Green, Red |
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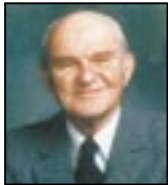
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| Lite Modesty Mantilla \$10.00 Colors: Black, Pink, White, Cream, Royal Blue, Black/Gray, & Black/Silver | Lite Modesty Mantilla (like the Modesty but shorter) Modesty Mantilla | Modesty Mantilla \$12.00 Colors: Light Blue, Yellow, Black, Pink, Cream, Forest Green, White, Royal Blue, Black/Gray, Navy/Black, & Black/Silver |
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| Lace Triangle \$6.00 (Similar to the French Mantilla) Colors: White, Black, Pink, & Cream | Also Available in Smaller Lace Triangle \$4.50 (Similar to the Lace Triangle Hangs to just above the shoulder) Colors: White, Black, Cream, & Pink | Shiny Lace Covering A \$20.00 Colors: Black, or White This is a heavier but soft lace and hangs well. Size: 19 in. x 40 in. |
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WORLD SCENE

By
Capt. G. Russell Evans USCG (Ret.)



Runaway Judges Eroding Your Rights

Recent decisions by high courts across the land have made it crystal clear: unelected, imperious justices are determined to control more and more of our private lives, erase the spiritual heritage on which America was founded and forever redefine us as a nation.

Just a generation ago, it would have been hard to even imagine what is happening now. But, like the frog in a kettle of boiling water, the temperature has been turned up so slowly and with such careful calculations that we hardly noticed. We never realized we were being cooked.

It's been a 46-year struggle that started in 1962 when the U. S. Supreme Court restricted prayer in public schools and hits have just kept on coming. . .

* In 1973, the court found that the so-called "right to personal privacy" includes unrestricted access to abortion.

* In 1985, the court overturned a state law setting aside a moment of silence for voluntary prayer in public schools.

* In 2000, the court overruled a Texas law allowing high school students to pray at athletic events.

* In 2000, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion, because it contains the words "Under God."

* In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the display of the Ten Commandments in a State Court House was unconstitutional and must be removed.

AND THEN, JUST THIS YEAR. . .

In February, California's second District Court of Appeals ruled that it is illegal for parents who do not have teaching credentials to home school their own children. A few months later, the court actually reversed itself!

And so it has gone---one outrage after another---until we finally reached rock bottom. . .

* In May, by a 4-3 ruling, the California Supreme court declared same sex "marriage" legal in that state. The decision blatantly ignores the will of Californians by overturning a popular statewide initiative that clearly defines marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman.

On the heels of that shocking decision, the court then rejected requests to delay the effective date of its ruling, a common practice in highly controversial cases. The

courts action---which made it possible for same-sex unions to begin in June---was unusually, and suspiciously quick. The date of the decision should have been delayed until after the November elections, when California voters will consider a constitutional amendment to reinstate a ban on same-sex "marriage."

It's so obvious what's happening here. California's highest court is bound and determined to thrust its will---the will of four arrogant, unelected judges---on the entire state.

Now you might rightly ask what, if anything, is the legal basis for these decisions? The answer is, absolutely nothing. There's certainly no constitutional rationale. But, understand, it's not about the law. It's about a handful of rogue judges who object to the original intent of the Constitution's framers and want to change laws with which they personally disagree.

Their ultimate goal is to declare unconstitutional anything that could potentially be interpreted as remotely religious, connected with God, or in any way supportive of the Christian faith and traditional values. The favorite weapon of these judges and those who support them is the well-known establishment clause. You know those historic words: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.

Don't be fooled. "The debate is about much more than simply removing God from the public square." Just look at what they've done to us. In 1973, the nation was truly outraged by the Roe vs. Wade decision. Yet despite our intense disagreement with the ruling, Christians agreed to abide by the rule of law and work within the system. Now, 35 years have gone by and more than 45 million babies have been sacrificed on the altar of "choice."

In 2000, the Supreme Court struck down Nebraska's law banning partial-

birth abortion. Thus, full term, healthy babies who would otherwise be delivered kicking and squirming are killed as they come down the birth canal. It wasn't until 2007 that the court finally upheld a federal ban on this carnage.

In 2003, the U.S. Supreme court ruled that homosexuals have the constitutional right to practice sodomy. Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy said we have to look at "Foreign Law." Now our rights are no longer dependent upon a long revered moral foundation, but on legal trends in Europe and Canada.

We were shocked by the audacity of the 2003 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's same-sex "marriage" decision. President George W. Bush found the ruling so troubling that he responded in his State of the union address.

"A strong American must also value the institution of marriage. I believe we should respect individuals as we take a principled stand for one of the most fundamental, enduring institutions of our civilization. . .activist judges, however, have begun redefining marriage by court order, without regard for the will of the people and their elective representative. . .if judges insist on forcing their arbitrary will upon the people, the only alternative left to the people would be the constitutional process. Our nation must defend the sanctity of marriage."

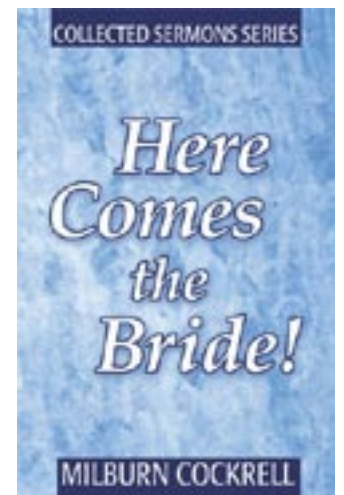
Did you know that more than 200 years ago, our third President, Thomas Jefferson, worried about the very situation we now see developing? He warned of a judicial oligarchy---government by an elite few who rule from beyond reach of the citizens. The constitution charges Congress with the responsibility to check the courts. But Congress has totally abdicated that duty. We now have in high courts nationwide and unaccountable, arrogant judiciary often appointed for life, and determined to make us dance to their tune. That is not democracy and the time has come for us to speak out. We need to go to Congress and demand---absolutely demand that they rein in runaway Federal Courts. We must make our convictions known in the public square.

I believe you join me in valuing the sacred institution of the family. And just

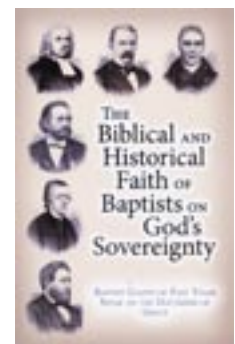
knowing that friends like you are willing to come alongside us gives me great hope that we can prevail. So if you feel led to work alongside us on this issue and in our mission to strengthen families and change lives through the power of the gospel, we would love to hear from you. It would be a great encouragement to know that we have partners like you who care deeply about the family,

"The Bible is common sense inspired."
---Rees Howell

(Excerpt and letter, James D. Daly, President and CEO, Focus on the Family newsletter)



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bethel Bible Baptist Church, PO Box 85, Mansfield, LA is in need of a pastor. Their former pastor, Bro. Keith Kennison recently went home to be with the Lord.

Any interested elder should call Connie McMellon at 318-872-1647.

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