

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

Adorning the Doctrine of God

By Tom Ross
of South Point, Ohio

(Titus 2:1-10)

In the passage before us Paul addresses virtually every class of people within the New Testament church. The aged men (v. 2), the aged women (v. 3), the young women (vv. 4-5), the young men (v. 6), the preacher (vv. 7-8), servants and employees (v. 9) are all exhorted to live in such a manner ". . .that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things" (v. 10). Thus, Paul is once again emphasizing, as he does in all his epistles, that what we believe should have an impact on how we behave in the world. Correct doctrine should always produce godly deportment. Those who believe the truth should live honest and holy lives if they are to effectively represent Christ in an ungodly world. Our profession of Christianity should be reflected in our everyday practice of the principles of genuine Christianity.

SOUND DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE (v. 1)

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine."

◊ (Continued on page 87)

Wholly Following the Lord

By Paul Stepp
of Indore, West Virginia

"Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea. Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espie out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. Nevertheless



my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God. And Moses swear on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

◊ (Continued on page 85)

The Rests of the Bible

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

One of the most expressive words in any language is the word rest. Its meaning is well understood by all. How pleasant to come home and rest after a hard day at work. How cheering it is to enjoy refreshment and ease when we are weary and worn out. It is good for the body and the soul to have mental and emotional calm.

The Bible mentions many different rests. The word rest is employed by the Holy Spirit to describe peace within a nation following the cessation of wars. The word rest is used to explain the blessings of salvation and service to Christ. At death the believer is pictured as being at rest. The showers of blessings in the Millennium are said to be the rest of the earth.

CREATION REST

The first rest mentioned in the Bible is creation rest. In Genesis 2:1-3 Moses wrote: **"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his**

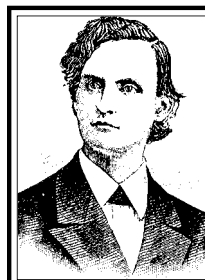
◊ (Continued on page 82)

An Unshaken Trust

By J. B. Hawthorne
(1837 - 1910)

"Let come on me what will. . . Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:13,15).

God delights to honor a true man. He takes pleasure in placing him where the world may see the excellence of his character and feel the power of his life. But before he sets him in a regal place and encircles his brow with a crown of glory, he suffers him to be tried. He subjects him to a baptism of fire. He lets the world and



Satan smite him with manifold afflictions. In this way he prepared such men as Chrysostom, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Carey, and Judson for their exalted stations and work. Having suffered with Christ,

they now reign with Him over the hearts and lives of men.

God saw in His servant Job a man

◊ (Continued on page 93)

We Love Him Because He First Loved Us

By Curtis Pugh
of Poteau, Oklahoma

"We love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:19). Eight words make up this one-sentence verse in our commonly used English Bible. These are simple words that require no explanation other than to say that the Greek word for "love" and "loved" transliterates as "agapao" which is the word used of God's love in contrast to "phileo" which is used of brotherly love. We note that the two pronouns, "we" and "us" must refer to the same people. The grammar of the sentence requires it. English language rules do not support the idea that God loves everyone unless it



can be demonstrated that everyone loves God and that is obviously not true. These people are said to love God and God is said to love these people. Those people who love God are not a larger group than those whom God loves. Conversely, those people whom God loves are not a larger group than those who love God. The people represented by the "we" and the "us" are the same people. It cannot be otherwise. "We" who love Him are the "us" whom He loved first. Everyone

whom God loves, loves Him! There is no reason given as to why God loves these people, but these people love God because God loved them first. We must ask this: When did God begin to love these people? Did He once hate these people? Or did He just somehow once upon a time not love them? Did He change and for some reason begin to love these people whom He had not loved before? Such a change is not possible with God for He declares, **"For I am the LORD, I change not..."** (Malachi 3:6). Again the Bible tells us, **"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent..."** (Num. 23:19). With God **"..is no variableness, neither shadow of**

turning" (James 1:17). So we learn that God neither repents nor changes! He is constant and has been forever. He may appear to change because men neither understand Him or His eternal plan, but He does not change. If God were to change it would mean that either He was prior to His change less than perfect, or that He changed from perfection and became less than perfect.

Since God does not change and since the Bible says, **"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world"** (Acts 15:18), we must understand that God loved these people from before the foundation of the world.

◊ (Continued on page 82)

*A bird is known by his note, and a man by his talk.
"By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words
thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:37).*

May 5, 2012

Volume XXXII, Number 5
Whole Number 394

Editor: Christopher Cockrell

Staff: Sheron Cockrell, Marsha Kiser, Virginia
Cockrell

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.

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - U.S.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - FOREIGN One Year \$45

PLANNING TO MOVE? Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward periodical mail for 90 days. They charge us \$.70 for each "change of address" they have to send us. Please save us this expense and the post office time.

BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$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.

A PAPER WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION: Some times people write to us and say that they did not subscribe for the BBB. They are receiving our paper because someone else has paid for their subscription.

We trust the BBB will be received as an outstretched hand to you. Take what you find helpful and discard what you cannot use. If you do not want to receive such a gift subscription, please write to us. We are happy to cancel such a subscription. We do not want to go where we are not wanted.

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

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:

www.bereabaptistchurch.orgOur email address is: bbchurch@nexband.com

The purpose of the *Berea Baptist Banner* is as follows:

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.

Planning a move?
Please let us know your
new address. The post
office charges us \$.50
for each returned wrong
address.

We Love Him

(Continued from page 81) ◊

These people and God's love for them has always been a part of God's great eternal plan of redemption. He planned to act in a particular way toward these people because God's love is neither in active nor is it just a sentimental feeling. God's love is a determination to do good to the object of His love regardless of what it costs Him. It was God's love to all the nations of the world that was displayed when He gave Christ to pay for the sins of a multitude in all nations – see John 3:16.

What did God do in eternity for these people whom He loved then? How is it that He included them in His eternal plan? The Bible makes it clear in Ephesians 1:4-6: **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."** In these verses we learn that God predestinated these people to be His children, that He chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world and that He made these people accepted in the beloved Son, Christ Jesus. These are plainly stated facts and above disputation although most people do not understand these things and many openly state their disbelief of these great truths. This passage also states that the reason God did these things was **"according to the good pleasure of his will."** So then, these things were done before the foundation of the world for those people whom God loved **"according to the good pleasure of his will:"** Not because of anything these people ever did. God does not love "us" because of anything we ever did or will do. Romans 9:10-16 says:

"..when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy." God loved Jacob and hated Esau according to this passage and did so before either had been born. So then Bible believers must conclude that God predestinated, chose, and made some

people accepted in the beloved before the foundation of the world – and that He did so without regard for anything they would ever do. Nothing that these people would ever will to do, or attempt to do, or accomplish, caused God to love these people. God willed to love the unlovely!

And so when we read that, **"We love him, because he first loved us,"** we must understand that this verse speaks of a particular people whom God loved from before the foundation of the world. We must also understand that it was because of God's great eternal plan that He chose to love them and do all for them in order to make them His sons and daughters. If you are one of the "we" who love Him because He first loved you – give Him all the glory for your blessed spiritual condition and take no glory unto yourself for **"..Salvation is of the LORD"** (Jonah 2:9).



The Rests of the

(Continued from page 81) ◊

work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

God did not rest on the seventh day because He was weary from working, for **"the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary"** (Isa. 40:28). Nor are we to suppose that His rest was total inactivity. Jesus declared: **"My Father worketh hitherto, and I work"** (John 5:17). God must continually work for the preservation of His creation (Ps. 104:28-29). We are to understand that the Creator rested from His work of creation (Ex. 20:11; 31:17; Heb. 4:3-4). On the seventh day God paused from the creation of new kinds and orders of beings.

Why did God rest on the seventh day? Why did He bless and sanctify the last day of the week? I believe He did it as an example to man. He did it to show that one day out of seven belongs to God more than the other six. Exodus 20:8-11 reads: **"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."** Jesus said: **"The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath"** (Mark 2:27).

SABBATH REST

God rested on the seventh day to set

an example for man to observe a weekly Sabbath. The first Sabbath was kept by God Himself in celebration of His rest from creation. The Sabbath antedates all arts and sciences. It existed before Enoch built a city, or Jubal stretched a tent, or Tubal-Cain became an artificer in brass and iron. The Sabbath was a companion of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. It was instituted in innocence and religiously observed by the people of God throughout the patriarchal age.

Israel was commanded to keep the Sabbath before the Ten Commandments were given on Sinai. In Exodus 16:23 Moses said: **"This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning."** The Sabbath already existed before this as Moses spoke of it as **"that which the LORD hath said."** Exodus 16:28 reveals it was already a part of the moral law given to Israel. Hence when Moses received the Ten Commandments God said: **"REMEMBER the sabbath day"** (Ex. 20:8) (emph. MRC).

The civil law of Israel required the weekly observance of a day of rest. **"Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed"** (Ex. 23:12). Failure to observe the Sabbath meant death. **"Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the LORD: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death"** (Ex. 35:2). The observation of the Sabbath was a sign between God and the nation of Israel (Ex. 31:14-17; Ezek. 20:12-24). Special blessings were promised to Israel for remembering the Sabbath Day (Isa. 58:13-14) and national judgment if they failed to keep it (Jer. 17:27).

CANAAN REST

The third kind of rest mentioned in the Bible is Canaan rest. God promised Israel national rest after they conquered the land of Canaan: **"For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you. But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety"** (Deut. 12:9-10).

Following the wars with the Canaanites under Joshua, Israel did enjoy this rest promised to them. Joshua wrote: **"And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies"**

◊ (Continued on page 83)

The Rests of the

(Continued from page 82) ◊

before them; The LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass" (Josh. 21:44-45).

The Canaan rest was a delightful time in the history of Israel. They enjoyed rest from the fatigues of their wilderness journey. They were privileged to rest from their wars with the Canaanites (Josh. 23:1), for their enemies dared not to attack them. Their habitations were quiet and peaceful. This wonderful rest continued until Israel sinned against God and brought upon themselves Divine judgment in the form of numerous wars. During Israel's national history she enjoyed but brief periods of rest (II Chron. 14:7). The nation of Israel has no rest from her enemies at present, but she will have three and a half years rest in the first part of the tribulation period (Ezek. 38:11). This rest will be short lived because of the persecution of Antichrist.

DEATH REST

At physical death the believer rests from all his labors for Christ on earth. Centuries ago Job wrote: **"There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest. There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor"** (Job 3:17-18).

Job's language describes the blessed state of the departed souls in Paradise. The grave is rest for the body of the weary pilgrim, and Paradise is rest for the soul. At death the soul of the righteous retires from the hustle and bustle of this noisy world to sweetly enjoy God for ever. This makes death desirable to a child of God, for it is escape from all the storms and tempests of this restless world to perfect and everlasting rest. The psalmist said, **"Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest"** (Ps. 55:6).

In Revelation 14:13 it is written: **"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."** Death is rest from all bodily pains. It is rest from all mental anxiety and grief. It is rest from all the disputes and the controversies that agitate the world and society at large. All disputes are settled on the confines of Paradise. Oh, blessed rest! No frost shall nip its flowers! No clouds shall darken its sky!

Death rest is not very far off from any believer on this earth. It is but one heart beat and one breath away. It draws nearer to him each hour. The tide of

Jordan touches his feet; the waves of that eternal sea rise upon the sands upon which he now stands. Very soon what he calls life---that little isthmus between time and eternity---shall be covered by the river into which all mankind must enter.

When my friends gather around my bedside and gaze upon the face on which the last smile of life lingers. My spirit will have already been emancipated from its fleshly prison. In that second, if permitted by God to speak to my survivors, I would shout, "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves. I have laid aside the shackles of life. I have not left happiness, but I have entered upon it. I am not dead, I have just begun to live. Come speedily and share with me the rest which shall never be disturbed for ever and ever. Come up hither where the spirits of just men made perfect sing beside the throne of the Most High in endless day."

General Stonewall Jackson was a fine Christian gentleman. He was seriously wounded in battle at Chancellorsville. Upon his dying bed he said: "Let us pass over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees." These were the last words he ever uttered. His soul was reaching forward across the River of Death to the golden streets of the Celestial City. His spirit departed this life to go and rest under the shade of the tree of life.

SERVICE REST

In Matthew 11:29 Jesus spoke of service rest: **"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest to your souls."** In Bible times a yoke was used in connection with oxen. To bear the yoke signifies to labor in the service of Christ. Those who bear the yoke of Christ find rest to their souls while they serve. They are unloaded by bearing His burdens, they are rested by running His errands. Here is spiritual rest in the observance of Christ's commandments.

The generation of Israelites who rebelled against Jehovah in the wilderness fell short of attaining service rest (Ps. 95:11; Heb. 3:11; 4:3). In view of the failure of the Israelites of old, the Hebrew writer urged the Hebrew Christians: **"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief"** (Heb. 4:11). The Hebrew writer does not speak here of death rest, for our labors do not prepare us for Heaven but they follow after us there (Rev. 14:13). This is not salvation rest for salvation does not require any labor on our part. The rest in Hebrews 4:11 requires labor on our part; it is service rest.

Jeremiah 6:16 sets forth service rest: **"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."** The way of righteousness is the

old paths of which the Lord has always approved. His written Word is the true standard of antiquity. It is the good old way the patriarchs and prophets traveled. Those who keep to the old paths of faith and practice find real rest for their souls. Although it may involve some effort to walk in the old highway, those who do so shall find an abundant recompense at their journey's end.

MILLENNIAL REST

The world as we know it is filled with unrest. Everything upon it tilts and changes. Its pleasures like the sea are constantly ebbing and flowing. The tears of today and the smiles of tomorrow---the joy of the morning and the sorrow of the night are ever changing. Sin has filled the earth with unrest. It has filled the mind with darkness, the conscience with uneasiness, and the heart with disquiet. Sin has sown the earth with briars and thorns, sprinkled it with tears, scarred and mutilated it with graves so that **"the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now"** (Rom. 8:22).

One coming day this weary earth is to enjoy a millennial rest. Isaiah said of that time: **"The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet"** (Isa. 14:7). Jeremiah wrote: **"But fear not thou, O my servant Jacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make him afraid"** (Jer. 46:27; 30:10). Oh, wonderful day! Oh, happy time when **"the earth sitteth still, and is at rest"** (Zech. 1:11). In the thousand-year reign it may be said of Christ: **"His rest shall be glorious"** (Isa. 11:10).

Certainly we do have a few days even in this world of rest in trouble (II Thess. 1:7). But reason, conscience, and experience all say to us in our best state on earth: "Arise, this world is not at rest. Sin has polluted it." May no real believer ever set his heart upon this restless earth. Rather, let us view the world as a journey. Gather a few flowers as you pass through it and be thankful to God for them. Bow down and sip a little of the brook as it runs past, but only to strengthen you to pursue your journey. In all of this let your longing for Millennial rest increase and grow brighter. Let earthly travels sweeten your expectation for the rest which is future for the people of God

(Heb. 4:9).

SOUL REST

Nothing in the world can satisfy the deep needs of the great soul that constitutes man. The creation itself is too poor to enrich the immortal soul of a man. Like a dove, man goes forth from the ark to seek some foothold of rest either in sunshine or shadow. But from Solomon to Socrates man has found no place of perfect rest. The transient can never minister satisfaction to the eternal.

From the lowest to the very loftiest pinnacle of human greatness, there is no spot on earth where a man can enjoy perfect and permanent rest. Can any man honestly say at this moment, "I am the happiest man on earth. Let the clock of time stop. Let me be left where I now am, nothing changed, nothing added, nothing subtracted. Let me be permanently fixed in the spot I am today." No man living can say this. We would all like something better. In times past we have all had too much flower and not fruit, rich expectations but no possessions. We are today looking to the future to find what we failed to find in the past.

The whole course of human history seems to indicate man's ceaseless search for a rest, a quiet spot of sunshine and flowers on which he can repose and say, "Here I would wish to live for ever." Day after day, night after night, a man comes home as the shades of night fall to blighted hopes and disappointed expectations. The old prophet said: **"The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt"** (Isa. 57:20). This will ever be man's condition until he finds soul rest in Jesus Christ. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus Christ promised to give rest to all the restless sinners who come to Him: **"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."**

Those invited to rest by Christ are those who groan under the burden of sin. They are weary of being the servants of sin. They have known restless nights caused by sin in their conscience. To such heavy laden souls Christ gives rest from the terror of the law and the fear of Hell. Are you laden with sin, guilt, remorse and fear of death? Are you laden with sorrow, slander, doubt, temptations and conflicts? Why do you remain in such a miserable condition when you can **"find**

Tune in to the
Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WCNA, Myrtle, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	95.9.....	3,000 FM
WCCT, Corbin, KY.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	680.....	5,000 AM
WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	101.9.....	3,000 FM
KARI, Blaine, WA.....	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m....	550.....	5,000 AM
KPRV, Heavener, OK.....	Sunday 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.....	92.5.....	1,000 FM

The Rests of the

(Continued from page 83) ◊

rest unto your souls?? Come to Christ for rest. Come to Him who has promised rest to every sinner who comes to Him in faith. Hebrews 4:3 plainly says: **“For we which have believed do enter into rest.”** No believer in Christ has ever failed to receive soul rest.

Rest is a most desirable commodity. Nothing on earth can compare with a peace of mind and conscience. Christ alone can give lasting rest to a burdened conscience. The Saviour has the greatest power and the greatest will to bestow rest upon heavy laden sinners. Those who come to Him believing with all their heart will discover He can turn their storm into everlasting calm. Christ can give a rest that the world can neither give nor take from you. Sinner, you can never have true rest until your soul leans on Jesus for repose.

A missionary once asked a former Mohammedan, “Why did you become a Christian?” The new convert to Christianity replied, “There was one verse in the Gospel of Matthew which made me wish to become a Christian.” “What is it,” the missionary inquired. The man replied, “It is the words in Matthew 11:28 where Christ said: **‘Come unto me. . .and I will give you rest.’** I know the book of Islam, but there is no promise of rest there; I wanted rest.” Then he added, “I have believed on the Man who made the promise, and I have the rest.”

CONCLUSION

It is written in Hebrews 4:9: **“There remaineth therefore the keeping of a sabbath to the people of God”** (margin reading). This verse teaches that there remains for Christians a Sabbath to keep. The Christian Sabbath is on the first day of the week, not the seventh. It commemorates the work of the new creation, not the old creation. It is called in the New Testament **“the Lord’s day”** (Rev. 1:10). It is to be a day of rest and public worship.

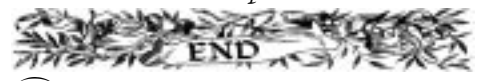
There is something so holy, beautiful and sweet in the observance of the Lord’s Day that causes a believer to anticipate and covet his everlasting Sabbath. The Christian Sabbath is a fragment of Heaven set like a precious gem in the forehead of the world. By keeping it we are made to long for the day of all Sabbaths. The Lord’s Day is the brightest day of the seven. More than any other day, it moves me to view the sunshine of the better land and to hear the chimes of earth’s coming jubilee.

O land of rest, for thee I sigh!

When will the moment come

When I shall lay my armor by,

And dwell in peace at home?



- A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS -

By Timothy Hille
of Ashland, Illinois

Chapter Fourteen

The Law of Cleansing from Leprosy

As leprosy pictures sin, the cleansing of a leper points to the sanctifying work of Christ toward and upon the sinner who is saved by grace through faith. This law of cleansing provided the way by which one who had been a leper and was healed of his leprosy could rejoin the people of Israel and again participate in the services of the Lord. We must recognize that sin separates man from God, and that spiritual deadness separates the righteous who are so by faith in Christ from the wicked who are so by their own depravity and unbelief. “We believe that there is a radical essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. We believe that the righteous are only so by faith of Jesus Christ and all unbelievers are condemned already.”¹ (John 3:18; 8:23-24, 42-47; 15:19; I John 5:19; I Pet. 2:9-10).

Chapter Outline

- i. The priest to observe the healed leper and ceremonially cleanse: vs. 1-7
- ii. The leper to wash and shave: vs. 8-9
- iii. The offerings for making the leper clean: vs. 10-20
 - (a) a trespass offering
 - (b) a sin offering
 - (c) a burnt offering
 - (d) a meal offering
- iv. The offerings for one who is poor: vs. 21-32
- v. Discerning leprosy in a house: vs. 33-47
- vi. Cleansing a house from leprosy: vs. 48-53
- vii. Synopsis of the law of leprosy: vs. 54-57

I. VERSE ONE.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses . . .” The instructions which follow were important for the priests, but were given to Moses as the mediator of this covenant to give unto them. Somewhat striking is the fact that the law for discerning leprosy was given to Moses and Aaron (Lev. 13:1; 14:33), but the law for cleansing of leprosy was given only to Moses. The spiritual application is that the levitical priesthood, being an office of the law, could not bring in perfection or make sinners perfect (Heb. 7:11, 19; Rom. 3:20; 7:7). None are justified in the sight of God by the law, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Moses as the mediator and type of Christ receives the law of cleansing (Deut. 18:15). We note also that the law of cleansing was given by God. Cleansing from sin can only be had by coming to the true and living God through the way which He has appointed, and that way is His Son Jesus Christ,



who died for sins, was buried, and rose again (Isa. 1:18; 45:22; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:24-25).

II. VERSES TWO THROUGH SEVEN.

The leper who was healed was to be examined by the priest. **“He shall be brought unto the priest,”** as sinners must be brought to Christ in order to be saved from sin. **“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith,”** (Gal. 3:24). The leper was not brought into the camp or dwelling place of the people, but came nearer than he ordinarily was so that the priest might take notice of him.

“As the leper was an emblem of a polluted sinner, the priest was a type of Christ, to whom leprous sinners must be brought for cleansing; they cannot come of themselves to him, that is, believe in him, except it be given unto them; or they are drawn with the powerful and efficacious grace of God, by which souls are brought to Christ, and enabled to believe in him; not that they are brought against their wills, but being drawn with the cords of love, and through the power of divine grace, sweetly operating upon their hearts, they move towards him with all readiness and willingness, and cast themselves at his feet, saying, as the leper that came to Christ, **‘Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean,’** (Matt. 8:2).”²

“And the priest shall go forth out of the camp . . .” Here the priest in type resembles Christ who came forth to save sinners, who comes where the sinner is, takes notice of him or her, and through His holy office work both cleanses and pronounces clean that man, woman, boy, or girl (Luke 19:10; I Tim. 1:15). “The leper cannot come in, so the mediator goes out. The sinner cannot of himself find his way back into the presence of God, but Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, went forth to seek and to save. The Shepherd goes out to seek the lost sheep.”³

For a leper who was healed of the plague of leprosy, the priest would officiate in this ceremony of cleansing, wherein two live birds of a sort that were designated clean (Lev. 11:13-23) were used, along with **“cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop.”** One bird was **“killed in an earthen vessel over running water.”** The living bird was then dipped in the blood of the bird that was killed, as well as **“the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop.”** The hyssop was attached to the piece or stick of cedar wood by a scarlet string or thread. With this device, the blood

of the slain bird was sprinkled upon the healed leper **“seven times,”** after which he or she was pronounced clean, and the living bird with the blood of the slain bird upon it was let **“loose into the open field.”** This shows the death of Christ for sin, and His resurrection for our justification, wherein He took His blood into the heavenlies and made atonement for our sins (Heb. 9:24-26). Through faith His blood is applied to us and we are cleansed from sin and pronounced clean, holy, and righteous in the sight of God (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:8-10; Ps. 51:7). The one who needs cleansing must come into contact with the blood, yea rather must have the blood applied to him or her.

III. VERSES EIGHT AND NINE.

The healed leper, being cleansed by the application of the blood, must now wash his clothes and himself, shaving off all his hair. God does not only pronounce the sinner clean who trusts in Jesus and His shed blood, but also actually makes the sinner clean from sin (I Cor. 6:9-11). For seven days the healed leper, having washed and shaved himself and having washed his cloths, was permitted **“into the camp,”** but was to **“tarry abroad out of his tent.”** On the seventh day again he washed and shaved and washed his clothes, after which he was clean. The sinner who is healed, as it were, and made alive, enjoying justification by faith in Christ, is also now moved to cleanse himself (I John 3:1-3). The cleansed sinner now has a desire for holiness in himself and in his own life which before he never had.

IV. VERSES TEN THROUGH EIGHTEEN.

“On the eighth day” the healed leper came to the tabernacle with **“two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth deals of fine flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil.”** The priest would **“present the man that is to be made clean, and those things, before the LORD.”** A trespass offering, sin offering, burnt offering, and meal offering would be offered, after which this individual was clean ceremonially and able to once again participate in the worship of God and the life of Israel. Pictured here is Christ, who offered Himself as the sinless atoning sacrifice for sins, and who is the only way to God (I Tim. 2:5-6).

This is the leper’s first appearance at the tabernacle since his healing. We see that the only way to worship aright is through the One who represents us at the altar as both Priest and Sacrifice, the Lord Jesus Christ. We note also that true worship is an act of sanctification, as the healed leper was by these offerings and their accompanying proceedings ceremonially sanctified. Where the heart and life are not cleansed from sin and separated from fleshly and spiritual filthiness; where the

◊ (Continued on page 85)

Study in Leviticus

(Continued from page 84) ◊

blood of Jesus is not actively operating upon the thoughts, words, and deeds of a person's life; and where the Holy Spirit is not empowering a person for service, God is not being properly worshipped.

The first he lamb without blemish was offered **"for a trespass offering,"** speaking of Christ's paying our sin debt and making restoration for the damages done to God's honor and cause by our sins. The appointed place for killing the trespass offering, and the assigning of the trespass offering to the priest as his portion, were divine appointments. All that has to do with the cleansing, justifying, and sanctifying of sinners is by the appointment of God. The blood of the trespass offering was applied to the person being cleansed: **"upon the tip of the right ear . . . upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot."** The applied blood signifies purging of sin and redemption. We that are saved are redeemed – bought by God – and that with which we were purchased is the blood of Jesus. The blood signifies the cleansing of the ear to hear the Word of God, the cleansing of the hand to work for God, and the cleansing of the foot to walk in the ways of God.

The oil signifies the Holy Spirit, through whom Christ offered Himself to God (Heb. 9:14). This oil was applied to the person being cleansed, and was put **"upon the blood of the trespass offering,"** upon the tip of the right ear, and the thumb of the right hand, and the great toe of the right foot. The work of the Holy Spirit is always in agreement with the work of Christ. The work of Christ and the work of the Spirit are inseparably intertwined in sanctifying men, women, boys, and girls. The rest of the oil was poured **"upon the head"** of the person being cleansed, pointing to the Holy Spirit empowering a person to worship and serve God. The Holy Spirit enables a born-again person to do God's will (I Cor. 12:3). The character of the trespass offering was that of making atonement. Through the applied blood and the blood that is sprinkled upon the altar, and the quickening and converting work of the Spirit, we are reconciled to and brought into fellowship with God.

V. VERSES NINETEEN AND TWENTY.

The sin offering was now offered, showing Christ as the sin-bearing Substitute. Then the burnt offering, accompanied by a meal offering, showing Christ as the One through whom we approach God, who, being without sin, was manifest in the flesh to put away sin by His own death upon the cross. **"And the priest shall make an atonement for him, and he shall be clean."** There is no spiritual cleansing without the

atonement work of Jesus Christ. There can be no forgiveness of sins where no blood has been shed. To approach God any way other than through Christ and His atoning, sanctifying work is to approach God in your sins and as one condemned already. The sins of those who believe on Christ who died for sinners and rose again are cleansed, washed away, and removed forever.

VI. VERSES TWENTY-ONE THROUGH THIRTY-TWO.

God here prescribes the offerings which should be brought for one who is **"poor, and cannot get so much."** This poor person was required to bring only **"one lamb for a trespass offering,"** and was to bring only **"one tenth deal of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering."** This poor person's sin offering and burnt offering, instead of being a ewe lamb and a he lamb, would consist of **"two turtledoves, or two young pigeons."** Yet we find that the ceremony was unchanged, with the blood and oil being applied to this individual in the same manner as the previous, and the end being atonement and cleansing **"before the LORD."** No matter how poor or spiritually destitute a sinner may be, Christ has power to heal and mercy to save. He can save all that come to Him to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25). He can save the chief of sinners (I Tim. 1:15). There is nothing in Christ to keep the sinner from coming (Luke 7:41-42). We are all poor sinners who have nothing to pay, and only Christ can pay our sin debt and deliver us from eternal condemnation and wrath. God is especially concerned over the poorest sinner. The testimony of every child of God is the same: **"This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and delivered him out of all his troubles,"** (Ps. 34:6). **"This is the law of him in whom is the plague of leprosy, whose hand is not able to get that which pertaineth to his cleansing."** None of us are able to get that which is needed to be cleansed from sin: only Jesus can provide relief by washing us in His cleansing blood when we come to Him believing with all our heart.

*"In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."*⁴

*Sin had left a crimson stain – He washed it
white as snow.*

*For nothing good have I whereby Thy grace
to claim –*

*I'll wash my garments white in the blood of
Calv'ry's Lamb.*

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain – He washed it
white as snow."*⁵

VII. VERSES THIRTY-THREE THROUGH FIFTY-THREE.

God now gives commandments concerning **"leprosy in a house."** This was likely some form of mildew or similar substance which can contaminate buildings and be a cause of personal health

problems. As now they dwelt in tents, this law was specifically intended for when the children of Israel came into possession of the land of Canaan. Typically this speaks of the need for holiness in the life, habits, and associations of a child of God. Those who entered a house which was defiled were **"unclean until the even,"** and unable to participate in spiritual things. The cleansing of a house wherein the plague was healed required a similar procedure as the cleansing of a leper, in which two birds were taken alive, and one slain **"in an earthen vessel over running water."** Then the house was sprinkled with the blood of the slain bird, and the living bird was released into the open fields; and so was made **"an atonement for the house."** Jesus shed His blood for the house of God (Acts 20:28). Now He is cleansing and purifying God's house with His Word (Eph. 5:25-27). Our individual houses are to belong to God and be a place where spirituality and holiness are maintained for the honor and glory of God.

VIII. VERSES FIFTY-FOUR THROUGH FIFTY-SEVEN.

"This is the law for all manner... of leprosy..." God gave these things to His people for their benefit, both physically and spiritually. The spiritual principle is shown in that these guidelines and restrictions and ceremonies were **"to teach when it is unclean, and when it is clean."** God's Word reveals sin and the only way to be cleansed from sin. God's Word enables a child of God to live for God and to separate himself or herself from sin (II Cor. 7:1). Jesus died that we might be cleansed from sin, and His blood can cleanse you even now (Tit. 2:11-14; I John 1:9; Matt. 8:1-4).

FOOTNOTES

1. Excerpt from Article Seventeen, Articles of Faith of the Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, Pleasant Plains, IL.

2. Gill, John. *Exposition of the Old Testament* ("The Online Bible," Larry Pierce, 1994-95).

3. *Handfuls on Purpose*, Series III, by James Smith, 1971.

4. From the hymn, "Rock of Ages," by Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778.

5. From the hymn, "Jesus Paid It All," by Elvina M. Hall, 1820-1889.

IT'S FINAL AND IT'S NOT COMING BACK

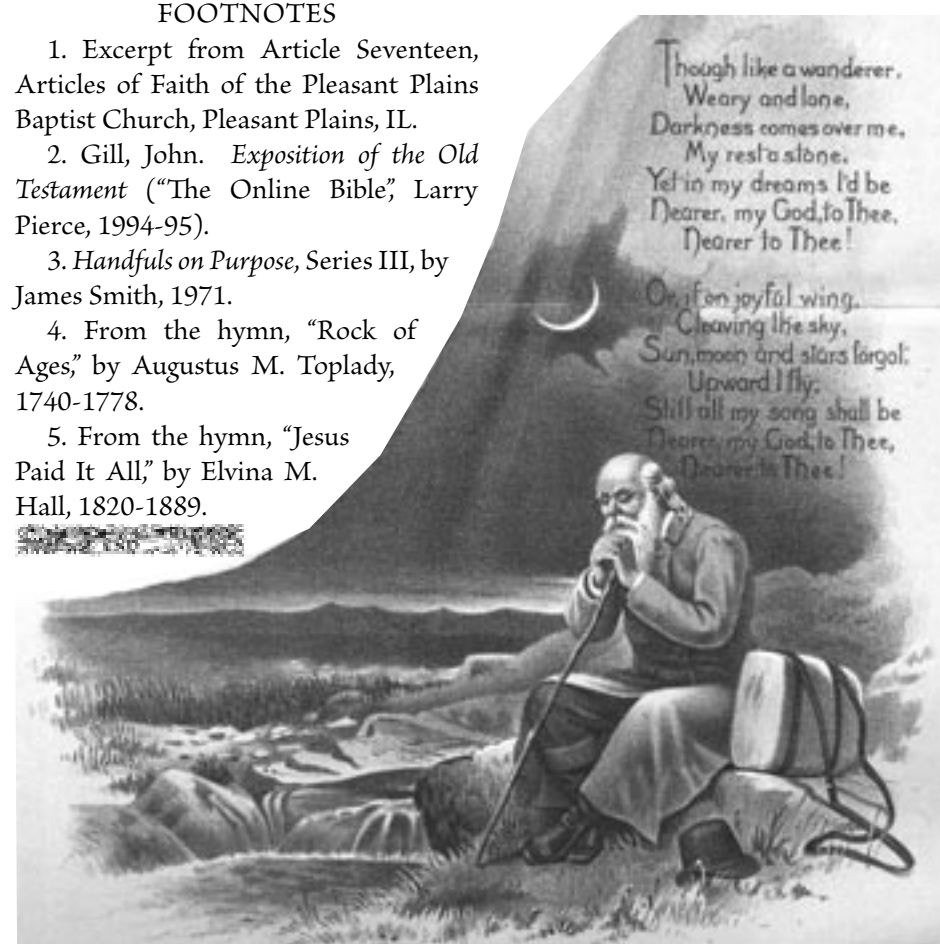
Look at your mailing label on the front page of this month's paper. If you see above your name "Expires 5/2012" then this will be your last issue. So don't miss an issue! Renew now so you won't miss next month's *Banner*.

Wholly Following

(Continued from page 81) ◊

And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said. And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenazite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel" (Josh. 14:6-14).

In the Old Testament account of the
◊ (Continued on page 86)



Though like a wanderer,
Weary and lone,
Darkness comes over me,
My rest a stone.
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!

O, for joyful wing,
Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon and stars far off,
Upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!

Wholly Following

(Continued from page 85) ◊

Exodus and the conquering of Canaan, the man Caleb is an example of one that followed the Lord with his whole heart. I suppose that even amongst a people that were called by the name of the Lord God, such a man that “**wholly followed the LORD God of Israel**” was still a rare and unusual thing.

How could such a thing be? How could it be so rare that one would follow the Lord in this nation of people that were supposed to be following after God? Well, even at our best, we are all of us weak and failing. And even amongst those that profess to know the Lord God, there are always distractions, temptations, weaknesses, and lusts of the flesh that will draw us away from following after God.

Today, I want to use Caleb as an example of how that we, too, ought to be “Wholly Following the Lord.” Despite any circumstances that we might endure, we ought to follow after our God.

DISTRACTIONS

There were many distractions that could have kept Caleb from following the Lord. We read in the Book of Numbers in the 13th Chapter that Caleb and the other spies that were sent into the land of Canaan, spent a total of 40 days exploring the land. They found many wondrous things. They saw a land that was flowing with milk and honey. They saw a people that were powerful and living in walled cities. They even saw giants in the land. And yet, Caleb remained focused – he did not allow these other things to distract him from his purpose of following the Lord and being obedient unto Him. We read Caleb’s conclusion of the land that they were ordained to inherit, “**And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it**” (Num. 13:30).

In the life of every Christian there is (and are) distractions. We, too, can look upon the beauties of the land, the possibilities that exist, the hopes and fears and terrors that exist – and, we might be distracted from our pursuit of God. And yet, all of these ought not to sway our opinion of our God and our desire to follow Him. We, too, should be ready to say, “**... let us go up at once...for we are well able to overcome it.**”

TEMPTATIONS

Sometimes it seems easier to just give up. Sometimes we are tempted to cease from following the Lord, or we are tempted to stray away from His Person and His Way that He has appointed for us. Well, in the case of the children of Israel, we see that they were discouraged by the evil report that the 10 spies brought back from the land of Canaan, and they were tempted to return unto their old ways

and their old place in Egypt. “**And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt**” (Num. 14:1-4). Wasn’t Egypt the place where they had been in bondage? Wasn’t their time in Egypt one that was full of labor and sorrow? Had they not (just two years prior to this) cried out to God to deliver them from Egypt? And yet, now they are tempted to return to Egypt (See Ex. 16:1-3)! What a folly this was! Oh, how terrible and unthankful are the hearts of men!

But, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb stood up against the people, and encouraged them to be faithful unto God, and to follow Him into the Promised Land. We read what Joshua and Caleb had to say in Numbers 14:6-9, “**And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.**” You see, none of these temptations could sway Caleb! No matter how difficult the task might be; no matter how many temptations might be in the way; still, in the end, Caleb knew that God would take care of His people. And, I believe that Caleb knew that it was a dangerous thing to “**rebel...against the LORD.**”

WEAKNESSES

There are other times that we relent from following after the Lord, because we just don’t feel strong enough. There may be, perhaps, times in our lives when we really just don’t feel strong enough to do what we know that the Lord would have us to do. But, this ought not to be the case! Remember, Caleb is an example of one that God gave strength to, and Caleb is an example of one that overcame weakness in order to follow the Lord. In our text verses we read that Caleb was 85 years old, and yet he was still strong enough to perform whatever task God had for him. “**And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine**

inheritance, and thy children’s for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God. And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said” (Josh. 14:9-12). Do you realize that even at the age of 85, Caleb was still strong enough to drive out the giants (Anakims) that dwelt in the inheritance that the Lord had given him? Remember, Caleb was given the pick of the land where his feet had trod. Caleb did not pick the easiest, or simplest, or closest place; he chose the land that he knew that God would have him dwell in. No matter that that land was inhabited by giants! He would drive them out!

If Caleb was strong – when for his age, he ought to have been weak, how much more ought we to depend upon the strength of the Lord? If in our lives we seem to face troubles and we seem to be weak; what is our trouble, and what is our difficulty when compared to what Caleb must do? If Caleb could overcome the Anakims, how much more ought we be able to overcome the difficulties that we face?

We shouldn’t argue that we are “too weak” to do something that we know that the Lord would have us to do. We shouldn’t use our weaknesses in the flesh as a reason to cease (or fail) in following after the Lord. After all, if the Lord goes before us, who or what can be stronger than Him? Just as Caleb told the children of Israel, “**Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not**” (Num. 14:9).

In the New Testament the Apostle Paul, who would have been an old man (for his time) said this: “**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me**” (Phil. 4:13).

IGNORANCE

There is another obstacle that prevents men from “Wholly Following the Lord,” and that is the obstacle of “Ignorance.” Caleb knew what the Word of God and Moses was – and he expected to see that Word and those promises come to fruition. His answer to his critics and his distractors was, “**...as the Lord said.**” (See Josh. 14:8-12). Too many times the

people of God do not follow Him as they ought, because they are ignorant of His ways and His Word. Why do you think that it was so important for the children of Israel to learn the Law and the Word of God? For this reason Moses was intent on impressing upon the children of Israel the need to rehearse and to know the Law of God. We read in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, “**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.**”

It is apparent that Caleb knew and trusted the Word of God. Why else would he have braved the dangers, and the temptations and the enemies that beset him? Because he knew what God had promised, and believed that He was able to perform that which He had promised.

Well, we ought to be the same way. We ought to study and know the Word of God – it is in the Word that we have the promises and the teachings and the guidance that will show us the way in which we should follow after God. How can we follow Him if we do not know the way? We read in II Timothy 3:14-17, “**But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**” And, don’t imagine that you can use your ignorance for an excuse in your failures – God expects us all to study, and learn, and grow in the Word of God – just as He expected the Israelites to study, memorize, know, love, and obey the Law of God!

PERSECUTIONS

Finally, I know that sometimes it seems that the opinions and the attacks of others are enough to turn us out of the way. I know that sometimes the persecutions of others seem to sway our opinions and our desires, and may even cause us to falter in our attempts to follow after the Lord. But, in the end, none of these should keep us from

◊ (Continued on page 87)

Wholly Following

(Continued from page 86) ◊

"Wholly Following the Lord!"

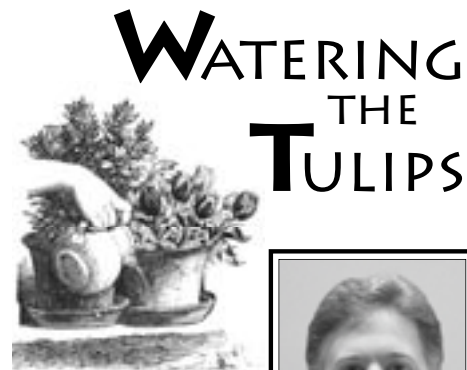
Notice that Caleb – though his life was threatened – did not cease from following after the Lord. **"And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel"** (Num. 14:6-10). Despite the near physical assault of the children of Israel, Caleb was ready to follow after his Lord God.

Well, I know that we do not often face physical assault in our place and time today (though I believe that there are many of God's people all around the world today that are suffering from physical assault and persecution – God help them!) but, we do suffer from verbal abuse or persecution that is not quite violent in nature. What do we do? Do we just give up? Do we just shut our mouths and be silent in the face of the onslaught that is taking place against the Word of God and the teachings of God? Do we just stand idly by while the world defames the name of Christ?

No! We should be as Caleb. We should cry out to the people and warn them of the dangers of infringing upon the holy character and holy will of the Thrice Holy God! And, if we are persecuted because of our stance and because of our ways, then so be it! We read in Matthew 5:10-12, **"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."** The Lord counts us "blessed" when we are persecuted for "righteousness' sake." Not because it is some great privilege, or some great honor or some great joy to be persecuted – because it's not! But, we are "blessed" because we must be "Wholly Following the Lord." Those that follow God are recipients of the greatest of all blessings – that is eternal life and all of the joys, and peace, and glories that accompany

it. Surely, persecutions in this life are of very little consequence when compared to life eternal!

In the end, despite all that might go on around us – whether there be distractions, weaknesses, conflicts, or whatever else may confront us – our response ought to be the same with the disciples that were first called by the Lord Jesus Christ: **"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him"** (Luke 5:8-11).



By Todd Bryant
of
Northport, Alabama



Watering the Tulips Clean Up Your Own Backyard

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye" (Luke 6:41-42).

The human mind is an interesting thing – sinfully interesting. We have such a tendency to ignore our own faults while we focus on the faults of those around us. Even in the garden, Adam declared, **"The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat"** (Gen. 3:12). Adam blamed Eve for his own transgression of God's law. As if that wasn't enough, he also seemingly blames God for giving Eve to him. Certainly, this trait of shifting blame has been passed down through the centuries since the fall of man.

This attribute is seen in all facets of life. Children in the schoolroom learn to blame other students to get out of trouble. Drug addicts blame everybody except themselves for their problems. Drunks blame the stresses of life. Adulterers blame the innocent spouse. The list goes on and on. Our nature, as a result of the fall, simply refuses to see fault in our own selves. However, this is detrimental to spiritual growth.

In our text passage, Jesus is explaining a necessary trait for spiritual growth. As individuals, we must first focus on our own shortcomings and get to work correcting them. We must cry with David, **"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my thoughts; And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"** (Ps. 139:23-24). Take notice of the personal possessive pronouns here. Certainly, this must be the way we approach God in prayer. If you spend more time praying for everybody else than you do yourself, there surely may be an issue.

Churches, too, must not fall into this trap. Satan has used this error to derail many of the Lord's churches. Rather than churches following the instructions of Jesus as it relates to the Great Commission, we often have a tendency to focus on the errors of everybody else. This may make us feel better about ourselves, but it will not lead to spiritual growth in a body. Churches must remain focused. We must ever preach the Gospel in love (Matt. 28:18-20; I Cor. 13). We must teach the truth to our members so that they are always learning and serving (I Cor. 14:26).

Children of God, let us not be snared by Satan's trap. Help us to look into the mirror and see our own shortcomings. Individually, help us to work on our own faults so we are better able to help our brethren stand. As churches, help us to seek the Lord's will and way about us. Help us to carry the Gospel forth in our communities as **"A city that is set on a hill"** (Matt. 5:14). This is our instruction from our Lord. When we focus on ourselves individually and corporately, we will grow spiritually.



Adorning the

(Continued from page 81) ◊

1. In contrast to the false teachers who merely professed to be followers of Christ, but in works denied Him (1:10-16), Titus was to preach sound doctrine as well as practice the truth he professed to believe. In order for God's name to be glorified and honored our preaching as well as our practice must be in harmony. It is a disgrace to our profession of Christianity to say that we believe the truth without practically applying it to the way in which we live. Those who

profess to be adherents to the doctrines of grace and godliness should strive to live gracious and godly lives.

2. The Greek word translated **"speak"** is *laleo* which refers to ordinary, everyday conversation. Thus, Paul is exhorting Titus to consistently incorporate sound doctrine into his everyday conversation. What we think about and what we believe will directly influence what we talk about on a day to day basis. If our hearts are set upon the glory of God we will find ourselves freely speaking about the things of God in our normal everyday conversation. This is a mark of a healthy church, when its members are consistently employed in speaking about the truth and then living it out from day to day. God records and rewards such behavior according to Malachi 3:16 which states: **"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."**

3. The best way to combat false teachers and unsound doctrine is through the application of sound teaching by the professors of genuine Christianity. Our lives should recommend the grace of God to others by reflecting the light of Christ in us. Our behavior, attitudes, and speech should convey to others that we have been gloriously saved and changed by the power of God. Thus the sound doctrine which we profess to believe should have a direct influence and impact upon our deportment. Every tree is known by its fruits. The fruit of right doctrine will always be righteous living. That is why verses 2-10 contain strong, straightforward, specific admonitions that are to be obeyed by the various members of the local church.

THE AGED MEN (v. 2)

"That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."

1. The older men of the church are required to be an example to the younger men. Those who are crowned with age should also be much seasoned with grace and wisdom. Job 12:12-13 declares: **"With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding. With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding."** The aged men are required to be **"sober"** meaning that they are to be watchful over their conduct and conversation so as not to set a bad example for the young people in the congregation who may be observing them and modeling their behavior. A sober man will not be intoxicated with strong drink or with the pleasures of the world. He will think clearly and act in a responsible manner.

2. The aged men are also required to be **"grave"** meaning that they should

◊ (Continued on page 88)

Adorning the

(Continued from page 87) ◊

conduct themselves in a dignified manner. They are not to engage in anything that is frivolous, superficial, or trivial. A man who is somber and serious will not laugh at that which is immoral or vulgar. Neither will he laugh at the expense of others. A grave man will be serious-minded and will conduct himself respectfully.

3. The aged men are also to be **“temperate”** or self-controlled. They must be able to control their physical passions by bringing them under the control of the Holy Spirit and the law of God. A temperate man must be sensible and show forth spiritual discernment in his decision making.

4. The aged men must be sound or healthy in **“faith”** demonstrated by a life lived in dependence upon God for grace and guidance. The aged man must walk according to the precepts and promises of the Word of God rather than what he can see and feel. His life must exhibit a testimony of trust in the living God regardless of the circumstances providence places him in. He must also be sound in the faith once delivered unto the saints in order to be able to instruct younger believers in the essential doctrines of Christianity.

5. The aged men are exhorted to be sound in **“charity”** meaning they are to demonstrate a deep and abiding love for God, His commandments, His people, and for sinners. An older believer who has drank deeply and consistently from the well of salvation and communion with God should be especially kind, gracious, and loving toward others. Because he has experienced the grace of forgiveness from God throughout his Christian life, he should be able to forgive others. The aged men should manifest the characteristics of genuine charity as set forth in I Corinthians 13:4-7 which state: **“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth: Beareth all things, endureth all things.”** He should also provide an example of love and kindness in the way he treats his wife, children, and grandchildren.

6. The aged men within the church should also be known for the virtue of **“patience.”** They should be marked by a steady resolve in the face of disappointment, and the ability to persevere in difficult times. When younger believers are tempted to quit, the aged men should provide an example of endurance and steadfastness. Oh, that God would be pleased to continue

to provide men like Joshua who will say even at the end of their days: **“. . . as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”** (Josh. 24:15). The older men should also abound in patience in the sense that they shouldn't be easily angered, irritated, or offended. A patient godly man will be even-tempered.

The example of older, mature, godly Christian men is absolutely vital to the well-being of every New Testament church. Their experience, wisdom, faithfulness, perseverance, and love for the Lord provide a living model for younger men. We should never underestimate the power and importance of the testimony of older men within the Lord's church.

THE AGED WOMEN (vv. 3-4a)

“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women. . .”

1. The behavior of older women within the church should be marked by holiness in their appearance, speech, and conduct. They should carry themselves in a sanctified manner in order to provide a good example for younger women to follow. I Timothy 2:9-10 declares: **“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”** Thus, godly women must provide a model of modesty in dress and decorum. She must not be seductive or alluring in her dress or behavior. Instead of drawing attention to herself she must recommend the grace of God by the practice of good works.

2. The aged women are not to be **“false accusers”**, guilty of malicious gossip or character assassination. Older women should exercise sanctified control over their tongues so as not to bring reproach upon the name of God. It is not enough for a woman to look modest; she must also display modesty in her speech. I have met women who spent much of their time criticizing others for how they dressed, yet they were guilty of being malicious in their speech. Older women who spend their waking hours criticizing, gossiping, and slandering others are a disgrace to the fairer sex. An aged woman who is seasoned with the grace of God is like the woman of Proverbs 31:26 which states: **“She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”** Such a woman is to be respected and remembered for her piety and graciousness, especially in an age where these virtues are fast becoming extinct.

3. The aged women are not to be **“given to much wine.”** In ancient times older heathen women were often guilty of becoming drunkards by abusing wine and strong drink. A Christian woman of

virtue should never allow her mind to be clouded by the effects of intoxicating drink. Usually those who are given to the abuse of alcohol are also scandalous in their behavior and speech. Some of the most unbecoming and abominable women I have ever met were given to the use of alcohol. Only a virtuous woman who is marked by sobriety will be able to teach younger women the principles of grace and godliness.

4. The aged women are to live in such a way that their testimony will serve as a constant teaching lesson to the younger women of that which is good and acceptable unto God. They must be teachers of good things such as obedience to God, modesty, purity, love for their husbands, care for their children, and other principles that make up a godly testimony worthy of emulation. We need older Christian women who are willing to help younger Christian ladies by teaching them how to be faithful and submissive wives, loving mothers, and fruitful church members through what they say as well as what they do.

I agree with what John Gill wrote:

“. . . these should be teachers, not of old wives' fables, of superstitious customs, rites, and ceremonies, of the intrigues of love, and of things filthy and obscene, which are too often handed down to posterity by such persons; but of things that are solid and substantial, useful and improving, honest and honourable, chaste and pure.” (1)

THE YOUNGER WOMEN (vv. 4-5)

“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

1. The exhortations of the above verses are contrary to the mindset of much of modern day society. Many would regard the commands issued by Paul as being antiquated and outdated. Many say that the admonitions contained in these verses are relics of a bygone age and will not work for the modern, enlightened, liberated woman.

There is no question that the role of women in modern society has changed drastically. Much of the change has come about through financial difficulty, peer pressure, and the radical agenda of the feminists. However, the changes that have come about have not been for the good. In fact, most women are in greater bondage than ever before. As greater numbers leave the home for the male-dominated work force they are faced with sexual harassment, ill-treatment, low wages, and long hours. Then most are still required to do a majority of the household chores when they come home from work. This is putting entirely too much pressure on women. Many have little or no time and energy to devote to their husband and children. The result

often is a home that is chaotic and filled with trouble. I believe that the solution to many of our domestic woes lies in obedience to the principles set forth by Paul in Titus chapter two.

2. Young Christian wives are admonished to be **“sober”**, level-headed, wise in words and deeds. As the domestic manager of the home the young wife has many responsibilities that require serious thinking, planning, and discipline. The training of young minds, the planning and preparation of a healthy wholesome diet, and the ability to live within a budget are just some of the many responsibilities that require a woman to be thoughtful and prudent. Young wives are not to be frivolous and superficial in their conduct and conversation. Rather they are to carry themselves with a dignity that commands respect.

3. Young wives are to be taught to **“love their husbands”** meaning that they must be completely devoted and committed to their spouse. The love that Paul is referring to here is not a romantic emotion, but rather a determined choice to obey God's command. The decision of a young wife to love her husband is not to be based on the husband's worthiness, but rather the command of God. The love that endures within a marriage is one that is cultivated and nourished as you put the needs and welfare of your spouse before your own. Biblical love involves sacrificing your own interests for the welfare of others even as Christ sacrificed Himself in order to bless His people with eternal life. A wife can demonstrate Biblical love for her husband by showing him respect through faithfulness and fidelity, caring for his needs, encouraging him in his endeavors, and honoring his decisions.

I like the comment of John Gill on this verse:

“To love their husbands; to help and assist them all they can; to seek their honor and interest; to endeavor to please them in all things; to secure peace, harmony and union, to carry it affectionately to them, and sympathize with them in all afflictions and distresses.” (2)

The inspired command issued by God in this verse runs completely contrary to the mindset of our modern me-first society. Today's woman is admonished by society to fulfill her own needs, be her own boss, and to do whatever it takes to please herself and advance her own interests. It takes a courageous young woman who is committed to God and her husband to go against the tide of popular opinion to obey this holy command. However, those wives who choose to please God through loving obedience will be blessed in this life and rewarded in the life that is to come.

4. Young women are also exhorted to **“love their children”** meaning that they are to be committed to the care, training,

◊ (Continued on page 89)

Adorning the

(Continued from page 88) ◊

and well-being of the children God has blessed them with. A mother often has to put the interests of her children above her own comforts. In order to obey this Biblical mandate she must be unselfish, compassionate, and devoted to the welfare of her children. The greatest display of love a mother may provide for her children is training them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord through godly instruction and loving discipline. Proverbs 29:15 declares: **“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”** We are in the midst of a social crisis in America because Biblical training in a majority of homes is non-existent. Many children are being taught by the example of their parents that material possessions are more important than spiritual realities. The wealth of the world is being promoted over the spiritual riches that are to be found in Christ and His Word.

We are not demonstrating love for our children when we allow them to show disrespect for our authority, when we fail to discipline them for wrongdoing (Prov. 13:24), and when we spoil them by giving them everything they want. We don't love our children when we allow them to be lazy, impolite, and undisciplined. In fact, we are doing them and society a great disservice. May God help all young mothers and fathers to obey the command to love their children by practicing the mandate of Deuteronomy 6:6-7 which declares: **“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”**

5. Young women are also to be taught to be **“discreet and chaste”** meaning they are to be pure in their thoughts, words, appearance, and conduct. Both words convey the idea that young women are to be taught to have a sense of decency and modesty in the way they conduct themselves. They should possess a healthy sense of shame at saying, doing, or dressing in a manner that would cause men to lust in their hearts. They also must be committed to moral purity and virtue by subduing their sexual lusts. Young women should be taught by the example of the older women to be virtuous and holy, not flirtatious and immoral. It is interesting to note that the character and description of a godly woman who obeys the admonition of our text is completely contrary to the conduct and character of the harlot in Proverbs 7:10-13.

6. The young women are also to be taught by precept and example to be **“keepers at home, good, obedient**

to their own husbands.” This is a command that is largely misunderstood and neglected in our modern world. The sphere of the wife and mother is to be the care of her home. In order to obey this command she must set aside personal ambition and devote all her energy to the management of her domestic domain. I strongly believe that the greatest harmony and happiness within a home may be promoted by obedience to this Biblical mandate. It takes sacrifice on the part of husband and wife to keep mother at home, but I believe it is a sacrifice that is well worth the cost. A wife and mother's presence in the home serves to strengthen, stabilize, and sweeten the domestic sphere. Though I may be charged as being “an old-fashioned, male chauvinist” I still believe that the woman's place is in the home caring for the needs of her husband and children. It is within the safety of the home that she may exert the greatest influence upon society by perpetuating moral values and godly virtues in the hearts of her children.

As more and more women enter the workplace, more and more children are being raised by people other than their parents. As more women leave the safety of the home to go into a male-dominated workplace divorce rates have skyrocketed. It is sad to see so many women being seduced by the feminist agenda that is radically opposed to the command of our text.

John MacArthur pointed out an interesting insight in his commentary:

“It is estimated that, by the year 2000, 90 percent of all women between the ages of 16 and 65 will have jobs outside the home. That trend is frightening even to many secular observers, who recognize the damage being done to young children who spend a large part of their time with and receive a large part of their training, or lack of training, from adults other than their parents. Statistics also make clear that extramarital affairs increase exponentially with women who work outside the home, simply because of greatly increased exposure to temptation. In addition to that, they often find themselves under the authority of a man other than their husbands (cf. Eph. 5:22, especially the word ‘own’) in an environment that is antithetical to Christian standards of morality and sexual roles.” (3)

Our text also admonishes women to be **“good”** meaning they are to be kind, considerate, and gentle. Along with this virtue they are to be **“obedient to their own husbands”** meaning they are to be in subjection to their husband by showing respect and love for his leadership within the home (Eph. 5:22-24). In order to obey this command the wife must understand God's order of headship within the home and the church as expressed in I Corinthians 11:3-15. I realize that these commands go completely against the

modern day feminist agenda. Yet, it is always better to obey the Word of God than the opinions and standards of men. May God be pleased to raise up women in our day who will throw off the shackles of feminism and experience true freedom through obeying God's command and standard for women as expressed in I Peter 3:1-6: **“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”**

I think every wife and mother would rather have the love and respect of her husband and children more than the applause of the world. C. H. Spurgeon wrote the following tribute to his devoted wife, Susannah:

“She delights in her husband, in his person, his character, his affection; to her, he is not only the chief and foremost of mankind, but in her eyes, he is all in all. Her heart's love belongs to him and to him only. He is her little world, her paradise, her choice treasure. She is glad to sink her individuality in him; she seeks no renown for herself, his honor is reflected upon her, and she rejoices in it. She will defend his name with her dying breath; safe enough is he where she can speak for him. His smiling gratitude is all the reward she seeks. Even in her dress she thinks of him, and considers nothing beautiful which is distasteful to him.

He has many objects in life, some of which she does not quite understand; but she believes them all, and anything she can do to promote them, she delights to perform. Such a wife, as a true spouse, realizes the model marriage relation and sets forth what our oneness with the Lord ought to be.” (4)

7. The reason why all of these admonitions to young women are to be obeyed is so **“that the word of God be not blasphemed.”** The truth of God's Word is most honored when it is applied in the lives of His people. The name of God is most dishonored when His Word is rejected, neglected, or carelessly disobeyed by those who profess to be the followers of Jesus Christ. Regardless of the social pressures of the world we must be careful to obey the commands of

God no matter what it may cost us in the eyes of men. Romans 12:2 declares: **“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** Young women may **“adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things”** by faithfully obeying the holy commands of God stated in our text.

YOUNG MEN AND PREACHERS (vv. 6-8)

“Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.”

1. The admonition contained in verse six obviously implies that God expects young men to be holy, chaste, good, kind, compassionate, self-controlled, and level-headed. God is no respecter of persons. He does not maintain a double standard like most men do. Often times when young men act carelessly and foolishly people will dismiss or justify their behavior by saying “boys will be boys” or “they just need time to sow their wild oats to get it out of their system.” God's ways run completely contrary to the ways and opinions of men. God commands young men to be thoughtful, prudent, modest, and responsible. Paul urged young Timothy to **“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart”** (II Tim 2:22).

One of the reasons why our society is in such a mess is because young men are not being taught to work hard, how to handle money, how to respectfully treat women, and how to respect and respond to authority. Our society is fast becoming filled with irresponsible boys who have physically grown into manhood but who have never put away their toys. I Corinthians 13:11 declares: **“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”**

2. Preachers are exhorted to furnish an example for young men to follow just as the aged women are exhorted to furnish an example for the younger women. Because preachers called of God are in a position of authority and leadership they are naturally called upon by God to set forth a pattern of good works in everything they do (I Cor. 11:1; II Thess. 3:9; I Pet. 5:3). I Timothy 4:12-13 declares: **“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading to exhortation, to doctrine.”** If preachers are to furnish the right kind of example

◊ (Continued on page 92)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. How often do you preach against sin? Is it preached against enough in today's pulpits?

Matthew Stepp
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570

Pastor
Big Creek
Baptist Church
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570



Every sermon preached is incomplete without preaching against sin. For three reasons:

1) The gospel should go forth in every sermon, and you can't preach the gospel of the good news of Christ Jesus without preaching the bad news of the depravity of man- you and me! Sin must be preached as the cause and ruin of mankind (again, you and me!) and that its terrible curse of eternal death and torment in the depths of Hell can only be lifted by the grace and the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2) Every sermon should preach an exalted Christ alone! And the sermon in one way or another will again contrast the holiness of Christ with the sin-plagued child of God that needs the power of God to overcome sin in our lives. Christ alone is magnified and lifted up! Man is merely a sinner, lost and undone, or a sinner, saved by grace alone.

3) And every sermon is remiss if it does not at least tacitly acknowledge that Christ is coming back again. A message of hope to the saint and a memorandum of doom to the ungodly. The judgment of sin is inherent in the coming of Christ, either to condemn to eternal death at the White Throne Judgment, or to stand before Jesus, Himself, at the Judgment Seat of Christ to try our works with fire unto His glory.

But understanding the tenor of the question, I will say that we need to preach Godly living quite often. We should not neglect the meat and necessary doctrine of the Bible to continue to preach the milk of the Word, but it should be a constant balancing act by the pastors and teachers to keep reminding ourselves and the visitors that come into our services that sin is the enemy. Sin is what keeps us from serving God properly and sin is a constant warfare in the life of a committed Christian.

Sermons of exhortation should be preached to encourage the church members to deny sin any power over their life. Scriptures should be brought out to show the hope that comes with the power of the Holy Spirit-filled life. How Christ's tender mercies will enable us to reach victory more today

than we did yesterday. We ought to, as undershepherds of the flock, continue to stomp on the toes and hearts of our congregations. If we aren't strong enough to take a stand against sin, then we will have failed the sheep. Bloody toes caused by the truth being preached and sin being condemned in (not just the world, but also in) our lives should be a consistent theme in our preaching.

Even exegetical sermons when we preach on passages of Scripture, will cause us to preach against sin, for the Bible is the story of man's shortcoming through the fall and his corrupted nature. Since we know that Jesus Christ is the central theme of Scripture, we will constantly be made aware of the purpose of His coming (future in the OT, memorial in the NT) to die on the cross of Calvary. He came to DIE for SIN.

The last part of the question- Is it preached against enough in today's pulpits? No, I don't really think it is POSSIBLE to do so. Even more so, as we see morality declining in our precious America. Folks have become enamoured by so-called preachers who merely preach the Good Will of man. The flesh does not hanker for good, Godly preaching. **"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry"** (II Tim. 4:3-5). A major part of that **"full proof"** is to preach against sin... Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP

Mike DeWitt Sr.
PO Box 950
Springfield, OR 97477

Pastor
Parkway Landmark
Baptist Church
PO Box 950
Springfield, OR 97477



"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 hast delivered thy soul" (Ezek. 3:21). I believe it is preached each Sunday and each Wednesday from my pulpit. The importance of preaching against sin is extremely important. I am not privy to other pulpits. I find that the pulpit I fill is an obligation that will take my lifetime to fill and even begin to be

acceptable to God.

MIKE DEWITT

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

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



Isaiah 58:1 declares: **"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."** II Timothy 4:2 commands: **"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."**

It is the duty of every God-called and Holy Spirit appointed pastor to preach the whole counsel of God which would include preaching against sin. The Bible is full of warnings and admonitions against sin. I preach against sin quite often and every pastor that I know among sound Landmark Baptists is faithful to preach against sin. Think about it. Every time we preach about obeying God's commands, walking in His ways, living a life that is consecrated and dedicated to His glory we also preach that failure to do these things is sin. The definitions of sin in Scripture imply that nearly every message that is preached has some warning or admonition against sin. Sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4). God's children are to delight in and obey His laws (Psa. 119:1; Rom. 7:22). Whatever is not done in faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). Therefore everything done in unbelief is sin. When God's children know to do right and they don't do it, to them it is sin (James 4:17). When viewed in this light, I doubt that there is a service that goes by that God's man doesn't preach against sin in some form or fashion. It would be difficult to preach the contents of Scripture without preaching against sin. With that said, pastors must strike a proper balance between doctrinal instruction and practical admonition. When a pastor reproveth and rebukes with the Scripture he must do so with a burden to better rather than embitter his hearers. The pastor must speak the truth in love with all longsuffering, patience, and compassion. The aim of preaching is to glorify God, evangelize the lost, and edify, build up, challenge, and encourage the elect. A faithful pastor always wants the best for the people his is privileged to pastor, so he must warn them against things that dishonor God and have the potential of bringing reproach upon the lovely name of the Lord Jesus.

The second question is very general and difficult to answer. My frame of reference is among Landmark Sovereign Grace Baptists where I would say that

sin is faithfully preached against. The exceptions would be among those who preach antinomian heresy. I am sure there are plenty of pulpits outside the ranks of sound Baptists where lily-livered, weak tea, and pink lemonade "ministers" have honey dripping out one side of their mouth and molasses out of the other side, who speak nary a word against sin. They are far more concerned about keeping their offerings up and their pews filled at any cost or compromise. There are religious assemblies that are full of doctrinal error; immorality, fornication, adultery, people living in sin, drunkards, drug abusers, and homosexuals among their membership. If the light of God's Word was shined in their midst they would scatter like roaches. Sin is definitely not preached against in such "churches" because those who attend would not stand for it. It is one of the marks of the last days according to II Timothy 4:3-4: **"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."**

TOM ROSS

Roger Reed
20 Ledgewood Dr.
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Missionary of
West Jefferson Missionary
Baptist Mission
90 E. Main St.
West Jefferson, Ohio 43162



We preach on sin often and especially when we see it is needed. Not just because we see someone in the congregation sinning, but when we see how bad our world has become. We want to remind ourselves that God is not pleased with the sin and wickedness that is going on and to keep it out of the church. Paul said, **"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"** (I Cor. 9:27). Paul didn't want to be a castaway (disqualified) and lose any rewards so he did his best to keep himself and others from sin. And he told young Timothy, **"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry"** (II Tim. 4:2-5).

Sin needs to be preached to keep

◊ (Continued on page 92)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. What are the "devices" of Satan that we not to be "ignorant" of in II Corinthians 2:11?

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

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



in your brethren that are in the world.
TOM ROSS

Matthew Stepp
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570

Pastor
Big Creek
Baptist Church
286 Big Creek Road
Wayne, WV 25570



II Corinthians 2:9-11 declares: **"For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."**

The immediate context suggests that one of Satan's devices is when believers fail to forgive a repentant brother or sister, harboring bitterness, malice, and an unforgiving spirit. The Greek word for devices is *noema*, which denotes thought, that which is thought out, hence a purpose or device. The devices of Satan would include the thoughts and designs of evil, wickedness, immorality, hatred, oppression, deceit, or anything in general that is contrary to God and His glory. The devices of Satan reveal the mind, thoughts, and desires of the most wicked person in all the universe. The devices of Satan are always aimed at gaining an advantage over God's elect and ruining their testimony.

Satan will use any device to destroy individuals, families, and churches that are a threat to his kingdom of darkness and depravity. He will use any means necessary to divide and conquer in an attempt to besmirch and bring reproach upon the Lord and His people. If Satan can sow discontent, doctrinal error, bitterness, self-righteous attitudes, and an unforgiving spirit among God's children he has gained a measure of victory. It is for this reason that God's elect and the Lord's churches must be vigilant against the attacks of Satan. We must put on the whole armor of God and depend upon the power of the Lord to overcome our enemy (Eph. 6:10-19). We must obey the admonitions of I Peter 5:6-9: **"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished**

In my mind, the two great devices of Satan are pride and ignorance. He wields these tools of destruction with great cunning and power. **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"** (I Pet. 5:8). Selah! Think about it!

In this passage, these are the twin evils that the beloved apostle was concerned the Corinthian Baptists might fall prey to. He was concerned that the pride that had caused the divisions and schisms in this early church might cause them to be puffed up with enough arrogance as to disregard the evident repentance of the former adulterer in their midst. How often Satan will cause our determination to live holy lives to turn into an accomplishment, rather than a continual uphill climb that can never be taken for granted! Beloved reader, we need to be aware of this device of Satan! How arrogant can we get? Why, we can think that we are BETTER than this repentant sinner! **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God"** (I Cor. 6:9-11).

The family of self are pawns of the great tempter. The father of this infamous tribe is self-love. His selfish wife is self-will, determined to have her own way. The children brought up in villainy are self-righteousness, self-indulgence, self-confidence and self-delusion. Satan will use these attributes in ourselves to get an advantage of us. The selfish nature of such traits will cause us to take our eyes off of our real power, Jesus Christ and to think that we are something of merit within ourselves, **"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of**

a humble spirit with the lowly, ...and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly" (Prov. 16:18-22).

The 22nd verse leads into the last device of Satan; that of ignorance. The apostle's exhortation is to be aware and understand, both 1) our weaknesses and 2) the strength of the adversary. Many a Christian has lost their testimony, because of ignorance. Ignorance of three things:

1) God's Word. This is the chiefest culprit of our failure to defeat Satan's temptations. If we only knew God's Word, we could increase our faith and use the power of the written Word to our OWN advantage! We could go on the offensive with the prerogative of grace and quell the foul foes!


2) God's Will. How often have we stumbled, because we aren't where we SHOULD be...? Straying from God's will puts us at the mercy of the deceiver. We MUST spend time in prayer, communicating with almighty God to be in tune with the holy nature of our Father and compassionate Saviour...

3) God's Way. Let us not be ignorant of God's devices, either! His way is grace and mercy, but it also is truth and justice! **"I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD. And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them"** (Hosea 5:3-5). Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP

Roger Reed
20 Ledgewood Dr.
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Missionary of
West Jefferson Missionary
Baptist Mission
90 E. Main St.
West Jefferson, Ohio 43162



First of all, we need to understand what is going on here in chapter 2. I believe this man in question that Paul is telling the Church at Corinth to forgive is the man that sinned in I Corinthians 5:1-13, who was a fornicator. Paul told them to deliver him to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"** (I Cor. 5:5).

One of the hardest things Christians have to do sometimes is to forgive. Paul

in verse 8 wants the Corinthian church to confirm their love toward him (it is apparent this man has repented of his wicked sin) and forgive him lest Satan should take advantage of them. Satan's main goal is to bring disunity in the church and if he is able to do that then he is able to destroy the gospel that is being preached. As I said there are some that can't give it up and forgive others of their sin because they think themselves incapable to committing the same type of sin. I am sure there were some at Corinth that would never think about committing fornication, but yet they forget they were capable if put in the right situation. We would think that David was not capable but, he did, because he allowed himself to be put in that situation when he should have been out to battle with his men.

Satan's devices are very subtle, **"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"** (II Cor. 11:3). Satan, don't forget, can change his appearance, and so can his ministers. People have this vision of Satan as this ugly old demon with horns, pointed tail, and a pitchfork; but that is not his appearance at all. He was created the most beautiful creature that God ever created. Read the words of Ezekiel concerning him. **"Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in**

◊ (Continued on page 93)

Adorning the

(Continued from page 89) ◊

for others they must not only be in the Word by way of study and meditation, they must also conduct themselves in a manner that honors God by practically applying the precepts of the Word of God. Even the most forceful and compelling counsel will fall on deaf ears if the one who gives it fails to live by it. The preacher must not only speak spiritual words, he must endeavor to live a Spirit-controlled life. Consistency of life with teaching is perhaps the most important aspect of effective spiritual leadership.

3. The preacher should set an example by practicing **“good works”** meaning that his life should be marked by righteousness in word and deed. He should not just talk of witnessing to others, he should practice it himself. He should not just say that husbands should love their wives and fathers should train their children in godliness, he must demonstrate the same by the way he lives. He should not merely speak of helping others, he must actively engage in deeds of compassion and kindness. I John 3:17-18 effectively illustrates this principle: **“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”**

4. The preacher must set forth an example of doctrinal soundness in his teaching and practice. The doctrine that the preacher sets forth must not be marked by corruption, meaning it cannot be tainted with error, heresy, or the opinions of man. Every doctrine that a preacher preaches must come directly from the pure Word of God. Our standard to judge the purity of the preacher’s doctrinal teachings must be Isaiah 8:20 which declares: **“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”** Those who preach salvation by works in any form, who deny the sovereignty of God in all things, who say that salvation is attained by the decision making process of man’s corrupted will, who contend that a believer may lose the Lord’s salvation and perish in his sin, are liars who are preaching corrupt fables hatched out of their own depraved hearts.

Next the preacher’s doctrine must be marked by **“gravity”**, meaning that the truth must be delivered in a respectful, thoughtful, and balanced manner. The preacher who handles the Word of God must never deliver it in a flippant, careless, or vulgar manner. This is not saying that a man of God cannot display a natural sense of humor, but he must not be given to joking and storytelling when

he occupies the sacred desk. Far too many preachers in our day are popular, not because of the truth they proclaim, but rather for the jokes and stories they tell. Such men are an abomination to God and a disgrace to the office of the ministry.

The preacher’s doctrine must be marked by **“sincerity”** meaning that what he preaches and practices is something that he is convinced of in his own heart. The preacher must believe what he is preaching if he is to be truly sincere. Shame on those men who say they believe certain doctrines of the Bible and yet are afraid to preach them to their congregation.

5. If the preacher’s example and doctrine are to be believed and followed he must likewise be characterized by **“sound speech, that cannot be condemned.”** The preacher’s daily conversation should be marked by speech that is above reproach. A man who speaks of holy things on Sunday yet who curses and tells filthy jokes the remainder of the week is not worthy of respect or emulation.

6. The result of a preacher whose example is marked by doctrinal soundness and sanctified living is **“that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.”** When critics and enemies make harsh remarks about a preacher or his doctrine, his holy life should be enough to shame and embarrass the gainsayer.

Hezekiah Harvey had an excellent comment on this verse:

“When the life of the preacher is an example of good works, and his teaching is in spirit sincere, in manner reverent, and in substance true, the opposer finds nothing to criticize, and is plainly without reason in his opposition, He is thus disarmed. It is the obvious duty of the minister, as respects his life and work, to avoid, with all possible care any just cause for censure or criticism, that the Gospel may not suffer through imperfection either in his life or in his sermons; and that he may not always thus silence opposition, since men are by nature opposed to God, he will nevertheless commend himself to every man’s conscience in the light of God. . .” (5)

SLAVES AND EMPLOYEES (vv. 9-10)

“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own master, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”

In these verses Paul is not addressing any particular age group, but rather a certain class of people. The admonitions are given to Christian slaves who were numerous in the times of the ancient Roman Empire. Slavery has been a common evil and condition among men

since the beginning of time, therefore we should expect rules to govern relationships between masters and slaves in both the Old and New Testaments. Thank God that the power of the Gospel and the liberating truths of Christianity have gradually eroded the practice of slavery among men. Yet in reality, the principles and exhortations given to Christian slaves may equally be applied to the conduct and attitudes of Christian employees in our day.

The greatest mission field outside of one’s family is the workplace. It is at work where believers may demonstrate the truth of Christianity to unbelievers on a day to day basis. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that God’s people conduct themselves in a godly and sanctified manner in the place where they are employed. If a man who professes to be a Christian is lazy, dishonest, uncaring, vulgar, or selfish at work then he will do great damage to the cause of Christ. The following attitudes and actions should be demonstrated in the testimony of every Christian employee:

1. Every believer who works for someone else should manifest an obedient and submissive attitude to the lawful requests of their boss or manager. Proper submission to authority is a principle that governs every phase of society. Insubordination and disobedience to the lawful demands of an employer is not acceptable Christian behavior. Rather, the believer should be an example to other workers by cheerfully and carefully following the instructions of their employer. Ephesians 6:5-7 declares: **“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”** Therefore, employees must view their obedience to the lawful requests of their employer as acts of obedience, service, and worship to the Lord.

2. Employees must also be committed to excellence in their work so as to commend themselves to their employer as expressed by the phrase **“to please them well in all things.”** Christian employees should strive to be the very best workers in the workplace, taking pride in their production and performance. Colossians 3:23 states: **“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”**

3. Employees are also to be respectful **“not answering again”** which carries the idea of not being mouthy, rebellious, or stubborn in response to the commands of the employer. The employee who is always complaining about his work or employer is not setting forth a proper example. If an employee thinks that the demands placed upon him are

unreasonable then he should quietly and respectfully discuss the matter with his boss. If nothing is resolved, then he should look for employment elsewhere rather than cause contention in the workplace. When you agree to work for someone for a certain wage you must show respect for the agreement that you made.

4. Employees are required to be honest, **“not purloining”** meaning that they are not to pilfer, steal, or embezzle from their employer. Workers should be honest by faithfully putting in an honest day’s work, not being lazy or taking unauthorized breaks. Nor should employees steal office supplies, make unauthorized calls on the office phone, or inflate expense reports. All of these actions are dishonest and unethical, damaging the cause of Christ.

5. Finally employees should be loyal, **“shewing all good fidelity”** by faithfully performing the job they are required to do. When an employer trains an employee for a certain task, that employee should exhibit a testimony of dependability, trustworthiness, and reliability in carrying it out.

CONCLUSION

All of the admonitions and instructions contained in these verses are for the express purpose of **“adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”** Oh, that more believers would heartily engage in active obedience to the precepts and principles set forth in this passage. We should strive to live in such a way that our testimony commends the grace of God to others. Our lifestyle should reflect that our lives have been changed by the power of God and that we have submitted ourselves to the Savior. Then, and only then, can we ever expect to exert a powerful impact in the world and have an influence for good among unbelievers.



Forum #1

(Continued from page 90) ◊

ourselves from sin, so we don’t get wrapped up in the world’s affairs, or follow after those things which God is not pleased.

“Is sin preached against enough in today’s pulpits?” No! Most Christians do not want to hear about their sins, they don’t want to hear about the grave and hell. That’s what Paul meant by **“heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”** Men would rather receive a lie than the truth. Christians today want to be patted on the back and have the preacher tell them, “That’s alright, we all sin, God will forgive you, don’t worry about it, you’ve saved, and you’ll go to Heaven, that is all that matters” If you believe that then you never read

◊ (Continued on page 93)

Forum #1

(Continued from page 92) ◊

Revelation about our sorrow we will endure when we see our Saviour face to face!

I have heard this story told many times from fellow preachers and I have experienced it myself as a pastor. Numerous times I have had someone approach me and ask, "Why do you keep preaching on the subject of sin?" My reply is always the same, "When you get it, I'll stop." Apparently they haven't got it because they're still doing it, and so I'll keep preaching it.

Anyone who knows their Bible should know from Genesis to Revelation how much sin is taught against. We are given examples of what not to do, yet we continue to sin. Christians want to sweep their sins under a rug in hopes they will go away, well, they won't. I was reading the other day in Daniel and it was one of those verses I have read many times before, but never really seen, Daniel was praying and confessing his sin, not sins, but his sin, and the sin of his people, "And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God" (Dan. 9:20). Now I don't know about you dear reader, but it is hard for me to imagine that Daniel had to confess his sin, but yet the Bible declares that all have sinned, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

We need to preach against sin and often. We need to be mindful of our sin, and be mindful that we need to repent to be forgiven of our sin. If you want a pat on the back, and do not want to hear about your sins, don't come to where I pastor. I believe we should, like Daniel, pray for our sin and the sin of our people (America)!

I believe this is the hope of every Baptist preacher as it was with Paul, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 11:2). God Bless!

ROGER REED



Forum #2

(Continued from page 91) ◊

the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more" (Ezek. 28:12-19).

So Satan's devises are not ugly in appearance, they are enticing and attractive. We all like new shiny things,

don't we? Wouldn't want to buy any old worn out pair of shoes, we want ones that are shiny and polished. That is how Satan draws us away with every want and desire (read James chapter 4).

We have to remember that sometimes there are church members that are not saved. Paul warns there were false apostles, and deceitful workers appearing to be the apostles of Christ. And Satan himself can appear as an angel of light, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Cor. 11:13-15). These are Satan's devices of which we are not ignorant.

Satan's doesn't have to worry or deal with false churches because he has them right where he wants them, but he hates all true New Testament Baptist Churches, and he is out, like I said, to destroy and to make havoc with them. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16). "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15).

I have learned that Baptists are the most hardheaded people I know, and when they allow the lust of the flesh to take over, then Satan has a heyday with them "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

May we all be as Christ wants us to be, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). God Bless!

ROGER REED



Mike DeWitt Sr.
PO Box 950
Springfield, OR 97477

Pastor
Parkway Landmark
Baptist Church
PO Box 950
Springfield, OR 97477

Satan's devices are his ways, his thoughts, his trappings designed to ensnare God's people. The verse under consideration is warning us to have love toward others.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (I Cor. 13:13). Faith, hope and charity is how members of churches are to deal with one another and then to all those outside of the household of faith. When dealing with persons who

have been excluded from membership, those who seek to return, being honestly repentant, should be received back into membership.

MIKE DEWITT



An Unshaken Trust

(Continued from page 81) ◊

in whom He was well pleased. "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?" Such integrity must not be permitted to dwell in obscurity. It must be exalted and made visible to men of every land and age. But as a preparation for such exaltation, Job must pass through great tribulation.

What God loves the devil hates. What God delights to honor the devil loves to defame. When God said, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil," the devil answered, "Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast thou not made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." By this Satan means that Job is a hypocrite, that selfishness is behind all his piety and fealty to God, and that if deprived of his temporal prosperity he would be utterly wicked and faithless.

The devil today is just what he has ever been. The same sneer is on his face and the same venom is on his lips. Where is the man in this city, in this country, or in the wide world, who fears God and eschews evil in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, against whom some emissary of Satan has not brought the charge of insincerity and hypocrisy? How often we hear the remark, "Such a man belongs to the church because it helps him in his temporal affairs. He gets the patronage of the church in his business. But let misfortune come upon him, let him lose his custom, and let his business go down, and he will make shipwreck of his faith." Who has not heard the mean indictment that ministers of the gospel are mere hirelings, that they are preaching for pay, that they are making merchandise of religion, that they have no faith in what they preach, that they care nothing for the souls of men, and that if their emoluments were taken from them they would desert their flocks, go over to the ranks of infidelity, and curse the Christ whose gospel they have preached?

If the men who make these charges are sincere, they not only repudiate Christianity, but pronounce themselves utterly faithless toward men. They

believe that man is too selfish to be able to approximate an act of disinterested goodness. They believe that all his conduct toward God and his fellowmen is inspired solely by the desire and purpose to advance his own earthly interests.

Just that is what the devil professes to believe, and you know what the devil is. He has neither pity nor respect for man. He is man's enemy. His work is to degrade and damn him. Men who have no confidence in their fellows have none in themselves. Believing the whole human race to be entirely selfish, all their transactions are inspired solely by the love of self. They use their fellowmen only as instruments to accomplish their selfish ends. If it is to their interest to applaud a man they bind the laurel on his brow, but if they can put money in their purse or elevate themselves to political office by detraction and slander, there is nothing in their depraved hearts to restrain them.

No man is better than his faith. He who has faith in mankind, he who sees among the ruins of the fall traces of a primeval glory which through God's infinite grace may be recovered, he who believes that there is human pity that is real, and human love that is pure, he who believes that there is a Godward side to man's being which is capable of real fellowship with the true and good, is man's friend. But he who believes that the central and ruling principle of every human heart is the love of self and that human aspiration can rise to nothing higher and nobler than the gratification of self, is man's enemy. Like Satan, conscious of his own self depravity and vileness, he would drag earth and Heaven down to a level with himself.

How miserable must such a man be! In all the broad world of humanity he sees nothing that is worthy to be loved and honored, and nothing in which he is willing to confide and look for sympathy and support in the day of trouble. Satan said he was going to and fro in the earth and walking up and down in it. He is the most miserable being in the universe because he loves nothing and confides in nothing. Peace has forsaken the breast of that man who believes that the regnant principle of every human heart is unmitigated selfishness. Such a belief unfits him for the enjoyment of any blessing. He looks upon every man as his enemy. He regards all human conduct as deceptive and every offer of kindness as the forerunner of a base betrayal. Regarding himself as a devil incarnate in a world of devils, he walks up and down the earth, hoping to find some grains of comfort in reviling and cursing his fellowmen. His years are all winter, his world all hollow and false, and his universe all gloomy and ghastly.

Young men, the days are evil. The

◊ (Continued on page 95)

A Dose of Reality

"Common Sense Comments"

by Joseph Harris

Chairman of Biblical Studies
Southeastern Baptist
College, Laurel, Mississippi
www.miniedition.net



If Obama Wins, America Loses

I have heard a lot recently that no one really cares anymore about who is elected and that Obama is going back in. I am about ready to believe it. Is this true, that people really do not care about whether or not Obama is re-elected? I care and I care deeply. Every red blooded conservative patriotic American cares. The majority of the ones who read this care. I have followed the Obama birth certificate fiasco and been concerned about his eligibility from the beginning. I am not a nut and do not jump on every conspiracy theory wagon that rolls along, but I am objective enough to see the puzzle has some pieces missing. I have watched in amazement as Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Ann Coulter and many other "big boys and girls" in the conservative movement ignore the evidence which clearly points to real problems for legitimacy. It may be true that most do not care about this particular issue. Liberals have their agenda, conservatives have their agenda and apparently neither group is concerned with the Constitution, integrity, and truth.

A couple of months ago, I believed Obama could not get re-elected. Now I am not so sure. Chances are he will get re-elected. Reason: no one cares. Apathy reigns. The Tea Party has run its course and had its affect but now that is over. In spite of the economy tanking, gas going through the roof, and Obamacare firmly in place with more intrusion in our lives, and a national debt higher than ever, Obama will very likely go back in. It may be a narrow victory, but a victory nonetheless. If Obama wins, America loses.

Here is the other side of the coin. If Obama loses, does America automatically win? Not necessarily. If Romney wins, we are not much better off than with Obama. Since the days of Ronald Reagan, big name Republicans have repeatedly proven that there is not two shades of difference between them and the Democrats. If by some miracle, Ron Paul wins, we would certainly be on a better road constitutionally and financially, but those two areas are his only strengths. However, Ron Paul will not win because conservatives, libertarians and constitutionalists will not unite around him.

If videos were released showing Obama sacrificing children on a bloody altar, would

it make a difference? Not with a sold out media to spin it differently and repackage the truth as has been so effectively done. But even without repackaging the truth, the bottom line is: people simply refuse to see the truth and many of those who do just don't care. As long as people still have transportation, cable or satellite entertainment, internet access, the latest high tech phone and are fat and full, nothing will change. If Obama does get re-elected, the economy will eventually crash, the federal government will take over (even more), and then everyone will have to make adjustments in lifestyle. At least then, maybe America will turn back to God. God help us..... and I mean that as a prayer, not the trite saying it has become.

Man's Wisdom or God's Wisdom?

There are only two kinds of wisdom in the world: man's wisdom and God's wisdom. Unfortunately the wisdom of man is today's prevailing guide for most philosophy and practice. The wisdom of man is usually, though not always opposed to the wisdom of God. For instance, consider the human fabrication known as evolution with its explanation for the origin of man. This theory is built upon man-made science which denies the existence of God. The REAL reason men deny the existence of God is not based on intellect or evidence or lack of evidence, but rebellion. If there is a God, then all men must one day face Him and be accountable. Solution to the God problem: get rid of God by denying His existence and offer an alternative for the origin of man and the existence of the universe.

After getting rid of the existence of God, the obvious result is moral relativism, followed by lawlessness. If God, the divine lawmaker who established the standard for right and wrong, does not exist, then neither do any absolutes exist. Nothing is ever right or wrong. Lying is no longer wrong, just irritating and troublesome. Taking that which belongs to another is not stealing, but sharing the wealth. We've come a long way, baby.

Man's wisdom produces illogical solutions to man's problems, which are ultimately caused by man's sin of rebellion against God the higher power. Consider laws that require children to be buckled in a car seat or buckled into a rear seat to avoid injury or death by an inflated air bag or crash. The ONE purpose for these laws is for PROTECTION of the life of children. Yet abortion allows children to be mercilessly slaughtered before they ever leave the womb to reach the safety of the car seat. That's real wisdom.

Years ago, the war on drugs used the slogan "Just say no" promoting drug abstinence. Now to be honest, yet in no way condoning drug use, some drugs

can be taken only once or twice with no more adverse effects on the body than overeating. But notice man's wisdom when it comes to sexual abstinence. Instead of zero tolerance as with the drugs (just say no) the attitude was "just use a condom" yet just ONE sex act with the wrong person could lead to death. Man's wisdom is illogical and destructive. Man, in his insatiable desire to have sex, just could not cross the line and insist on abstinence from sex, as with drugs. Liberals always love to promote sex. It is the only joy they have in life since they have no sense of humor and do not have common sense to enjoy the simple things of life.

Consider man's wisdom concerning salvation. In I Corinthians 1, Paul wrote, **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God."** God's wisdom says men can receive eternal life from God based upon the death of God the Son on the cross. The central message of the preaching of the cross is SUBSTITUTION. The innocent died for the guilty, paying the debt for the guilty... completely... 100%. Man's wisdom accepts the cross, but then adds good works, morality, church membership, confession, etc. Men are not saved by what they have done, are currently doing, or promise to do in the future. Salvation is by grace through faith to quote Rabbi Saul again. Men are saved by believing that when Jesus died on the cross, His death COMPLETELY satisfied Holy God's wrath against the sinner. This belief is active, not passive and results in a changed life, II Corinthians 5:17. That's true wisdom and it comes from God, not man.

The Fiction of Same Sex Marriage

Some things just can't be changed. In nature and science, fire is hot and ice is cold. Wind always blows and the sun always shines. The aforementioned facts are not up for discussion or debate. Facts are facts. There is no movement underway to "redefine" or "better understand" these facts. They are accepted because they are tested by time and have been proven to be true.

With the advent of the destruction of an absolute authority in society (the Bible), has also come a redefining of many things. For instance, gender is up for debate. A "Christian" college some years ago offered three types of housing to its students: male, female, and transgendered housing. The transgendered was for those students who were not sure of their gender. Huhhhh! Without being crass or too improper, there is a real easy way to find out. The answer is so common sense, it does not even need mentioning. This sad event is due to the destruction of absolutes.

The definition of murder was changed years ago when it was given new names such as "choice," "abortion," "birth control," and "freedom," to name a few. The fact of life beginning at conception used to not even be a question, but an accepted truth.

There are many absolutes in life. Here are some more:

1. Death is the absence of life,
2. A sperm from a male and an egg from a female are required to begin a new life, and
3. Politicians, both Democrat and Republican, will always raise taxes if given one-tenth of a percent of an opportunity.

Things are not always as they appear. The union of two people of the same sex may appear to some to be a marriage, and it in fact may be a union, but brother, it ain't a marriage and no amount of name changing, redefining, compassion, or tolerance will change the truth.

And speaking of civil unions, they should not even be allowed. A civil union for "domestic partners" is a mockery of marriage and an endorsement of fornication by "legally" allowing two individuals of the same sex to live together and potentially receive some of the benefits reserved for marriage.

If every court in the land declares a homosexual union to be a marriage, it still will not be marriage. There are certain legal qualifying factors required for a couple to be married, but the foundational requirement of marriage, is a requirement that is moral and common sense: that the candidates be of the opposite sex. And by the way, masculine and feminine roles are even found among homosexuals. Among two lesbians, one tends to be masculine and among homosexual men, one partner tends to be more feminine. Even in a homosexual relationship, an attempt is made to represent the two genders, which validates the common sense fact that a normal relationship requires one of each gender. There is also the common sense fact that homosexuals do not physically "fit" one another, not to mention the emotional misfit.

The recent push for perversion is not just an attack on marriage. It is an attack on God, the creator of marriage. Nevertheless, you better get ready. Buckle your seat belts. This push endorsing homosexual marriage as the real deal will continue to grow as this current administration and politicians eagerly endorse it for votes.

Final thought: If Adam and Steve had been the first couple in the Garden of Eden, none of us would be here today.

"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD" (Gen. 4:1).



An Unshaken Trust

(Continued from page 93) ◊

moral atmosphere which you breathe is laden with poison. All around you are men whose material prosperity depends upon your degradation. Just to the extent that they corrupt your minds and lives they add to their ill-gotten gains. These men would tell you that man is incurably selfish, and therefore incapable of disinterested goodness. They would tell you that those Christian temples are only monuments to the hollowness and hypocrisy of the men who built them. They would tell you that religion is only a cloak, under which men seeking their own aggrandizement conceal the iniquity of their hearts. They would tell you that even the men who have been leaders of our sacramental hosts, and whom the world has loved and honored for their Christian virtues, were deceivers of mankind and went down to their graves with a lie on their lips.

They would teach you to despise the faith of the Christian mother who nurtured your childhood and to despise the counsel of the Christian father who breathed upon you his dying benediction. They would persuade you to forsake the Christian sanctuary and spend your Sabbaths in club rooms. They would tell you that Ingersoll's tracts are better than the Bible, and the lascivious songs of the beer saloon sweeter than the songs of Zion. They would entreat you to hate and cry down every man who would put restraints upon unholy lust or who would insist upon honesty in business and fair dealing at the ballot box.

These are the man who set themselves up as your teachers, and who would give direction to your lives. Will you accept such a leadership? Will you allow them to destroy your reverence for all things sacred? Will you suffer them to pluck from your hearts the faith that was planted there by a mother's love, and the lessons of honor and rectitude received from a father's lips? Will you exchange the cup of the Lord for the cup of devils? Will you forsake Christ for Belial? If not, then join in holy alliance with those who are fighting the worst adversaries of God's truth and man's welfare, and help to generate a moral atmosphere in which this upas tree of infidelity, blasphemy, and dishonesty cannot live.

Are there any honest men in the world? The devil says there are none. Among the millions of men and women who wear the Christian regalia and follow the crimson banner of the cross, are there any who love truth and righteousness more than themselves, and whose allegiance to God's cause cannot be shaken by any tempest of adversity? The devil says there are none. He is a liar, and the truth is not in him. His indictment is a libel as black as the starless night to

which eternal justice has consigned him.

I am not blind to the world's depravity. I recognize the fact that among the millions who claim to be believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, there are many whose hearts and lives are stained with the deepest hypocrisy. But virtue has not forsaken the world; honesty, honor, and patriotism still live. In the marts of trade there are thousands of men whose moral integrity has withstood every temptation to wrong dealing. The assumption of certain political henchmen that every American voter has his price is absolutely false. That there is a large element of our population who have no appreciation of the dignity and responsibility of citizenship, I do not deny. That vast sums of money have been raised to corrupt the ballot, and that thousands of ignorant and impecunious wretches have bartered their birthright, I am compelled to admit. But patriotism lives; and I believe will live forever in the hearts of the American people. The majority of the property holders of this country in the last Federal election voted for what they believed to be for the welfare of the whole country. And there are millions of the horny-handed sons of toil in our workshops and factories, on our farms and in our mines, who would resent as an unpardonable insult to their manhood any attempt to purchase their ballot or to intimidate them in the exercise of their constitutional right to vote according to their honest convictions.

Unselfish devotion to Christ's kingdom is one of the most manifest realities of this world. The pages of history are luminous with the names of men who were loyal to God in the midst of affluence and luxury, and who were equally loyal in the depths of poverty.

I have gone to the almshouses of this country and found men who were once merchant princes. They were Christians in the heyday of their temporal prosperity, but still better Christians in the dark day of adversity. All such facts demonstrate that man is capable of disinterested fealty to God, and that when he plants himself by faith on the foundation of God's eternal truth, not even the gates of Hell can prevail against him.

In the sacred narrative before us Satan declares that selfishness is at the bottom of Job's uprightness and piety, and that if Job's material possessions were taken from him he would not only forsake religion, but curse the Holy Being whom he had worshipped and served. God accepts the challenge and suffers the test to be made. All that Job has of temporal treasure is placed within the power of Satan. From what follows we may judge what would become of the possessions of any God-fearing and upright man, if Satan were allowed absolute control of them. If it were proclaimed today by the civil authorities of this country that for the next week all laws against vice and

crime would be annulled, and that all evil-doers should, within that period, be absolutely free to do whatever their malign passions should prompt them to do, what a reign of terror would ensue. Scarcely a Christian home would escape the torch. Stores would be rifled, banks robbed, and factories and churches demolished.

That such results would follow the removal of all restraints from evil-minded men we can readily believe when we see how the upright man in the land of Uz fares in the hands of Satan. At a time when he had no thought of evil, and imagined himself secure beneath the protecting arm of Him whom he had served so faithfully, there came a messenger and said: **"The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them away; yea, they have slain thy servants with the edge of the sword, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."**

Hardly had this messenger finished his sad story before there came another, who said: **"The fire of God is fallen from heaven and hath burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."**

While he was yet speaking there came another messenger, who said: **"The Chaldeans made out three bands and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."**

What next? Before this man had uttered the last word of his fearful message there came another, who said: **"Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; and behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead, and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."**

Terrible agents were these in the hands of the arch-demon. Sabeans, Chaldeans, whirlwind, and fire combined their fury against one defenseless man.

What is the result upon Job's mind, upon Job's faith and integrity? Sheep and camels all stolen, servants burned to ashes, and bodies of his children mangled and dead beneath the ruins of a dwelling. Surely, if it be possible for temporal calamity to make a godly man faithless, Job will now fulfill the prophecy of Satan, renounce his religion, and curse the God whom he had worshipped.

But how does this servant of the Most High deport himself as he contemplates the wreck of his earthly fortune and hopes? Does he fall out with religion and proclaim it a vain thing to serve God? Nay. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly, but fell to the ground and worshipped him, saying: **"The Lord gave,**

and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

What is the significance of this story? It is God Almighty's refutation of a lie. Satan says man worships his maker only for temporal advantage. God answers, "It is false," and proves it by the conduct of his servant Job.

From the birth of true religion to this hour, Satan, speaking through human lips, has charged that men who worship God are inspired with no higher motive than the desire of temporal aggrandizement; and though the contradiction has been made by millions of holy men who preserved their moral and religious integrity in the depths of poverty, amid the gloom of the dungeon and the flames of the stake, the lie still lives and men still repeat it with all the malignity and venom of their Satanic master.

As the old patriarch Job stood upright and unswerving amid the desolation that surrounded him, God said: **"Still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him to destroy him without cause."**

The Lord God is proud of the triumphs of His people, and when the registering angel records a victory for the least of His flock banners wave from all the hills of Heaven and the enraptured millions of the blest tune their harps anew and rise to higher notes of praise.

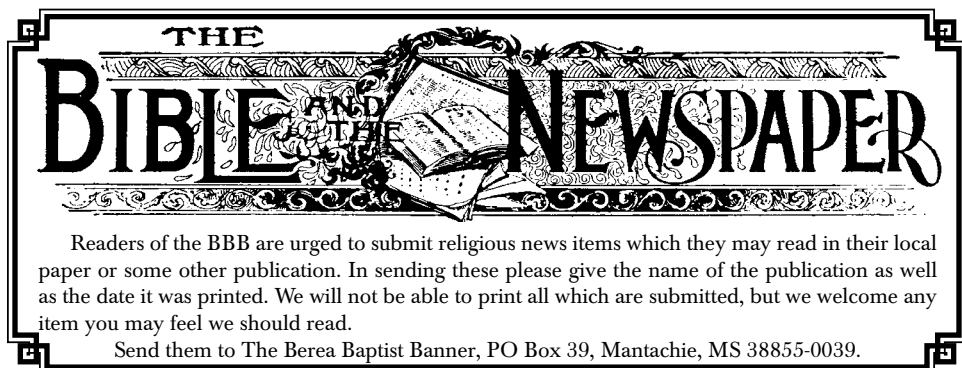
Satan, discomfited in his first attempt to overthrow this righteous man, proposes to renew the attack and challenges the Almighty to subject Job to another test: **"Put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face."**

God knows His people. He knows that neither angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, can separate them from Him. He is not afraid that they will forsake Him in the hour of their darkness and distress. Having this confidence in their loyalty, He accepts this new challenge. **"So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."**

Poor Job! Behold him, pity him. Covered with disease the most foul and loathsome, his flesh rotting and falling from the bones, stinking with corruption, he sits down in ashes and scrapes himself with a potsherd. Conscious of his integrity, knowing that he had done nothing to merit such suffering, doubtless his breast was the arena of bitter conflicts and the temptation to renounce God came upon him with tremendous power.

But to add to the severity of his trial, the devil enters into the wife of the patriarch. So loathsome has he become, so sickening and horrid the stench of his running sores, the she, the partner of his life, the wife of his bosom, and the

◊ (Continued on page 97)



COURT TO DECIDE IF TWINS CONCEIVED ARTIFICIALLY AFTER FATHER'S DEATH ARE HIS CHILDREN

(WNS)--The Supreme Court debated Mar. 19 over who counts as a "child" for the purposes of inheritance law and Social Security benefits. The Social Security Administration sparked the case when it denied survivor's benefits to twins who were conceived and born after their biological father's death. The father, Robert Capato, was diagnosed with cancer and he froze his sperm before his treatment and eventual death in 2002. His wife, Karen Capato, conceived the twins through in vitro fertilization (IVF) in 2003, after her husband's death. She applied for children's insurance through Social Security, but the agency denied her on the grounds that the children were conceived after the father's death, and also on the grounds that the state inheritance law recognized only children at the time of the parent's death. A lower court sided with the Social Security Administration, but then the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the mother.

MILLENNIAL GENERATION DOESN'T DESERVE REPUTATION FOR SELFLESSNESS

(WNS)--Researchers studying the attitudes and behaviors of college students got a surprise when they analyzed surveys completed by this year's incoming freshmen. The Millennial Generation is more selfish, less interested in the well-being of others and less concerned about the environment than previously thought. Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University and one of the study's authors, told the Associated Press she did not expect the findings to turn out the way they did: "I was shocked. We have the perception that we're getting through to people. But at least compared to previous eras, we're not." Twenge and her team based their study on two long-term surveys, the American Freshman project and the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future project, given to youth for the last 40 years. Despite the Millennial Generation's reputation for altruism, the study revealed that today's young adults are more interested in being wealthy, less interested in politics, and less interested in protecting the environment than past generations.

SPECIAL-PROTECTIONS MEASURE FAILS IN ALASKA

(WNS)--Family advocates won a huge victory in Alaska Apr. 3, when the residents of Anchorage resoundingly shot down a measure known as Prop. 5. The initiative sought to expand the city's nondiscrimination ordinance to include "sexual orientation and transgender identity." Though backers of Prop. 5, which included Colorado gay-activist billionaire Tim Gill and both Alaska U.S. senators, Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich, vastly outspent pro-family advocates — raising some \$340,000, about four times more than conservatives raised — the measure failed by a 16-point margin, 58 percent to 42 percent. "It represents a triumph of common sense over cash," said Jim Minnery, president of the Alaska Family Policy Council. "People are now able to have a firm understanding that they don't have to check their faith at their place of worship to go out into the public market place." Mayor Dan Sullivan vetoed a similar measure when the city council passed it about three years ago, citing a lack of quantifiable evidence to show it was needed. He was re-elected Tuesday with about 59 percent of the vote.

GLOBAL WARMING? POLAR BEARS SAY BRING IT ON.

You may have heard that global warming is destroying polar bear habitat and the population of the bears is falling dramatically. Only problem is: It's not true, at least the polar bear part of that equation. According to an article in the "Globe and Mail," a recent study has produced a "healthy polar bear count [that] confounds doomsayers." According to the article, "The number of bears along the western shore of Hudson Bay, believed to be among the most threatened bear subpopulations, stands at 1,013 and could be even higher. That's 66 per cent higher than estimates by other researchers who forecasted the numbers would fall to as low as 610 because of warming temperatures that melt ice faster and ruin bears' ability to hunt. The Hudson Bay region, which straddles Nunavut and Manitoba, is critical because it's considered a bellwether for how polar bears are doing elsewhere in the Arctic." It appears that the global warming alarmists will not have to find a new bell to lead the way.

"And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

ATHEISTS OFFER PORN IN EXCHANGE FOR BIBLES

(WNS)--A small group of students at the University of Texas at San Antonio spent

two days last week sitting in the middle of campus next to bright red signs covered in large black letters. One said "Free Porn." The other offered "Smut for Smut." The students, all members of Atheist Agenda, hoped to entice their classmates to turn in their Bibles in exchange for pornographic magazines - a provocative offer designed to shock and attract attention. The event caused an uproar on campus in 2008 and made headlines around the world. But this year, few students took notice. During the four hours Atheist Agenda members spent next to their signs each day, only about 30 people stopped by to get information about the club or start a debate. About 30 yards away from the tables, a small group of students stood in a circle, holding hands, heads bowed. The students, members of the campus vocal club Victory and Praise Choir, quietly sang worship songs between prayers. The singers first gathered to protest the atheist event last year, Assistant Choir Director Tarvia Demerson said. They hope to show people walking by that the atheists aren't the only ones willing to make a bold, public statement about their beliefs.

HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY CONSIDERS NAME CHANGE

(WNS)--School officials at Houston Baptist University say the term "Baptist" limits the school's potential student pool to people who grew up in the denomination's Southern network of churches. For that reason and others, school officials are planning to drop the word from its name. Students who did not grow up going to a Baptist church might not feel welcome at the school, officials say. And as HBU prepares to return to NCAA Division 1 athletic competition and reintroduce a core liberal arts program, trustees hope to expand its appeal outside the south and the Southern Baptist Convention. As part of its efforts to expand the school's reach, the 36-member HBU Board of Trustees commissioned a study to determine the school's name recognition. Spokesman R. Kimberly Gaynor, vice president for university communications said the results of the survey were telling.

LOUISIANA COLLEGE WINS COURT FIGHT OVER SCRIPTURE

(WNS)--Louisiana College trustees and administrators at the end of March won what could be the last battle in a long war over the school's adherence to its Biblical foundation. On March 28, a Louisiana district court judge dismissed a suit brought against the school by four professors who claimed defamation and infliction of emotional distress in a disagreement with school leaders over the inerrancy of Scripture. In what school administrators have billed a landmark decision upholding religious liberty on campus, Judge Mary Doggett ruled that because the disagreement centered on theology, secular courts had no jurisdiction in the matter. The case brought by the four professors—Carlton Winbery, Frederick Downing, James Heath and Connie Douglas—clearly arose out of a theological dispute, Doggett concluded.

During depositions, the professors "candidly testified that their errant view of the Bible was in conflict with the inerrant beliefs of the [school] administration," according to Doggett's ruling. Before the latest case reached court, all four professors retired. While the school won the case in district court, the professors could appeal.

TEACHING THE BIBLE, CLOSING THE EDUCATION GAP

(WNS)--After combing through more than 1,000 studies on the achievement gap, researcher William Jaynes discovered two common denominators for academic success among minority students—an active personal faith and a strong family unit. Because of the importance faith plays in minority communities, taking the Bible out of the classroom actually makes it harder for minority students to succeed. "African American and Latino children are the most disadvantaged by the absence of the Bible in public schools," said Jaynes, a professor at California State University. His research revealed that while other methods had predominantly failed, the presence of an active personal faith and a strong family unit erased the education gap completely. The effect is due in part to the strength the children draw from religion and in part to parental involvement, he said.

SHUT UP OR GO TO JAIL

(FOX NEWS) Andrew P. Napolitano, a former judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey stated, "President Obama has signed into law the Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act of 2011. This law permits Secret Service agents to designate any place they wish as a place where free speech, association and petition of the government are prohibited. And it permits the Secret Service to make these determinations based on the content of speech.

Thus, federal agents whose work is to protect public officials and their friends may prohibit the speech and the gatherings of folks who disagree with those officials or permit the speech and the gatherings of those who would praise them, even though the First Amendment condemns content-based speech discrimination by the government.

The new law also provides that anyone who gathers in a "restricted" area may be prosecuted. And because the statute does not require the government to prove intent, a person accidentally in a restricted area can be charged and prosecuted, as well.

This abominable legislation enjoyed overwhelming support from both political parties in Congress because the establishment loves power, fears dissent and hates inconvenience, and it doesn't give a . . . about the Constitution. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and only three members of the House voted against it. And the president signed it in secret. It is more typical of contemporary China than America. It is more George III than George Washington."

◊ (Continued on page 97)

Bible & the Newspaper

(Continued from page 96) ◊

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS EUROPEAN COMMISSION FUNDS ABORTIONS

(WNS)--The European Commission is using economic development funds to pay for abortions, according to a report from European Dignity Watch. The report, "The Funding of Abortion through EU Development Aid," says Marie Stopes International, one of the world's largest abortion providers, received over \$30 million from the European Union. The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, a partnership that includes the United Nations Population Fund, provides abortion kits to developing countries and was given close to \$32 million over a 30-month period ending in June 2011.

ENFORCEMENT DOUBLE STANDARD IN EGYPT

(WNS)--Compass News Service is reporting that a priest in Egypt was sentenced in March to six months in jail for "a minor construction violation at his church building, while no one in a mob that burned the same structure down has been arrested." Makarios Bolous of the Mar Gerges Church in Aswan was sentenced on Mar. 4. Bolous said the ruling, coupled with the absence of prosecution against those who burned down the church building, is clear evidence of persecution and a legal double standard between Christians and Muslims. The lower court that made the ruling also fined Bolous 300 Egyptian pounds (US\$50). Local government officials said the building was 2.5 meters taller than what they had approved on a series of architectural drawings for the church building. On Sept. 30, 2011, some 3,000 villagers set fire to and then demolished the building and razed four nearby homes and two businesses, all Christian-owned.



An Unshaken Trust

(Continued from page 95) ◊

mother of his children, is constrained to forsake him. Sick, disgusted, and horrified, she turns away from him with the exhortation to curse God and die. But under the pressure of all this suffering, desolate, forsaken, an object of loathing even to the wife who up to this hour had been loyal and faithful, Job did not sin. The loss of property, the loss of servants, the loss of children, the loss of health, the loss of all human affection and sympathy presented a mighty temptation, and yet he serenely faced it and conquered it.

Still another trial awaits him. Worse than poverty, worse than disease, worse than the death of children, and worse than the desertion by one's own flesh, is the loss of one's good name. As Job was a great sufferer, men looked upon him as a

great sinner. They regarded his calamities as only the just and inevitable penalty for some villainous transgression which he had sought to hide beneath the covering of a religious profession.

The pangs of dying are sweet in comparison with the anguish which an upright man feels in being subjected to a base-born suspicion which he is powerless to remove. And yet, when God laid this burden upon the heart of Job, his faith did not fail him. Loving and serving the Lord for the Lord's sake, cleaving to the truth because it was truth, and holding on to the right because it was right, he said: "**Let come what will, . . . Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.**"

When men stand up before the world and declare that the Christian's faith is unreal and that his Christian labors and self-denials are inspired only by the hopes of temporal advantage I almost wonder that the sheeted dead do not rise from their graves and rebuke them.

Was it for temporal gain that Paul was obedient to the heavenly vision which called him into Macedonia? Was it for temporal gain that he submitted to five Jewish scourgings and three Roman flagellations? Was it for temporal gain that he endured the prolonged insolence of provincial magistrates and the gnashing fury of frenzied mobs? Was it for temporal gain that he wore for three years a felon's chain and slept in a felon's cell? Was it for temporal gain that he suffered the loss of all things and at last expired at the hands of a Roman headman? Was it for any earthly good that Francis Xavier carried the gospel into India? Was it for any temporal reward that he suffered among the poor, degraded pearl fishers of the straits of Manaar? Was it for any hope of earthly gain that he preached the gospel where earthquakes, pestilence, and savagery imperiled his life at every moment?

No! No! It would be flattery to call that man mean who would question the sincerity of such a life, or attempt to cast a shadow upon such a name.

In the present generation there are moral heroes who will not suffer by comparison with those whose names illumine the pages of history. Immediately around us are men and women who, amid conflicts dark and dire, hold to truth and virtue and God with a faith as unflinching and firm as that of the patriarch Job. Go with me tomorrow and I will conduct you into a chamber where lies the wasted and skeleton form of a man who for months and years has not had one hour's exemption from pain, and yet he is uncomplaining and peaceful. With the cold sweat of agony standing on his brow and his whole body quivering with anguish he is wont to say: "**It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth him good.**"

Follow me again and I will lead you beneath a humble roof where the

deepest and saddest poverty dwells, poverty unpitied because unknown to the world. There a frail woman, too noble to beg, plies her needle from morn till midnight that her fatherless children may not lack for bread tomorrow. No word of complaint drops from her lips; but grateful to God for a little meal in the barrel and a rude shelter above her head, and looking forward to a heritage of peace and plenty beyond the stars, she exclaims: "**What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits?**" "**Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name!**"

Go with me to yonder city of the dead. There beneath a weeping willow a mother kneels at the grave of her only child. Sorrow has plowed deep furrows in her face, but the light of hope is in her eye. As her tears fall and mingle with the dust we hear her say: "**The Lord gave,**

the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

I dare say that in the secret solitude of hearts before me today there are wounds and aching griefs which only Heaven can cure. There are some here whose cup is all bitterness, and yet day by day they look up to God and say: "**Let come what will. . . Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.**" Such men and women are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. They are witnesses for God and His truth whose testimony can never be refuted. May God multiply their seed and their triumphs until the last infidel voice is silenced and the last skeptic shall lift his eyes to the cross and exclaim, in the language of the Roman soldier: "**Truly this was the Son of God.**"

(An Unshaken Trust, pp. 19-35, 1899 edition).



From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)



The Believer A New Creation

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

It is evident from the Scriptures that man does not come into the world a God-honoring being. The unrenewed man hates God. His heart is naturally opposed to God. He is far from God and unlike God. He will live and die in this condition unless Divine grace brings about a change in him.

The new birth is a great revolution in the spirit of man. Regeneration creates a new world in the spirit of man. It is the overthrow of Satan's empire, and the establishment of the kingdom of Christ in the heart. It is being engrafted into Christ. Regeneration is the renovation for all moral powers. It is the recovery of the lost, and it is life from death. It is starting a new life.

A GLORIOUS POSITION

First, Paul introduces the Corinthians to their glorious position: "**Therefore if any man be in Christ. . .**" This position is glorious because all spiritual blessings are in Christ, according to Ephesians 1:3. To be in Christ implies a person has fled to Him for shelter and salvation---as the man-slayer fled to the city of refuge---taking refuge in His atoning blood!

What is it to be in Christ? It means to be united to Christ by faith. It is the union of the spirit with Christ which makes him a member and partaker of that regenerated, believing and justified humanity of which Christ is head. It is

not union with a system of doctrine, nor external influences, nor with a church. It is union with a personal, risen, living, omnipresent Lord. Organic union with Christ is union like that of a husband with his wife (Rom. 7:4) and the vine with the branches (John 15:1-2).

All those in Christ are true Christians. Before regeneration they may have been moral or immoral, infidels or nominal believers, amiable or debased. But it matters not. If they become Christians they all experience such a change as to make it proper to say they are a new creation. They may be Methodist, Presbyterians, or Baptists, but if they are in Christ they are a part of a new world order. They may live in the north, east, south or the west; it makes no difference; they are in close union with Christ.

The expression "in Christ" sums up man's redemption. It speaks of security in Christ who has Himself borne in His body the judgment of God against our sin. It speaks of acceptance in Christ with Whom God alone is well pleased. It speaks of assurance for the future in Christ who is our resurrection and life. It speaks of a glorious inheritance for Christ is the Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2). It speaks of participation in the Divine nature of Christ. Redemption in Christ is nothing less than the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose to re-create the world in Christ Jesus.

◊ (Continued on page 98)

The Believer A New

(Continued from page 97) ◊

How does one get into Christ? First, he must have been chosen in Christ by the Father: **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world"** (Eph. 1:4). Those in Christ in this verse were chosen in Him before the time of the ages. The bestowment of spiritual blessings to these is an act of electing grace by which Christ's people were chosen in their Representative and Head. I Corinthians 1:30 says: **"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus."**

Second, the elect are in time created in Christ: **"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. . ."** (Eph. 2:10). This is the regeneration of the elect in time by the Holy Spirit.

Third, the elect believe into Christ in their experience of grace. John 3:16 of the literal Greek speaks of believing into Christ. In John 3:16 the expression is found **"whosoever believeth in him."** The word translated **"in"** is **"eis"** in the Greek. This word can have the meaning of **"into"** as water Salvationists often affirm by calling attention to Galatians 3:27).

Fourth, those chosen in Christ, those created in Christ, those who believe into Christ, are to be baptized into Christ. **"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"** (Rom. 6:3). This act declares the Father's choice, the Spirit's regeneration, and the faith of the person baptized.

Water Salvationists have a distorted idea of what is necessary to be in Christ. They make baptism the condition of being in Christ. They never tell their followers of the eternal choice of some to be in Christ, nor of the Spirit's regeneration. It is worse than foolish to baptize a man whom God has not chosen from eternity. It is equally senseless to baptize a man who has not been regenerated by the Spirit. It is the height of folly to baptize a person and to assume the act of some preacher makes that person one of God's elect and regenerate!

A NEW MORAL CREATION

Then the inspired writer discloses the new moral creation: **" . . . he is a new creature. . ."** The word rendered **"creature"** denotes the act of creating and a created thing. The margin has **"Let him be a new creature"** The idea is not he ought to be a new creature, but that all in Christ are new creatures. Here the new birth is called a new creation being a work of Almighty power. The Apostle in another place said: **"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature"** (Gal. 6:15).

Those created in Christ Jesus are the workmanship of God. This excludes man from having a part in being born again

since a creature cannot create. Only the Creator can make a new creature. He who originally created man is the only One who can re-create him in Christ Jesus.

That which is produced in regeneration is called **"a new creation"** in the text. It is called **"the new man"** in Ephesians 4:24 and **"the inward man"** in Romans 7:22. It is also called **"the hidden man of the heart"** in I Peter 3:4 and **"spirit"** in John 3:6. To the Galatians Paul spoke of it as **"Christ being formed in you"** (Gal. 4:19).

The Godchild produced in regeneration is a new man in distinction from the old Adamic man. The old man is the principle of the corrupt nature which is as old as the man. The new man is not the old man remade or repaired. The new man is the principle of grace infused in regeneration by the Holy Spirit of God. There is such a change produced as to make it proper to say the regenerate man is a **"new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness"** (Eph. 4:24).

The new birth is called by Paul a new creation. In this moral creation, there are several resemblances to the Divine mode of operation in the creation of the world. I will mention some of these.

Both are effected by the Word of God. Concerning the creation of the world the psalmist said: **"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth"** (Ps. 33:6). The children of God are born again of the incorruptible seed, even of the Word of God: **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"** (I Pet. 1:23).

In both creations the first production is light. The command that disturbed the silence of untold ages was: **"Let there be light."** So it is in the new creation: **"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"** (II Cor. 4:6).

The work of grace begins by the opening of the eyes of the understanding. A sight of our sin and misery, and peril and helplessness. A sight of God's love, Christ's merits, and the way of salvation by faith alone. The Scripture declares: **"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord. . ."** (Eph. 5:8).

Both creations are good and holy. All God's works reflected His glory and declared His praise. Psalms 19:1 says: **"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."** This is more especially true in the new moral creation. It is the renewal of the mind in the Divine likeness. Colossians 3:10 informs us: **"And have put on the new man, which is**

renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." The first creation of man was good in God's eyes, even so in regeneration he has **"Begun a good work"** (Phil. 1:6).

In regeneration those in Christ receive a new heart and a new spirit: **"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you"** (Ezek. 36:26). They have a new name: **"Thou shalt be called by a new name"** (Isa. 62:2). They sing a new song: **"And he hath put a new song in my mouth"** (Ps. 40:3). They enjoy the benefits of the **"new covenant"** (Heb. 8:8) and walk in **"a new and living way"** (Heb. 10:20). In every sense the born again man is a new man, created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24). No wonder the Lord says to him: **"Behold, I make all things new"** (Rev. 21:5).

AN UNMISTAKABLE EVIDENCE

The clear evidence of regeneration is seen in the phrase: **" . . . old things are passed away. . ."** The unmistakable evidence of regeneration is seen in some people more than in others. Reformation is not regeneration, but regeneration brings about reformation.

When one is born again there is a change wrought in that person's life. There is order instead of confusion and chaos---beauty instead of deformity---righteousness instead of sin---goodness instead of enmity. The corpse and its corruption pass away and a living man appears.

The evidence of conversion is tangible: **"Old things are passed away,"** spontaneously, like snow of early spring before the advancing sun. That is the total sum of all old things departed. There is a departure of old vices, old thoughts, old principles, old prejudices, and old practices. This change extends to the mind and its faculties for they are all renewed. The heart and its passions are changed. Here is a change which commences at the new birth, and is carried on by progressive sanctification.

When Paul says that for the believer old things have passed away, the sense of the verb (aorist) points back to the definite moment, namely the time when the new birth was experienced. All the misconceptions and enslavements of the former unregenerate state of life passes away like a dark cloud on a windy day. A born-again man's supreme love of self passes away. His love of sin passes away.

◊ (Continued on page 99)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Grace Baptist Bible Church of Denham Springs, LA and Pastor Jerry Dodson would like to announce their Bible conference which is scheduled June 8th thru 10th.

Scheduled speakers are Elders Tom Horn, Larry Wilson, Ted Tweet, Doyal Thomas.

A meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, the 8th, followed by services at 6:30 p.m. There will be a noon meal on both Saturday and Sunday. There will also be an evening meal at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. The conference will conclude at noon on Sunday.

Everyone is welcome. For more information please call Pastor at (225) 664-3223.

The Victory Baptist Church of Chehalis, Washington is in need of a pastor. Any interested brother may call Gerry Greisen at (360) 985-7975, or Mark Fenison at (360) 751-2929.

The Calvary Baptist Church of Piqua, Ohio is in need of a pastor. Any interested party may contact the church at 726 Wilson Avenue, Piqua, OH 45356, or call Terry Allen at (937) 773-9272.

The Amazing Grace Baptist Church of Stockdale, Texas is in need of a pastor. The church believes in preaching and teaching the doctrines of grace and the Lord's church. Any interested brother my contact Bro. Alvin Schuetz at (830) 534-1918 or Bro. Keith Schuetz at (830) 789-2101.

The Bethel Bible Baptist Church, PO Box 85, Mansfield, LA is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elder should call Connie McMellon at 318-872-1647.

The Landmark Baptist Church of Collinsville, IL is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elders may call (618) 288-4236 for more information.

The Windsor Baptist Church at Windsor, IL is searching for a Sovereign Grace pastor. Any one interested may contact Larry Rawlings at (217) 665-3643, or cell (217) 620-4675, or by mail at PO Box 194, Bethany, IL 61914.

The Liverpool Independent Baptist Church of Liverpool, New York (north of Syracuse) is searching for a sovereign grace pastor. The church believes in the doctrines of grace, the local church, and is pre-trib and pre-mil. Interested brethren should contact Bro. Greg Sigworth at (315) 677-3819.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Galena, OH is in need of a pastor. Any interested candidates possessing the qualifications and traits concerning the office as found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 are asked to contact either of the following: Bro. Randy Coffey at (614) 871-2406 or email recoffeypot@aol.com, or Bro. Joe Vass at (614) 846-8699 or email jamijoe@wowway.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Believer A New

(Continued from page 98) ♦

His love for the honor and riches of the world pass away. His supreme attachment to earthly friends passes away.

THE GREAT CHANGE

Lastly, the Apostle lays stress upon the great change: “. . . behold, all things are become new.” Regeneration creates a new world in the soul. The renewed man acts from new principles, by new rules, with new ends, and in new company.

Note the tense in the expression “are become new” (perfect), indicating that the new things continue to be new. The newness of God’s creation is not a newness that in the course of time grows old and outmoded; it is a newness that is everlastingly new. With the new creation come new views of sin. Sin is suddenly seen to be a crime and a curse, and the old view of it being a misfortune passes away. Self is now seen to be a worthless thing, and it, too, becomes an “old thing” only fit to pass away. The old unscriptural view of Christ has passed away, and a new Spirit-inspired view takes place. Jesus Christ is no longer a Saviour waiting for us at our death-bed, but a present, living reality in the daily life. The old things which used to interest us in the world--pride, vanity, ambition--are passed away, and new interests have taken their place.

The change is most admirable. The Apostle said: “Behold.” It is worthy of gaze and attention by all intellectual beings. God beholds and promises His work to be good. The Savior beholds and sees the travail of his soul and is satisfied. The Spirit beholds and takes up His abode in the temple of the new born spirit. Heaven beholds and there is rejoicing.

Now I want to enlarge on some points of this new creation. What are some of the “all things” which become new in the regenerate man?

There will be new habits. Once he cursed; now he does it no more. Once he would become drunk with wine; now he does it no more. Instead of going to the theater and the dance, he goes to the services of the church. Now he reads the Bible instead of some trashy magazine or book. His companions are the godly, not the ungodly. Now he puts on the Lord Jesus Christ and makes no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.

There will be new dispositions. Formerly he was disposed to pride. Now is humility. Once he sought the praise of men, but now he seeks the praise of God. He used to labor in the field of sin for the devil. Now he labors in the Lord’s vineyard for the glory of God and the good of souls. His life was once self-centered; now it is Christ-centered. Once he loved sinful pleasures; now he loves the Lord His God with all his heart.

There will be a new temper. Some believe salvation will change every thing but the temper. If the temper is not changed, there has been no conversion. An angry temper that is ungovernable is certainly not the evidence of a person’s salvation. It is evident that he has the religion of the devil and is twofold more the child of Hell than before he made a profession.

Christians with a wrathful temper are a byword to scoffers. They are a curse to their families. Angry believers are a stumbling block to enquirers and a reproach to religion. The words of the text are true! When a man has been made a new creature in Christ there is meekness and love in his heart. He has mercy and good reflections. There is self-control.

There will be new purposes and designs. The natural man lives to himself and goes his own way. The new man seeks to honor God. He desires the Lord to get glory out of his life. He cares about his Christian influence. He is concerned about a good report of them that are outside of the church. He is anxious about being a good witness to the unconverted.

There will be new expectations and hopes. The unrenewed man lives in perplexing uncertainty. The new man has a Divine hope. He is begotten again to a lively hope. He is looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ. His hope is sure and steadfast. It anchors his troubled heart in this world of sin and sorrow.

There will be new pleasures and joys. Those of the old man were the pleasures of sin which were short-lived and were followed by remorse and bitterness. The pleasures of the new man are spiritual, heavenly, and Divine.

CONCLUSION

Preacher, I would like to live on this new dimension you have preached about. My life is not what it ought to be. I have so little joy and peace. I am not long suffering with my friends. I am nothing but a poor, miserable sinner before a holy God. “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips” (Isa. 6:5). I have tried to change my way of living and have known utter failure.

Your only hope, dear friend, is to be savingly joined to Christ. You will always be sad and miserable as long as you remain a part of the old creation marred by sin. You must give yourself up to Christ. You must trust Him as your only Saviour. Then it will be revealed to you that you are “a new creature” which was not born of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13).

You must be created in righteousness and true holiness before you can live the Christian life. If a man’s religion did not make him a new creation then that man ought to change his religion. A car can’t run right unless it is made right. A ship

cannot sail right unless it is made right. If the heart of man be not molded anew by the workmanship of the Spirit, and fashioned according to the law of the new creation, the creature will never walk in holiness.



Church Health: The Internal Keys to Stability and Maturity

By Donnie Burford
of Irvine, Kentucky

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” (I Cor. 13:13).



As with the health of any body, there are two key elements involved in the diagnosis of its well being: the external and the internal. Commonly we become aware of some problem when it is manifested outwardly; a sore, a lump or even a change of our countenance. But some of the most destructive aspects of good health occur internally and, if not properly diagnosed and addressed quickly, may inevitably lead to the failure of our life.

When it comes to the Lord’s churches today, His body, it is not much different. There are external elements we look for in discerning their health and, for the most part, they structurally appear healthy. Yet most would acknowledge today that our church bodies are not as healthy as they once were, or should be. Obviously the problem then must be from internal causes.

Let it first be said that some who call themselves the Lord’s churches can never have proper internal health because they have a corrupt nature. Their spiritual DNA, if you will, has been altered. They have tried to clone one of the Lord’s churches by taking of part of His body (saved and scripturally baptized believers) and trying, by some new technique, to construct a body and call it the Lord’s and have only come up with a doctrinal freak of nature, not having a natural and scriptural mother. No matter how similar or well promoted as being the same as the real thing, it will always be recognized for what it truly is, a creation of man and not of God; but what of a true church of the Lord?

The apostle Paul knew well how a church body was to be formed and scripturally structured. He had been sent with authority often to involve himself in the process, but Paul also knew what to look for internally in those church

♦ (Continued on page 100)

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 3-1-2012 to 3-31-2012

Beginning Balance\$3,920.58

RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS225.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY100.00
Calvary B. C., Everson, WA100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY100.00
..... 525.00
TOTAL4,445.58

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time (US) 360.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES\$360.00
..... \$4,085.58
Interest + .09
.....4,085.67
Less Corbin, KY des.-2,083.72
ENDING BALANCE\$2,001.95

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance\$2,243.72

RECEIPTS:

TOTAL 2,243.72

EXPENDITURES:

WCTT160.00
ENDING BALANCE\$2,083.72



BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 3-1-2012 to 3-31-2012

Beginning Balance\$1,253.40

RECEIPTS:

Amazing Grace B. C., Stockdale, TX25.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL 40.50
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX 50.00
Bible Believer’s B.C., Naples, ID 50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV313.45
Brenda Hess, Haleyville, AL 25.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY150.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL 25.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR 25.00
Gina M. Sturgill, Beckley, W 150.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC 50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK35.00
Harold Flynn, Craigs ville, WV 50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV 100.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC .. 100.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM100.00
Leston Farrell, Des Allemands, LA 110.00
The Lord’s Church, Goose Creek, SC 50.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, VA 10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN50.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR50.00
Southside B.C., Fulton, MS 50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX30.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA25.00
Subscriptions142.00
Dividing checks150.00
Anonymous \$1,192.00
Sub Total\$3,957.95
TOTAL\$5,211.35

EXPENDITURES:

Printing 581.00
Postage 657.08
Wages 2,300.00
FICA 175.96
Dividing checks 150.00
Supplies109.95
Total Expenditures \$3,973.99
ENDING BALANCE \$1,237.36

Religious, But Lost!

By Nathaniel Hille
of Caldwell, Kansas



thereof..." (II Tim. 3:5). I believe that we are in that day. We see multitudes of people who "claim" to have eternal life, but not based upon the salvation so clearly depicted in the Bible.

Are you one of them who have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof? Are you one whom has set aside the commandments of God, making them of none effect by your own vain traditions? Have you made your calling and election sure (II Pet. 1:10)?

"But their heart is far from me" (Matt. 15:8). It is the greatest deception that ever was propagated: "religion can save." By religion we mean "the outward observance of good works." Satan, the arch liar, hath deceived better than all ministers of propaganda. Sinful man has bought into the lie of Satan ever since man, in Adam, fell from his first estate. Scripture tells us that the very best of what Adam and Eve could do was rejected by God; thus, He made them coats of skins, rejecting the aprons of leaves (Gen. 3:15-21). God has declared from the time in which sin entered the world through the disobedience of one man that religion WILL NOT and CANNOT SAVE!

Today, it is no different: Religion will not save an individual from the disobedience, rebellion, sin, and trespasses of which we have committed against God. There are many who are trusting in an outward form of religion, but are void of the inward regeneration of which God requires and brings about in man by the working of His Spirit.

Many today are trusting in their traditions (See Matt. 15:1-20). They are trusting in 'baptisms,' their church attendance, their church service, their community service, their mission trips, etc. to save them or gain favor with God. Beloved, these things have never saved a soul and never will save a soul. The Bible clearly tells us that there is only one name given under heaven among men whereby we MUST be saved (Acts. 4:12), and that name is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Perhaps you might be one who points to the law as your way of salvation. Do you say, "Well, I haven't killed anyone." In all honesty, you probably have (by God's definition). The Bible tells us that to have anger in one's heart towards another is murder (Matt. 5:21-22). Perhaps you are one who likes to cite the law of God and claim that you have kept all these things from your youth (Mark 10:17-21). Yet beloved, "one thing thou lackest"— a Savior.

You might be a Sound Baptist, an Unsound Baptist, a Protestant, a Catholic, a Jew, a Muslim, an Atheist, you might even fancy yourself a "Christian," but unless you have trusted whole heartedly and solely in Jesus Christ as your all-sufficient Savior, clinging to Him and Him alone for salvation...all you have is religion and you are without eternal life (See Matt. 7:21-23).

Paul spoke of the days prior to the second coming of Christ for His people. He stated that in those days that there will be a people who will have "a form of godliness, but deny the power

Are you trusting in Jesus for eternal salvation, or in religion, which cannot save? "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John. 1:29).



Church Health:

(Continued from page 99) ◊

bodies that either would assure him of their spiritual well being and stability, or the lack of it. A case in point is the church at Corinth. Although they had been structurally and properly founded, they had become internally sick. As with any internal malady, if left unattended, it will eventually manifest itself externally. Such was the case with the Corinthian

church. Paul, knowing that nothing was structurally wrong with their body, properly diagnoses their real problem as being one of a spiritual and internal nature which had caused itself to appear and even threaten the demise of their body.

It is in this context that Paul gives the remedy for the most excellent way of a church's health and stability. The key elements Paul gives of the internal health of a church are faith, hope, and love. When we most often consider these great truths, we do so in a personal context, how that they are absolute in our personal and spiritual life. But Paul says that they are the key elements in not only our personal life, but in the internal and spiritual well being of our churches. Time will not allow us here to define or give application to these truths as they apply to the health of a church, but it is hoped that each reader will consider further how their lack is hampering or destroying our churches. You see, our outward manifestations of problems are, in reality, only a revealer of the much deeper internal problems we have. Structurally we are fine, but we are sick internally from the lack of these three abiding necessities being actively sought and practiced in our assemblies.

Paul could only thank God for His grace being manifested in the Corinthian church. With all their problems, it was sure that God was being gracious to them. When Paul saw a healthy church, one who was internally stable and healthy, one he knew was in good spiritual health, he always thanked God for their faith, hope, and love (Eph. 1:15-19; Col. 1:3-6; I Thess. 1: 2-3; II Thess. 1:3-4). Paul knew they were the signs of a healthy, stable and God glorifying church. A church that had internal health and that would manifest the grace of God that was in them, externally. May it be so in each of our churches today.



Blind unbelief *A Study in* *Seeing faith*
black and white

*Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winc'd nor cried aloud;
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

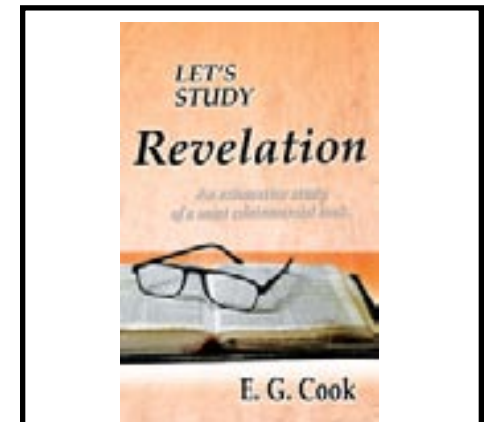
*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishment the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.*

*Make me a captive, Lord,
And then shall I be free.
Force me to render up my sword,
And I shall a conqueror be.
I sink in life's alarms
When by myself I stand:
Imprison me within Thine arms,
And strong shall be my hand.*

*My will is not mine own
Till Thou hast made it Thine;
If it would reach a monarch's throne,
It must its crown resign.
It only stands unbent
Amid the clashing strife.
When on Thy bosom it has leant,
And found in Thee its life.*

ARTICLE INDEX

- A Dose of Reality by Joseph Harris p. 94
- A Study in the Book of Leviticus by Timothy Hille p. 84
- Adorning the Doctrine of God by Tom Ross p. 81
- An Unshaken Trust by J. B. Hawthorne p. 81
- The Believer A New Creation by Milburn Cockrell p. 97
- The Bible and the Newspaper p. 96
- Church Health: The Internal Keys to Stability and Maturity by Donnie Burford p. 99
- Forum pp. 90-91
- Religious, But Lost! by Nathaniel Hille p. 100
- The Rests of the Bible by Milburn Cockrell p. 81
- Watering the Tulips by Todd Bryant p. 87
- We Love Him Because He First Loved Us by Curtis Pugh p. 81
- Wholly Following the Lord by Paul Stepp p. 81



This book was originally published in 1970. It has been out of print for many years. The book is paper back and consists of 197 pages. Also, included in this reprint is a short biography of Bro. Cook by Elder Milburn Cockrell. The retail price of the book is \$11. Please add \$2.50 for postage.