

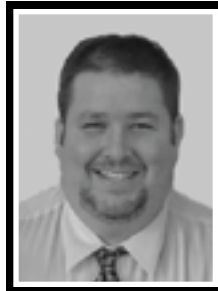
# The Berea Baptist Banner

*"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth" Ps. 60:4*

## Are You Different?

By Troy McGahan  
of Nancy, Kentucky

"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). In this book of the Bible we find Paul addressing the church at Corinth. Now Paul had written one letter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit rebuking the church for various sins; adultery, division in the church over personality issues, partaking in the Lord's supper unworthily, incest, divorce, disorder of proper roles of men and women in the church and home and the abuse of spiritual gifts to just name a few. In II Corinthians Paul writes the church and tells them how glad he was to hear of their repentance, and how they are now on the right track. This brings us to chapter five and verse seventeen.



In this verse we find Paul is telling us that when we have a personal encounter with Christ things are different and there is to be a change in our actions and attitudes. This flies directly in the face of modern day religion. People have been told for years that when you're saved, Christ is a fire escape for your soul, but nothing different should be expected of you. Does that sound like what Paul is saying here? Remember Paul said: "If any man (person) is in Christ (saved) he is a new creature (new creation); old things are passed away (this indicates the decisive change that has been brought about); behold (look) all things are

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## The Four Harvests

By Nathaniel Hille  
of Caldwell, Kansas



"And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter,

and day and night shall not cease" (Gen. 8:20-22).

The previous Scripture is from the conclusion of the flood, nearly 4400 years ago. And we may agree with the text, that all of these events, including harvest, have not ceased. Some harvests have been better than others; in some areas of the world there may not have been any harvest, but at some point upon the earth, this

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## The Dangers of Sin - A Useless Servant

By Paul Stepp  
of Indore, West Virginia



"He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not,

then after that thou shalt cut it down" (Luke 13:6-9).

In this parable we find that the lord of this vineyard threatens to cut down a tree that does not bear fruit. But, the worker in the vineyard gains a reprieve for the tree, so that he can fertilize it, and seek to improve the condition of the tree so that it will bear fruit.

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## Paul the Anabaptist

By Douglas Newell IV  
of Wake Forest, North Carolina

Acts 18:24-28; Acts 19:1-7

All Protestants, particularly the paedobaptist, have a lot of problems with scriptural proof for their baptism. There is no Biblical command to baptize babies, no New Testament principle for baptizing babies and no New Testament example of baptizing babies. There is also the matter that the practice contradicts the clear and explicit New Testament teaching on baptism. The same holds true to any group that sprinkles or pours and calls it baptism, or any group that practices baptismal regeneration. All of the examples we have of baptism are of believer's baptism, and all the examples of baptism are of people put under the water by an existing church. Paul, in particular presents a problem for both baby baptism and protestant baptism because Paul was an Anabaptist. The term Anabaptist is a name of derision that was given to the Lord's people by her enemies.



The prefix "ana" is Latin, from Greek which means "back or again" so they were "re-baptizers." The Baptists would not accept Catholic or alien baptism, therefore they baptized all converts upon profession of faith, as the Bible commands. The enemies of the Lord's churches said they were "baptizing again" when in reality, they were baptizing these converts, scripturally, for the first time. I will prove that Paul was an Anabaptist by examining the different theories as to what this passage of Scripture teaches. There are several opinions as to what happened here and I will tell you what I believe the Bible teaches, but first we will examine the competing Protestant ideas only to show that no matter which position you take on the exegesis of this text, you make Paul an Anabaptist.

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## The Truth about KJV-onlyism

By Todd Bryant  
of Northport, Alabama



I realize I will lose fellowship with many readers of this article because of the position I take on this subject. However, the truth is the truth and I believe the facts presented in this article will bear out the truth. I have felt for a while that an article on this subject may be beneficial to God's people. However, I feel now it is necessary. Some of our people have begun to teach that if a church doesn't use the King James Version (hereafter

referred to as the KJV), it cannot be considered a true church. Considering the problems of the New Testament churches, this teaching is simply preposterous. The KJV is proudly

called, "The Authorized Version" as if God Himself has put His stamp of approval on it. However, it was never

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*A blind man does not see himself in a looking glass.  
Neither do the spiritually blind see themselves in the Word of  
God, although it is a perfect mirror of truth and character.*

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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.

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new address. The post  
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address.

## Paul the Anabaptist

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Before we get to the apostle Paul in chapter 19, we need to see the context of Acts 18:24-28. There was a Jewish man named Apollos who was a powerful preacher with great scriptural knowledge, boldly declaring the truth in the city of Ephesus. He was a very fervent man, full of power and pathos in declaring the gospel of salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. He, like any other preacher, preached what he knew. You cannot tell someone about something you don't know anything about. He knew the baptism of John, and that is what he preached. Since he was mighty in the Scriptures and knew the baptism of John, Apollos also knew the message of John, and the people John was baptizing, those who had repentant faith in Jesus Christ. He knew about grace from the Old Testament Scriptures, in which he was well versed, and the gospel that he himself had heard and had repentant faith in. It is just wrong to say that Apollos was a false teacher proclaiming a false gospel; rather Apollos was limited in his knowledge of the truth of the church.

Aquila and Priscilla, the godly, Christ honoring family, heard Apollos and heard his preaching, but recognized his ignorance in some matters of truth. These blessed Christians showed him the more excellent way in service to God, the more perfect way to preach, to do so in and through the Lord's church. They did not have to tell him the way to God because Apollos already knew the way to God through Jesus Christ, but they needed to show him the proper and exact way to observe all things, whatsoever Christ commanded, just like good Missionary Baptists should do. That brings us to chapter 19, where we meet up with Paul who is now coming to Ephesus, the very place where Apollos had been greatly preaching the gospel. Paul runs into some disciples and begins to speak with them about the Holy Ghost and baptism. These men were baptized again after their encounter with Paul, and after they were baptized they began to speak in tongues and prophesy. This is a passage that gives the Protestants fits, if they deal with the Scriptures truthfully. It is clear these men were baptized again, but the real question is why?

Why did Paul baptize them? One opinion that is offered is that the baptism of John was Old Testament baptism which was not Christian baptism. Unfortunately, for the Protestant, even using that particular fallacy does not solve the dilemma they have in Acts 19, because if Paul had to "re-baptize" these disciples because they had John's baptism, then why were the apostles not baptized again seeing they, too, had John's baptism? If John's baptism was

good enough for the apostles, why was it not good enough for these men? Another theory is that John did not baptize in the name of Jesus and thus his baptism was invalid. This is equally absurd as well, since that would invalidate Jesus' baptism along with the apostles. How could Paul say their baptism is not any good if they had the same baptism as the apostles and their Lord? Furthermore, Protestants who take a sudden strictness in baptism here in this passage, destroy their cause in other passages concerning baptism. If they are to concede that there was a problem with the baptism of these disciples, that would, in fact confirm what Baptists teach; there is such a thing as proper, scriptural baptism and that if you were not properly baptized, then you need to be properly and scripturally baptized. John was sent from God to baptize, thus was baptizing in Jesus' name since he had authority to do so as an ambassador of God. The problem was not with John's baptism.

The next theory is that these men Paul baptized were unsaved. This theory states that the disciples had made false professions and were not followers of Christ, but were merely followers of John. This idea states that the Lord saved them here in Acts 19. If this theory were true, then this text has proven believer's baptism. Every infant that has been sprinkled would need to follow suite and be baptized upon profession of faith. If these men were not saved then the text proves that they need baptism to follow the Biblical pattern of believer's baptism, invalidating, in one fell swoop both infant baptism and baptismal regeneration. But that theory is also incorrect.

I believe the Bible teaches here that their baptism came from John's disciples. John was given the authority of God to baptize, John's disciples were not. There is a clear distinction from the disciples of John and those of Jesus in the gospels. Apollos, I believe, was most likely a disciple of one of John's disciples, or had heard the gospel from one that was not himself scripturally baptized (Luke 9:49-50). There were men who knew the gospel, knew the truth of Christ as Saviour and Lord and preached accordingly. They had seen and heard of John's baptism, and after salvation had copied the baptism of John, but without authority of God to do so. John had no authority to establish churches and commission disciples himself to go and baptize as that authority came from Christ. John had to decrease as Christ increased.

I believe the men we find in Acts 19 were saved men who had been immersed, but had never scripturally been baptized. Many object to this view on the basis that the men said that they had never heard of the Holy Ghost, so they could not be saved. First, I challenge anyone to show me any Scripture that would

prove that a lack of knowledge of the Holy Spirit means you cannot be saved. By all means I am not belittling God the Holy Spirit, but by saying because these men were ignorant of certain truths they must not have been saved is adding to the gospel. Secondly, I do not believe Paul was asking if they had received the Holy Spirit in regeneration. Paul did not believe that faith and repentance came before regeneration. Paul said very clearly "**Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?**" That puts the cart of belief before the horse of regeneration. A dead man cannot repent; neither can a dead man have saving faith. You must be born again, otherwise you cannot be saved. Why would Paul ask if they had been born again since they had believed? We can see that Paul was not speaking about regeneration by looking at what Paul actually WAS talking about. Verse one says that he found "**disciples.**" What we have recorded here is not the minute by minute transcript of their entire encounter and conversation. How did Paul know they were disciples? How do you know if someone is a disciple of Jesus? Obviously he had conversed with them about their salvation and heard their profession of faith. To say these men were unsaved is to say Paul didn't understand regeneration and was asking unscriptural questions here, and that he assumed these unsaved men were disciples all the while the inspired Word of God mistakenly called them disciples. Clearly that is not the case; these men were born again believers. It is also interesting to note the Bible does not provide their names, so the only term God's Word uses for these men, is "**disciples.**"

So what does this question of Paul's mean? The Holy Spirit, in the book of Acts as well as today, works in and empowers His church in particular (though not exclusively, as the Holy Spirit indwells all believers, our present text illustrates this fact). Those that had the gifts of the Spirit in the book of Acts, were those in the Lord's churches. If you read through the book of Acts and study how God's Word refers to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the context of the passages concerning the power of the Holy Spirit, you'll see that the Bible shows these gifts to be in the church. Healing, knowledge, speaking in tongues and the like are spoken of as receiving the Spirit (Acts 8:14-17 shows that Peter and John were sent to examine this mission work of Phillip's and to, I believe, organize this group into a church and the receiving of the Holy Spirit was the proof God was with this newly formed church in Samaria). These gifts were given by God, for a season, to show His power in His churches after Christ had ascended to Heaven. When Paul had asked if these disciples had received the

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## Paul the Anabaptist

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Holy Ghost since they had believed, I contend that he asked them if they had received the gifts of the Holy Spirit that was being manifested in the churches at that time. Paul, knowing they had saving faith and were true disciples did what every good Missionary Baptist would do; he questioned their status with the Lord's church. This, by the way, is exactly what Aquila and Priscilla did with Apollos. Paul wanted to know if these men had done their duty as believers, and been baptized, and if they had united with the Lord's church.

Paul was asking them if they had received the gifts that the Holy Spirit had empowered the church with. This is what these men had not heard of; they did not know anything about the church. They were baptized, most likely by Apollos, who was preaching the gospel, but needed to be shown the more excellent way of the Lord's church. You can see this over and over again down through the pages of history. Men will be saved and read their Bible, like every Christian does, and then they see that they must be baptized. As babes in Christ, having little knowledge, they want someone to dunk them under the water and then being zealous for the Lord, start their own church and begin to baptize people themselves, all the while, not ever even hearing of the truth of the Church and church authority. I believe Apollos preached the truth, and then copied what he had heard about John's baptism, not knowing any better. The chapter division here comes at an unfortunate place. Reading the end of chapter 18 and the beginning of chapter 19 with no division you will see that it is a continuous narrative. The "**and it came to pass**" connects the account of Apollos with these disciples being baptized. Chapter 18 finds Apollos preaching the baptism of John. These disciples, who were in the same city at the same time as this mighty and eloquent man was preaching in, professed that they believed the same message that Apollos was preaching. I would have to agree with Charles Spurgeon who said "You are well aware, dear friends, that the division into chapters has only been made for convenience' sake, and is not a matter of inspired arrangement. I may add that it has been clumsily made, and not with careful thoughtfulness, but as roughly as if a woodman had taken an axe and chopped the book to pieces in a hurry."

These disciples were saved, but did not have proper baptism and they were not serving the Lord in His church. They were saved by hearing a man preach who knew nothing about the church and baptized by a man who knew nothing about baptism. This passage is also a death knell to the "priesthood Baptist"

and if they were honest with themselves and God's Word, they would admit that in Acts 18, there was one man who was preaching, who was not a Baptist, whose converts, I believe, are found in Acts 19. Even if the priesthood men say it was not by the preaching of Apollos that these disciples were saved, someone preached to these twelve men who did believe the gospel and someone baptized these men who didn't know anything about baptism and someone preached to them who didn't know anything about the church. Whatever position one takes in interpreting this text, you must agree with the fact that this passage teaches believer's baptism and the problem was not with John's baptism but the administrator and authority of the person who first put them under the water. As I have told Presbyterians in the past, either way, you have made Paul an Anabaptist.



## Are You Different?

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**become new** (not the same)." In other words WE ARE DIFFERENT!!!!!!

Paul knew from experience that when you have been born from above (John 3:3-8), that when the Spirit of God has convicted you of sin, righteousness and judgment to come (John 16:8-11), when you have turned from sin and self, and have turned to God trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ, that He died on the cross for your sins, was buried and rose again the third day (I Cor. 15:1-3), you will be different. Think about Paul's experience, here was a man that had religion. He was a Pharisee and part of the Sanhedrin. He hated Christianity and thought he was doing God a service by consenting to the death of Stephen (Acts 7:54-8:1), and by persecuting men and women who loved the Lord (Acts 8:3). Then we find in Acts chapter nine verses three through eight, Paul had an encounter with Christ that day on the road to Damascus. That day God did a marvelous work in his heart and he was never the same again. We can see other examples, as well, in the New Testament. What about Mark chapter five when Christ comes into contact with a demon possessed man that lived in the tombs, who cut himself with rocks, screamed night and day, and was running around with no clothes on? When he came face to face with Christ, there was a drastic change in his life. When the people from town heard what happened they came to see for themselves, and they found the man who was once possessed sitting, clothed and in his right mind. Notice the change, something happened to this man.

Before we continue, stop for a second. Now if you profess to be saved I want

you to think back to when you professed Christ. Are you different from what you were before you professed to be saved? Do you still talk the same? Are you still a drunkard, whoremonger, or harlot? Are you faithful to a sound New Testament church like the one Christ started while here on earth? Each and every person that has ever made a profession of faith ought to consider what I am asking. Our eternal destiny is too important to casually throw these thoughts aside. Jesus tells us that there will be many when they stand before God that will tell Him what wonderful things they did in His name. Some, I am sure, will sound like this, "I gave hundreds of thousands to the building fund." Others will proclaim all they did for the Lord from cleaning toilets to teaching Sunday school and the answer given to them will be the one found in Matthew 7:20-24. Christ in His reply tells them, "**I NEVER (eph. TM) knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**" Notice Christ did not say I knew you for a while but not now. He said I never knew you. There will be many whose names are on the church rolls but, their names will not be in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Why all the confusion on this matter of being different? I believe there are many reasons why this is so. However, I will be very brief. First, many of the so-called preachers themselves are products of this kind of religion. What has happened in their life does not harmonize with the Scriptures. So instead of looking at themselves and considering that something does not add up, they ignore the plain teaching of God's Word. They are religious, but they do not know Christ and have not been washed in His blood. Second, churches take money to operate, especially if you want the pie in the sky facilities and the big salaries. You need all the nickels you can get and people will not give when they don't like the preaching. Third, since you need money to have the facilities and salary, you need to have noses. You must have people filling those pews and dropping those nickels in the offering plate. So instead of preaching the truth without compromise, you just compromise the truth and water it down just enough where it will be palatable for the carnal church member to digest. You tell the church as long as they show up on Sunday, and give their tithe and offering, all is okay and that they are the most wonderful people in the world in spite of the open lifestyle of sin they are living in.

So this brings us back to the question.... ARE YOU DIFFERENT? If you are PRAISE GOD! You're not different because of what you have done, it is because of what Christ has done on your behalf. Ephesians 2:8-10 "**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**" If your answer is in the negative then consider this. You need Christ! Don't trust your religion. Look to Jesus Christ and live. If you know you are a sinner, turn from your sin and self and turn to Christ, trusting Him and Him alone for the salvation of your soul.



## The Four Harvests

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promise of God's was fulfilled.

There are four particular harvests I would like to draw your attention to: 1) the physical harvest, 2) the spiritual harvest, 3) the harvest of spiritual fruit, and 4) the Great Harvest.

### THE PHYSICAL HARVEST – LEVITICUS 23:9-14

The time of harvest is upon us. Many things will be harvested, picked, and plucked. From gardens in our yards, to acres upon acres of fields, the harvest shall come forth. And all of this is to the praise and honor and glory of God the Father. In Leviticus 23:9-14, the people of God were to bring the "**firstfruits**" of their harvest before the Lord. While the "**firstfruits**" speak spiritually concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we find that physically the Jews showed forth their thankfulness to God for that which He had provided for them. "**The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein**" (Ps. 24:1). "**Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine**" (Prov. 3:9-10).

We are taught in Scripture to "**honour**" God with our "**firstfruits.**" We must remember that every good and every perfect gift cometh from above (James 1:17); that God sends the rain upon the just and the unjust alike (Matt. 5:45); and that God said, as long as the earth remaineth, the harvest shall continue (Gen. 8:20-22).

### HARVEST OF SPIRITUAL LIFE – JOHN 4:34-38; MATTHEW 9:37-38

Here we read of Christ using a "farm metaphor" to illustrate the work of God. Christ Jesus speaks of a spiritual harvest. I am very concerned about the harvest of spiritual life. Many people know that there is a God, but they do not know Him as their own personal Saviour (James 2:19). There is but one way in which a man can be saved from the penalty of his/her sins, and that is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31). Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**" (John 14:6). A person will

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## The Four Harvests

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never be able to “work” their way into Heaven; a person who is basically a “good person” will not be found inside the gates of pearl, but only those who have trusted solely and wholly in the shed blood of Jesus Christ at Calvary’s cross, will be saved eternally.

And this is why we sow the seed of the gospel, that it might bring forth eternal life by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit of God (I Cor. 3:5-6).

### HARVEST OF SPIRITUAL FRUIT - JOHN 15:1-6

If you are saved, then your need is not to be saved again, or over and over, but rather that you might bring forth fruits meet for repentance (or that manifest that you have repented of your sins and are saved by God’s grace) (James 3:7-8). Jesus Christ taught during His earthly ministry that the children of God are to bear fruit. In John 15:1-6, we read of **“fruit, more fruit, and much fruit.”**

We are to be concerned with cultivating a Christian character, walking a Christian walk, and talking a Christian talk. Too many who profess to be saved are serving the flesh and this world and not walking in the steps of the Saviour. We are to be transformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 12:1-2).

Christ Jesus said that we shall know a tree by its fruit (Matt. 7:17-20). Nature teaches us this as well. If a tree bears apples, then it is an apple tree; bears figs, it is a fig tree, etc. So a child of God shall bring forth godly fruit or spiritual fruit. So if you claim to be saved, I ask you: “Where is your fruit?” As James stated, **“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead”** (James 2:20)? A man, woman, boy or girl who claims Christ as Saviour by faith, but has no works after salvation or bears no fruit after they are saved...then we conclude that their faith is dead...so again I ask: “Where is your fruit?”

### A BODILY HARVEST - MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

Christ is here teaching a parable concerning His kingdom. The Bible tells us that the wheat and the tares will be harvested at harvest time. The wheat speaks of the children of God and the tares of false professors, those who appear to be angels of light, even sheep, but inwardly are ravaging wolves.

Notice that the wheat will be gathered into **“my barns,”** but the tares shall be burned up. Here we see that in the end, the people of the Lord shall be gathered together into the presence of God; while them that are lost, those who have rejected the Christ of God and the gospel, shall be bound together in bundles to be burned at the Harvest Time!

Which one are you? Are you part of the wheat or the tares?

### AN INVITATION - “COME UNTO ME...” MATTHEW 11:28

The day of the bodily harvest is fast approaching. And once that day occurs it will be too late to turn to the Lord in faith and repentance of sins. And so we invite you to come to Christ Jesus today as He saith, **“For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”** (II Cor. 6:2).

Do you honour God with the material provision He has provided for you? Are you saved, and been brought in by the blood of Christ? Are you cultivating your field and bringing forth fruit for the Master? In that day, will you be gathered up into His barns with the wheat, or will you be bundled up with the tares to be burned forever?

**“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else”** (Isa. 45:22).



## From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell  
(1941 - 2002)



### Holy Spirit Baptism

In our generation much is being said about getting the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Some of these claims are serious, and some are silly. The tooth and toenail of some people’s religion is what they call “getting the baptism of the Holy Ghost.” They say water baptism is unimportant. To receive Spirit baptism is the main concern they say. Some are so dogmatic that they claim that without Spirit baptism and the gift of tongues no person can hope to be saved.

One of the fundamental doctrines held by Charismatics is the necessity for a “second work of grace,” commonly called the “baptism of the Holy Spirit.” Charismatic writers and preachers are all agreed that you need the baptism. They are not agreed on how you get it. Some say that such requirements as acts of obedience, prayer, repentance, humility, self-purification, “going all the way,” and “leaving all” are demanded. Still others say it is a free gift of grace apart from any price or effort.

Before I go any further in this message, I want to point out that ghost and spirit are a translation of just one word in the original Greek New Testament. The word is *pneuma*, and it should always be translated “spirit” as it is in the American Standard Version and most modern versions. The Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit are not two different persons

This 115 page book covers each of the Ten Commandments and explains each as they are all still applicable today as when God first give them.



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in the element of water at that time, even so Christ at some future day from when John spoke would immerse in the element of the Holy Spirit.

In Matthew 3:11 there is a contrast between the elements in which the immersion takes place and the persons who baptize. Even so there is a contrast between the subjects of the two baptisms. John baptized penitent believers, but Jesus would baptize those in the Holy Spirit whom John had already baptized in water. John said: **“I indeed baptize YOU,”** (emph. MRC) and then went on to say of Christ: **“He shall baptize YOU in the Holy Spirit”** (emph. MRC). It is the same “you” in both cases.

The baptism of John was in literal water, but the baptism in the Spirit was figurative baptism. The Holy Spirit is not a liquid element. The figurative use is commonly seen in the Greek classics. The figurative use of the term baptism as applied to the Holy Spirit compares to such expressions in profane writings as “immersed in ignorance,” “in sorrow,” “in debt,” or “in suffering” (Luke 12:50). Even in English we say “immersed in business” or “plunged in despair.”

### FIRST ACCOUNT OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

Prior to His ascension Jesus said to His church: **“For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days hence”** (Acts 1:5 ASV). This is Christ’s confirmation of the promise made by John the Baptist in Matthew 3:11.

The fulfillment of the promises of John and Jesus is seen in Acts 2:1-4: **“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”**

What really happened at Pentecost? First, there was the sound from Heaven of a rushing mighty wind which filled the whole house. This is when Christ baptized the church in the element of the Holy Spirit. The whole room was filled with the power of the Spirit.

Second, forked tongues like fire encircled each of them in this room. Thirdly, the 120 church members were filled with the Holy Spirit. There were no exceptions. The filling of the Spirit followed the baptism in the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit concerned the outside of them as does water baptism, yet the filling of the Spirit concerned the inside of them. Fourth, those filled with the Spirit were enabled to speak in other languages. This is what happened on

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# Holy Spirit Baptism

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Pentecost.

## THE POWER OF PENTECOST

The coming of the Spirit upon the Jewish church at Pentecost was to empower them for worldwide missionary work. This is seen in the words of Christ in Acts 1:8: **“But ye shall RECEIVE POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”** (emph. MRC). This does not mean the church was powerless before Pentecost for Matthew 10:1 says: **“and when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”** So Acts 1:8 is a promise of additional power.

What additional power did the church obtain on the day of Pentecost? By reading Acts chapter 2, I see that this power was fourfold. First, there was the power to speak in other tongues. This was the ability to speak in other languages and dialects without having to study them in a center of secular learning. There is nothing said about anyone rolling around on the ground and crying out in a confused jargon, which could not be understood by the hearers.

The second feature of this power was the ability to utter prophecy. Acts 2:18 says: **“I will pour out in those days of my spirit; and they shall prophesy.”** Third, there were visions and dreams: **“And your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams”** (Acts 2:17). Fourth, there were enlarged opportunities of service. Heretofore the gospel was limited to Israel in Palestine, but on the day of Pentecost the gospel was preached to people of seventeen nationalities.

## SECOND ACCOUNT OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

On the day of Pentecost the Spirit overwhelmed the Jewish church by His power and bestowal of supernatural powers. This was the baptism of the Jewish church in the Holy Spirit.

The only other instance of Spirit baptism in all the New Testament was upon the Gentiles at Caesarea. I read in Acts 10:44-46 these words: **“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.”** In chapter 11 of Acts, verses 15 to 16, Peter adds: **“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, even as on**

**us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit”** (ASV).

Some believe there are other instances of Spirit baptism found in Acts chapters 8 and 19. But a close study reveals these were fillings of the Spirit given by the laying on of hands. In neither case was there a sound of a rushing mighty wind or the anointing by tongues of fire. Please remember that John said Jesus and Jesus only would baptize in the Spirit, never using any man as a medium. Peter did not lay his hands on Cornelius, for while he was speaking the Spirit came on this Gentile household. No one laid his hands on the Jewish church at Pentecost. The event happened **“suddenly.”**

## NOT FILLING OF SPIRIT

It is contrary to the Scriptures to attempt to confuse baptism in the Spirit with the filling of the Spirit. In Spirit baptism Christ is the principle Actor; in Spirit filling the Spirit is the principle actor. Baptism in the Spirit concerns Christ immersing people in the element of the Spirit and takes place outside a person's body. The filling of the Spirit is inside the body of a believer, and it means he is under the control of the Spirit.

The baptism in the Spirit happened only twice in the history of the church, but a person can be filled with the Spirit many times. There were people filled with the Spirit before Pentecost. In Exodus 31:2-3 it is written that Bezaleel was filled with the Spirit of God. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, was **“filled with the Holy Spirit”** (Luke 1:67). John the Baptist was **“filled with the holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb”** (Luke 1:15). The most ardent advocate of Spirit baptism will not affirm that any of these three were baptized in the Spirit, for this was before Pentecost. Then why must they confuse the filling of the Spirit with the baptism in the Spirit? The baptism of the Spirit never happened until Pentecost, but the filling of the Spirit happened in Old Testament times are prior to Pentecost.

Days before the Pentecostal baptism in the Spirit, Christ said to the eleven disciples: **“Receive ye the Holy Ghost”** (John 20:22). The Spirit was given to these without anyone being baptized and before Pentecost. This was not as some have supposed an act of breathing upon them intended to symbolize the Spirit would come on Pentecost. It was Christ actually giving at that time the special power of the Spirit to the eleven apostles.

## NOT REGENERATION

Some will agree with me that there are only two instances of baptism in the Spirit in the New Testament. But then they turn around and go to I Corinthians 12:13 and invent a Holy Spirit baptism for every person who enters the universal, invisible church. They say

baptism by the Holy Spirit means that Christ places a believer in His mystical body. This doctrine is no better than that taught by the Charismatics. It teaches baptismal regeneration by Holy Spirit baptism as much as the sacerdotalists teach baptismal regeneration in water. It has the Holy Spirit baptizing into Christ when the Bible teaches that it is Christ who baptizes in the Spirit. Talking about missing the boat, such persons don't even know what the boat is!

By reading I Corinthians 12:27 you can see that the body that Paul made reference to, was the institution which Christ founded, a local visible church. The American Standard Version gives the correct translation. It reads: **“For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit.”** The Greek text reads: **“In one Spirit,”** not **“by one Spirit.”** The Greek preposition, “en,” is translated in the KJV “among” 114 times, “by” 142, “with” 139, “in” 1,863. So the preferred translation is definitely “in” rather than “by.”

But what does it mean to be **“in the Spirit”**? Let's look at how it is used elsewhere in the New Testament. It occurs in I Corinthians 14:2, Acts 20:22, Romans 8:9, and Philippians 3:3. A study of these passages reveals that to be **“in the Spirit”** is to be under the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit. Paul and the Corinthians not only possessed the Spirit before baptism, but the Spirit led them to receive water baptism by which they entered the institution of Christ's church on earth. So contrary to the prevailing view I Corinthians 12:13 does not teach water baptism is a non-essential, but it is what the Spirit leads a believer to receive.

Regeneration by the Spirit is not the baptism by the Spirit. The subject of regeneration is a lost sinner. But the subjects of the baptism in the Spirit in Acts 2 and 10 were people already regenerated by the Spirit. There is no Scripture in the New Testament where a lost sinner received the baptism in the Spirit. The design of regeneration and Spirit baptism are widely different. The object of the Spirit baptism is to confer power upon a person who already is a new creature.

All agree there was no baptism in the Spirit until the first Pentecost after Christ ascended to Heaven. If this be so, then was there no one regenerated before Pentecost? What about the Old Testament saints? What about people during the time of the Lord's ministry on earth? To take seriously such a doctrine would contradict the whole Bible, for we know the Old Testament saints were saved without Spirit baptism and so all believers before Pentecost.

## NOT SANCTIFICATION

The teaching of some is that the

believer has the Spirit in a limited sense, but he does not have the full power of the Spirit until he purges himself from much or all of the old nature. They say you must earnestly seek the baptism of the Spirit, wait for it, pray for it, and pay for it by an almost sinless life in the flesh. This confuses Spirit baptism with sanctification. The Spirit is the direct agent in sanctification, but Christ is the direct agent in Spirit baptism. The design of Spirit baptism and sanctification are widely different. The purpose of Spirit baptism was to confer power upon a person.

## NO SPIRIT BAPTISM TODAY

There are only two instances of Christ baptizing people in the element of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. These are found in Acts chapters 2 and 10. Baptism in the Spirit ceased in the apostolic age. It had even ceased when Paul wrote the Epistle to the Ephesians. In Ephesians 4:5 Paul declares: **“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”** If there is Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism for our age as some teach, Paul was mistaken when he wrote this verse. He should have written: **“One Lord, one faith, two baptisms.”** But Paul was not misinformed. He said there is only one baptism for believers in this age---water baptism---the baptism which follows faith. Water baptism is the only kind we are commanded to seek, and the only baptism which is to last until the end of the age (Matt. 28:19-20).

In view of these facts let me say that some professed followers of Christ would do better spending their time preaching the gospel of God's grace, than boasting loudly about a false claim which cannot be obtained in this age. Holy Spirit baptism is not essential to salvation, nor required for the filling of the Spirit. There is no command in the Bible for a believer to seek it in our age. If there is, where is it found in the Bible? There never was and never will be such a thing as the Spirit baptizing any person. It was Christ who twice baptized some in the Spirit. There is no baptism in the Spirit or by the Spirit in our age.

To teach that beyond conversion, beyond assurance of salvation, beyond having the Spirit, there is a baptism with the Spirit is unscriptural. This so-called second work of grace and a definite experience they speak about is a demonic feeling and human fiction, not a Bible fact.

It is absurd to tell the believer he is commanded to receive the Spirit. The coming of the Spirit upon the Jewish church in Acts 2 was a promise, not a command. The experience of Pentecost was never to be duplicated because the Scripture was fulfilled. The promise of Joel, the prophecy of John the Baptist, and the prediction of Christ need no further completion. If we are to recreate

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## Holy Spirit Baptism

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Pentecost, why are there not seen many churches in the Book of Acts tarrying and praying to receive the Holy Spirit? Why is there not seen some accounts from chapters 12 to 28 of Acts of people experiencing the sound of a rushing mighty wind and the tongues of fire? The reason is because there was no baptism of the Spirit after the two instances recorded in Acts chapters 2 and 10. Pentecost has never been repeated and never will be in this church age.

The believer does not need to receive the Spirit. He received the Spirit in regeneration. He was sealed with the Spirit when he believed the gospel. Ephesians 1:13 says: **“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.”** Every believer has the power of Pentecost inside him (I Cor. 6:19-20). All the believer needs to do is yield to the Spirit. Then he will have the spiritual power he needs. As he walks in obedience to the Word of God, the Spirit of God energizes his life (Gal. 5:25).

If you are a true believer in Christ, do not seek the baptism in the Spirit. It is not for us in this age. But do seek to live in the constant enjoyment of the Spirit. Do seek to be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 commands: **“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”** Judging by the language of this verse, it is as much a sin to lack the filling of the Spirit as it is to be drunk with wine.

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? To be filled with the Spirit does not mean every part of man's body is filled with the Spirit. When we say a man is filled with alcohol, we do not mean that every part of his body is filled with alcohol. We mean the whole man is under the influence of alcohol. Likewise, when a man is filled with the Spirit, the whole man is under the influence of the Spirit. This is what it means to be filled with the Spirit. This is what a believer is commanded to do in Ephesians 5:18.



## A Useless Servant

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Today, I would like for us to think about the dangers of sin, and how that sin in the lives of those that seek to serve God can (and will) lead to those servants becoming useless unto the God that they claim to serve. We have just read the parable in which the Lord makes it plain that a tree must bear fruit in order to be useful. Now, let me direct your attention to the Sermon on the Mount,

in which the Lord compares His disciples to salt (that preserves the world) and a candle (that lights the world). We read in Matthew 5:13-16, **“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”** Do you fear that your light is not shining as brightly as it should? Do you fear that the savor has departed from your own saltiness? If so, then I beg you to yield yourself to the Lord God and to His blessed Holy Spirit. If God has truly saved you, then He will use you in His service – but you are responsible to be ready, willing, fit, and capable.

In reality, we all need to just get ourselves and our own desires out of the way, and yield completely to the strength, power, and leadership of our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. We read the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:13, **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”** If we will trust and rely on Christ – if we will call upon God – then we can do whatever it is that God has for us to do – and we will not fail, nor be cast aside. Again, we read in Philippians 2:12-13, **“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”** And, Paul instructed the Colossians similarly when he said, **“Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily”** (Col. 1:29).

Sin is dangerous. Sin can adversely affect our witness and our testimony. And, in the end, if we prefer sin, then we will be dragged down by it, and we will be of no use unto God. So, today let me direct your attention to some dangerous ways in which sin can make us useless servants of sin. In particular let me show you what happens when we prefer sin before study; when we prefer sin before service to God; when we prefer sin before the Church of Jesus Christ; and, finally, when men prefer sin before God Himself.

### PREFERRING SIN BEFORE STUDY

Sometimes it is difficult for us, in the flesh, to set aside the time that we need for studying the Word of God. In fact, we know that Paul exhorted Timothy to study when he wrote to him, **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly**

**dividing the word of truth”** (II Tim. 2:15). We need to constantly remind ourselves and others to spend much time and effort in studying the Word of God. Truly, if it were not for sin, we should not have to remind ourselves to study. For, what could be more wonderful and worthwhile than to study the very Words of God? But, because of sin, we know that it is a struggle to find the time and desire to study the Word of God.

We read in Ecclesiastes 12:10-12, **“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.”** Even though we can find “acceptable words” in the Bible; and even though “that which was written was upright, even words of truth;” still, in the end “much study is a weariness of the flesh.” I believe that this is true because our flesh is weak and sinful. The mind and the spirit may long to study and grow and learn in the Word of God. But, the flesh makes it very difficult for us to accomplish our goals. I have found that the more that I can resist sin and temptation and keep these from becoming prevalent in my life; then, the more and the better I am able to study the Word of God.

### PREFERRING SIN BEFORE CHURCH

I believe that many Christians today have made the mistake of neglecting the Church of Jesus Christ – in particular, the services that are held in the house of the Living God. To me, this is a terrible mistake, and one that ought to be easily remedied. But, we must not forget that sin is dangerous. And, as mortal men and women in the flesh, we are susceptible to sin.

Now, we might find many reasons to neglect the Church of Jesus Christ; and, perhaps, some of these reasons might be valid. But, in truth, even the reasons that might legitimately detain us, can normally be traced to the effects of sin. I mean, if sickness in the family, or death in the family, or some other tragedy in our lives might prevent us from attending the church services, or devoting time to the church; then, really, sin is at fault.

But, in most cases, it is willful and presumptuous sin and disobedience that keeps the people of God out of the public worship services of the Church of Jesus Christ. We read in Hebrews 10:19-31, **“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full**

**assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”**

### PREFERRING SIN BEFORE SERVICE

It seems apparent, then, that most of Christianity prefers sin before the Church of God. However, when you consider the lives of most of those that profess to be Christians, we find that not only do they not worship in the church like they should, but they really don't even render much in the way of service at all. This is how dangerous sin is: sin can corrupt the lives of even those that are saved, so that they have no desire to work in the service of God. Instead, most professing Christians will simply indulge in their sins, rather than serve God at all.

Paul reminded the Romans that they were not to serve sin, but rather serve Christ: **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those**

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**things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**" (Rom. 6:16-23).

In too many cases, the children of God become ensnared in sin and in the wiles of the devil so that God must, in the end, remove them from His earthly kingdom. We read in I Corinthians 11:27-32, **"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."** In the end, I know that those that are truly saved must find their places in Heaven; but, in this life, many are found to be useless, and a burden to the service of God – not unlike that tree that would not bear fruit for three years, which tree the husbandman was ready to destroy.

### PREFERRING SIN BEFORE GOD

When we compare Christianity of today with the Scriptures of God and the testimonies of those that were the first church members in the New Testament (and even those that served God in the Old Testament), we find very few similarities. I believe that the reason for this is that God's people in the past have typically sought to separate themselves from sin and the effects of sin. But, Christianity today has sought to permit sin, and even incorporate sin into our service of God. In reality, most folks that claim to be Christians today actually prefer sin to God. In other words, most folks would rather have sin than God.

Let me remind you what the Psalmist had to say in the 84<sup>th</sup> Psalm: **"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also**

**fillet the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee"** (Ps. 84:1-12). In the case of those that are saved, our souls should long for God. And our hearts and our flesh should cry **"out for the living God!"** But, sadly, we find that most of folks that claim to be saved prefer to indulge in sin than to indulge in sweet communion with God.

If we refer again to the letter from Paul to the Romans, we find that he instructed them this way: **"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace"** (Rom. 6:11-14).

When we encounter folks that claim to serve God, and yet their lives bear no evidence of scriptural service unto God; or, when we encounter folks that claim to love God, but their lives prove that they prefer sin; then I believe that these words of the Apostle John will ring true: **"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother"** (I John 3:7-10). I believe that it is impossible that God would love someone that does not at some point manifest love for God. Therefore, many folks that claim to be saved, but do not show any love for God, must not be saved at all. These folks will most certainly be cast down, and will not at all be useful servants unto God.

### CONCLUSION

Do you want to be a servant of God in name only? Or, would you rather be a servant of God in both name and deed?

If you and I want to serve God, then we had best resist temptation and flee from sin. When sin becomes a part of our lives, then service unto God will certainly diminish. In fact, I think that it is safe to say that however much we prefer sin in our lives is just how much less we are able to serve God. And, in the end, I am afraid that there are countless Christians (and professing Christians) that are just not useful in the service of God at all. I think that the Scriptures make it plain that God will not use sinful persons in His service in a proper way. I do not want to be among those that might not be of use unto God. I often remember these words of the Apostle Paul: **"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 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. 9:24-27). The Apostle Paul was a man that knew how to inspire others to service. He was also a man who was acquainted with the dangers of sin. And, in this passage that I have just referred you to, he makes it a point to warn the Corinthians about the dangers of sin, and how that we must constantly struggle to bring this body **"into subjection."** This is something that is not easy to do. And, I am certain that there is no son of Adam that has ever been able to perfectly and constantly keep his body under subjection. But, I am amazed that the Apostle Paul – a man that we should earnestly admire – would even mention a doubt or a concern as to his usefulness unto God. And yet, he says in this passage that he fights and resists against sin so that he himself would not **"be a castaway."** Now, if the Apostle Paul reckoned that he needed to resist sin and the power of the devil lest he become a castaway; how much more should you and I run this race that God has given us, and resist the sin that is within and around us, so that we would be useful unto God, and not be laid aside as a castaway or useless and depraved servant?

I pray to God that you and I and the church that we are a part of will resist sin and the powers of Satan so that we can be used of God. I do not want any of us to ever get to the point where God cannot use us. But, remember, sin is dangerous; and if we are not constantly aware of its consequences; and if we are not constantly vigilant in our behavior; then sin may contaminate our lives so that our love for God is not evident, and we ourselves are no longer useful unto God.



## KJV-onlyism

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"authorized" by anybody but King James I of England. Realizing that KJV-onlyism has become accepted among Sovereign Grace Baptist people, I feel the need to "set the record straight." Adolph Hitler (through the medium of his propaganda minister, Goebels) said, "If you tell a lie long enough loud enough and often enough the people will believe it." Perhaps this explains this problem. This issue has replaced important doctrines. This issue has taken our focus off the spreading of the Gospel and put it where it doesn't need to be. I plead with the readers of this article to consider the facts. Put away your pre-conceived ideas and tradition. Take a moment to consider these indisputable facts.

Before I begin, I want to explain how I was brought to see the error of KJV-onlyism. Several years ago, I would have probably considered myself a "mild" KJV-onlyist. I didn't go as far as many. However, I surely believed every other version was corrupt and only the KJV was a "valid" translation. Then, I hit an unexpected snag while studying this subject. I found an outright lie written by one of the KJV promoters. Being the inquisitive person that I am, I began to research supposed fact after fact. I found many of the arguments of the KJV-onlyists to be nothing but fabrications. A few of these will be discussed in the article before us. I realize that many of our people are ignorantly KJV-only. They have been told things by people that have been told things. Most have never studied this for themselves as I hadn't. Don't take my word for it, research it yourself.

Let me also be clear. I am not suggesting anybody should abandon the KJV. I am not saying the KJV is not a very good translation. I am not condemning anybody for their use of the KJV. This article is meant to set the record straight concerning KJV-onlyism and the lies that have been set forth by the proponents of this doctrine – nothing more. In doing so, I will bring out some shortcomings in the KJV. However, the purpose is to show that the very things they condemn other versions for can be said about the KJV.

Also, I am not advocating that all new versions of the Bible are good. To be perfectly honest, many of the modern translations are not solid for various reasons. The New International Version (commonly called the NIV) is a horrible translation. At best, it's a paraphrase of the Bible. In fact, if the "translators" had been honest and said it was a paraphrase, I could respect them. However, you can't judge every modern translation by the NIV. Each version must be judged on

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its own merits. However, every Baptist (and therefore Biblical) doctrine can even be found in the worst translations such as the NIV. Though I wouldn't use it as my study Bible or preaching Bible, God surely can (and has) used it in the life of many of His children. It's much more than many children of God had during the dark ages.

Let me begin this treatise by saying Baptists have surely not always used the KJV. Since the KJV didn't come on the scene until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Baptists used something else for 16 centuries. English speaking Baptists have not always used the KJV either. Some of the Bibles they used were the Coverdale version, the Bishop's Bible, Wycliffe's translation, Tyndale's translation, and the Geneva Bible. Were they without the Bible for 16 centuries? Of course they were not. KJV-onlyists maintain that God has placed His "stamp of approval" on the KJV. However, this is opinion at best. Some would say, "God worked through the KJV for 400 years. That proves He acknowledges it alone to the English speaking people." When did Baptists begin creating doctrine out of experiences? We could say that God is, no doubt, saving many people in Arminianism today. Does that mean we ought to all be Arminians? Of course not. This line of thinking wouldn't be used by a Baptist in any case other than this one.

Early American Bibles were not the KJV. When the Puritans fled to America due to religious persecution in England, they brought their Geneva Bible with them. If the Protestants opposed the KJV, there is little doubt that Baptists (being more persecuted than any other group) opposed the King James Version. One of the silliest arguments made by the KJV-onlyists is that the KJV was never copyrighted and other versions were. Admittedly, this is true. However, copyright laws didn't exist until decades after the last KJV edition was completed. How did the KJV end up taking over the English speaking world? Simple. King James outlawed other versions such as the Geneva and placed heavy fines on those that were found printing or owning anything other than his "authorized" version. If King James had never outlawed the Geneva, it's very possible that we would be using an updated version of it today. Perhaps some would be Geneva only!!

King James is often revered by KJV-onlyists as a great man. KJV-only groups have sought to make him a pillar for truth. However, some reputable historians have found information that at least suggests he was a homosexual. He was buried between two men that many have maintained were his lovers.

Whether that is true or not, there is little doubt that King James I was a hater of Baptists. He and at least 6 of his translators were known persecutors of Baptists. Thomas Crosby (who wrote the first known English Baptist history book) spoke of Baptist persecution under James' reign. He said, "The other one [burned] was Edward Wightman, A BAPTIST, of the town of Burton upon Trent, who on the 14th day of December [1610] was convicted of diverse heresies before the bishop of Coventry and Litchfield; and being delivered up to the secular power, was BURNT at Litchfield the 11th of April following." This (the April following) was the same year the 1611 KJV was released!! The same year, James had Bartholomew Legate and his brother Thomas imprisoned for heresy. They were vocal opponents of both Roman Catholicism and the Church of England. Thomas died in prison. After being brought before James numerous times, Bartholomew was burned at the stake on March 18, 1612 when he refused to retract his opinions. King James may have been a great man by Church of England standards, but, he was no friend to God's people.

KJV-onlyism is far from a Baptist distinctive. In fact, the single most responsible book for the KJV only position is *Which Bible?*, edited by David Otis Fuller. Besides Fuller, there are 11 other writers of this book. 46% of this book was written by Benjamin G. Wilkinson. In reality, 10 chapters of *Our Authorized Bible Vindicated* were included in *Which Bible?*. Originally, there were 16 chapters of Mr. Wilkinson's book. Fuller leads his readers to believe that Mr. Wilkinson was a "scholar" of the "first rank." Sadly, this influential man was neither a scholar nor a Baptist. Wilkinson was a 7<sup>th</sup> day Adventist. He is, perhaps, the most influential person in the KJV only movement. Lest anybody think I am misleading you, the college he taught at was Washington Missionary College known today as Columbia Union College. He was titled "Dean of Theology". Let me just make note of a couple of heresies advocated by the 7<sup>th</sup> day Adventists. They propose that all who reject the Saturday Sabbath and worship on Sunday have taken part in the mark of the beast and will ultimately be lost. They also believe that Satan, not Christ, will ultimately bear the Christian's sin. Of course, there are other errors, but, these two are enough to dismiss them as Christian. This is the documented beginnings of KJV-onlyism. Let none of the readers suppose that this began or was advocated by any Baptists of the time.

Well respected Baptists have not always felt the KJV was the best translation. B.H. Carroll says in his Introduction to *An Interpretation of the English Bible*, "The only textbook absolutely requisite

is the English Bible. The Common, or King James Version, can be made to serve, but the Canterbury Revision, or the American Standard Version, is much preferred." Now, I am not advocating the use of any Bible that was translated from the Westcott-Hort text or the Nestle-Aland text. I prefer a Bible that was translated from the Majority text because I personally believe (though, I'm no textual critic) that they are more reliable. However, Carroll is plain here. He was a faithful Baptist. I have often heard him recommended and quoted by our preachers. There isn't one shred of history that so much as hints to Carroll being "black balled" over this position. That, in itself, speaks volumes. Henry Jessey, a Baptist pastor in the early 1600's, complained about the KJV for its bent favoring "episcopacy," and said that Bancroft, who was supervisor of the KJV, "altered it in fourteen places to make it speak the language of prelacy." "Prelacy" refers to a system of church government by Prelates such as Archbishops and Bishops set over more than one local church. No Baptist that I have found wrote anything of KJV-onlyism before the past couple of decades. And then, most of the ones I find are hardly Baptist by doctrine and practice. Baptists were not KJV-only until recently. Numerous statements of faith and great men of faith could be quoted to show that Baptists believed the original Hebrew and Greek was inspired – not the translations and, therefore, not the translators.

KJV-onlyists claim that the KJV is to be preferred because it was translated from the Textus Receptus in 1611. This is simply false. The Textus Receptus wasn't published until 1624. The KJV translators used Stephens of 1550 which was a predecessor for what is commonly referred to as the "Textus Receptus" today. Stephens text is a revision of the Dutch humanist (and Catholic) Erasmus' work. However, none of these are completely identical. Also, the term from which we derive "Textus Receptus" wasn't used until the 1633 printing. For that matter, there are only 50 known complete Greek New Testament texts. None of these completely agree and the KJV doesn't agree with any of them completely. In fact, 29% of the KJV was taken straight from Tyndale and 61% of it was taken from other versions. To be honest, the KJV translators were more a group of revisers of previous versions than they were translators. Please don't misunderstand; I am confident that the KJV translators used a solid text. It's the misinformation of the KJV-onlyists I wish to discredit.

One of the most common falsehoods is that the KJV used by the KJV-onlyists is the 1611 version. A church near my home often has "We use the 1611 KJV" on their sign. Many web-sites promoting KJV-onlyism claim to use

the 1611 version. Some of them say "to read the 1611 Authorized Version, click here." Without exception, every time I've "clicked here" I have been taken to a recent edition of the KJV. Today's common KJV is actually the 10<sup>th</sup> edition. I have yet to find one church among the Lord's churches that use the 1611 version of the KJV. Check your Bible. If it doesn't contain the Apocrypha, it is not the 1611 version. If it doesn't contain 8,422 marginal notes offering alternate translations, it is not the 1611 version. If it doesn't use "f's" for "s's", it is not the 1611 version. Many major changes have taken place since 1611 – not merely language updates as the KJV-onlyists would have us believe. The Apocrypha was dropped, of course and the 8,422 marginal notes were dropped. Most likely, not one person reading this article uses the 1611 version as their primary Bible and most have never read it or have owned a copy of it.

Considering this, if the present KJV is not the original 1611 (and it definitely is not), which KJV should be used? Which of the 10 editions is error free? It could easily be shown that numerous phrases and words were changed. They were not only changed to update language (we do readily admit that some of the changes were language updates), but many other words were changed. The first revision took place two years after the original printing in 1613. There were more than 400 variations from the first edition. It's simply ridiculous to assert that the language had changed so much in 2 years as to warrant this number of changes. The next revision occurred 3 years later in 1616. The only change was I Cor. 4:9. It changed from "approved to death" to "appointed to death." In 1629, the first major revision was printed at Cambridge. Another revision in 1629 excluded the Apocrypha though most revisions didn't actually exclude it until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1631, it was printed at London and called the "Wicked Bible." The word "not" was omitted from the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment. Obviously, this was a misprint. In 1638, there were further revisions. In 1717, a revision called "the Vinegar Bible" was printed. Jesus gives a parable of the vinegar (instead of the parable of the vineyard) in Luke 20. Again, this was obviously a misprint. In 1745, the "Murderer's Bible" was printed. Mark 7:27 read, "Let the little children first be killed (instead of filled)". As with the previous edition, this was a misprint. In 1762, Cambridge published another version that had major revisions. In 1769, Blayney's edition of the KJV was published. This is the edition that is the basis for most modern KJV Bibles. It actually differs from the 1611 in at least 75,000 details. No doubt, many of these are capitalization and punctuation. But, it still begs the question of which one is

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correct. In 1873, Cambridge published another edition that contained 16 printed pages of differences from the original 1611 version. If (as the KJV-onlyist's maintain) God "directed" the KJV translators, how can we believe any of these revisions was necessary?

The Translators of the KJV themselves disagreed with the KJV-onlyists. They stressed the need for constant revision to update the language. They confessed they were not inspired and were unsure about many of the words they translated. In their introduction, they said "The original there being from heaven, not from the earth, the author's being God, not man, the editor, the Holy Spirit, not the wit of the apostles." They fully understood that they were simply men. They knew the originals were inspired by God. They never claimed inspiration whatsoever. They also gave credence to all other translations of the day calling them "The Word of God." They said, "Nay, we affirm and avow that the meanest translation of the Bible in English is the word of God." In other words, even the poorest translations were God's Word. They felt that the Septuagint was not a very good translation saying it "was faulty in many places. It descended from the original and did not come near it in grandeur or majesty." This is the OT translation used by Jesus and the apostles!!! Did they condemn it because they felt that way? Did they say it was "corrupt" as the KJV-onlyist's do in attacking any other version today? Absolutely not!! And, neither did the apostles since they used it. The KJV-onlyists often claim that the KJV translators were "directed by God" in the translation process. Were they "directed by God" to make these comments as well?

Gail Riplinger has influenced contemporary KJV-onlyism as much as anybody. Most of our KJV-only brethren continue to use information from her book *New Age Bible Versions* whether they know it or not. However, this book has been found to be full of outright falsehoods. I personally have owned this book for years. When I began "re-researching" this position, I checked many of her arguments and found them to be complete misrepresentations. There's simply no way Riplinger didn't know it. She purposely misrepresented the facts to support her belief. As with many KJV-onlyists, she didn't want her "truth" to be confused with facts and she was willing to purposely mislead her readers to support her position. When one writer refuted her book, Texe Marrs (a KJV-onlyist) replied by saying "Don't write me again unless in sincere repentance. You are a devil, plain & simple. I understand well why Mrs. Riplinger does not respond to

your ridiculous assertions. Why dignify the lying claims of a servant of Satan!?" Since when has an investigation of facts been heresy? Was not it the Berean (and Baptist) saints that looked into the Scriptures daily to make sure what they were being told was the truth? Should we not do the same thing even concerning KJV-onlyism? Interestingly, most of our brethren would never acknowledge a woman teacher or writer. However, on this issue, she is given full credence because her books support their position. Sadly, this one woman they are willing to follow purposely misled the masses in numerous places. For instance, in her tract "NKJV errors and omissions," she slams the NKJV by saying that it "ignored the KJV Greek *Textus Receptus* over 1,200 times." However, she never compares it to the Greek. She compares it to the KJV which is not the standard. She should have said it disagreed with the KJV in 1200 instances. In her tract, Gail claims that in the NKJV, there are 66 omissions of "Lord." However, she didn't cite one verse to prove this. She (and many of our brethren) goes on to say that the NKJV wishes to discredit the deity of Christ by the 66 omissions of "Lord." However, the truth is that these are not omissions at all, but legitimate translations. In fact, the NKJV uses the

title "Lord" for Jesus Christ, but not for human masters. For instance, Matt. 10:24 says, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master." (NKJV) The KJV renders the Greek word *kurios* as "lord" instead of "master." The NKJV actually has the more correct translation in these passages. Why do our brethren not know this? Simply, they take her words as gospel rather than simply checking into her "facts." As I've said, there's absolutely no way that she didn't know this information was wrong. As far as I'm concerned, that makes it a lie. Therefore, when we use it, we are promoting lies. Baptist people, we must check our facts rather than quoting misinformation simply because it agrees with our traditions.

I don't know of any reputable Baptists that didn't see the need for Greek helps. They knew the KJV was a translation. They saw the importance of referring to the Greek to make sure they were getting the proper meaning as given in the original languages. I was taught to do this by men that are considered scholars by most readers of this article. It is with great caution that I bring these points out. I do not wish to destroy the faith of any. However, we have reached a point where the truth must be told. We have the abilities to check the KJV

with Greek helps. There is no doubt that "Easter" in Acts 12:4 should have been translated as "Passover" as it was in every other instance in the NT. For the record, every other modern version has the correct translation. The word "ecclesia" should have been translated "congregation" or "assembly" as every solid Baptist preacher I've ever heard readily admitted. Why did the KJV not correct this error of the earlier English translations? Because King James I had a rule that all of the Ecclesiastical words were to be kept. If "ecclesia" had been translated as "congregation" and "baptizo" had been translated as "immerse," there may be much less confusion on these subjects than there is today. One will also notice that newer versions changed "God forbid" (as translated in the KJV) to something like "certainly not" (as used in the NKJV). Though some will claim that the word "God" was omitted by the newer versions, honest seekers will find that it was actually added by the KJV translators. If our readers will simply check the Greek New Testament, you will find that every passage translated "God forbid" in the KJV is incorrect. The Greek word for God is absent in these passages in the Greek New Testament. This is adding to God's Word at the least

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. If baptism is not a part of salvation, then why are converts said to need to follow the Lord in scriptural baptism? Are you not requiring baptism as part of being saved? – Internet

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That baptism is not required as a part of salvation is proven by the question asked, when it refers to the candidate as a “convert.” A “convert” is a changed person- a saved person. The Bible is clear that salvation is a gift of God. **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”** (Eph. 2:8).

The Bible is also clear that salvation takes place on the inside and any outward manifestation is that of the completed saving work of God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. **“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”** (Rom. 10:9-10). The proper order is seen in that God makes a difference in the sinner’s heart and the mouth is moved to praise and acknowledge Him!

The Apostle Paul also makes a distinction between salvation and baptism: **“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...”** (I Cor. 1:17).

So do we require baptism? Yes! Not as a part of being saved, but as a RESULT of being saved! Listen to the exhortation of the New Testament preachers! **“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest...”** (Acts 8:36-37). Philip, along with the Gospel was teaching the Ethiopian eunuch about the church and its ordinance of baptism, as is seen by his desire to join the church in scriptural baptism!

Peter definitely links the two actions in consecutive order in Acts 2:38, **“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”** Then also, Ananias encourages “Brother Saul” to not hesitate any longer, but get to work in the LORD’s church!

**“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”** (Acts 22:16).

Baptism is a public acknowledgment of our submission to our New Master and King! **“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”** (Rom. 6:4). A Christian is to CONTINUE to **“...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”** (II Pet. 3:18).

Where do we do that? **“...in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”** (I Tim. 3:15). **“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen”** (Eph. 3:21). Again, how are you added to the church? By water baptism!

And one of these days, because obedient converts have followed Him in baptism, and **“...made herself ready”** (Rev. 19:7), they will be presented **“...as a chaste virgin to Christ”** (II Cor. 11:2). **“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”** (Eph. 5:25-27).

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I myself have never ever said that baptism is not part of salvation. I have always said baptism does not get you saved. Baptism is not effectual in the remission of sins, only the blood of Jesus Christ is.

Why are converts instructed to follow the Lord in scriptural baptism? Because, to follow the Lord in scriptural baptism is the scriptural model Jesus has set forth to all those who are saved. **“And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him”** (Matt. 3:15).

The Scripture proclaims **“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 2:38). If baptism is effectual, Christ was needed to be saved? The thief on the cross without baptism was seen by Christ that day in Paradise with out it? What about John the Baptist, he said he needed to be baptized, was he not saved? **“But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me”** (Matt. 3:14)?

John the Baptist said he would not baptize anyone unless they showed fruits meet for repentance, **“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance”** (Matt. 3:8). This was commanded prior to the professors of salvation being baptized.

Yes, I believe baptism is part of salvation for this very reason. All believers who are born again should be baptized, and by that baptism from a scriptural church, should enter into full membership, by that very baptism they received, because their sins have been forgiven.

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Salvation is a deliverance from the penalty, power, and ultimately the presence of sin. Deliverance from the penalty of sin is the position of justification through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:24-28; 5:1-2; Rom. 8:30-35). Saving faith is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8-10) and salvation itself is a gift of grace (Titus 3:5). God gives us the grace of saving faith to believe that Christ died for us and rose again (Rom. 4:25). Thus, this aspect of salvation is all of God. We do nothing to earn it or deserve it. We merely are recipients of something we don’t deserve.

Deliverance from the power of sin is the Spirit’s work of progressive sanctification where He uses the Word to cleanse us from the defilements of our old sinful nature and in turn conforming us to Jesus Christ. This is an internal work of grace where we experience conviction, cleansing, mortification, and transformation. It is marked by growth in grace, holiness, and a desire to be more like our lovely Lord. Any good or holiness evident in our lives is a direct result of the Spirit’s work of sanctification in us (Phil. 1:6; 2:13; I Thess. 5:23-24). Again, this aspect of salvation is all of God as He works in us. We merely receive His sanctifying power that results in the fruit of the Spirit being evident in our lives

(Gal. 5:22-25).

Deliverance from the presence of sin is God’s work of glorification where our old fleshly nature will be abolished and we will be conformed to the lovely image of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the underlying purpose of predestination (Rom. 8:29-31). We will receive a new body without sin or its defilements (I Cor. 15:49-57; Phil. 3:20-21; I John 3:1-3). Again, this aspect of salvation is all of God as He completely conforms us to the fairest jewel of Heaven with no spot or blemish, the Lord Jesus Christ. We receive glorification by grace.

Each aspect of salvation is all of grace and all of God. Baptism is an act of obedience marked by a desire to follow the example of our Lord and align ourselves with the kind of church that He started. Baptism is clearly a work of righteousness as defined by Christ Himself (Matt. 3:15). We are not saved by works of righteousness (Titus 3:5-6). Baptism is an answer of a good conscience toward God and is defined as an act of service and devotion. Salvation is something God does for us, service is something we do for Him. People who don’t understand the grace of God have always tried to intermingle the work of baptism as part of salvation. Plain and simple, we are not saved by what we do, we are saved by what Christ did for us. As a result of being saved, forgiven, and changed we desire to please the Lord which is why we follow Him in baptism. We follow the Lord in scriptural baptism because we love the Lord and want to please Him by obedience.

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First let me state that baptism has nothing at all to do with one’s salvation. It has been my understanding that there seems to be confusion with what Peter said in Acts 2:38, **“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”** Some have used and still use this verse to justify their teaching and doctrine for “Baptismal Regeneration” (baptism is what saves you). But it is apparent that they either refuse to believe or they pay no attention to Acts 10:43, **“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”** These words Peter spoke to Cornelius and the other Gentiles that were there. So what

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## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. What are the steps needed in salvation? - Mississippi

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"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:8-15).

To me, if there are any steps this would be the passage of Scripture that I would show concerning a person's salvation. The gospel must be preached, I don't believe anyone will be saved unless they first hear the gospel message. God has chosen His people before the foundation of the world, elected, chosen, and predestinated those who will be saved and then at that appointed time they will hear the gospel, believe, and confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and Saviour and will be saved.

Also, one of the best Scriptures to show the steps (again, if they are truly steps) is Acts chapter 8 where Philip joins himself to the Ethiopia eunuch, and we read, "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then

the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:26-38). A verse of Scripture that gives me chills up and down my spine is "...and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35).

So, if there are steps, I guess it would go something like this, 1) A person must hear the gospel. 2) The Holy Spirit must have quickened the person in order to be able to hear and believe the gospel by faith "so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). 3) The person must confess Jesus as Saviour. This is not necessarily an order because I believe everything happens simultaneously when a person is saved. But if we would follow the example given to us of Philip and the eunuch in Acts chapter 8, I believe this would be a great place to start as a guide (steps) to bring a lost soul to Christ.

Let me close with this final thought, should we really call them steps that are needed for a person to be saved, or should we pay close attention to the Word of God? I would ask the questioner and reader to ponder these Scriptures, because everyone is responsible to hear and believe the gospel message, so please meditate on these verses.

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be

deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call" (Joel 2:32).

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40).

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21).

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:5-11).

"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God" (I John 4:15).

Also, please reread the open text of Scripture! Maybe we should say, "What Step" is needed for salvation, not steps! God Bless!

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Jesus made it clear that if someone is going to see or enter into God's kingdom he must be born again (John 3:3-5). There is no formula or steps regarding the new birth. It is a creative act of God where He imparts spiritual life and implants a new nature (Eph. 2:8-10; 4:24). The very moment the Spirit gives spiritual life in the new birth (regeneration) He also gives the gifts of repentance and saving faith (conversion). Logically and scripturally there must be spiritual life before there is any spiritual action. The flesh profiteth nothing (John 6:63) and cannot please God (Rom. 8:7-8). We know that repentance and faith please God but they are not produced by the fleshly will of man. Thus, God must give spiritual life and the corresponding gifts of repentance and faith. In the new birth God quickens us and reveals to us what we are and what we need (II Cor. 4:4-6). In response to the Word He gives us the grace to repent and believe the Gospel which is the essence of conversion.

Regeneration and conversion are like a hand in a glove. You can't have one without the other. Show me a man who is born again by the Spirit, and I will show you a man who is converted by the truth of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16-17).

Those who are saved are responsible to share the Gospel with the unsaved. The members of the early church were scattered and went everywhere declaring the truth of the Gospel to lost sinners. We call upon men to repent and believe the Gospel (Acts 20:20-21) because God has commanded it in His Word (Acts 17:30; I John 5:9-12). When we preach and witness to the lost we are addressing man's responsibility toward God and his need of salvation. Only God can make the Word effectual (I Thess. 1:8-9) which is why you find the early churches pointing lost sinners to Christ rather than to steps, ordinances, ceremonies, or religious exercises. John 3:27 declares: "...A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven." When the Philippian jailor asked how to be saved Paul answered simply "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31). Paul pointed the jailor to Christ, not a set of religious steps to take. Salvation is all about Christ, His death, His burial, His glorious resurrection. Point men to Him alone for salvation and you will never go wrong. "For I have determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). Tell men about the saving power of Christ. Tell them about the glory of our risen Savior! He alone can put away their sin and make them right with God (John 1:29; Heb. 10:14).

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"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 2:13-14).

1. God choosing who is saved and those who are not saved; "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" (Rom. 9:11).

2. The work of the Holy Spirit upon our

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## KJV-onlyism

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and taking God's name in vain at the worst. When I found this out, I honestly felt betrayed.

KJV-onlyism among modern Baptists is nothing more than tradition. Our people have fallen into the same trap as the Jews in the days of Christ. We have gotten comfortable in our way of thinking on this subject and we have made a doctrine out of it. As I said earlier, some now are "un-churching" congregations that would use another translation. It matters not how accurate the doctrine and practice of churches are; they could lose their candlestick if they forsake the beloved KJV for another version that may be as solid as the KJV. This is purely tradition and, sadly, there are no real Baptist roots for it. Again, this doctrine is founded in the teachings of a 7<sup>th</sup> day Adventist.

The KJV is a wonderful translation and those that use it should cherish it. However, there are a few other excellent translations. Knowing the truth, we should give liberty on this. Baptists have sought a better translation since the translation process began. A small few KJV-onlyists say they'll use a better translation if one is ever produced. However, they condemn all new translations – many without even owning a copy and surely without much study. Again, it's the doctrine and practice of a church that makes it faithful to the Lord or not. Without love (and with the KJV), I am nothing. With love (and with the NIV), I can please God. I personally will not use the NIV for various reasons which the next section will bring out. However, my concern for a church is whether they are preaching the true Gospel, taking the Commission to the World and standing for the distinctives which Baptists have stood for since the days of the Apostles no matter which version of the Scripture they use.

Taking all of this into consideration, what should we look for in a Bible? Well, first, we should look at the texts used in the translation process. Let me preface this by saying I am not a textual critic. The truth is that all of the texts are amazingly similar. They are 98% alike. This, in itself, speaks of God's preservation of His Word. All Baptist doctrines (and, therefore, Christian doctrine) can be found in every text without exception. Even in the texts that exclude certain passages or verses, the doctrines found in those omitted verses are still found in other places. So, deeming the texts as "corrupt" is, perhaps, a little harsh. If the copyists were wishing to delete certain teachings from God's Word, they've had 2000 years to delete all of the verses and passages which teach these truths. However, they still remain. That said I

prefer the Majority Text. This is the group in which the Textus Receptus belongs. These texts were preserved by God in the areas where the epistles were originally sent. The Alexandrian (Westcott-Hort, Nestle-Aland, etc.) texts were found in places where the epistles were not sent. It seems logical that the possibility for copyist errors grew as these texts were copied and sent to other areas. Secondly, and perhaps the more importantly, the translation method needs to be checked. For instance, the KJV, the NKJV, the KJ3, the Analytical-Literal Translation of the NT (and a handful of others) all use a "word for word" translation method from the Majority text. The English Standard Version is a good "word for word" translation. However, it may be a cause for concern that it uses the Nestle-Aland text. The NIV, contrastingly, uses "dynamic equivalence" (as noted in their introduction) which is a "thought for thought" translation method. This type of translation is a paraphrase at best. The translators who use this method of translation attempt to tell you what the Greek "meant" rather than telling you what it said. In my opinion, they need to leave the interpretation to the reader and the leadership of the Spirit. They claim to use an "eclectic text" (a combination of various texts). However, a casual observer can see that it leaned heavily on the Alexandrian text making it doubly questionable. Lastly, the Bible needs to be readable. Some of the older English versions (such as the Wycliffe) take too much work (in my opinion) for a modern English speaking person to study daily as their main study Bible. Also, some of the newer literal "word for word" versions are difficult to read due to the word order. These versions could (and should) be used for reference, but, probably won't serve well as a daily study Bible. Using these 3 guidelines, one may well use the KJV, the NKJV, the Modern KJV, the KJ3 and a handful of others. Just make sure that you read the introduction of whichever Bible you use to check into these things.

If nothing else, I hope this article challenges the readers. I am fully convinced that the KJV-onlyists who read this article will (in their minds) not believe the facts of this article. They are adamant of their position. As I've said, they don't wish their "truth" to be confused with real facts. Hopefully, the majority of our readers are willing to consider these things. As previously mentioned, the KJV is a wonderful translation. God has used it. However, it's simply erroneous to believe that God is not presently using a good translation such as the NKJV. I have used it in my daily reading for years and have found it to be very solid. In some places, it is better than the KJV. In other places, I prefer the KJV. Let us remember, neither of these is the standard. The standard

is the original articles as they were given to men by the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, let us always keep Greek helps (a concordance, a lexicon, an interlinear, a Bible dictionary, etc.) near us. Perhaps more importantly though, let us judge a church by its doctrine and practice since that's what we see God judging a church by in His Word.

As I said in the introduction, I'm confident that my opinions on this matter will cause some to break fellowship with me. I wish that wasn't so. However, those that know me realize that I have never concerned myself with pleasing "the brethren" in my ministry. My desire is to "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). If you doubt what I have said, the facts presented in this article are easily researched in various places. I encourage every person that reads this article to do just that. In fact, I encourage you to make sure any and all facts presented by me or any other authors on this subject are accurate. My primary purpose for writing this article is because there is so much misinformation out there.

May God help us all.

(Editor's note: I'm sure this article will get me several hot letters, but Bro. Todd has simply stated the facts. Even I have seen it written that unless the preacher uses the KJV only, he wasn't allowed to preach in the church's pulpit. How very sad this remark makes me feel.)

My preferred preference is to the KJV version of the Bible, but my preference can be likened to those early Baptists from England who were more fond of their Geneva Bibles. It can all be summed up by the old carpenter when asked about his ole hammer, "Well, I could go get a newer one, and it would work the same as this old one does, but this old one has served me well and it fits my hand better."



## Faith in God Expressed in the Declaration of Independence

By Bill James and Tom Ross

(Continued from the last issue.)

### UNALIENABLE RIGHTS ARE FROM GOD NOT GOVERNMENT

One of the most famous phrases in the Declaration states: "...We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..." The founders believed that man received the right to life, freedom, the pursuit of happiness, and the accumulation of

property and wealth from God, not government. They believed that these rights could not be taken from them by a king, dictator, or government, thus the use of the phrase unalienable rights. From the Holy Scriptures they understood that all things belonged to God the Creator. Psalm 24:1 declares: "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Deuteronomy 8:11 and 18-20 state: "Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day...But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God." What God said to Israel centuries ago may be applied to America today. The reason why we are losing our rights is because we have forgotten the God who graciously distributes them. We are warned in Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

Because of the influence of progressive ideology and secular humanism Americans by and large have lost the meaning of unalienable rights. In fact, if you were to ask the average American where they get their rights as an American citizen, an overwhelming majority would reply, "from the government." It is sad, but true that the statisticians want Americans to recognize government as their god.

The founders believed that the basic rights of man were sacred because they came directly and exclusively from God.

John Locke expressed this truth in the following way:

"The state of Nature has a law of Nature to govern it, which...teaches all mankind who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions; for men being all the workmanship of one omnipotent and infinitely wise maker; all the servants of one sovereign master, sent unto the world by His order and about His business; they are His property...And being furnished with like faculties, sharing all in one community of Nature, there cannot be supposed any such subordination among us that may authorize us to destroy one another." (*The 5000 Year Leap*, pp. 123-124).

John Adams, one of the signers of the

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Declaration and the second President of the United States wrote:

"All men are born free and independent, and have certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights, among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness." (*The 5000 Year Leap*, p. 127).

When Thomas Jefferson was writing the Declaration of Independence he was echoing the sentiments of William Blackstone who wrote:

"And these (great natural rights) may be reduced to three principal or primary articles: the right of personal security; the right of personal liberty; and the right of private property; because as there is no other known method of compulsion, or of abridging man's natural free will, but by an infringement or diminution of one or other of these important rights, the preservation of these, inviolate, may justly be said to include the preservation of our civil immunities in their largest and most extensive sense." (*The 5000 Year Leap*, pp. 127-128).

### GOD THE SUPREME JUDGE AND SOVEREIGN

In the closing sentences of the Declaration it says, "We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States;... ..And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

The signers of the Declaration appealed to "The Supreme Judge of the World." Did they imagine that anyone or anything was greater than God their Creator? They acknowledged that the whole world is accountable to God as the Supreme Judge. They appealed to God to examine the righteousness of their cause and their desire for independence as a Nation. The signers of the Declaration expressed and acknowledged that God knows our thoughts, our motives, and the justice of our actions. God alone, being Omniscient, is entirely competent to judge. The Bible says, "**O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there**

**is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether"** (Ps. 139.1-4). "**Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do"** (Heb. 4:13).

In the Old Testament, when Abraham was praying to God regarding Lot, who was in Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham's concern was that the righteous not perish with the wicked. "**That be far from thee to do after this manner; to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"** (Gen. 18.25) Our Founders in appealing to God knew, "**The Judge of all the earth would do right.**" They knew God saw the intolerable impositions of the British Government on the thirteen colonies. God saw how they at length had suffered numerous losses of life, liberty, and property. God saw this, just as He saw the Israelites suffering under the cruel hands of the taskmasters in Egypt.

God saw this, just as He saw King Saul's jealous rage and murderous intentions against David. Saul pursued David relentlessly in the wilderness and surrounding territories. One night Saul laid down to sleep in a cave not knowing that David and his men were back in the interior of the same cave. David had an opportunity to dispose of Saul and was encouraged by some of his men to do so. He was actually able to get close enough to cut off the borders of Saul's garments. This bothered David's conscience. But when Saul left that cave, the next morning, and got out some distance, David cried unto him these words. "**The Lord therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand"** (I Sam. 24.15). The appeal of our forefathers in the Declaration of Independence is similar to this. They asked God to judge between them and the British and sought His deliverance from the unjust oppression of the colonies.

The founders expressed a firm reliance on Divine Providence for their protection in this conflict. They recognized God's active role in human events. They knew He created all things and that He sovereignly superintends what He created. The Bible says, "**The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein"** (Ps. 24:10). God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. But God did not cease to work in the universe He created. He did not abandon the work of His hands. Jesus, while on earth said, "**My Father worketh hitherto, and I work"** (John 5.17). The apostle said, "**For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen"** (Rom. 11.36). Note three

things here: "**Of Him**"...that is creation, "**Through Him**"...that is Providence, "**And To Him**"...all shall consummate in Him. What does that leave out? God works hitherto governing His creation. Knowing this, our forefathers sought the protection of Divine Providence as they pursued the freedoms He ordained for men. They could reasonably expect His intervention as they sought to honor Him as Creator, Lawgiver, and Judge. They would look for tokens of His presence and favor in their struggle for liberty. Later looking back on their remarkable history George Washington said, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Providential agency....We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself has ordained."

We should all be able to appreciate these words coming from a man who persevered through enormous hardships and deprivations to win liberty for the colonies. Our first President, was a great soldier and statesman. He is head and shoulders above all his critics. He was not ashamed to give God the glory for all the profound accomplishments relating to our independence.

### THE SACRIFICES OF THE SIGNERS

These four references to God in the Declaration of Independence tell us a lot about our founding fathers. It speaks in unmistakable terms of their faith in God, their love of freedom, their willingness to expose themselves and to suffer for righteousness. History reveals their faithfulness, unselfishness, and perseverance. It is a shame to sell at so cheap a rate these liberties that they gave so much of themselves to secure. Freedom is not free. Liberty was costly to achieve and costly to maintain. The men who signed the Declaration knew full well what wrath they exposed themselves to from the British government. They pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Many of them were successful businessmen who lost all their property. Some sold their property and funded the war and ended up in poverty. Many lost their health through extreme exertion, stress, or imprisonment and some lost their lives. We cannot really calculate how much we owe the founders for the many freedoms Americans have enjoyed in the last 234 years.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> of 2010 I received an email that gave details of what happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Below is a description of the sacrifices these honorable men were

willing to make:

"Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!"

In an age of political corruption, graft, and greed on the part of our elected officials it is quite refreshing to read of men who valued the advancement of liberty over personal profit or power. I fear we are electing men and women who have drunk deeply from the poisoned well of a progressive/secular humanist educational philosophy. They think they are humanistic gods to be obeyed and worshipped by the masses. They feast on the bounties of an oppressive tax program at the expense of their constituents and know little of the

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sacrifices and hardships of our founding fathers. May God be pleased to raise up true statesmen who are willing to put God and country first regardless of the cost, rather than their own political agenda and ideology.

### COMPONENTS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT

Our Founders paid a great price to obtain and establish a good government. God has ordained human government and His Word tells us what good government insures for us. Note this passage in I Timothy 2:1-4. **"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."** God gave us representative government in America and it is my belief that we should know our representatives well enough to pray intelligently for them and to contact them about matters being voted upon. These things affect us personally as citizens and as Christians. We need to know what our Constitution provides for us and hold our elected leaders responsible for defending it. After all, they swore on the Bible to uphold it.

The passage in Timothy tells us of two things that good government will bring to us. First, a **"quiet and peaceable life."** It is certainly desirable and reassuring to live in a well ordered society. Government's primary role is to protect its citizens. **"For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil"** (Rom. 13:4). The founders certainly did not envision a government that is so intrusive that it can fire businessmen in the private sector, take over businesses, and choke free enterprise to death through excessive regulations. Nor did they ever imagine that the government would control the Media, restrict freedom of religion, and stifle free speech. Rather than promoting peace, prosperity, and goodwill I fear our government is engaged in the dangerous process of social engineering. It is a blessing when government makes our communities a safe place to live and to live out our faith.

Secondly, good government facilitates the spread of the Gospel. The freedom of religion and the ability to publish and proclaim the good news of the Gospel has been a wonderful privilege

in America. I believe it is one of the reasons why our country has enjoyed spiritual and material prosperity for over 200 years. A peaceful society that is respectful to God, His Word, and His ways promotes the life changing truth of the Gospel. How good, indeed, to be able to worship freely and live our faith before men. The greatest freedom anyone can have is the freedom Christ alone gives. How unspeakably blessed to be free from the guilt and condemnation of sin through the blood atonement of Christ. Sin no longer has dominion over those who receive Christ. Jesus said, **"ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.....If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"** (John 8:32, 36). We need to pray for those in authority so that we may continue to maintain these two simple components of good government. We have seen some encroachments, by our government, in the area of religious freedom and free speech both of which are promised in the Bill of Rights. We have seen a general disregard for the Bible and a contempt for those who faithfully follow its teachings. There is every reason for us to be wide awake and knowledgeable of our government's activities. What we desperately need is to return to God and our spiritual foundations. I love my dear Country and cherish its remaining freedoms but my heart is grieved over the state of America right now. Oh, how much God has given us! It's a crying shame to forfeit these rich blessings through sin and wickedness; to sell our birthright for a mess of worldly pottage. God save our beloved America. May God be pleased to move His people to follow the admonition of II Chronicles 7:14: **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."** May God grant spiritual healing to the citizens of our beloved America. May we witness an outpouring of the Spirit, a spiritual awakening, and a genuine revival in our nation. Hope and change is much more than a catchy political mantra. We need to see a spiritual change in the hearts of men, women, boys, and girls in order to restore hope in God, His Word, the traditional family, and our country.

I close with George Washington's words about the critical importance of religion and morality in government. **"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.... It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government."**



## Forum #1

(Continued from page 450) ◊

is it, is Peter contradicting himself or is it that Peter is saying the same thing in both verses, that **"whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins?"** More plainly as Peter preaches the gospel to the crowd on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:21, **"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."** Also in Joel 2:32, **"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."** And in Romans 10:13, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."** The reader might want to take notice that baptism is not mentioned here as something needed to be saved.

Now to answer the question, "Why are converts said to need to follow the Lord in scriptural baptism?" First it was a command; one of the two ordinances our Lord left for us which is known as the great commission, the other being the Lord's Supper; **"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"** (Matt. 28:18-20), and then **"teach all nations"** or "disciple all nations" (making disciples) which would be done by the preaching of the gospel. Then after one is saved (being born again of the Spirit), because salvation is the prerequisite to baptism, that one should then follow our Lord's example, **"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan"** (Mark 1:9), **"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him"** (Matt. 3:13), and be baptized into one of the Lord's true New Testament Baptist Churches. The reader must take into consideration the example Jesus sets forth by going so far (in distance) to be baptized by John and no other, and that in so doing, it was an example to us first of all to be baptized, and second that not just anyone can baptize. There are probably thousands of Christians that will never have scriptural baptism. Those of the Protestant persuasion do not have scriptural baptism because Protestants never had authority to baptize.

The importance of baptism as I have already stated is the entrance into one of the Lord's true New Testament Baptist Churches, thus fulfilling the rest

of the commission in Matthew 28:20, **"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."** I believe in order to be taught one should join themselves to one of the Lord's true New Testament Baptist Churches.

**"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"** (Acts 2:41).

**"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"** (Acts 2:47).

**"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women"** (Acts 8:12).

**"For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus"** (Acts 8:16).

**"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized"** (Acts 18:8).

**"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days"** (Acts 10:47-48).

**"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus"** (Acts 19:5).

I believe this should be sufficient Scriptures, and I would encourage the questioner and the reader to study the word "baptized" more thoroughly to see the importance of not only being baptized but being baptized into the Lord's true New Testament Baptist Church.

As far as the last part of the question "Are you not requiring baptism as part of being saved?" I think I have already answered this but so that I am clear, my answer is "NO", no because I believe there are many saved that have never had and probably never will have scriptural baptism, so to say we require baptism as part of being saved would constitute a great many Christians to be unsaved. God Bless!

ROGER REED



## Forum #2

(Continued from page 451) ◊

hearts; **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost"** (Titus 3:5).

3. The understanding of the gospel with opened ears; **"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God"** (I Cor. 2:10).

◊ (Continued on page 455)

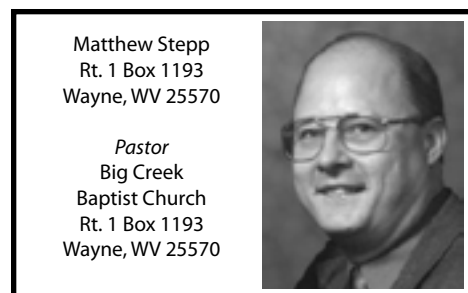
## Forum #2

(Continued from page 454) ♦

4. The preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ; **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God"** (I Cor. 1:18).

**"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"** (Eph. 2:8-10).

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From God's perspective the outline is given in Romans 8:29-30, **"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."**

One, must be foreknown. Two, must be predestinated. Three, must be called. Four, must be justified. And Five, must be glorified. This is the clearest outline given in Scripture and you see that man has NOTHING to do with it! All of Grace! **"When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life"** (Acts 11:18).

However, it is important to also see these steps from the sinner's perspective as well, that we might know that the LORD is working within us. If we are holding a revival service at Big Creek Baptist Church and we have some visitors that come and sit on the back row, what steps do they go through if the LORD would choose to be merciful unto them and work out their salvation from the foundation of the world as we've already outlined?

The simplest encapsulation is again in Romans 10:17, **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** They each hear the outward call of the gospel, but only the ones saved hear the inward, effectual call of the Holy Spirit. **"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it"** (Heb. 4:2). So where does the

faith come from to be mixed effectually with the Gospel? **"...it is the gift of God"** (Eph. 2:8).

In other words, there really are no steps that a preacher can lead someone down and single-handedly get a person saved. God must do the work, and all other works outside His foreordination are fruitless. But if God IS involved, then the regenerated person's mind will experience the following four steps:

Step #1- The sinner will realize that there IS a Supreme Creator God that holds His creation accountable to His revealed Law. **"..for he that cometh to God must believe that he is..."** (Heb. 11:6).

Step #2- The sinner will come under conviction that he, himself, is personally guilty of breaking God's Law and his standing before this Righteous Judge is that of a rebellious criminal, bound for Hell and eternal damnation. **"Behold, all**

**souls are mine; ...the soul that sinneth, it shall die"** (Ezek. 18:4).

Step #3- The sinner will be gifted with the gospel of good tidings, that God sent His Son into the world to pay the sin-debt of rebellious criminals. (This will inevitably have coincided with Steps 1 & 2.) **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief"** (I Tim. 1:15).

Step #4- The sinner will be irresistibly drawn by the Holy Spirit and will repent of his sins and trust in the completed, substitutionary work of Jesus Christ for him! **"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed"** (Acts 13:48).

MATTHEW STEPP



THE

# BIBLE NEWSPAPER

Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read.

Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

### OBAMA'S AUNT: US OBLIGATED TO MAKE ME A CITIZEN

(WBZ NEWS) As Congress prepares to reinitiate the stalled immigration reform debate, one very personal immigration issue looks poised to hit the president close to home.

President Barack Obama's aunt, Zeituni Onyango, says she's done nothing wrong by illegally living in the United States for years and is therefore deserving of amnesty.

"If I come as an immigrant, you have the obligation to make me a citizen," Onyango, 58, told Boston's WBZ news.

In her first interview since Obama was elected president, Onyango described how she came to America in 2000 from her native Kenya, fell ill and was hospitalized. Upon her release, Onyango said she was out of money. So rather than return to her homeland, she continued to live in the country in violation of immigration laws.

After stints in a Boston homeless shelter, Onyango was eventually put in public housing and began receiving disability payments. In 2004, an immigration judge ordered her to leave the country, but Onyango remained. However, she noted that her story was less about intentionally flouting federal immigration policy and more about its ineffectiveness.

"I didn't take advantage of the system," Onyango said. "The system took advantage of me."

Onyango says that she received no help from Obama as her case was reviewed by Judge Leonard Shapiro, who ruled in May that Onyango could remain in the United

States.

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### TEACHERS UNION DICTATES "NO FUNDS" FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

(EP News)--President Obama's signature education effort, "Race to the Top," made charter schools a cornerstone, but that very cornerstone is one on which the teachers unions refuse to build. So, when the House rushed back during the August recess to pass Obama's \$10 billion teacher bailout, unions made sure that the charter schools were excluded from any funds. The Wall Street Journal reported: "Administration officials say their hands are tied because the legislation stipulates that the money go to the school districts. In fact, the law is silent on contracting with outside management organizations and even the Education Department doesn't have a problem with one school district contracting services with another school district. The education dollars in President Obama's first stimulus flowed to charters schools based on need, regardless of how the school paid its teachers."

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### SAN ANTONIO POLICE MISAPPLY CITY ORDINANCE TO SILENCE STREET PREACHER

(EP News)--Sharing the Gospel in public is now a dicey proposition in San Antonio, Tex. Street preacher Jose Muniz, a full-time minister with Jesus Crew Street ministries, was on multiple occasions harassed and threatened by San Antonio police for handing out Bible tracts and sharing his faith. Liberty

Institute and the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLIJ), the Christian legal firms that filed a federal lawsuit on Muniz's behalf, said the officers consistently misapplied a city ordinance intended to prevent the distribution of commercial handbills. The ordinance clearly sets the boundaries: "This section is not intended to prevent the lawful distribution of anything other than commercial and business advertising." ACLIJ attorney Wesley Southerland said that Muniz was not the only one harassed for sharing his faith. Another evangelist, Todd Liebovitz, was thrown in jail for 16 hours before the charges were dropped. Both men were accused of illegally handing out literature under various city ordinances.

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### JUDGE ALLOWS UNSAFE ABORTION FACILITY TO REOPEN

(EP News)--A Louisiana judge on Sept. 14 lifted the emergency suspension order issued by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, (LDHH), allowing an abortion mill to reopen that was deemed to pose an immediate threat to the health, welfare, or safety of patients. State Judge District Judge R. Michael Caldwell ruled that the Hope Medical Group for Women, an abortion facility in Shreveport, can reopen for business even though it has not fixed the problems that made it a danger to the public. In doing so Caldwell chose to disregard a new state law that gives the LDHH the authority to close unsafe clinics on an emergency basis. Bruce D. Greenstein, Health Secretary for the State of Louisiana told reporters that he is disappointed by the ruling.

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### DISCLOSE ACT NARROWLY FAILS TO PASS SENATE

(EP News)--The DISCLOSE Act failed on a procedural vote in the U.S. Senate in late September. In need of 60 votes to move forward, the final tally was 59-39. The Act, formally titled the Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections Act, would -- according to conservative and Christian groups -- chill the free-speech of groups and companies that want to speak out during campaign season. This was the second time Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., attempted to pass the bill, in an attempt to galvanize the liberal voter base.

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### ABORTIONIST RILEY DID FEDERAL PRISON TIME, RECORDS SHOW

(EP News)--Operation Rescue has obtained additional open record documents that show abortionist Nicola Riley, an employee of the notorious Stephen Chase Brigham of Salt Lake City, Utah, has a history of criminal problems that earned her a year at the U.S. Military Prison at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., and a dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Army. Riley made headlines when the State of Maryland suspended her medical license after a botched late-term abortion exposed her part in Brigham's illegal scheme to circumvent abortion laws in two states. She is also accused of aiding and abetting the

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## Bible & the Newspaper

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unlicensed practice of medicine by helping Brigham do abortions at a secret late-term abortion clinic in Elkton, Md., where Brigham has no medical license. Brigham's New Jersey medical license has since been suspended for illegally starting abortions as late as 36 weeks at his Voorhees, N.J., office, then transporting his patients across state lines to Maryland where the abortions were completed.

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### MAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNDER PRESSURE TO LET BOYS USE GIRLS' RESTROOMS

(EP News)--The Maine Human Rights Commission ruled this week that Orono Middle School discriminated against a sixth-grade male student who wants to live as a female by only offering the student access to a gender-neutral bathroom. The Commission said it will work with the state education commissioner to add rules pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity, as it pertains to education, in the Maine Human Rights Act. Dr. Dean Byrd, president of the Thrasher Research Fund, said, "Children should be safe at school, but I'm not so sure that particular worldviews ought to be primary. Diversity by its very definition means different world views and those different world views may contradict the worldviews of particular families, so I think parents ought to be concerned. When you get into areas of gender identity, development, sexual orientation, we're talking about worldviews. It's certainly a slippery slope. Schools ought to educate, not indoctrinate."

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### NEW YORK ADOPTION LAW ALLOWS UNMARRIED COUPLES TO ADOPT

(EP News)--A new law, signed by New York Gov. David Paterson on Sept. 19, promotes children growing up in motherless or fatherless families – and undermines the strength of marriage and the family. The law, which is effective immediately, now allows two unmarried people – including same-sex couples – to jointly adopt a child. The law also removed the reference "husband and wife" and replaced it with gender-neutral phrase "married couple." Since New York does not recognize same-sex marriage, but does recognize the legality of same-sex unions created in other states, many consider this law yet another attempt for same-sex couples to acquire the benefits of marriage.

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### SENATE GOP SUCCEEDS IN STOPPING 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' – FOR NOW

(EP News)--An attempt to move the 2011 Defense Authorization bill failed by a vote of 56-43 – narrowly stopping Democrats from moving a "must pass" piece of legislation, which is currently loaded down with socially liberal and politically charged measures. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., successfully held together Republicans to filibuster

any movement on the bill, in light of the superfluous amendments added merely to appease special interest groups prior to Nov. 2. Arkansas Democrat Sens. Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor also sided with 40 Republicans. Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski of was the only senator who did not vote on the bill. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., a co-sponsor of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" measure, attempted to lecture Republicans that it was their "national, constitutional and moral responsibility" to vote for the bill. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., however, argued, "I will not – and I urge my colleagues not to – allow the Defense Bill to be a train to carry through controversial, unpopular pieces of legislation."

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### KNOXVILLE FOURTH GRADER BARRED FROM READING BIBLE DURING RECESS

(EP News)--A five-year struggle for one Tennessee student's religious liberties entered a new legal phase on Oct. 5. In 2005, the then-10-year-old Karns Elementary student and a few classmates read and discussed their Bibles during a recess period. When an unnamed parent complained, the principal ordered the student-led study to be stopped. The Alliance Defense Fund, representing the minor and his parents, Samuel and Tina Whitson, appealed the case after receiving a negative jury verdict and being denied a new trial. The case now goes to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. "Christian students shouldn't be prohibited from reading and discussing their Bibles at public schools during non-instructional time," said ADF Senior Counsel Nate Kellum. "That continues to be our primary concern in this case. The Constitution does not prohibit Bibles during recess; it prohibits the banning of Bibles during recess."

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### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUSHES ANTI-FAMILY AGENDA THROUGH "BANNED BOOKS WEEK"

(EP News)--Each year, the American Library Association (ALA) hosts "Banned Books Week," as a way to protest the current so-called crisis in libraries – censorship of unorthodox materials and viewpoints. However, conservative groups say that a careful analysis of ALA's statistics shows that the crisis is really "much ado about nothing." Very few of the so-called banned books each year are actually taken off library shelves. Out of the thousands of books represented in public libraries, approximately 57 books were reportedly removed in 2009 – hardly qualifying as a national crisis. Candi Cushman, education analyst for CitizenLink, said there's a hidden motive behind the ALA's huge promotion of the event. "It seems like the ALA is manufacturing a national crisis to undermine the legitimate role that parents are trying to have in the process," she said. "When looking at the ALA's own statistics, the majority of the so-called banning attempts involve parental concerns about sexually explicit books in schools."

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### DEBATE EXAMINES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MORALITY AND GOD

(EP News)--Can morality exist without God? That was the question debated by King's College President Dinesh D'Souza and Princeton bioethicist – and prominent atheist – Peter Singer in New York on Sept. 13. Singer maintains that what we call "moral behavior" is really an evolutionary adaptation. That's one reason, Singer says, that animals should be treated as morally equal to human, especially the higher primates. D'Souza said that morality is not possible without Christian morality. He said that if morality is merely an evolutionary adaptation, much of mankind's behavior makes no sense. D'Souza said that all morality is based on Judeo-Christian ideas. D'Souza acknowledged that some animals might show signs of behavior that we might admire, and that might appear altruistic – such as care for their young. But true morality requires a selflessness and altruism that are antithetical to a Darwinian view of the world.

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### TEXAS AG SAYS "NO" TO ABORTION CLINICS' USE OF RECORDINGS TO INFORM OF DANGERS

(EP News)--Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott released an opinion on Sept. 24, informing abortion clinics that prerecorded announcements were not meeting the original intent of a key provision in the Women's Right to Know Act passed last year. At issue: Abortion clinics have opted to inform women seeking abortions of the dangers of the procedure by using prerecorded messages. In his decision, Abbott ruled: "The legislature has demonstrated that, when it wishes to permit the use of prerecorded information, it knows how to do so." Jeanne Monahan, director of the Family Research Council's Center for Human Dignity, said, "It's impossible to have informed consent if you're listening to a machine and can't ask questions that you might have about the gestational age or specific risks of the procedure."

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### STATES, GROUPS SUBMIT LEGAL BRIEFS TO 9TH CIRCUIT IN FAVOR OF TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

(EP News)--The 9th U.S. Court of Appeals received on Sept. 24 friend-of-the-court briefs – also known as amicus briefs – in support of California's voter-approved amendment that protect one-man, one-woman marriage. Utah became the 13th state to sign on to an amicus brief that urged the 9th Circuit to overturn a federal court decision striking down the marriage amendment – and invalidated the will and the votes of more than 7,000 California voters, who voted to define marriage traditionally. Utah joined attorneys general from Indiana, Virginia, Louisiana, Michigan, Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Wyoming in arguing that by striking down Proposition 8, Judge Vaughn Walker had exceeded his constitutional authority by trying to "reorder this foundational legal and social institution." In all, 25 briefs were filed, including one from Ed Whelan, noted

constitutional attorney and president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, as well as one from Kelly Shackelford, president and chief counsel for Liberty Institute, on behalf of 30 family policy councils from around the country.

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### APPEALS COURT RULES TAX DOLLARS FOR HUMAN EMBRYO RESEARCH "OKAY"

(EP News)--A federal appeals court agreed in late September with the government's request to temporarily block the enforcement of a ruling that banned tax dollars from being used in life-destroying human embryonic stem-cell research. U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit granted the emergency hold on District Judge Royce Lamberth's Aug. 23 order, while awaiting Lamberth's ruling on the original lawsuit. An Aug. 27 Rasmussen poll revealed that only 33 percent of Americans approved of using tax dollars to fund this controversial research – a marked drop from the 52 percent that supported it when Obama signed his Executive Order on March 9, 2009. The order dramatically expanded federal funding streams and opened the gateway for new embryonic stem-cell lines to be used for research – opening the door for further destruction of human life.

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### U.S. HOUSE ADJOURNMENT VOTE BECAME REFERENDUM ON TAX CUTS

(EP News)--The U.S. House voted to adjourn on Sept. 29 by a narrow vote of 210-209. The tie-breaker vote was cast by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. Thirty-nine Democrats sided with Republicans in opposing the Adjournment Resolution, and said a pre-election vote on extending tax cuts to families had yet to be addressed. House Republican Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, excoriated the Speaker for calling an adjournment: "A vote to adjourn this Congress without an up-or-down vote to stop all the tax hikes is a vote to raise taxes and destroy more jobs. American families and small businesses deserve better. This Congress has a chance to help end uncertainty for families and small businesses by stopping all the tax hikes set to take effect on January 1. If Democratic Leaders leave town without stopping all of the tax hikes, they are turning their backs on the American people."

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### 72,000 STIMULUS CHECKS SENT TO THE DEAD

(FOX News)--The Social Security Administration sent about 89,000 stimulus payments of \$250 each to dead and incarcerated people – but almost half of them were returned, a new inspector-general's report has found.

The agency was charged with distributing the one-time payments, worth about \$13 billion in total, as part of the economic-stimulus package passed in February 2009. Most of the payments were made in May 2009.

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The inspector general found that about 72,000 payments were sent by electronic-transfer and as checks to people who would have qualified to receive them — had they still been alive. The report said that of these payments, about 55,000 were sent because the recipients had died recently, and the Social Security Administration had not been informed of their deaths by states, families or funeral homes at the time the payments were sent. The remaining 17,000 of the mistaken payments were attributed to the SSA failing to properly process death records that it did have.

Another 17,000 payments went to recipients who were in prison at the time the payment was made in May 2009. However, not all of those payments were necessarily against the letter of the law. While lawmakers intended to prevent payments to people in prison, the law included only a provision prohibiting payments to people incarcerated in the three months before the plan was passed — from November 2008 through January 2009.

There's a startling bright spot in the report: The inspector general estimates that about 41,000 of the payments were returned. It is illegal to spend social-security money issued to somebody else, but such actions are rarely prosecuted for small amounts. At least one person has been prosecuted for cashing a stimulus check not issued to them, in one of the few accusations of stimulus fraud to date.

The downside: The SSA says that the stimulus package didn't include a provision allowing it to try to retrieve funds that were mistakenly sent out, so it can't try to retrieve the rest of the money. Money transferred electronically may be sitting untouched in bank accounts of dead people.

The combined total of the mistaken payments is \$22.3 million. About \$12 million hasn't been returned.

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### A BLESSING FOR YOUR PET

(WTVA News) — The first Sunday in October marked a special day for pets and their owners in Mississippi. A blessing of the animals ceremony took place at several churches through out the state.

Pet owners brought their animals to services where pastors performed a service, giving each pet a blessing.

Members of the church and community could bring any kind of pet imaginable, including reptiles, amphibians or whatever they would like to see receive a blessing.

"We're coming together to bless any kind of animal," says Tom Cheatham, Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Amory, MS. "Pets can be a dog, cat, horse, fish or a bird. We are celebrating all of God's creatures today and celebrating the wonders of God's creation." Following the service Cheatham was headed to the Humane Society to give more animals a blessing.

"I look forward to the minister blessing him as part of our festivities today," said one pet owner. "So that he may live a long time and be a wonderful pet to us in the years to come."

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### LAW OF ECONOMICS, POLITICS WREAKING HAVOC ON HEALTH CARE LAW

(EP News)--The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently granted 30 large companies — including McDonald's — special waivers from adhering to certain mandates in the health care law. Positioned by HHS as a step to provide "continuous coverage," policy watchers call it a move to avoid nearly one million workers from being left without coverage — right before the election. In his commentary, "Congress Can't Repeal Economics," author and FOX Business Network host John Stossel said the laws of economics have "struck back" against ObamaCare: "Health insurers Wellpoint, Cigna, Aetna, Humana, and CoventryOne will stop writing policies for all children. Why? Because ObamaCare requires that they insure already sick children for the same price as well children. That sounds compassionate, but sick children need more medical care. Insurance is about risk, and already sick children are 100 percent certain to be sick when their coverage begins. So if the government mandates that insurance companies cover sick children at the lower well-children price, insurers will quit the market. So, thanks to the compassionate Congress and president, parents of sick children will be saved from expensive insurance—by being unable to obtain any insurance. That's how government compassion works. In 2014, the same rule will kick in for adults. You now know what to expect."

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### 2010 U.S. CENSUS, MIDTERM ELECTIONS TO SHAPE POLITICAL POWER ON STATE, FEDERAL LEVELS

(EP News)--With less than one month to go until the Nov. 2 General Election, scant coverage has been given to the preliminary 2010 U.S. Census results. What voters may not realize is that the votes they cast — along with new Census data — will likely affect the 2012 presidential election, as well as their representation for the next decade. In 1911, the number of U.S. representatives was capped at 435. Therefore, as populations shift, so do the number of House seats in each state— and political power. This reapportionment also impacts the number of Electoral College votes states are allocated — an increasingly important determinant in presidential races. Preliminary results from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that conservative-leaning Florida and Texas will make big gains — at the expense of liberal-leaning Ohio and New York. According to estimates from independent organizations, six other states each would gain one seat: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington. Eight states would

each lose one seat: Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

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### BILLY GRAHAM RAPID RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYS IN AFTERMATH OF NICOLE

(EP News)--Crisis-trained chaplains from the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team have deployed to Windsor, N.C., where Tropical Storm Nicole caused extensive flooding damage. Windsor, a town of more than 3,000, is the county seat of Bertie County and is located in the Inner Banks region of eastern North Carolina. N.C. Governor Bev Perdue has declared a state of emergency. News reports indicate that as much as 80 percent of the town of Windsor was flooded at one point. The storm is being blamed for six deaths in North Carolina. The Billy Graham Rapid Response Team is deploying in coordination with Samaritan's Purse, the international relief organization headed by Franklin Graham, who is also president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

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### LIBERAL ATTACKS ON PRIVATE CONSERVATIVE COMPANY RAISES QUESTIONS OF ILLEGALITY

(EP News)--In what appears to be reminiscent of Watergate days, the Obama administration is fending off accusations of possible abuse of power by going after a Kansas-based corporation that donates to conservative causes. At issue: In a conference call with journalists, Austan Goolsbee, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, may have inadvertently revealed confidential tax information about Koch Industries, a privately owned oil company. The Center for American Progress and other liberal organizations, funded by billionaire George Soros, have attacked the company, along with its owners, wealthy philanthropists Charles and David Koch. An audit request, sent to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, added more fuel to the fire. Baucus called for an investigation into political activity by several tax-exempt organizations. Sens. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, Orrin Hatch of Utah and Jon Kyl of Texas, along with four Republican colleagues, then sent a letter to the Treasury Inspector General (IG), asking for an investigation into alleged illegal access to tax information.

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### IOWA VOTERS COULD MAKE HISTORY NOV. 2 IN JUDICIAL RETENTION VOTE

(EP News)--It appears Iowans may be ready to unseat three state Supreme Court justices who forced same-sex marriage into law. Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and Justices David Baker and Michael Streit — who were among the seven justices who voted in favor of same-sex marriage — are in the fight of their careers over their judicial activism. According to a Des Moines Register Iowa Poll released Oct. 4, only 44 percent of Iowa voters said they would vote to keep all three

justices. A simple majority is required to stay on the bench. Judicial analysts and scholars said they were shocked at the numbers. No Iowa Supreme Court Justice has lost a seat since retention votes began in 1962. Gay-identified activists and their allies are among those fearful that this poll — and the possible outcome Nov. 2 — will embolden conservatives across the country to target other judicial candidates up for a vote.

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### NUMEROUS FISCAL BALLOT MEASURES AWAIT VOTERS ON NOV. 2, FEW SOCIAL ISSUES

(EP News)--When voters head to the polls, the vote on candidates will get most of the attention, but 36 states will consider 155 ballot measures — in the form of initiatives, referendums and propositions. Forty-two are citizen-initiated. The states with the most citizen-initiated measures are: California, with nine, and Colorado and Washington with six. Tied with three each are Florida, Massachusetts, Missouri and Montana. The states with the most legislative referenda are Louisiana and Oklahoma, with 10 each, followed by Arizona with eight. Tom Minnery, of Focus on the Family, said, "Fiscal and economic measures typically outnumber social issues each election season. Nevertheless, it is important that we monitor all measures that could impact the family — directly or indirectly — including fiscal issues."

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### HHS USES ADOPTION TAX CREDITS TO SWAY VOTERS ON OBAMACARE

(EP News)--In an effort to improve the public's perception of President Obama's Affordable Healthcare Act, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services hosted a live webcast featuring two families who have benefitted from the Adoption Tax Credit. The Small Business and Jobs Act of 1996 was the first to introduce the tax credit. In 2001, the tax credit was raised to \$10,000. By 2009, the credit was at \$12,150, but was set to end in December. The new health care law extended the tax credit and increased the full value of the adoption tax credit to \$13,170. Ashley Horne, federal analyst for CitizenLink, said that the adoption tax credit is a small glimmer of good in an otherwise very bad health care law. "We applaud Congress for increasing and extending the tax credit for adoptive couples through 2011 and genuinely hope the credit will encourage more married moms and dads to take the step of giving a loving home to a child in need."



# Funnybone

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

A young preacher, somewhat distinguished for self conceit, having failed disastrously before a crowded audience at the Possum Trot Baptist Church was thus addressed by an aged brother. "If you had gone into the pulpit, feeling as you do coming out of that pulpit, you would have felt on coming out of the pulpit as you did when you went up into that pulpit."



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It is rumored in Possum Trot that two old deacons from years past spent large sums of money with lawyers trying to decide which one was the proper owner of a famous framed painting.

After spending months of being unable to come to a satisfactory conclusion, it is said that one deacon commenced to shooting after the Sunday morning service, and that five cents worth of lead instantly brought about a satisfactory conclusion when the other deacon shouted, "It's your picture, It's your picture, Praise the Lord, it's your picture!" as he headed over a nearby hill.

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In the morning Sunday school class the new young teacher started her lesson off by asking, "Children when was Adam born?"

Little Susie blurted out; "Why everybody knows he was born a little before Eve."

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There is an old story in Possum Trot of a dear old lady who was lying on her death bed talking with her brother, who lived a great distance off, and was preparing to leave and return home.

The brother said, "Dear sister, I probably will never again meet you in the land of the living."

To which his sister quietly replied, "Brother, I trust we will meet in the land of the living, because we are now in the land of the dying."



## BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 9-1-2010 to 9-30-2010

Beginning Balance .....	\$8,782.93
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	225.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN.....	50.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
.....	475.00
TOTAL.....	9,257.93
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Radio Time .....	640.00
Tape Production .....	195.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	835.00
.....	\$8,422.93
Interest .....	+ .33
.....	8,423.26
Less Corbin, KY des. ....	-1,203.72
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$7,219.54

## CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,403.72
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
TOTAL.....	1,403.72
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
WCTT .....	200.00
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$1,203.72



## BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 9-1-2010 to 9-30-2010

Beginning Balance .....	\$1,582.65
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Amazing Grace B. C., Stockdale, TX.....	25.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	200.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL.....	60.00
Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN .....	150.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX .....	100.00
Bible Believer's B. C., Naples, ID .....	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV .....	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	150.00
Buffalo Valley B. C., Clay, WV .....	100.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL.....	25.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR.....	25.00
Floyd Dack, Springport, MI .....	25.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL.....	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK.....	35.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	100.00
L. H. Farrell, Des Allemands, LA .....	75.00
Landmark M. B. C., Moncks Corner, SC.....	50.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM.....	100.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH.....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN .....	20.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	50.00
New Testament B. C., Leivasy, WV .....	125.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumersville, AR.....	50.00
South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA .....	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL.....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX .....	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC.....	100.00
Vicki Mills, Lancaster, KY .....	15.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	25.00
Subscriptions .....	64.00
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Anonymous .....	1,292.00
Sub Total .....	\$4,016.00
TOTAL.....	\$5,598.65
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Printing.....	581.00
Postage .....	719.30
Supplies .....	127.17
Wages .....	2,300.00
FICA .....	197.38
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Total Expenditures .....	4,074.85
.....	1,595.65
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$1,523.80



# Berea Baptist Church Bookstore

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## BAPTISM

### Your Baptism Is Important

Anderson, S. E. .... \$3.25  
Clearly and effectively explains passages of Scripture relating to baptism. An excellent book for students, teachers or pastors.

### Baptized into One Body

Anderson, S. E. .... \$4.99  
Gives a clear explanation of 1 Corinthians 12:13, concerning baptism of the Holy Spirit and the universal church.

### Alien Baptism and the Baptists

Nevins, William M. .... \$6.99  
This book traces the history of the Anabaptists from 200 A.D. down to the present. It shows how for 15 centuries the rivers of Europe ran with the blood of Anabaptists who died rather than accept the baptism of alien sects.

### The Church and the Ordinances

Kazee, Buell H. .... \$7.50  
Provocative and timely. The author has exercised keen perception in dealing with such subjects as alien baptism, open communion, a universal, invisible church, the ecumenical trend among Baptists.

### Blood Before Water and Christ Before the Church

Grime, J. H. (OP 5 left) ..... \$2.50

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### The Star Book for Ministers

Hiscox, Edward T. .... \$15.00  
This revised classic is organized into six chapters that give an overview of the pastor's work and provide suggestions for all aspects of ministry, Scripture selections, outlines for weddings and funerals, parliamentary considerations for churches, and forms for commonly needed letters and certificates.

### The Pastor and His Work

Cross, I. K. .... \$6.00  
Sets forth in understandable terms what the Bible states a pastor's work should be.

### Practicalities for Young Ministers

Cross, I. K. .... \$6.00  
Prepared for the newly called minister. Explains basic facts that every young minister should know.

### The Work of a Deacon

Cross, I. K. .... \$7.75  
Presents in summary what a deacon's work should be according to the Scriptures.

### The Pastor's Manual

Hobbs, James R. .... \$16.99  
Suggestions for performing the various tasks of the pastor. Includes vital information and examples for all types of services and ceremonies.

### The Baptist Deacon

Naylor, Robert E. .... \$12.99  
Qualifications of a deacon, the selection process,

and a look at his work, home life, and other areas.

### The Criswell's Guidebook for Pastors

Criswell, W. A. .... \$24.99  
Qualifications of a deacon, the selection process, and a look at his work, home life, and other areas.

### Preaching and Preachers

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn ..... \$22.99  
Provocative and timely. The author has exercised keen perception in dealing with such subjects as alien baptism, open communion, a universal, invisible church, the ecumenical trend among Baptists.

## HOLY SPIRIT

### Study Guide on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Crisp, Ron ..... 4.00

### The Holy Spirit His Gifts and Power

Owen, John..... \$11.95  
All believers must "try the spirits" because false prophets and false teachers deprive us of liberty. Some people claim to know the Spirit's inward enlightenment, but the darkness of Satan fills their imaginations. This false light is of no use to the souls of men; it is in opposition to Christ and His work. The only way to tackle this is by giving a plain and scriptural account of the nature and work of the Holy Spirit. This is the original text with a new layout and is fully subtitled which makes it more accessible to a new generation of readers!

### The Holy Spirit

Ryrie, Charles C. .... \$13.99  
All the doctrinal essentials are here, clearly organized and explained by the renowned scholar who prepared the Ryrie Study Bible. Avoiding confusion and trendiness, Dr. Ryrie sticks uncompromisingly to the revealed Word of God to answer questions such as: What is Spirit baptism? What is the sin against the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? What about the spiritual gift of tongues? What is true spiritual power?

### The Holy Spirit - A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Walvoord, John F. .... \$19.99  
This book is an extensive treatment of the entire doctrine of pneumatology, using some 1,500 Scripture citations, and is designed for anyone desiring to get a complete presentation of the third person of the Trinity.

### The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Smeaton, George..... \$20.00  
The author handles his subject under three divisions- he treats first the testimony to the Holy Spirit, as it is progressively revealed in Scripture. Secondly, he gives detailed attention to six subjects: the personality and procession of the Holy Spirit; the work of the Spirit in the anointing of Christ; the work of the Spirit in connection with revelation and inspiration; the Spirit's regenerating work on

Books are listed at retail price. On orders of \$20 or more you may take a 20% discount.

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\$75.00-99.99	\$8.00
\$100.00 and Up	FREE

the individual; on the Spirit of holiness; and the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Finally, there is an historical survey of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit from the Apostolic age.

#### Work of the Holy Spirit, The

Winslow, Octavius ..... \$9.00  
There are plenty of references to support an assertion, and the book proceeds by exegesis of verses and passages.

#### Word Studies on the Holy Spirit

Bullinger, E. W. .... 12.99  
Each of the 385 occurrences of pneuma ("spirit") in the N.T. is examined.

#### Tozer on the Holy Spirit-A 366 Day

##### Devotional

Foster, Marilynne E. .... 16.99  
A powerful collection of 366 meditations excerpted from Tozer's timeless writings. Here he shares his passionate perspective on the devotional, inspirational, and practical role of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life. Each daily entry includes Scriptures and source references.

#### Tozer: Mystery of the Holy Spirit

Snyder, James ..... 13.99  
This is a collection of sermons delivered by A.W. Tozer about the Holy Spirit: who He is, what He is like, how to know Him, how to be filled with Him, and other truths.

#### Andrew Murray on the Holy Spirit

Murray, Andrew ..... 11.99  
In this collection of extracts by classic writer Andrew Murray, you will find how you can receive the Holy Spirit, have direct communication with God, obtain all that God has for you, overcome the Devil's power, and inherit the promises of the Bible.

#### Holy Spirit Power

Spurgeon, Charles H. .... 9.99  
From the Scriptures, Spurgeon shows that the Holy Spirit wants to be our Comforter, Teacher, and mighty Advocate.

#### Fruit of the Spirit

Bethune, George W. .... 8.95  
Chapters in this work include: Office of the Spirit; Love; Joy; Peace; Long-suffering; Gentleness; Goodness; Faith; Meekness; and Temperance.

#### The Holy Spirit

Thomas, W. H. Griffith ..... \$28.00  
This book discusses the scriptural basis for the doctrine of the Holy Spirit; its interpretation in the history of the Church; its formulation in the creeds and confessions; and its application to modern religious movements.

#### All About the Holy Spirit

Lockyer, Herbert ..... \$14.95  
In this work, Dr. Herbert Lockyer examines virtually every biblical reference to the Holy Spirit. He explores the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity and the Holy Spirit in relationship to the believer.

#### Spurgeon's Sermons on Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Spurgeon, C. H. .... \$14.97  
This book discusses the scriptural basis for the doctrine of the Holy Spirit; its interpretation in

the history of the Church; its formulation in the creeds and confessions; and its application to modern religious movements.

#### What the Holy Spirit Does in a Believer's Life

Spurgeon, C. H.; Hall, Robert ..... \$14.97  
Spurgeon credited his success to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. He firmly believed that the spiritual transformations that occurred throughout the book of Acts were only the beginning of the mighty works the Holy Spirit intends to do. Declaring that Pentecost was not the pinnacle of the church's experience but only the first unveiling of what could and should happen, Spurgeon called upon believers to receive and live up to the full potential of the Holy Spirit.

#### The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Wood, Leon J. .... 19.00  
There are more than veiled references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. The Spirit is seen as the creator, the renewer of the life of humanity in redemption, as the Person through whom the prophets of the Lord were inspired and through whom men and women received the gifts of wisdom for leadership, administration, and craftsmanship. Dr. Wood concludes his study by showing that the concepts of regeneration, indwelling, sealing, filling, and empowering by the Spirit were already in action in the Old Testament. He presents a comparative study of the words for "spirit" in both testaments and shows how the Old Testament revelation serves as a background and a basis for a fuller understanding of the complete work of the spirit in present New Testament age of fulfillment.

### THE BIBLE - NUMEROLOGY

#### The Numerical Structure of Scripture

Grant, F. W. .... \$12.95  
In this book Mr. F. W. Grant explains the significance of numbers in the Bible. He then devotes several chapters to the arrangement, contents and relationship of the books of the Bible, all fit into a numerical pattern to form God's complete revelation.

#### Number in the Scripture

Bullinger, E. W. .... \$15.99  
This classic reference book on biblical numerology provides a complete synopsis of the spiritual significance of numbers found in the Bible.

#### Biblical Numerology-A Basic Study of the Use of Numbers in the Bible

Davis, John J. .... \$18.00  
A sane explanation of biblical numerology. Davis explains the conventional, rhetorical, symbolic, and mystical use of numbers in this fascinating study of the structure and syntax of biblical numbers.

### THE BIBLE - TRANSLATION

#### Accuracy of Translation: The Primary Criterion in Evaluating Bible Versions With Special Reference to the New International Version

Martin, Robert ..... \$9.99  
The author believes that scripture is God's inspired Word. How we translate it is therefore of tremendous importance, not just for biblical linguists but for every Christian. In an uncomplicated and readable way, Dr. Martin explains the principles lying behind contemporary translations, and carefully analyzes the New International Version New Testament to see whether it provides a translation which is satisfactory for widespread use in the church

today.

#### The Bible in Translation

Metzger, Bruce M. .... \$20.00  
Bruce Metzger begins this engaging survey with the earliest translations of the Old and New Testaments before proceeding to English versions dating from the eleventh century to the present. Metzger explores the circumstances under which each translation was produced and offers insight into its underlying objectives, characteristics, and strengths.

#### The Identity of the New Testament Text II 3rd Edition

Pickering, Wilbur N. .... \$23.00  
Pickering gives a logical defense of the Majority text. His argument for the superiority of the Majority text is professionally laid out and is technical enough to satisfy any academic readers.

### THE BIBLE - INERRANCY, INSPIRATION

#### Our Inerrant Bible

Anderson, S. E. .... \$3.25  
Discusses the foundational truth of infallible inspiration. (OP-4 available)

#### Divine Inspiration of the Bible

Pink, A. W. .... \$11.99  
The author shows how our need for a revelation from God is strong evidence for the reliability of the Bible. He bases his arguments for the Divine inspiration of the Bible on its solid and undeniable internal evidences, on its indestructibility, and on its powerful influences on human history.

#### The Authenticity and Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures

Haldane, Robert ..... \$9.95  
The Canon and Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures are subjects of the highest importance to every Christian. If one book of the Canon is given up, how shall any other be retained on the authority of that Canon? If God is not the Author of them, in the fullest and most complete sense of that term, we cannot receive them as the Word of God. The Scriptures plainly assert their inspiration. Robert Haldane (1764-1842) establishes that our reverence for the Bible depends on our full conviction of the plenary inspiration of the words and matter contained therein.

#### Inerrancy

Geisler, Norman L. .... \$29.99  
Inerrancy is a collection of essays by fourteen leading evangelical scholars on a wide range of topics related to the doctrine of the inerrancy of the Bible.

#### Is All Scripture Inspired?

Ryle, J. C. .... \$8.00  
To J. C. Ryle, the inspiration of the Scriptures was 'the very keel and foundation of Christianity', the underpinning without which Christians had no warrant for doctrine or practice, 'no solid ground for present peace or hope, and no right to claim the attention of mankind.' Ryle was convinced that the very words are from God, and that only this view makes sense of what the Bible itself claims. Here he eloquently defends this position, answers objections, and applies the truth to the conscience of the reader.

#### The Inspiration & Authority of Scripture

Pache, René ..... \$35.00  
The purpose of this book is, first of all, to examine what the Bible itself says about revelation and about its own inspiration; then, while enunciating the testimony given to it by Christ and by the church throughout the centuries, to sum up

certain theories proposed regarding it; and finally, to bring out the supernatural characteristics which attest the divine origin of Scripture and which establish its sovereign authority.

### THE BIBLE - GENERAL STUDY

#### How To Enjoy the Bible

Bullinger, E. W. .... \$19.99  
In this classic book on Bible study, biblical scholar E. W. Bullinger provides a handbook for discovery, understanding, and enjoyment of the Bible's truths.

#### How We Got the Bible

Lightfoot, Neil R. .... \$19.99  
How We Got the Bible provides factual, accessible answers to questions such as How and when did the books of the Bible originate? In what sense are these books different from other books? How have these books been preserved and transmitted to us?

### BIBLE VERSIONS

#### The KJV

1611 Edition (with Apocrypha) ... \$39.95

#### The Geneva Bible

1560 Edition ..... \$69.95

#### The Tyndale New Testament

1526 Edition ..... \$49.95

#### The Tyndale New Testament

Modern Spelling Edition ..... \$22.50

#### The Tyndale Old Testament 1530, 1537

Modern Spelling Edition ..... \$70.00

#### The Septuagint with Apocrypha

Greek & English Edition ..... \$44.95

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Hebrew/English Old Testament.. \$59.95

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NLT 2nd Edition ..... \$49.95

-- Order from --

Berea Baptist Church Bookstore

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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The Landmark Baptist Church of Collinsville, IL is in need of a pastor.

Any interested Elders may call (618) 288-4236 for more information.

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Any church that is without a pastor, please feel free to send your information in regards to the pastoral position for publication in these announcements.

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# Saved By His Life

By Rosco Brong  
(1908 - 1985)

**"If, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life"** (Rom. 5:10).

A popular heresy of the day holds forth to lost sinners the vain hope of salvation from the life of Jesus by following His teachings and example. Promises of God to his own people are misinterpreted and misapplied to the lost, and so millions of souls try more or less sincerely to live what they consider a Christian life; and die in their sins because they have never come to believe the gospel.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the gospel is not the life of Jesus. The gospel is the good news **"that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"** (I Cor. 15:3-4).

The idea that sinful man can reform his own character, or that by a process of culture or self-discipline, even by imitating to the best of his ability the life of Jesus, he can save himself from moral ruin and eternal destruction, is a snare and delusion of Satan.

**"Without shedding of blood is no remission** (forgiveness of sins)" (Heb. 9:22). Even so, **"We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son"** (Rom. 5:10).

So much to make clear that the promise, **"we shall be saved by his life,"** is not to lost sinners but to sinners who have already been saved by His death. A careful reading of the context will make the meaning unmistakable.

### "MUCH MORE"

Twice the inspired apostle declares that the future salvation of the saved is **"much more"** certain than their experience of salvation in the past; that the life of Christ will avail **"much more"** for the saved than the death of Christ for the lost.

**"God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life"** (Rom. 5:8-10).

### HIS LIFE AS TEACHER

*We shall be saved by His life as our teacher and example:*

**"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"** (I Pet. 2:21).

All the moral teachings and the perfect



example of Jesus cannot save one lost sinner from eternal judgment, but sinners saved through faith in His blood find salvation from the power and practice of sin as they look to their living Lord and seek to follow His precepts and example.

### HIS LIFE AS INTERCESSOR

*We shall be saved by His life as our Advocate, or High Priest, our Intercessor:*

**"If any man** (believer) **sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"** (I John 2:1).

**"He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them"** (Heb. 7:25).

### HIS LIFE AS LORD

*We shall be saved by His life as Lord of all creation. He rules and overrules, and His purpose of salvation in our lives cannot be defeated by men or devils:*

**"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"** (Matt. 28:18).

**"He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet"** (I Cor. 15:25).

**"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"** (Rom. 8:28).

### HIS LIFE IN SPIRIT

*We shall be saved by His life within us, in the person of the Holy Spirit:*

**"Christ in you, the hope of glory"** (Col. 1:27).

**"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"** (Gal. 2:20).

### HIS LIFE IN RESURRECTION

*We shall be saved by His life in the resurrection of our bodies:*

**"Jesus said unto her, I am the**

**resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"** (John 11:25-26).

**"We shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection"** (Rom. 6:5).

**"For our conversation** (citizenship) **is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself"** (Phil. 3:20-21).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS and Pastor Nathaniel R. Hille would like to announce they are having a Bible conference November 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. Scheduled speakers are Elders Timothy B. Hille, Timothy J. Hille, Tom Horn, Kenneth Long, David O'Neal, Curtis Pugh, Jose Serrano, and Larry Wilson.

Any inquiries can contact Pastor Hille at (620) 845-3624 or nhille@gmail.com.

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The New Testament Baptist Church of Bristol, TN and Pastor Lewis Kiger would like to announce that they will be hosting a revival meeting with Elder Sam Wilson, November 15-21. The church is located at 865 Bethel Drive Bristol, TN.

If you need further information please call Pastor Lewis Kiger at (423) 391-7349 for meeting times or details. Please pray for our meeting and the visiting speaker, and we trust that it will be a true revival for all who attend.

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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.

# What Does Your Church Mean To You?

By Larry Ellis  
of Livermore, Kentucky



This is a question we all need to ask ourselves from time to time. It is easy for us to simply accept something without actually realizing its value to us and our family. When I speak of the church I don't mean the bricks and wood that makes up the building, but rather the people who gather there and make up the Body of Christ. Of all the institutions and organizations in the world, the church should hold first place in our lives. Nothing should be more important in our life than our church.

To me, my church means that I have a place to worship God in Spirit and in truth without fear of harassment or arrest. This blessing has not always been ours. Baptist history shows there have been times in the past when our forefathers hid in order to worship God. Yes, to me, church means a place to come together with brothers and sisters in Christ and worship God.

To me, it means a place where God's Word is taught and sinners learn that God sent His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross of Calvary whereby sinners could be saved.

To me, it means a place where members are taught, challenged and even rebuked, if necessary, from God's Word to help them walk in a way pleasing to God. It's a place which enables me to learn more of the God of creation, the great I Am and learn how He rules according to His own will. It's a place where it is taught there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun.

My church is also a place where I can serve my Saviour. **"Unto Him be glory in the church"** (Eph. 3:21). If I have any talents or abilities, this is the place to use them for His glory. This is His appointed place where He is to receive glory. It is to His church that I am to bring my tithes and offerings on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2). It is His church that I am commanded not to forsake (Hebrews 10:25).

So ask yourself this question, "What does my church mean to me?" Does it mean all it should, and are you giving it the rightful place in your life?

I question the validity of anyone's salvation that does not have a love for the Lord and His church. Christ loved His church and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25).

"If every member was just like me, what kind of church would my church be?"



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