

# The Berea Baptist Banner

Displaying Biblical truth for twenty-five years in the printed page.

## "Run, Run, But You Can't Get Away"

By Roy Mason  
(1894 - 1978)

I want to speak today on the subject, "run, run, but you can't get away," and I want to read a few verses from the 139<sup>th</sup> Psalm, beginning with verse 7,



**"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the**

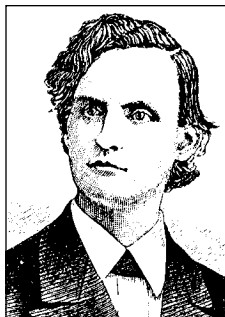
◊ (Continued on page 183)

## What God Is Saying to Us in the Flowers

By J. B. Hawthorne  
(1837-1910)

**"Consider the lilies"** (Matt. 6:28).

A conspicuous feature of the ministry of Jesus was His uncompromising opposition to the false ideas, false pride and false pretensions and boastings of the



Pharisees, who constituted the dominant religious party of the Jews. With unparalleled audacity He attacked their standards of human greatness. They were wont to magnify Solomon. He was their ideal king, because he surpassed all other monarchs in artificial display and in worldly pomp and glory. Evidently Jesus had a poor opinion of Solomon. Only twice did He refer to him, and in each of these references there was something disparaging. The self-sacrificing Son of God, Who, to make us rich, became so

◊ (Continued on page 182)

## Glory of the Latter House

By Paul Stepp  
of Indore, West Virginia

To intro-duce my subject today, I want to read two passages. **"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts"** (Hag. 2:9). And, let's read also Heb. 11:39-40, **"And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."**



There is a theme that appears throughout Scripture, which reveals the things of God in a good, better, and best format. What I am saying, is that we find evidence in the Bible, that God always saves the best for last. In other words, as far as men are concerned, and as far as God's revelation to men reveals His

◊ (Continued on page 192)

## Objections to the Doctrine of Election

By Daid O'Neal  
of Tulsa, Oklahoma

We want to consider election just a moment. Just what is election? Too many individuals throughout the country today when you speak of election, immediately begin to think about electing the



president of the United States, or some government official of the land. When we speak of election in the light of God's Word, we are speaking of the sovereignty of God in respect to the salvation of lost mankind. God of His own free will, and in His own time in eternity past, determined to save a number of fallen mankind, not after any merit, or work of themselves, but of His own good pleasure. This is what we mean when we declare

◊ (Continued on page 187)

FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON MORALS BY MILBURN COCKRELL (1941 - 2002)

## Simmer Down Before Sundown



**"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath"** (Eph. 4:26).

Observe carefully the language of the first part of this verse: **"Be ye angry and sin not."** These two closely connected imperatives are jussive; that is, in the nature of a command. The second imperative is used with "not" which enhances its jussive force. The meaning

of the injunction is being angry, sin not, or avoid sinful anger. I might illustrate this verse by saying it is not falling in the water, but remaining in it, that drowns a man. So it is not the possession of anger, but the submission to it and the continuation of it, that produces sin.

It is implied in the text that there may be an anger without sin. An anger which arises from dishonor to God and wrong

to man is justifiable. It proceeds from a zeal for God and is directed against sin, and it is properly called righteous indignation. Such anger is ascribed to God in the Bible (II Sam. 6:7; Nah. 1:3). Righteous indignation in man is the spur of virtue and is without sin. If I am a partaker of the new nature I am bound to be indignant at falsehood, selfishness,

◊ (Continued on page 195)

## I Am Looking for Sinners

By Curtis Pugh  
of Bocs, Romania

If you are reading this and you feel that you are a good person, this is not for you. You may as well cease reading this paper and put it down. At this point in your life, at least, you have no part



in these things. "How dare I write such a thing about a good person such as you are," you ask? It is because Jesus said the same thing that I dare to write as I do. He said, **"They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"** (Mark 2:17). Of course there are none who are truly righteous, but the point is this: if you feel that you are righteous, if you feel

◊ (Continued on page 189)

**Water can save you from a dying thirst; but it is of little use to help save a poor lost drowning sinner.**

October 5, 2005

Volume XXV, Number X  
Whole Number 319

Editor: Christopher Cockrell

Proofreaders: Sheron Cockrell, Marsha Kiser, Virginia  
Cockrell, Charles Smith

THE BEREA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$6.00 per year by the authority of the Berea Baptist Church, 3881 Highway 363, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855. Periodical Publication postage paid at Mantachie, Mississippi.

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

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

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

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

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

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

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

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

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

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

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

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:

[www.bereabaptistchurch.org](http://www.bereabaptistchurch.org)Our email address is: [bbchurch@intop.net](mailto:bbchurch@intop.net)The purpose of the *Berea Baptist Banner* is as follows:

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

Planning a move?  
Please let us know your  
new address. The post  
office charges us \$.70  
for each returned wrong  
address.

## What God is Saying

(Continued from page 181) ◊

poor that He had not where to lay His head, could not admire a king who had spent thirteen years and many millions of dollars in building a palace for himself. The Queen of Sheba had traveled thousands of miles and faced many perils to feast her eyes on the grandeur of this king, but Jesus would not walk across the narrowest street in Jerusalem to see him. We can imagine, then, with what intensity of feeling He pointed the multitude to the flowers of the field and said, **"Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."**

In the lilies and buttercups and daisies of the field and forest, which the proud and self-satisfied Pharisees scarcely noticed, He beheld something infinitely more pleasing to Him than the glitter of a royal residence, or the richness and splendor of royal robes. On the faces of those modest flowers He saw the handiwork of His heavenly Father. In regal palaces and regal robes He saw only the vanity of man. In the flowers He saw infinite wisdom and the reflection of infinite love.

We speak of the poetry of flowers, because they appeal to our imagination and seem to symbolize every variety of human sentiment and affection. . . .

Why, then, did He make them? He made them because man needs their influence, their companionship, and their lessons of divine beauty and wisdom.

In the flowers Jesus saw more than poetry, more than a symbolic language for human sentiment and fancy; He saw religion; He saw God. He therefore exhorts men to behold them, to consider them, to study them, that in them they might see the very heart of the divine Father and learn from them the highest lessons of faith, duty and devotion. How it enlarges and elevates our admiration and appreciation of flowers to remember that the same divine Being Who commands us to **"search the Scriptures,"** exhorts us to **"consider the lilies."**

Do not bestow your thoughts upon men who build gaudy mansions to advertise themselves and whose greatness is only in appearance. You cannot think about them every day without becoming envious of them. The constant remembrance of them will render you sullen and discontented, and set you to groaning and croaking over the inequalities of human beings. . . .

The pomp, pride, vainglory and vulgar display of men and women who are rich only in material treasure can never make me a pessimist, or a misanthrope, so long as God decks the earth with the beauty of the flowers. There is no diamond on the bosom of a millionaire and no marble palace that covers the head of a money king that can beget in my mind and heart

such blissful thoughts and emotions as a single glimpse of a flower garden. It does not detract from my delight to be told that the flowers there are the property of another man. Nothing can deprive me of my divine right to enjoy them. God made them for me just as much as for him who boastfully exclaims, "They are mine." They have a language for me; they have a message for me; they have a benediction for me; they speak to me of that celestial garden where,

*"Beauty smiles eternally  
And pleasure never dies."*

I thank God that flowers are so abundant that wealth cannot monopolize the blessings of them---so abundant that the poorest man may have them--so abundant that even the waif on the streets or the child in the slums can go out into field or forest and have an hour of Paradise.

When Christ sat there on the brow of the mountain and said, **"Consider the lilies of the field,"** He was not thinking of the flowers of the rich man's conservatories and gardens, or the exquisite productions which are seen at great floral exhibitions. He was thinking of the flowers with which the gardener has nothing to do and which God plants and waters---the flowers of the field. It is in these wild beauties upon which man has bestowed no care that God's sweetest messages come to us. Without any human intervention He makes them spring forth everywhere. There is no place on the earth, except the crowded smoky, dusty city, where they do not freely grow. I have found them in Florida jungles, where no direct ray of the sun could ever reach them. They grow in the frozen regions of the North, where winter destroys every vestige of vegetation save them. They grow on mountain summits, where no tree, or bush, or sprig of grass can live. They grow amid the glaciers of Switzerland and the sands of the Arabian desert. They grow everywhere, to tell man that there is no spot on earth forgotten by that God Who made him and loves him, and that in everything in the wide world he may find a message of parental affection from his divine Father in Heaven.

A Scotch missionary in Africa said that in a time of intense loneliness and deep dejection he was roused and reanimated by the sight of a flower. That flower, reminding him of some which he had seen on the heather hills of his far-off native land, made him feel that God was in the lonely wilds of Africa as much as in the densely populated Christian Scotland, and that no one who trusted Him should ever be forgotten.

Just as God makes beautiful flowers to grow everywhere---to grow in all sorts of situations, in all sorts of climates and in all sorts of soil---so He makes the richer flowers and graces of moral and spiritual life to grow everywhere that human

beings live and move and set. He has His chosen ones in king's palaces and poor men's cottages, in the country and in the town, among shepherds, gardeners, merchants, mechanics, students, clerks, nobles, kings and beggars. Everywhere the grace of God causes the flowers of Christian life to unfold. Everywhere the genial light of His presence matures the seeds of eternal blessedness. There were saints in the house of the bloody Nero, amid the revelries and debaucheries of his banquet halls, and in sight of the gardens illuminated by the burning bodies of their fellow-saints. They loved God, kept themselves unspotted from the world and illustrated every Christian virtue. God never had a truer friend than Joseph was in the court of the Egyptian king. He never had a more loyal, heroic and faithful servant than Daniel was in the palace of the impious Belshazzar. . . .

Nothing is more common than to hear it said of some man who has gone into politics and become a candidate for office, "He will soon lose all interest in religion and be worth nothing to the church." Such a remark implies that a man cannot be a Christian who is active in politics and aspires to political office. Neither reason, nor fact, nor Scripture warrants one in believing this. We must have politics. Somebody must study and discuss political doctrines and measures; somebody must hold office and administer the affairs of government. If this were not true, God would not have required us to pray for all who are in authority, to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and obedience to "the powers that be." . . .

God's flowers grow everywhere. The water lily---the fairest of the flowers---has its roots in the foulest filth. And there is no place in political caucus, in legislative hall, or administrative service, so exposed to corrupt and corrupting influences that a man may not stand there and be true to conscience, country and God. If it be true that there is no soil under the sun on which no flower will grow, it is equally true that there are no conditions in all the wide world of humanity which render pure, Christian living impossible.

**"Consider the lilies."** When Jesus said that, He wanted His disciples to learn a lesson of trust. That was the main thought in His mind. He was speaking to a company of toiling, fretful, anxious men and women, worried with cares, burdened with fears and misgivings concerning the future. They were distressed, despondent and almost desperate, because they had no real faith in God. In this respect they were no worse than the majority of people in our day. The human heart has always been troubled with anxious thoughts about the morrow, with shadows of coming want and distress and with the fear that God

◊ (Continued on page 183)

## What God is Saying

(Continued from page 182) ♦

will forget, or neglect to provide. Even we who inhabit this land of bounty and superabundance---we whose ears seldom hear the cry of honest poverty---have need to be taught the old lesson which Christ gave to the Galilean multitude, when He said, "Consider the lilies, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these."

Behold the flowers. They are scattered, broadcast over the fields. They spring up by the roadside, in the midst of the forest, and up yonder in the crevices of the naked rocks on the mountain summit. They are poor, neglected, fragile things that bloom today and that will die tomorrow. Yet how God cares for them. With what exquisite beauty He has clothed them. What wealth of love and grace He has poured into each delicate petal. If God so clothed the flower of the field, how much more will He clothe you, O ye of little faith?

There are men in this city whose lives are tortured every day by the fear of starvation. Do not such men need the lesson which the flowers teach? Will they not listen to these little evangelists of the field as they turn thin white faces up to heaven and say, "We toil not, neither do we spin, but God has clothed us with a beauty and splendor of which not even the kings of the earth can boast?"

All about me I hear men saying, "I have neither wealth, nor honors, nor learning, nor special abilities. I am too insignificant to be noticed, or to have any influence beyond the narrow circle of my family and kindred. How little God must think of me. Such a life as mine is not worth living." Oh, that such men would consider the flowers, and read there what God is saying to the poor and obscure of this world. There they would learn that God's care for them is just as tender and strong and perfect as His care for the rich, the cultured, the distinguished and the mighty. In all creation there is not a flower more deftly and delicately designed, more perfect in pattern, more artistic in finish than the tiny daisy that lifts up its dainty face by the roadside to be kissed by the morning light and refreshed by the morning dew. The more closely we examine it, whether it be with the naked eye or with the glass, the more we are impressed with its matchless beauty. That little flower tells us that God gives His best care and His most loving thoughts to the lowliest of those who trust in Him, and that the life which walks in the humblest path and does the humblest work can be made by God's grace as perfect, beautiful and divine as that lily in the field.

Oh, Christian, let neither poverty nor obscurity distress you. That invisible

Father Who sits off yonder on His silent throne in eternity sees you and knows you, and if you stand trustfully and uncomplainingly at the post of duty, He will keep your soul in peace.

"**Be thou faithful unto death,**" and in the next world and the next life God will crown thee with everlasting honor and glory.



## Run, Run, But You

(Continued from page 181) ♦

**darkness and the light are both alike to thee."**

Now this Psalm, this 139<sup>th</sup> Psalm, deals mainly with the omnipresence of God, and that big theological word, "omnipresence" simply means that God is everywhere present at one and the same time. No one else is everywhere at the same time, not even the Devil. The writer says here that there is no way of getting out of the presence of the Lord, and that suggests my subject, "Run, run, but you can't get away."

Now it is possible to avoid or else to run away from a great many things. I've known instances in which some unwelcome guest was expected to call, and the person left home, got on out and away. Sometimes people do that way as concerns bill collectors, they skip out when they know that someone is coming to collect a bill. Men often run out from their creditors. I've known people to get in debt at a store, and then they would quit going to that store, and if they saw the storekeeper walking up the street in their direction, they'd turn and cross the street so as to keep from meeting him. Many a person has run away from a board bill. Sometimes a husband has run away from his wife, or a wife away from her husband, as the case may have been. I think just here of a scrap of a song that people used to sing back years ago. It seemed to relate to a colored woman, whose husband had skipped out on her, and it went like this, "he didn't tell me why, he didn't say good-bye, but when I woke up this morning, he was gone." Well, a person can run away from a grocery bill, or can run away from an unwelcome guest, or even from a husband or wife, as well as from a number of other things that I could mention, but there are at least four things that none of us can run away from, and what are they? I shall name them one by one.

In the first place, none can run away from self. No matter where you may go, self goes right along. Many a person has gotten into trouble and they've picked up and made a long distance jump way over yonder hundreds of miles away, but they didn't get away from their trouble of mind. They had to take self with all of its memories along. That's exactly why every person ought to cultivate a self that they can get along with, and that they

can have respect for. When you get to the place where you have no respect for yourself, you're in a very bad condition. I think of a person who told me of being asked to do something that was wrong, and the appeal was made to them, "None will ever know anything about it," and this was the answer, "I'll know about it, and I have to live with myself." One of the most wicked men that I've ever known was at the same time one of the most vicious characters. He came to my Father's store drunk one day, and I remember he went out back of the store, and I think he went out there to guzzle down another drink. There was a tall ash heap out there, almost as tall as a man, and that drunk fellow got to arguing with that ash heap and he got mad and began to fight it, and he almost beat the blood out of his fists, and he made the ashes just fly. That fellow had developed a vicious disposition, and this was made worse when he got to drinking. I heard him express his disgust for himself one day when he said, "I'm not fit to come into the presence of decent people." It's an awful thing to reach the place where you feel you aren't morally fit to associate with others, and that man finally became so disgusted with himself that he committed suicide. But unfortunately, a person can't run away from self in that fashion. Jump into the river, swallow poison, shoot yourself, and when you wake up over in the other life, self is still there, and there are all the memories of the past to haunt you. I tell you, and I say it again, you cannot run away from self. I believe that a lot of people have a wicked tongue, and wicked temper, and I honestly believe that more trouble is caused in this world by temper than most anything you can name. One of the meanest humans in existence is that person who flies mad at every little provocation, and then doesn't care a snap whose feelings they hurt, or how badly they hurt them.

I had a Professor in college and he is a man who is in a very prominent position at the present time, but he didn't have a lick of sense when he got mad, and his pupils never knew when he was going to fly off. I remember that he kicked a young man bodily out of the classroom one day. Shortly after this, the young man took sick and died. While he was sick, this Professor went to his room and humbly apologized for what he had done. I became Pastor once where the church had a certain hot-tempered woman in charge of the music. She was a good woman morally, but her temper was such that she wouldn't get along with the choir and the musicians. Something would happen that they didn't suit her, somebody would sing out of tune, and she'd unleash that caustic tongue on the offender, and on one occasion, she got so mad at the pianist that she actually beat her over the head with a song book. Church members who blow up and get

mad has been one of the greatest problems that I've ever had to deal with during the years that I've been in the ministry. One of the things that I've learned through experience is this, if you have to deal with people, learn to keep in a good humor. It's just as much of a sin for you to be unable to control your temper as it is for you to be unable to control your appetite for liquor. A man who has had two or three drinks of liquor has just as much self-control and has fully as much sense as a person who is under the influence of a mean temper. May I say this? I've had women to come to me with a story of woe about a husband that drank. They were just ready to leave him because he wouldn't control his appetite, but I knew that the wife had as little control of her tongue and her temper as the husband had of his appetite. A large per cent of the domestic troubles, quarrels and fights and bust-ups and divorces can be traced directly to temper. People get mad and act the fool. The Word of God certainly tells the truth when it says, "**For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God**" (Jas. 1:20). I point out again that we have to live with ourselves, and other people have to live with us. How important it is therefore, that we cultivate a nature and a disposition such that we can get along with ourselves, and respect ourselves, such that other people can get along with us, too. If we don't do it, we're in a bad fix, for you can't run away from yourself. You just can't run away from yourself.

But passing from this, let me say in the next place that we cannot run away from God. Said the Psalmist of Israel, "**Whither shall I go from thy spirit, or whither shall I flee from thy presence. If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there if I make my bed in hell,**" and I stop to say that ought to be translated Hades, "**if I make my bed in Hades, behold thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; for the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.**" God is omniscient and omnipotent, God is over all, and God sees all and knows all.

While living in the city, I've several times gotten in on a train way along the

♦ (Continued on page 186)

## THE VERY LAST ISSUE

Look at your mailing label on the front page of this month's paper. If you see above your name "Expires 10/2005" then this is the last issue you will receive, so don't miss an issue! Renew now so you won't miss next month's *Banner*.

# Compromising Baptists Or Does the Truth Matter Anymore?

Part 2

By Roger D. Reed  
of Mansfield, Ohio

Money---Can't get enough; comes between husbands and wives; children do not know the value of a dollar, and many are in debt. And the worst thing, there is no money left over to give God who should be first on the list. It is the most dishonest and disgusting thing when a Christian prospers and always has money for their toys but never gives one red cent to the God that watches out for them. And then they want to know why there is so much hardship in their lives (amazing, totally amazing).

Moral Values--- Sodomy, abortion, nudity and many other moral standards are accepted as a way of life. There is nothing I can do about it; as long as they leave me alone, people can live the way they want; this is the Christians cry today.

Motives--- Many think they are doing good for God and helping other people but it is all for selfish motives; they only do good to get something in return or they do what they think God wants them to do, ignoring doctrinal issues.

Music---As long as the words God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in the lyrics, it's Christian music; there is nothing wrong with Country/Western or any other music; I just listen to the music, I don't listen to the words.

Nakedness---Swimming in public; it's to hot; Adam and Eve were naked; it's natural. When summer comes the clothes come off and very few raise a fuss about it. Even the older generation have not set a very good example (where is the shame?).

Ordinations---How many have been ordained that have no idea what it means to pastor the Lord's church? There is a big difference in preaching and taking care of the Lord's house. How many have bypassed or overlooked the Scriptural qualifications so one can be ordained?

Other's Lives---People have been put down, overlooked and even forgotten because of pride and selfishness.

Our Bodies---Many will have to answer for how they have taken this wonderful body that God has given us and drugged, abused and mistreated it. And others spend too much time working out to look good, forgetting about their spiritual needs.

Our Lives---They have been wasted on things spent outside the Word of God, wasted on material things, family and friends; we have wasted so much time, we would need another life time to gain it all back.



Parental Discipline---One look at the youth of our day says it all; we have allowed society to dictate how we discipline our children instead of listening to God; our young people are so disrespectful and rebellious; age and authority have no respect.

Parents---Parents have compromised every aspect of sin and overlooked every sinful thing because they didn't want to upset their little darlings; (this is where I get sick to my stomach) it doesn't matter what Jesus said, but what little Joey or Jamie wants.

Pastors---No respect, no fear (they don't respect or fear God why should they fear their pastors?). The pastor is not asked spiritual things anymore because Christian lives are so sinful they know what he's going to tell them, so why ask? The pastor doing his job in the eyes of the people is, if he visits the hospitals and the nursing homes, marries and buries; but tell people about their sin and preach more than 15 minutes, well then, he becomes a meddling preacher and is treated like he has leprosy.

People---Do we really care about the people of this world? Do we care if they die and go to hell? Do we realize we *Compromise* people's lives, feelings and their health by not telling them about Jesus?

Prayer---When is the last time you prayed? When someone asked you to take a request before the Heavenly Father, did you, or did you forget? How often do you repent and how often do you thank God?

Preaching---Preach only good things preacher; don't preach to long or about my sin; just tell me how good I am and all the good things in heaven; don't preach on gloom and doom; don't tell me about hell and don't preach the gospel because I'm already saved.

Relationships---I just want to be left alone; don't bother me; what I do is my business, not my wife's or my pastor's or my church family; I just want to do my own thing; I really don't care about anyone else...just me.

Repentance---When is the last time you asked God for forgiveness? Some would say, "I really don't have anything to repent about," or "I don't really remember all the terrible things I've done, so I just ask God to forgive me for all my sins I have committed that day," (that sure is heartfelt repentance!).

Revivals---Isn't it a shame that preachers have to call in other preachers to preach revivals because the people won't adhere to what their pastor has been preaching and teaching them for the past year or years? Really? Doesn't revival start with each Christian in their own home?

Satan---He has been given the preeminence in the Christian life where only Christ should be. He has enticed and dazzled Christians to the point they do not know good from evil or what is of God or the devil.

Self---Instead of Christ leading and guiding the Christian, Christians have given in to self, self-righteousness, self-will, self-pride and selfishness.

Sex---That beautiful thing that God gave husbands and wives has turned into profit, rape, perverseness, nudity and pornography. It is everywhere. It is no longer confined to the marriage bed. It is on the TV, the computer, at the store, and everywhere you go other than the church (except the way some come dressed). There is no place where sex is not being displayed. And the Christian has joined in what is called the Sexual Revolution. The percentage of Christian families that have been torn apart by Internet pornography is staggering.

Sinfulness---Some would say, "What is the difference between this and sin?" I look at it this way, we all sin but some are full of sinfulness, not repenting and not even acknowledging that they have sin in their life. They have had it there for some time and instead of getting better and repenting; fall deeper and deeper into sinful ways.

Singing---What is wrong with the old time Gospel Hymns? Why do Christians think we need contemporary singing? If it was good enough for our ancestors it's good enough for us. I don't buy this about reaching the young people---that makes it sound like I was never young, and God saved me when I was 20. We sing to give glory to Christ, not the young people. If they're truly saved they will like the Old Hymns. If not, that is called rebellion.

Study---Christians today say there is no time to study, to learn about doctrine, how to live a Godly life, how to raise their children, how to love their spouses and most of all, how to love Jesus. Well, you better make time because the end is nearer than you think. You will have to look the Savior in the eyes and tell Him those excuses.

The Bible---Which Bible? Does it really matter? If you don't want to be confused, it should matter. I was raised reading the KJV, so when I hear some one read from another, I get confused. Did you ever hear the song "What's Wrong with the Old Black Book"? The argument is, I don't like "thee" and "thou" and the KJV is too hard to read and understand. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to lead you before you sat down to read it?

The Gospel---There are a hundred and one reasons Christians give to avoid telling someone the gospel. If the fields are white unto harvest and God won't save without the hearing of the gospel, then why is it not presented to all you come in contact with?

The Lord's Day---Everything is on the Lord's Day. There are very few holidays that aren't on Sunday. Why is that? (I know why, do you?) Kid's sports and sports of all kinds are on the First Day of the week. Why is that? What do you do after church on the Lord's Day? Do you rest, read your Bible and praise Him all the day long? If you don't, why?

The Lord's Supper---The elements should be unleavened bread and wine (grape juice is not wine). Why? You study it. This one thing has been debated for years and years. I can't convince you but I will tell you this, if you use grape juice in the Lord's Supper, you've never truly studied it. There is no debate if you'll study it to the end. The Lord's Supper is to be only for each Local Church and her membership and no one else. Have you *Compromised* your position because you're afraid to stand for the *Truth*?

The Lost---Many will not give the time of day to certain lost people. I don't remember Jesus telling us to pick and choose which lost person we think He will save and which ones He won't, do you?

The Saved---We've just assumed those that are baptized into the Church are saved, and never give it another thought that they might not be saved. They could have made a false profession and not known it. That's why the gospel must be preached from the pulpit even to Church members.

Time---Christians say they have no time. They have taken the time God has given them and squandered it for something else, TV, fishing, hunting, sleeping, etc. The list goes on and on.

Truth---What is truth? Does anyone know anymore? It has become an inconvenience. It has come to this. Tell me what I want to hear, anything but the truth. The truth gets in the way. After all, if we preach and teach truth, that will offend people and no one will come to church to hear the truth. I know what it says but that can't be what it means. You have to please the crowd, not beat them over the head with truth. (Who is there left that stands firm for the truth's sake? Not many!).

Values---God should be the most valued person in your life. But family, friends and money have replaced Him. The world has been let into the home with all its values. Very few are willing to fight for the values our great-grandparents stood for. There is talk today of having family values but you cannot have that until you get back the Godly values that are being trampled under foot.

◊ (Continued on page 185)

## Compromising Baptists

(Continued from page 184) ♦

Voting (state and local)---Do you vote? It is your God given right! How do you vote? Do you vote based on Biblical principles, or what will benefit you materially? Do you vote for someone that believes in abortions, choice and sodomy? Do you vote for someone who believes in Godly values, moral issues and religious freedom to tell others about Jesus Christ? Do you vote for women? Do you vote, based totally on any certain political party? You better make sure you seek the wise counsel of our Almighty God before you go to the polls next time, because I'll tell you, America is in the shape it's in today because of the way some voted.

Wickedness---There is hardly a stand against wickedness. Blinders have been put on by the Christians of this day. They have the attitude, if it isn't bothering me, then why fuss about it? You can't even go to the store anymore without experiencing the evil of wickedness in Christians. They have become hateful, discourteous and downright rude. This is not what Christ meant when He said to be like Him!

Witness---It has been said, "If you lose your money you've lost nothing, if you lose your health you've lost something but if you lose your witness you've lost everything." You can do a hundred good things in a person's sight but you do one bad thing and that's what people will remember for the rest of your life. The one bad thing cancels out all the good you've ever done. People are watching the Christian today just to see them fall. So beware! What about your witness for Jesus? Do you tell others about him and how He's changed your life, or are you ashamed of Him?

Work Ethics---Can your boss tell the difference between you and the other people you work with? Are you on time? Do you take the right amount of time for lunch and breaks or do you misuse the time allowed? I worked with a man that the boss was always looking for; he was never where he should be and since they couldn't find him someone else would have to cover for him. He was a troubleshooter for a production line and needed to be there to get the line going again in case it stopped or broke down. He was asked once, "Being a Christian how can you just walk away from your job like that?" This was his reply, "I just ask God to watch and take care of it for me while I'm gone." (Are you this type of worker?).

Worship (contemporary services)---I will discuss this issue of *Contemporary Services* in more detail in the last section of this article. But let me ask the reader, why do you go to church? Do you go to feel good, to hear the message, to see the saints? These are all good qualities

to be sure but the main reason should be to worship God in spirit and in truth. I had a lady leave the church because she said the prayers of some of the brethren didn't lift her up and they weren't spiritual enough for her. And the whole time she was having an adulterous affair with a married man where she worked. It's good to feel lifted up when we are in the house of God but if we don't go to worship Him, we are deceiving ourselves and surely not honoring Him.

I have briefly stated why these 68 issues are what I feel to be compromises. I know some of these issues could be linked together as one in the same and there are some that you, dear reader, can add to this list and much more could be said on each one. But I felt lead to list these as I have and to make it a point that *Baptists Compromise* these issues on a daily basis. There are many Scriptures to bear these issues out, so I would encourage the reader, if you have any doubt, study each of them for yourselves (you should study them whether you have doubt or not). I will not *compromise* on any of these issues or the *truth* and I will not debate them, because God's Word is the final authority. Everyone is entitled to their opinion but as I tell my congregation, "You must prove your point by **Thus saith the Lord**" and if you can't your opinion holds no validity."

I would now like to discuss one of the major players that will be (in my opinion) the downfall of many New Testament Baptist Churches and their pastors. If it hasn't already happened, I believe it will eventually, *"The Contemporary Service"*. This is where we come to the other half of my title *"Does the Truth Matter Anymore?"*

It's no longer a Worship Service to God. It's no longer about preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's now been replaced with *The Contemporary Service*, a service that now entertains the congregation without mentioning the words sin or hell. What does contemporary mean? Here are some words that describe contemporary---(1) present (2) present-day (3) fashionable (4) current (5) modern (6) up-to-date (7) twentieth century (8) newfangled.

People want to be entertained; they want more singing with shorter sermons. A popular TV and radio preacher wrote, "We should be wasting less time listening to long sermons and spending more time preparing short ones. People, I've discovered, will forgive even poor theology as long as they get out before noon."

Their mind-set is, "It's better for preachers to keep the congregation comfortable, entertained, and interested even if what he's preaching isn't completely Biblical." Sadly, that is the most common attitude in the church and among preachers today. Bad doctrine is tolerable but a long sermon is not. Long-windedness has become a greater sin than

## Tune in to the Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	101.9.....	3,000 FM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	95.9.....	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.....	680.....	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA.....	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.....	550.....	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.....	783 Khz....	10,000 AM

heresy. Remember what I quoted that C.H. Spurgeon had said at the beginning of this article? "Everywhere there is apathy (indifference, unconcern). Nobody cares whether that which is preached is true or false. A sermon is a sermon whatever the subject; only, the shorter it is, the better."

Did you know that music won't just change your life but it will actually save you? That's what I have heard on some Christian radio stations. Much of this so-called Christian music is not fit to listen to. It stirs the emotions but not the spirit. We need to get rid of music that does not glorify God. Worldly ungodly music, movies, and even books have no place in a Christian's life. "And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed" (Acts 19:18-20). Note and "So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." When you get the sin and the appearance of sin out of your life, everything changes for the good. God's good.

I have read where the contemporary service is more loving and graceful. What? You mean more loving and graceful than *true worship* to a Holy God, which has been working for some six thousand years? Some would say, "Until now!" "Why? Because you're tired of the 'old paths'?" Let me tell you, dear reader, God has not changed. If you would study why Israel continued to sin, you'll find it was because they were tired of God's way. They wanted to do it their way. They would have gone back into bondage just so they could get their garlic and leeks instead of eating that heavenly bread God supplied for them in the desert. "And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes" (Num. 11:4-6). How pathetic, all they ever did was whine and cry. They came

to a place in their life they didn't want Judges anymore; instead they wanted a king and they rejected God with their request. "Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, and said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee" (1 Sam. 8:4-8). Oh, God gave them a king all right and look at the results. Do you for one minute think we are any different today?

Here is what has happened. Many Baptist churches and preachers have seen the growth of so-called churches and for some reason or another said, "Why can't we do what they're doing?" Well, many have and now they're reaping what was sown with that kind of thinking, just like Israel. If it isn't God's way don't even try. You can slice it and you can dice it anyway you want but God has ordained preaching. You can't go over it, you can't go under it, you can't go around it and you can't go through it. The world hates it, but God ordained it. "And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me. And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that

♦ (Continued on page 186)

## Compromising Baptists

(Continued from page 185) ♦

**there hath been a prophet among them. And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe” (Ezek. 2:1-10).**

Preaching always does what God intended it to do and nothing else will do. **“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (I Cor. 1:17-31).**

There is a poster which I saw that reads, “More Love...Less Doctrine. Can't we all just get along?” **No!** Why? Because you want me and others who also believe in truth to *compromise* what God called us to do, preach the Gospel to the lost and baptize those He saves (His elect) into the Church and teach them all that Christ commanded. **“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).** Good enough reason?

I would like to close with a final thought. Here is what a preacher on the radio said about Doctrine, “The unity of the faith is more important than doctrinal opinion.” But the Word of God says, **“For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Titus 1:7a, 9).**

**“In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you” (Titus 2:7-8).**

May God bless you dear reader, and I would encourage you to meditate on how God wants things done today, not how you want to do them or how you think He wants you to do them but how He wants them done. We all, too many times, get self in the way of what God really wants! If you don't have truth, you have nothing!



## Run, Run, But You

(Continued from page 183) ♦

middle of the night. Passing up the business thoroughfares, I found them silent and deserted, the people who owned the places of business were at home asleep, but God is never asleep. Through the long days and the starry nights, He keeps vigil over this world. I've passed houses in the summer time and found them silent and unoccupied. The owners were away on vacation, but God is never on a vacation. If the helmsman of a boat or an auto truck should lose consciousness for just a few minutes, there'd be a wreck. Just so with this universe. God is at the helm, controlling the movements of the mighty planets and worlds and for Him to abandon it one moment would be for them to plunge into a mass of wreckage. God knows every deed that we've ever

done in the past, good or bad. Those things that you did in secrecy that you're ashamed of, maybe, God saw. Those thoughts of yours that were unholy and unclean, God knew. Maybe it was in the darkness of night away from the eyes of man that we did something that was not right, but whether man saw or not, God saw, and He knows all about it. None can run away from God, Christian or sinner. Let's think about that. In what sense is it impossible for a Christian to run away from God? For one thing, a Christian cannot run away from the service of God. The Christian belongs to God, and is under obligation to render service to Him. He cannot flee this obligation save with dire consequences. Every person's avenue of service to God is not the same. Every person is not expected to render the same kind of service, but God has called every Christian to service of some kind. God never intended that there should be drones in the hives of His workers, I'm quite sure, and whatever the service that God chooses for the Christian, he cannot flee with success. An illustration of the truth of this is found in the case of Jonah that we read about back in the Old Testament. Jonah was called to do missionary work in Nineveh. There was no doubt about what God wanted him to do. He knew exactly what was the Lord's will in his case, but he didn't want to do the thing that the Lord wanted him to do, and it's that way with us many times. It's clear enough to our innermost selves as to the thing that we ought to do, but we're simply unwilling to go in line with the call of God and in line with what we know to be our duty. So Jonah, called to go to Nineveh, started in the opposite direction, but God saw to it that Jonah didn't get very far on his journey. Jonah's disobedience resulted in his spending three days and three nights in the stomach of a huge fish, and after the fish had landed Jonah upon the beach, a sadder but wiser man, he decided that Nineveh would be his next destination. I've heard men tell of resisting God's call to the ministry for years. During that time, they spent days and hours of mental and spiritual unrest. One may run from the service that God calls them to, all right, but they'll be overtaken as certain as you live. Maybe you're called to do nothing more than to teach a Sunday school class, maybe you're called to do your duty by your church at prayer meeting or on the regular preaching days, or you may be called to help support your church in a way worthy financially. It may be a call to talk Christ and salvation to those with whom you work and associate in every day business relations. It may be a call to some form of special service, that of preaching the Gospel or going to the foreign mission field. Whatever the service you run from, God will overtake you with the chastening rod every time, every time.

And this leads me to say that none can run away from God in the sense of escaping His chastening. None lives a perfect life, every one of us sins, and everyone that sins, if they are a Christian, they are chastened of the Lord. **“Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth,”** says the Scriptures, **“and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” (Heb. 12:6).**

One thing that most parents cannot abide is to have a child run from them when they go to administer punishment. My parents would never tolerate that. I remember very well the time when I was a very small boy, I saw Mother approach with a switch, and I began to run just as fast as my legs could carry me, but it was no use. Before I had gone very far, she had me, and I'll tell you, she doubled the dose. It is futile to try to run away from the chastening rod of the Lord, for He'll catch us every time. We can avoid many a chastening, however, by obedience. In the main, it is our refusal to go in obedience to duty that brings the chastening rod down upon us. It is indeed.

And now, let me say something further here. There's a good side to the truth that we can't get away from God. If you're like a guilty criminal who is trying to flee from justice, then it's a dreadful thing that you can't get away from God. But if you're a child of God, and are seeking to live in obedience, then it is a blessed thought that nothing can separate you from His presence. Two men walk along a dark street at night. One man has committed a brutal crime and he is trying to avoid capture. As he walks furtively along, he sees a patrol car with two policemen, and the chill of fear grips his heart. No thought of protection comes to his guilty mind, he thinks only of capture and judgment. The other man walks another dark street, a business emergency took him down to that street, and he's uncomfortable as he thinks this would be a good place for a hold-up. About that time, he sees the police car slipping along, and there comes to him a sense of protection. He thinks, “No hold-up men are going to bother me in sight of this police car.” Two viewpoints, you see. One man a guilty criminal, and the presence of police fills him with fear; the other man a law-abiding citizen, and the police give him a sense of protection. It is exactly that way in regard to the truth that men are never out of the sight of God. If you are a guilty sinner it's an uncomfortable thought. If you're a child of God, you're glad of God's presence, and I'll tell you, there's a big difference there.

But now, passing from this, let me say that there is a third thing you can't run away from---you can't run away from your sin. A man killed another man, ran off to another state and he started life over again. For years he lived a good, straight life. He married, raised a family, and

♦ (Continued on page 187)



**"And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen. And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair"** (Ex. 35:25-26).

The women who were **"wise hearted"** and **"whose heart stirred them up in wisdom"** spun and made things for the Tabernacle of God. Spinning fabric for various needs was something they could do to help the men in their great task of building the Tabernacle. It was commendable and wise that they wanted to help in whatever way they could. Spinning fabric is a long drawn-out process; therefore it's interesting to note that the work they undertook to do was something that was time consuming.

When we lived in the highlands of Papua, New Guinea, I noticed that some of the women of the church got up early on Sunday mornings and picked flowers growing in the bush (jungle). They put them in tin cans and placed them in front of the pulpit for the church services that day. Sometimes they gathered a bunch of yellow daisy-type flowers and wove them into the bamboo walls of the building. They also swept the floor and picked up trash around the building so that their meeting place was clean, neat, and pretty when others started arriving.

With modern technology and factory-made items in the USA, we don't often think about ways that we can beautify our church building. Yet there is still a need. There are always odd-and-end jobs that need to be done to upkeep a place. And deep cleaning a building every so often will beautify it a lot. It's easy to say I'm too busy and then want to hire everything done; but we are cheating ourselves of a great blessing when we neglect to do what we can to beautify the Lord's house. If it was wise to use our time and talents for the Lord's house in the time of the Old Testament, it is still wise to use our time and talents to beautify the Lord's house now.

When visitors come to our church services, the condition of our building is a witness to them. They will notice how much the place means to the membership by its appearance. I'm not talking about riches, but keeping our building as nice as we can with what material blessings the Lord has blessed us with. The ladies in PNG don't have much money but they were still concerned with beautifying their bush-hut church building. The first time I saw those yellow flowers hanging

on the walls it really blessed my heart.

Another way that we can *"beautify the Tabernacle"* is by our demeanor or countenance. There's nothing more discouraging than to walk inside a church building for worship services and find that some people will hardly shake hands with anyone; much less smile. When we gather to worship the Lord, it's time to lift up our hearts to God, rejoice in our blessings, and to encourage each other. Our hearts need to be right before we enter the building, being ready to worship and encourage each other with a hearty handshake, a smile, and kind words. Let us beautify the Lord's house with our time, our talent, and our demeanor.

President Theodore Roosevelt said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

*"The truest credentials of a Christian are: service, self-sacrifice, and love."* --- Anonymous.

## Run Run, But You

*(Continued from page 186) ♦*

acquired a place of business. None knew what he had done, but that man couldn't forget it. He had run away from home and acquaintances, and the knowledge of his crime that he carried the guilt and burden that became so very heavy that finally he went to the police and confessed the thing and asked to stand trial for his offense. **"Be sure,"** says the Word of God, that **"your sin will find you out"** (Num. 32:23). There is only one way in this world that you can get the burden of sin lifted, and that is by turning unto the One and only person who is prepared to act as your sin-bearer. When a person comes to Christ to receive Him as Savior, then He takes over that person's sin, and takes over that person's account, and settles it for him. That's what the old prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, **"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid upon Him the iniquity of us all"** (Isa. 53:6). Have you ever come to Christ? Have you ever turned your sin problem over to Him? He is the only One in the whole universe who can settle it for you, and He can and will settle it.

But now, there is one more thing that we can't run away from, and that thing is death. And somebody says, "There's that man Mason talking about death again. He talks about it every time he preaches." Yes, I do, because it's something that is

in the future of every person. You can take a transatlantic plane and can fly clear over to the opposite side of the world. When you get off, you'll find graveyards somewhere. You'll find that people die over there, too. James Hilton, in his intriguing book entitled "Shangra La" tells about a far-away place that was discovered where men lived for ages. A very pretty story it was, but only a story with no reality connected with it. There isn't any Shangra Las in this world. People die all around the globe, and it doesn't matter how you may hate death, abhor death, or fear death, you can't run away from it. The Arabs have a saying that goes something like this, "Death is a black camel that comes down every man's street." It will come down your street one day, and it will bear you away, and I want to ask you, where? That's a question that ought to be looked straight in the face by every human being. Are you too big a moral coward to look that question in the face? Cowardice won't solve the problem for you, so you'll have to face it, anyhow. You will, indeed.

And you know a lot of people that would scoff at the idea of talking about death very much, and talking about Hell, they're arrant cowards. They just won't face the fact that they have to die and that they'll have to go somewhere when they die. Listen, there is One who came to this earth and died in order that you and I might have the solution to the problem of death. I have accepted that solution, and for that one reason, I'm not afraid of death. Jesus stood there by the grave of Lazarus long ago, and He said, **"He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"** (John 11:25). And then He added these words, **"Believeth thou this?"** In order that we may have reason to believe Him, Jesus spoke the word that brought Lazarus out of his grave. He's just as able to bring us out as He was to bring Lazarus out, and He'll do that thing when the time comes. But notice, there is one qualifying word used here. He said, **"He that believeth in me."** Ah, there's the critical question. Do you believe in Him? Do you believe in Christ in the sense of having committed the keeping of your own soul to Him? Do you believe in Him in the sense of having staked your eternity on His power to save you? If you haven't, I appeal to you to do that thing right now, without any further delay. You can't run away from death, but through Jesus Christ, you can be ready for death when it comes, and you can trust in Him and have the fear of death completely taken away.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that in view of the fact that death looms on the horizon of every person, that when we turn to Christ, He takes away the fear and the dread of death and the tomb. We thank Thee that we can know where we're going when we depart this life, and know that we're going out into

something better. We thank Thee for the words of the apostle Paul, who spoke of going and being with Christ, which is far better, he said, and we know that that must be true, far better. We pray that there may be those today to receive this Savior as theirs, and we know that they'll never regret this decision as long as time or eternity lasts. We ask it humbly in His name. Amen.



## Objections to the

*(Continued from page 181) ♦*

that God has elected some to salvation.

We believe that God is the one who does the electing. The Scripture tells us: **"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you"** (John 15:16).

We find that God elected in eternity. By this we mean that there was no beginning or origination of election. As long as God has been, election has been. God is an eternal God, an immutable God, an unchangeable God, but if we were to state that God in time had to sit down and elect a number, or choose a number of individuals from Adam's fallen race, we would say that God changed in His nature.

God is unchangeable. He says: **"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed"** (Mal. 3:6).

The Word of God declares to us that God is an immutable God. Therefore, based upon this, we say that election has always been with God in eternity. There never was a beginning of the electing of God's people. God has chosen His people before the foundation of the world.

Election is immensely Scriptural. The Word of God speaks in the New Testament some 48 times of this word "elect," or "elected," or "chosen." The Scripture has it interwoven through it so completely that if we desired to do away with the teaching of election in the Word of God, we would have to completely destroy the Bible, and write another book.

We find that the doctrine of election is not one that is a stranger unto the reader of the Scripture. Every time he opens the Bible he is going to find a Scripture that points him to God as a sovereign God--one who has elected a people before the foundation of the world. Therefore, looking at this thought, it seems to be surprising that there would be objections to this doctrine, yet we find there are many. In fact, the number is growing steadily, that object to the doctrine of election. To the child of God, to whom has been revealed this doctrine, it is a most precious doctrine---one which we should stand up for and declare that it is the truth of God's Word.

These objectors are known as Ar-

*♦ (Continued on page 188)*

## Objections to the

(Continued from page 187) ◊

minians, and their doctrine is one of the sickest lies that Satan has ever invented to contradict the Word of God. It is a doctrine that belongs to man. It is man's religion. It gives honor unto man, but it insults a sovereign and holy God. Arminianism gives unto man glory that is not rightly his. It gives man power that he does not rightly have. It takes a dead sinner and gives him life that the Scriptures declare that he does not have. Therefore, we find the doctrine of Arminianism is a lie of the Devil himself.

I have been accused many times, when preaching the sovereignty of God, of preaching a doctrine out of the pit of Hell. Those who believe the teaching of Arminianism, have declared that the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is from the pit of Hell, but we find that their doctrine---the doctrine that gives man power which he does not have---the theory that gives man honor that God is rightly due---is certainly a doctrine from the very pit of Hell, for it takes away from the Word of God, instead of giving honor to God and His Word.

One objection to the doctrine of election is that it represents God as a respecter of persons. We find the Scriptures refer to God as being no respecter of persons. In studying these Scriptures we note that it is not referring to the choosing of individuals unto salvation. It is not referring to the individual having rights or privileges in the grace of God. It refers only to God choosing, or rejecting an individual, based upon something that that individual might have done, that would merit his salvation.

Now, brother, according to the Word of God, we find that man has nothing to merit his salvation. The Scriptures declare: **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"** (Eph. 2:1).

So we see that man has no right or claim upon the mercy of God, for man himself is depraved---he is spiritually dead.

When Adam partook of the fruit in the Garden of Eden, he died spiritually at that moment, as God declared that he would die. Spiritually, he was unable to turn to God for salvation, because as far as spiritual things were concerned, he was a dead creature.

God's Word says: **"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him"** (Acts 10:34-35).

Here he is saying that God is no respecter of persons because a man is either a Jew or a Gentile. He is not saying God is no respecter based on

salvation, but based upon the individual's nationality.

We find again: **"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"** (James 2:1-4).

This declares that churches are not to be different in respect to persons because of that individual's wealth of the world. Whether he be rich or poor, we are not to respect him because he might be rich. In other words, we are not to show respect to a person by the individual's standing in finances of the world.

We find also that God will not show respect to persons concerning the slave and his master.

**"Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him"** (Eph. 6:5-9).

Each of the Scriptures that refer to God as no respecter of persons is speaking of his ways, and is not based upon what the individual is, or what he merits.

We find that Arminians object to the doctrine of election because they say it teaches God as showing unjust partiality, in other words, they say God is unjust if He would choose one individual unto salvation and let another go on his way into Hell.

This word "partiality" as used by the objector cannot be used in the realm of grace. The grace of God is an unmerited favor unto unmerited sinners---who could never merit nor work for that salvation. The word "partiality" used here can only be used in the realm of justice where an individual has certain rights or claims in this world.

So for one to say that God would be unjust is showing partiality to individuals certainly shows that he does not thoroughly understand the true nature of man. We must realize that in the eternity of election, God chose individuals out of a completely fallen race of mankind. In other words, man was so depraved that it was impossible for him as an individual to

give honor and glory to God the Father. He had no desire to turn to God; he had no love for God.

Take a sinner in this world today that does not know God. He does not want to know God. You offer him the Lord Jesus Christ and he is very quick to go about his way in sin. That is his nature. He is dead to spiritual things, and has no desire to know God. We must remember God is dealing with sinful creatures who are in rebellion to Him. They have no desire to know Him as Saviour. They have no desire to serve Him. Most of all, they have no desire to worship the Lord God Almighty Who made them.

After God made this earth, He looked upon man and said: **"Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"** (Gen. 6:5).

Brother, we are living in that day today when man's very imagination is wicked in the sight of God.

God declares that our righteousnesses are as filthy rags: **"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"** (Isa. 64:6).

Man has no claim upon the mercies of God. Salvation is an unmerited favor of God that God has shown unto an elect people that He Himself has chosen before the foundation of the world.

Another objection by the Arminian to the doctrine of election is if this doctrine is so, why preach the gospel? Brother, I find this objection to be amusing, because we find in studying the Word of God that they have overlooked the fact that God's means, as well as the end, are foreordained of God. God has not only foreordained the end of every individual. He has not only foreordained the end of His elect, but He has already foreordained the means, and the way of bringing the elect into the fold. God's sheep will hear His voice, and they'll follow Him.

**"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe"** (I Cor. 1:21).

Why preach? Brethren, to save those that believe.

We find again in the Word of God: **"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 10:14-15).

Why preach? Because the preaching is the proclamation of the Lord Jesus Christ. It declares unto the world that God sent His Son into the world to die on Calvary, to pay the debt of sin for His elect.

Let me remind you that all that the

Father giveth unto Him shall come to Him. All of the elect of God---all of those for whom the Lord Jesus Christ died on Calvary---will be called into the sheepfold, and not one of them will be lost. God, with the sacrifices of Christ on Calvary, was satisfied with the payment of that debt. Even though the Arminians declare that we preach an unjust God, God is just, and when the debt is paid for His elect, we can rest assured that God will not make us pay for that debt also.

Notice again from God's Word: **"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 alway, even unto the end of the world"** (Matt. 28:19-20).

Why did the Lord Jesus Christ command His church to go and preach the gospel? It was to call out His beloved among the world. It was to call out His pearls. It was to call out His diamonds from the rough. It was to call His people from this world of iniquity, that He might have a people for His name's sake. God not only has elected a people from the foundation of the world, but has foreordained the means whereby to bring them unto salvation, and He says it is by the preaching of His Word He has chosen to save those that believe.

I remember reading in a book by Spurgeon that he declared if this were not so, if God had not elected people---that if we preached unto the ears of individuals and it was left up to them to turn to Christ---then Spurgeon said he would close his Bible, and sit down and cease to preach the Word of God. The Scriptures says: **"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be"** (Rom. 8:7).

Thus, we find that there is a reason for preaching, and that is to call the elect unto salvation. We don't have to worry about calling a goat unto God, for he is not going to hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, to be saved. The Word of God says: **"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God"** (Rom. 3:10-11).

Over and over again, the Word of God brings to us one line of thought as far as the doctrine of election is concerned, and that is that God chose His elect from before the foundation of the world, and those whom He chose, He has ordained to call them out by the foolishness of preaching. Except by the foolishness of preaching and the spiritual working of God, no man shall come unto the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Scripture also says: **"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life"** (John 5:40).

This shows us that man in his depraved

◊ (Continued on page 189)



## Objections to the

(Continued from page 188) ♦

nature has no desire to come to God. He has no desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

I go out on the streets and speak to any sinner concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the very heart of our thoughts, and the very apple of our eye, but to that old depraved sinner, the mention of Jesus just makes him uncomfortable. He doesn't want to hear anything about our God because he is in a state of sin, and has no desire to know God. Therefore, preaching is God's way to call out His elect. Why preach? It is God's way, and He has commanded that we preach to call out His people.

The Arminians also object to the doctrine of election because they say it destroys man's responsibility.

I ask you does it destroy a sinner's responsibility of coming to the Lord Jesus Christ? Is that sinner responsible for his sin, even though he does not receive the effectual working of the Spirit of God? The Scripture declares that it is commanded to man everywhere to repent. God has commanded every sinner under the ministry of God to repent and return to the Lord Jesus Christ. When that sinner stands before the great white throne judgment, he is going to be faced with a Lord who has given him every opportunity, physically and naturally speaking, to seek Christ as his Saviour.

Every man knows the meaning of right and wrong. In the Garden of Eden, Adam ate of that forbidden fruit. He knew he did wrong. Every individual knows when he is doing wrong. He might try to explain it away, but he knows his responsibility, and he knows when he is in error. Therefore, he'll stand before God with no hope of salvation at that day. He will know that he is receiving his just damnation when the Lord casts him into the lake of fire.

Certainly we can declare that God is a God of mercy and longsuffering. He is longsuffering to the sinner, and He gives him space for repentance. But according to the Word of God, the sinner in his dead state will not come to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Arminians say, "If I believed the doctrine of election, I would just go out and live any life that I choose to live. I'd go out and live the way I please." Brother, I think most of them are already doing that anyhow. They are living the life that they so desire to live. But if you are a child of God, listen to what the Bible tells us concerning the life of God's children: "**If ye love me, keep my commandments**" (John 14:15).

If we are born with the Spirit of God, we love Him of whom we are born; and if we love Him, we'll keep His commandments because we are new creations in Christ Jesus.

We find also these words: "**And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments**" (I John 2:3).

Here is a test for the children of God. We know if we know Christ--if we keep His commandments, we have a desire to honor our Lord. If you have made some type of profession and have no true desire to give honor to God with a life that is righteous and above reproach--if you do not desire to lift up the name of the Lord Whom you love, then you are not known of Him. You have a false profession in His name, and you'll not be able to stand before Him in that day. Many souls in that day are going to look up to Him and say, "**Lord, Lord, we have done many wonderful works in thy name,**" but He is going to declare unto them, "**Depart**

**from me, you workers of iniquity; I never knew you.**"

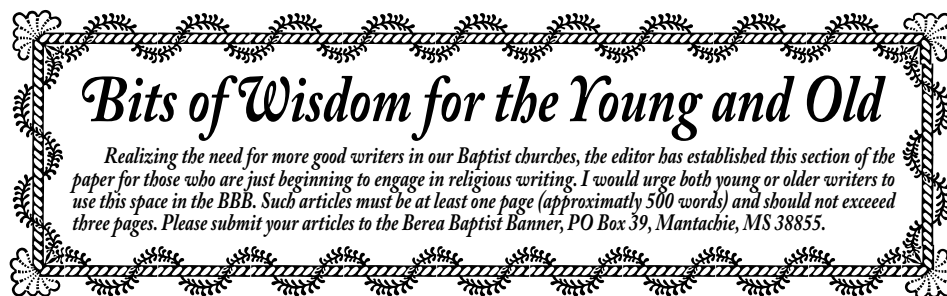
The Apostle Peter said: "**Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure**" (II Pet. 1:10).

Yes, brother, there are ways that we can know that we know God.

In closing, let's notice one verse: "**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).

Brother, here is our answer to the objectors of election. Oh, man, who art thou that will fight against God?

May God bless you!



### Bits of Wisdom for the Young and Old

Realizing the need for more good writers in our Baptist churches, the editor has established this section of the paper for those who are just beginning to engage in religious writing. I would urge both young or older writers to use this space in the BBB. Such articles must be at least one page (approximately 500 words) and should not exceed three pages. Please submit your articles to the Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855.

## WOE IS ME!

By David G. Hoffman

"**Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips**" (Isa. 6:5).

Have you ever had occasion to echo Isaiah's lament? "**Woe is me! . . . I am a man of unclean lips.**" I sure have. As a state prisoner I endure daily--sometimes hourly--insults and verbal attacks from guards and fellow prisoners alike, and must be especially careful of what passes through my lips. James got right to the point when he said, "**The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity,**" and "**how great a matter a little fire kindleth!**" It's a constant struggle because not many guards or other prisoners understand the new creation the Lord has allowed to flourish among them over the last five and a half years.

However, whether bond or free, man or woman, teenager or child, the battle with the tongue is great. I'm sure you, dear reader, wouldn't need long to recall the last time a comment passed through your lips that you immediately realized should've been left unsaid, even unthought. We've all been guilty at one time or another. Even the most watchful have bitten the tongue a second too late. So what must we do now that we've allowed the flame to burn someone?

Frankly, we must humble ourselves and ask the offended party to forgive us. Then the offended party is obligated to forgive us in sincerity. "**Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you**" (Eph. 4:32).

Forgive one another, such a simple admonition, but not so simple to carry out. Oh, we say we've forgiven such and such--but have we really? Have you ever forgiven someone and then brought the transgression back up the next time you got mad at him or her? Husbands? Wives? Mothers? Fathers? Daughters? Sons? Employees? Bosses? Has the wrong really been forgiven if it's still remembered days, weeks, or months later?

Let's take another look at Ephesians 4:32: "**. . . forgiving one another. . .**" Seems pretty straightforward, right? Now pay close attention to the last clause: "**. . . even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**" That's powerful stuff. We're not only obligated to forgive, but to forgive even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us. But what did God *do* when He forgave us?

"**As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us**" (Ps. 103:12). And again, "**I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more**" (Heb. 8:12; see also 10:17). So if we are to forgive one another even as God has forgiven us, then we, too, must remember the transgression no more. In the Lord's model prayer we are taught to exhort the Lord to "**forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors**" (Matt. 6:12). And I don't think He was referring to Ford Motor Credit or American Express either.

This side of the heavenly Jerusalem we will have plenty of occasions to lament, "**Woe is me! . . . I am a man of unclean lips.**" So put a watchman over your tongue and when he falls asleep on the job, as he sometimes will, then humble

yourself and ask forgiveness. And when you're the offended, be obedient to forgive and remember the trespass no more. Just as our Lord was obedient unto death on the accursed tree to forgive our transgressions and remove them from us as far as the east is from the west.



## Looking for Sinners

(Continued from page 181) ♦

that you are a good person, you have no interest in the work of Christ. He came to call sinners to repentance, not good people. This is not for you.

If you are reading this and you feel that your religious observances and good deeds are pleasing to God and therefore you have a place reserved in Heaven, this present article is not for you either. I write that on the authority of what Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8,9. He wrote, "**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.**" You may go on feeling that your religion, your observance of religious holidays, your church activities, your works of kindness, your being a good neighbor, your giving of money to good causes -- you may go on feeling that these things will secure God's favor for you if you wish to do so. But to do so is to think contrary to the revealed Word of God. This writer is well aware that the general opinion of the world is that Heaven is gained by working your way there, especially by being religious and a "Christian" in some sense of the word. But the majority of mankind is on the broad religious road that leads to destruction as Jesus said in Matthew 7:13, 14: "**Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**" Often we think of the "broad way" as being the way of drunkenness and debauchery, but it is in contrast to the way of salvation by grace and most certainly includes the "broad" or popular way of religion -- that way of salvation-by-works that is so popular with humanity the world over.

It is an incontrovertible fact that every religion in the world except Biblical Christianity teaches that a person is saved because of his good works -- especially by his religious observances. One group says you must abstain from certain foods, observe prayers five times a day and make pilgrimages to certain holy sites. Another says you must bathe in a certain sacred river. Even some "Christian" groups teach the same basic thing. One group says you must be baptized, faithfully attend church services, take the Lord's Supper every Sunday, and

♦ (Continued on page 192)

# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

**Most churches hold two services on Sunday and a mid-week service on Wednesday. Where did this practice come from and is it taught in the Bible? If not, why do you practice it? - Mississippi**

Todd Bryant  
3000 Hillwood Circle  
Northport, AL 35473

Pastor  
Sovereign Grace  
Baptist Church  
12859 Martin Road  
Spur  
Northport, AL 35473



I wish I had more information to provide on the exact beginning of a mid-week service, but, I do not. Obviously, Sunday services were held in the churches in the book of Acts. Though it is not spelled out exactly whether there should be one service, two services, or even three, the more we can learn about the Lord and the more we can fellowship with the Lord's people the better. Sunday services are mandatory. Mid-week services are, however, not mandatory. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean they are wrong. If a church has a desire to get together in the middle of the week for the exaltation of the name of Christ, the worship of the Lord and the edifying of the saints, what could be wrong with it? The local church has the authority to set its service times and such. The Bible doesn't proclaim that we should only meet on Sunday. A church's decision concerning their service times are only bearing on that church and not other churches. Yet, we all should have a desire in fellowshiping with the Lord's people regularly. If we do not, there is a problem.

This question concerns me a little bit. Instead of trying to find a reason to serve the Lord, it seems that this question is posed in such a way as to find a reason not to. Surely, this is not the proper attitude for a child of God.

TODD BRYANT

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

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



Hebrews 10:25 declares: **"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."** Whenever a church decides to assemble whether on Sunday or any other day of the week, the members are responsible to gather as a body of Christ.

It is apparent from Scripture that it was customary to assemble on the first

day of the week, in all probability to celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. The first churches took up offerings on the first day of the week according to I Corinthians 16:2: **"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."** It also appears that the churches would assemble on the first day of the week to share a meal together and listen to the Word of God being preached according to Acts 20:7-12. I find it interesting that the church at Jerusalem met together daily in the early days (Acts 2:46-47). The Wednesday night prayer meeting was born out of a desire to add a special time during the week when the church could come together for fellowship and teaching.

The reason why our church meets on Sunday morning and evening and again on Wednesday evening is because we want too. Those are our stated times of worship and we expect all members of the body to join in this time of praise, fellowship, singing, and preaching. If the church voted to have services on Sunday as well as Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday I would feel a responsibility to attend as part of the body. There is no mention in Scripture of churches having electricity, air conditioning, or song books but that doesn't mean these things are unscriptural.

TOM ROSS

Matt James  
3756 Pendent Ln.  
Columbus, OH 43207

Pastor  
Sovereign Grace  
Baptist Church  
6041 Africa Road  
Galena, OH 43021



The practice of gathering to worship the Lord on Sunday originated with the Apostles after the resurrection of Jesus. Most churches follow their example and hold services on the same day of the week that Christ lived again after His resurrection.

The Scriptures teach that Jesus was **"risen early the first day of the week..."** (Mark 16:9). In John 20:19 we see the disciples gathering and Christ appearing to them on this day, **"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you."** We have Paul's example of

preaching in Troas on Sunday in Acts 20:7, **"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."** We also have the church at Corinth being taught to bring their offerings on the first day of the week in 1 Corinthians 16:2 **"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."**

I believe the Sabbath of God changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He arose and was glorified that day and He is the first-fruits of God's new creation (1 Cor. 15:20, 23). One day we will all be just like Christ in our resurrection unto glorified life (1 Cor. 15).

The practice of having two services on Sunday and one on Wednesday is simply a common tradition. I have known many churches that hold only one service on Sunday and no midweek service. The early church was together every day according to Acts 2:46-47, 5:42, 16:5, and 17:11. The true church of God is not a weekly gathering of church members, but a society of saints who are living in terms of the kingdom and Lordship of Christ every day of the week.

MATT JAMES

Raymond F. Bennett  
Berachah Baptist Mission  
271 Gray Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-8761

Missionary of  
Berea  
Baptist Church  
PO Box 39  
Mantachie, MS 38855



Acts 2:46, **"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart."** (Italics mine.)

Acts 20:7, **"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."** (Italics mine.)

1 Cor. 16:2, **Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."** (Italics mine.)

Acts 20:31, **"Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one**

**night and day with tears."** (Italics mine.)

The italicized sections of these selected, sample verses seem to indicate that the disciples met for worship and preaching: regularly on the 'first day of the week'; sometimes late at night (see Acts 20:7); often on a daily basis; and whenever they had opportunity.

Other than the rather obvious custom of Sunday worship, as seen by the frequency of **"the first day of the week"** (again see Acts 20:7 and 1 Cor. 16:2 to demonstrate that this was a regular practice) we have no specific commands concerning time or frequency of meeting together. Notice in 1 Cor. 11:25, **"this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."**

What seems more evident in the early churches, but sadly lacking in modern churches, is the *desire* to meet together for worship, the *frequency* of meeting for worship, and the *deliberate scheduling* of their time for these worship times.

Many churches in our history were only able to meet once a month. This missionary is currently working on getting a 'once a month' meeting scheduled where there is a sad lacking of a place to worship for those few who love the biblical doctrines we Baptists cling to.

Many churches have prayer meeting on Thursday night instead of Wednesday night. The particular night isn't important. What is important is that they meet for prayer. Generally we use Wednesdays or Thursdays for prayer meeting simply because, like the mid-day meal in our physical diet, it is the nourishing break between too 'larger' spiritual meals of the week. More importantly, however, is the fact that prayer meeting is the power of the church.

Sunday evening services are simply the gathering of the faithful because they *want* to worship beyond the dutiful, liturgical, Sunday morning service.

The Sunday School is not seen in Scripture either, yet we practice it. It was begun by Robert Raikes (who I understand was a Baptist although he was greatly influenced by John Wesley) in 1780 - to meet a great need. Yet we do, and I suggest should, practice it in our churches.

Some have felt that because these services were not specifically mentioned or commanded in the Scripture that they should not have them, especially applying that thinking to the Sunday School, but I think we have sufficiently shown that the Sunday School, Sunday evening service, and prayer meeting, are important parts of a church's worship program, whenever and as often as they can have them.

RAYMOND BENNETT



# The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

If an openly gay couple presented themselves for membership into your church, what would be your recommendation to the church? Please give scripture for your answer. - Kentucky

Raymond F. Bennett  
Beracah Baptist Mission  
271 Gray Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850-8761

Missionary of  
Berea  
Baptist Church  
PO Box 39  
Mantachie, MS 38855



My recommendation would be a clear-cut "NO!" As a matter of fact, the couple would not get that far. This may sound judgmental and harsh but I give you three poignant Scriptures.

1. Lev. 18:22, **"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."** The only way to get around that direct statement is pure unbelief, disobedience, and rebellion! We grant some truth to the modern argument that homosexuality is natural, some are 'born that way'. *All sin is natural! All men are born that way!* That does not lessen the clarity of God's Word against it. Only Jesus Christ can deliver one from bondage to the natural lusts of the flesh. Hence, we suggest that a saved man will cease and discipline him(her)self against the sin.

Notice the context! Lev. 18:21- 25, **"And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants."**

Our Lord puts homosexuality in the same class as child sacrifice and bestiality, calling it an abomination.

2. Acts 11:18, **"When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."** (Italics mine.) Those whom the Lord saved had been granted *repentance!* Repentance is like a soldier obeying the order, "To the Rear March." The saved sinner turns from his sin, not desiring to continue in it. When this is put beside the scriptural requirement of 'regenerate membership', the answer to this question becomes obvious and leads us right into our third verse.

3. Matt. 3:8, **"Bring forth therefore**

**fruits meet for repentance"** (See also Luke 3:8). This speaks for itself! There must be credible evidence of conversion! 2 Cor. 5: 17, **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."** Desiring to become members of one of the Lord's churches and still desiring to continue in a sin the Lord calls an abomination cannot coexist.

RAYMOND BENNETT

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

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



I am assuming this is a hypothetical question. I doubt very seriously that an openly gay couple would last one service in a true New Testament Baptist Church that preaches the whole counsel of God and openly denounces sin. I could not even imagine a gay couple being able to stomach my preaching for even a short time, which is why I would find it extremely unlikely that they would seek membership in our church. If I knew they were gay, I would do everything in my power to expose their abominable behavior and point them to Christ. I have been in the ministry for nearly 25 years and I have never met anyone who has been converted from homosexuality. I am not saying that there aren't some that have been saved, but according to Romans 1:24-32 homosexuals bear the definite marks of the reprobate.

If an openly gay couple would somehow present themselves for membership I would recommend that the church not receive them into the membership for several reasons:

First, only regenerated and converted people are eligible for church membership. I Corinthians 6:9-10 declares: **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, NOR EFFEMINATE, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."** Openly gay people are yet in their sins and have not repented of this abominable vice, thus they cannot present themselves for church membership.

Second, God considers the lifestyle of the homosexual to be abominable according to Leviticus 18:22: **"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."** Therefore, it would be impossible for a church to agree to take openly gay people into a covenant relationship with the Lord's body.

Third, receiving openly gay people into the membership would incite schism, division, and confusion within the church which is forbidden according to I Corinthians 1:10: **"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."**

Fourth, we are commanded to purge out or remove the old leaven of sin through church discipline. To receive openly gay people into the membership would be a total contradiction of what is taught in I Corinthians chapter five regarding discipline. It would be inconsistent to discipline fornicators and receive homosexuals.

I must admit I am saddened that a topic like this even exists for someone to think of the possibility of a gay church member. The words gay and church membership should never be joined as they are mutually exclusive and poles apart. Homosexuals are ungodly and dishonorable, as such they are not welcome nor should they be tolerated in the Lord's churches. I know such a statement is not politically correct, but I do not have to accept or tolerate a lifestyle that is wicked and unholy.

TOM ROSS

Matt James  
3756 Pendent Ln.  
Columbus, OH 43207

Pastor  
Sovereign Grace  
Baptist Church  
6041 Africa Road  
Galena, OH 43021



If homosexuals wanted to join our church, I would explain to them that their lifestyle is inconsistent with God's law-word. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 reads, **"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers,**

**nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."** We would require anyone who is practicing any of the above sins to repent before being considered for church membership. A homosexual is no different than a thief, drunkard, or adulterer; none of whom can inherit the kingdom of God or be a church member.

Romans 1:18-32 teaches us that all wickedness begins with idolatry, **"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them"** (Rom. 1:19). But **"when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened"** (Rom. 1:21). **"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves"** (Rom. 1:24). **"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet"** (Rom. 1:26-27).

According to these passages, homosexuality is the result of failing to acknowledge God as creator of heaven and earth, failing to be thankful to Him, and failing to glorify Him as God. Homosexuality is contrary to God's creation and His commandment (Gen. 1:26-28). It leads to decay, corruption, and death (Rom. 1:26-32). All those who do trust in God will be thankful to Him, will glorify Him, and will be made wise and fruitful in His kingdom, like our father Abraham (Rom. 4:17-25, John 15:8).

I would make no recommendation to the church about this matter, as we never vote on issues that are unlawful (Lev. 18:22).

MATT JAMES

Todd Bryant  
3000 Hillswood Circle  
Northport, AL 35473

Pastor  
Sovereign Grace  
Baptist Church  
12859 Martin Road  
Spur  
Northport, AL 35473



**"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination"** (Lev. 18:22).

**"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them"** (Lev. 20:13).

**"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers,**

◊ (Continued on page 192)

## Forum #2

(Continued from page 191) ♦

**and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”** (Rev. 21:8).

Few things are called an abomination in the Word of God. However, the perversion of homosexuality is plainly referred to as this. Revelation 21:8 lists a number of sins which unbelievers are characterized by—not believers. Abominations are listed in this verse.

An openly gay couple is not bearing the fruits of having been brought **“out of darkness into his marvellous light”** (I Pet. 2:9). In fact, they are bearing the fruits of those still dead in their sins (Eph. 2:1). When the Lord saves a person, their life is noticeably changed. Not only do they despise the things of the world, but, they begin to **“thirst after righteousness”** (Matt. 5:6). Obviously, an openly gay couple (still involved in an abominable lifestyle) is still living in open rebellion against God.

There is only one way for a church to properly respond to such a request. The church should refuse baptism and, therefore, church membership to this abominable couple and demand that they **“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance”** (Matt. 3:8). It seems apparent that these two still need to respond to the Gospel inwardly. Any other action by one of the Lord’s churches would be reason for every other church to break fellowship with them. Also, they would be in danger of the chastening of God including, but not limited to, the removal of their candlestick.

I am saddened by the need of a child of God to ask such a question.

TODD BRYANT



## Looking for Sinners

(Continued from page 189) ♦

continue in good works. Others say live by your conscience, observe the “golden rule,” and be sincere and that these works will get you into Heaven at last. All these religions teach essentially the same thing whether pagan or “Christian”: they all teach that good works will earn you favor with God. But the Bible, God’s Word, still says that salvation is **“not of works,”** and that is the truth. Neither does the Bible say that salvation is partly of good works and partly of grace for this is an impossibility. Works and grace cannot be mixed as Paul so strongly stated regarding election in Romans 11:6: **“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”** This is a principle that you must understand. Grace is unmerited favor. If you work

for something it is not given to you by unmerited favor: rather you earned it. So it is with salvation. It is either by works or by grace. Salvation cannot come by a mixture of the two for the two cannot be mixed without destroying the intrinsic nature of both works and grace.

During the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, most of the religious leaders in Israel were known as Pharisees. Those who specialized in studying and copying the Old Testament were known as scribes. These religious zealots went to excess in their ritualistic observances of the Old Testament law. None were more strict and faithful in their religious exercises. Outwardly they were correct and righteous in their observances. About these people the Lord said, **“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven”** (Matthew 5:20). Outward observance is not enough! Inward purity and genuine love for the Lord is required as well as unselfish love for your neighbors. Would you compare yourself to the Pharisees? Are you as zealous for your religion as they were for theirs? Are you as zealous about keeping all the commandments as they were? If you are trying to get to Heaven by your religious zeal and good works, your righteousness must exceed that of these ancient devoted people. Jesus said so!

So I am still looking for sinners. If you are reading this and feel that you are no worse than the average person, this is not for you. Comparing yourself with others and assuming that because you are no worse than those around you does not make you prepared for Heaven. Paul wrote about some people who made these kinds of comparisons. He wrote that these people who were **“measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise”** (2 Corinthians 10:12). These people were not thinking clearly. “Others” are not the standard by which we are to measure ourselves! In Romans 3:23 it is written: **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”** The revealed glory of God is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:14; 14:9). Jesus Christ, by His life and character, showed us what the Father is like. So if you would compare yourself with the right standard, compare yourself with Him! If you do so, you will find yourself coming far short in your life and character!

But I am still looking for sinners! As I preach and visit with people I find it is the same everywhere I go. Everywhere it is the same. Human beings are “good enough” in their own eyes. They are ignorant of the Word of God and thus are often satisfied with themselves: convinced that they are “good enough” to meet God. They think that their good deeds will somehow cause God

to overlook their base sins and wicked hearts.

I am looking for sinners: the kind of sinners who feel their sin. I am looking for sinners who ashamedly admit to being sinners. I am looking for sinners who dare not compare themselves with others. I am looking for sinners who know the emptiness of religion without Christ and who are in despair over their sins. I am looking for sinners who are helpless and hopeless to do anything about their sin and know it. I am looking for sinners.

I am looking for sinners who, like the wicked thief, see that whatever happens to them in this life and the next is the “due reward” of their deeds (Luke 23:41). I am looking for sinners who expect God to be just and know in that justice they will receive eternal punishment for their sins in the Lake of Fire. I am looking for sinners who know that whatever good they might do henceforth, they can never erase or cover their past sins. I am looking for sinners who know they are powerless to cease from sinning. I am looking for sinners who see themselves in a hopeless and helpless condition.

Where shall I find such sinners? Such sinners as these are sinners in whom God has begun a good work (Philippians 1:5). Such an understanding of self and an honest view of self is not natural to any person: it is a result of the work of God through the Word of God in the heart of the individual. And say! I have Good News for such sinners as these! I can tell them that Christ suffered the “due reward” for their deeds. I can tell them that Christ bore the payment for their sins! I can tell them that Christ met the just demands of a holy God and his holy law! I can tell them that salvation is not of works that could never undo their past sins, but is of the free grace of God. I can tell them that while they are indeed helpless to do anything about their condition, they are not hopeless for there is hope in Christ for all to whom God makes known in a feeling way their sin. I can tell them that Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, the Justifier, the Sanctifier, and the Glorious Shepherd of His people!

I can urge such sinners to trust Christ and His finished work at Calvary! I can tell them that Christ has paid the sin-debt for His people. I can tell them that only Christ brings them to see themselves as helpless and hopeless sinners in order that they might see their need of Him. And I can tell them that Jesus said, **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”** (John 6:37). On the basis of the finished work of Christ and His promises, I can urge such sinners to come to Christ, knowing He never turns away even the worst of sinners.

Sinners who have felt the weight of both their sin nature and their acts of sin

are like Paul who wrote, **“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”** (1 Timothy 1:15). Paul, though a moral and upright man, considered himself to be the chief of sinners! God had begun a good work in him (Philippians 1:6) and Paul was insistent that Christ came into the world to save sinners – even the chief of sinners! What a glorious Gospel we have to herald far and wide – to sinners!



## Glory of the Latter

(Continued from page 181) ♦

will for men, there always seems to be something better just around the corner. I know that we can look around us and see the world growing more and more wicked. And I know that we can see sin running rampant and being openly condoned by the world all around us. But, what I am talking about, are the promises (and the fulfillment of those promises) that God has delivered to His people.

Today, I want to pick out some major time periods, and some major revelations that God has delivered to men, and notice how that these times and events seem to be building up to something most wonderful.

### Adam’s Descendants and the Patriarchs

We notice that in the beginning of human existence, men did live and serve the Lord God, but we do not have much record of how or how much they would serve God. It appears that there was always a godly line that descended from Adam that sought to serve the Lord God. We see this line beginning with Seth (see Gen. 4:26); and we see this line continuing through Enoch (Gen. 5:22); and we see this line pictured also in Noah (see Gen. 6:8). However, the extent of God’s revelation of His will and His purpose for them and for their descendants seems to be cloudy at best. Now, I personally believe that oftentimes we give too little credit to the foresight and the knowledge and faith and understanding that were given to these men and women of the ancient world; but I think that we can fairly say that in the time of Abraham, there was a clearer and more intimate revelation given.

We read concerning Abram (who would become Abraham), **“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth**

♦ (Continued on page 193)

## Glory of the Latter

(Continued from page 192) ◊

**be blessed**" (Gen. 12:1-3). Immediately we see that the patriarch Abraham is given a promise that is much more clear and intimate than any promise that his forefathers had. We see in Abram, the beginning of the time when God would begin to favor a certain family and a certain people. Now, perhaps this had always been true since the time of Adam and then Seth and then Enoch and then Noah and then Shem; but here it is put into plain words, and delivered in the form of a promise.

This new method of dealing with a particular people, is carried on through Isaac (see Gen. 26:2-4), Jacob (see Gen. 28:13-15), and the twelve sons of Jacob. As we study the book of Genesis we see that the relationship that God has with these men is much more noticeable and gracious than the relationship that he had with any other people on the face of the earth. And we see that there is much more interaction between God and these chosen men and women than what we have recorded for us concerning their forefathers – before the flood and after the flood.

And yet, there is something more in store for those that would yet be born into the world of men, and find the favor of God bestowed upon them.

### The Patriarchs and the Mosaic Law

We see that the patriarchs had a personal and real relationship with God, and we see that they were the recipients of the promises and pleasures of the Lord God of Heaven. But, in the time of Moses, the Lord delivered an even more distinguishing and blessed revelation unto those that were to be His people. We see, in the book of the Exodus (and explained in further detail in the following books of Moses), the giving of the Law of Moses. We call this the Law of Moses but it is really the *Law of God* that is delivered to the children of Israel through the man, Moses. Though the patriarchs, and especially Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, had very personal and astute knowledge of God, those that were members of their families did not, perhaps, receive all of the blessings that they found in their relationships with God. In the time of Moses, though, the Lord is about to make known to an entire nation, what it is that He desires them to know. After the Lord had given the law to Moses, we read the words of an entire nation of people in Ex. 24:3, **"...All the words which the LORD hath said will we do."** Now an entire nation of people know what it is that the Lord God would have them do. Now an entire nation of people know something about the promises that God has delivered to His people, and to those that will obey Him and love Him and serve Him. We read the words that the Lord had for

Moses and the people of Israel in Ex. 19:3-6, **"And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."** It seems to me that we can safely say that the relationship between men and God has reached a new height. I think that we can clearly see that the patriarchs, though they had much to be thankful for, would still have liked to see the time of Moses, and enjoy the outward manifestations, as they are represented in the Mosaic Law, of that close relationship that God desires to have with those that call upon His name.

### The Mosaic Law and the Gospel of Grace

The law of Moses is not the culmination of God's relationship with men. We find that, blessed as that law is and dear as the relationship that men had with God under that law, still there is something better, purer, and higher that is yet to come.

Speaking of the law and the gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul says to the Galatians, **"We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified...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. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain"** (Gal. 2:15-16, 20-21). Later, Paul told the Galatians, **"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster"** (Gal. 3:24-25).

We don't want to diminish the glory of the law – certainly it was and is glorious. However, what I am trying to do is to magnify the glory of the gospel of grace by showing it in comparison to the glory of the law. We read in II Cor. 3:7-11, **"But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which**

**glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious."** The law shows men their sin, and it condemned them as sinners. O, how glorious is the law of God! And yet, that law is answered and our sins atoned for in the person of Jesus Christ. O, how much more glorious is the gospel of grace that brings to men freedom and liberty from the condemnation of the law!

One other thing that is obvious as the Mosaic Law takes root, and as the children of Israel become accustomed to observing the law, is that the favor of God is concentrated mainly upon a few men and women that are found amongst the children of Israel. There is not much proselytizing amongst the peoples and nations around Israel. In fact, there exists instead, a constant hostility and animosity between Israel and the other peoples of the world.

A result of this situation is that the words of God are not much known amongst other people. One thing that this does is demonstrates that our God is a choosing and particular God. He does not deal the same with all men, but He has those that are especially His, and He endears Himself to them. But, another thing that this demonstrates is that the children of Israel were not very faithful in witnessing about the God of Israel and seeking to save other men and women from the bondage of idolatry and sin.

Now, when the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, His glory will be known to the ends of the Earth! (See Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8). In this respect, the glory of the gospel of grace certainly far exceeds the glory of the law.

So, the gospel of the grace of God as it is manifest in the person and work of Jesus Christ, is greater in glory than is the law, in that it is of a much more glorious content; and also it is greater in glory than the law in that it has a much wider ranging effect.

### The Tabernacle or Temple and the Church of Jesus Christ

A prominent feature of the Mosaic Law and the service of the children of Israel was the tabernacle of the time of Moses through David, and the temple of the time Solomon through Christ. Maybe this point that I am trying to make now is the one that most clearly relates to the verse that we have used for our text today. Remember that the Lord told the Jews, as they were re-building the temple in Jerusalem, **"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts:**

**and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts"** (Hag. 2:9). I think that the inescapable teaching of this verse is that this temple that they were building would one day be glorified by the presence of Jesus Christ. Though Solomon's temple had been glorious; and though this temple that they were now building seemed so much smaller and so insignificant in comparison to Solomon's temple; still, the glory of God would one day be revealed in this **"latter house."** Previously we read in Hag. 2:3, **"Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?"** And then we read in v. 7, **"And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts."** I know that the temple in the time of the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry is thought of as Herod's temple. But it seems probable that all the work that Herod did in building up the temple of the Jews was based on this temple that is built in the time of Zerubbabel and then Ezra and Nehemiah. So, when the Lord Jesus Christ visits the temple in Jerusalem, though in might and splendor it cannot compare to Solomon's temple, still the glory of this latter house is far greater. And, even though the Shekinah glory of God inhabited the first temple (see 1Kings 8:10-11), still the glory of the Son of God, clothed in the flesh of man, far exceeds the glory of the first temple and the Shekinah glory of God that was poured out upon it.

Why is this so? Well, it is because the glory of Jesus Christ is what the gospel of Jesus Christ is all about. The law that the children of Israel labored under could never save them. The ordinances and sacrifices of that first temple were only pictures of the One that was to come that would save Israel from their sins. Now that, that One is come, even the Shekinah glory of God cannot compare to the glory that is now being revealed and brought to mankind.

And, what is the dwelling place of Jesus Christ on this earth now? And how is He visible to men? And who is His body on earth today? It is, of course, the church of Jesus Christ. The glory of the temple of the Old Testament cannot compare to the glory of Jesus Christ as it is represented in the church of Jesus Christ. We read in Eph. 2:19-22, **"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of**

◊ (Continued on page 194)



## Glory of the Latter

(Continued from page 194) ♦

the marvelous blessings that we have in Christ Jesus today; we can anticipate a so much more glorious, wonderful, and marvelous tomorrow! Our future with Christ Jesus and the Father in Heaven will be something that far exceeds the present that we share with our Saviour now. Not because of anything that we do or have done; but because that is the way that God has chosen to reveal Himself to



## Simmer Down Before

(Continued from page 181) ♦

and cruelty.

But we must be cautious even about this virtuous indignation. It may lead to sinful anger. It can quickly become the handsome brother of sinful anger and hatred. When anger is not directed to a good end it is productive of bad effects either in words or actions. We are to be angry with sin and to never let our anger lead us to commit sin. The Jews had a saying which went like this: "Be not angry, and thou wilt not sin." There are words of wisdom in this saying.

When the carnal allows anger to transcend its cause, wrath is sure to follow. Our reason must cause this evil passion to simmer down before sundown. Paul said: "**Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.**" Anger and wrath must not be permitted to continue. When the heat of the day is ended let the heat of anger cease. If the sun sets upon a man's anger, he may be sure it is sinful anger. So don't ever cherish anger; don't sleep on it until the next day. Don't harbor it with the purpose of revenge at some future time. To retain such anger is to gratify the Devil, for Paul adds in the next verse following our text: "**Neither give place to the devil.**"

### ITS DEFINITION

Anger is a passion so common as to almost need no definition. Nevertheless, a few words about what it is are in order. Anger is an emotion of instant displeasure and indignation, arising from the feeling of injury done or intended. It has many degrees as can be cleaned from the various words used to express its many different dimensions. Its growth and despicableness can be seen in such words as wrath, fury, and rage. Wrath is deep indignation which expresses itself in a desire to get revenge or to punish. Rage is a violent outburst of anger in which self-control is lost. Fury is an overwhelming rage that borders on madness.

"If anger proceeds from a great cause it turns to fury; if from a small cause it is peevishness; and so it is always either terrible or ridiculous. Sinful anger, when it becomes strong, is called wrath; when it makes outrage, it is fury; when it becomes fixed it is termed hatred; and

when it intends to injure any one it is called malice. All these wicked passions spring from anger" (GOLDEN GEMS OF LIFE, p. 348, 1880 edition).

Anger is always sinful when it is excited without sufficient cause (Matt. 5:22) or transcends the cause. It is evil when it is against the person rather than the offense. It is wrong when attended with the desire to get revenge (Rom. 12:17). It dishonors God when it is cherished and heightened by reflection. All such sinful anger is condemned by God. "**Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil**" (Ps. 37:8).

### ITS DERIVATION

Anger is an original susceptibility of our Adamic nature (Gal. 5:19-20). The sudden excitement on the reception of an injury is involuntary and natural. God implanted this passion in the mind of man to rouse him to an immediate defense of himself when attacked and before his reason would have time to suggest the proper means of defense. Anger prompts a person to self-protection, and when that is accomplished its proper office ceases. Hence there is no sin in a sudden arousing of the mind against immediate physical danger. But there are times when this passion is not only excited by danger but in view of wrong done by others. In such cases it terminates upon the person and not the thing and becomes sinful anger.

Anger may be looked for in the character of a weak-minded person. It may glance into the bosom of a righteous man, but it has a permanent home only in the bosom of a fool. "**Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools**" (Eccl. 7:9). In the bosom of a fool anger resides in an uppermost place and is not parted with but hugged in lasting union. No sensible person in full possession of his powers will suffer the degradation of allowing himself to be overcome by anger without experiencing the utmost mortification which causes him to simmer down before sundown.

There are times when anger comes from grievous words: "**Grievous words stir up anger**" (Prov. 15:1). Ill-chosen words are oil to the flame of anger. No one likes to be called some foul name. No one wants to hear his family and friends criticized. No one wants to be upbraided with his infirmities and infelicities. Destructive criticism always results in arousing anger in the hearer. It moves the hearer to self-justification and to think he does "**well to be angry**" (Jonah 4:9). It causes pride and passion to strike together like two flints, and "**Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!**" (James 3:5).

Sinful anger arises from an exaggerated sense of self-importance: "**Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath**" (Prov. 21:24).

The proud wrath of Asa caused him to put the prophet in jail (II Chron. 16:10-13). Asa felt the prophet had offended his dignity. This outraged pride caused the king to become angry. Like King Asa, he who thinks more highly of himself than he ought to think, often gets angry because others do not share his opinion about himself. This proud man in a fit of anger will summon all his artillery of wrath in an attempt to bend their stubborn knee to offer him the tribute of admiration. Haman, the enemy of the Jews, is an example of such anger: "**And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath**" (Esther 3:5).

This evil passion sometimes originates from greed. When Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to King Ahab, he went home so angry he refused to speak to anyone (I Kings 21:4). Ahab had the delights of Canaan, the wealth of his kingdom, and the power of the throne at his command, yet all this availed him nothing without Naboth's vineyard. His anger could not bear this disappointment. It crossed his desire and prompted him to secretly meditate revenge. Ahab's anger resulted in the death of Naboth and the confiscation of his vineyard by Ahab.

Vengeful anger at times springs from a rebuke by another. Hanani the seer reproved King Asa for making a covenant with the king of Syria (II Chron. 16:7). The Bible then says: "**Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing**" (II Chron. 16:10). Asa's reproof came from God and was delivered by a messenger from the court of Heaven. This reproof was intended for good, yet the king got mad at the preacher for telling him his folly. He could not bear to be told about his faults. His peevish passionate temper transported him into impieties and indecencies. Many a man, just like King Asa of old, has left the church on Sunday morning in a rage because the preacher condemned his sins.

Another source of anger is argumentation. Elihu got angry with Job and his three friends during a period of warm religious discussion (Job 32:2-3). Debate is often the cause of anger and wrath. Generally, in a debate a person gets mad at his opponent for his skillful exposure of his heresy. Anger in some such cases is a cloak to cover over Biblical illiteracy. In all discussions about the Bible we must be careful lest they generate more heat than light. Let us remember that the wrath of man in no way helps the cause of Christ (James 1:20). Also let us bear in mind that if the Bible has nothing to say on the subject in fact or principle, it is too trivial to quibble about!

### ITS DISPLAY

The harmful effects of the sin of anger are too numerous to mention in their

entirety. This passion hurts the man who is possessed by it more than the person against whom it is directed. The wrath of a man is like a person who fires an old gun with a rusty and twisted barrel. It may fail to hit the mark, but it is sure to knock down the marksman. This explosion of the human mind wrecks every better affection---wrecks reason and conscience---harms mankind and hurts the cause of Christ. Like a ship driven without helm or compass before a rushing gale, is the mind borne away without guide and government by the tempest of unbound rage.

Every barbaric crime imaginable has been committed under the influence of vengeful anger. Friends have murdered friends, children have slaughtered their parents. Creatures have blasphemed the Creator. Anger caused Cain to kill Abel (Gen. 4:5-8). It caused the Jews to slay Stephen (Acts 7:54-59). It caused Haman to conspire to exterminate the Jews (Esther 3:6). It caused Simeon and Levi to commit murder on account of the humbling of their sister (Gen. 49:5-7). It caused Ahasuerus to dethrone Queen Vashti (Esther 1). It caused Nebuchadnezzar to put the three Hebrews into a fiery furnace (Dan. 3:13, 19).

An angry disposition is a constant occasion of strife and of adding to sin. "**An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression**" (Prov. 29:22). A fierce ungovernable temper will set a whole city or community or church in a flame and lead to disaster. "**Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath**" (Prov. 29:8).

A passionate disposition is contagious: "**Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go**" (Prov. 22:24). Even a sweet tempered person may be driven into peevishness by constant irritation. Around passionate people the gentlest become passionate in self-defense. When a person possessed of an unbridled, ill-disciplined nature approaches, we should avoid him as if he were a bear robbed of her whelps, for such a fool in his anger and folly (Prov. 17:12).

Anger is moral madness. It is constantly betrayed into actions which sober wisdom must condemn. "**He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly**" (Prov. 14:17). "**He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly**" (Prov. 14:29). Discretion makes a person slow to anger. There is no better feeling than when you bridle your wrath and pass an offense without a sign of annoyance or resentment. "**The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression**" (Prov. 19:11). A wise man has a cool spirit while a fool constantly makes a display of his

♦ (Continued on page 196)

## Simmer Down Before

(Continued from page 195) ♦

anger: **"A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterward"** (Prov. 29:11).

**"Anger is outrageous"** (Prov. 27:4). A passionate temper renders a man unfit for advice, deprives him of reason, and robs him of his better qualities. It makes him unfit for conversation. It destroys friendship, changes justice into cruelty, and turns all order into confusion. Man should act orderly and quietly from a sense of reason and reflection. Anger takes from man this prerogative, transforms his manship into savage violence, and his reasoning powers into brute instinct. How terrible is the evil effects of this sin of anger! In one brief fit of anger it sweeps away friendship, domestic happiness, self-respect, and the esteem of others!

### ITS DANGER

A man who has no restraint upon his spirit is compared to a broken down city without walls. **"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls"** (Prov. 25:28). Any man who does not rule his own spirit is an easy prey to the invader. He yields to the first assault on his ungoverned passions, offering no more resistance than a defenseless city. Every foe can go up and possess him. Every thoughtless child can throw a firebrand into him. He is at the mercy of every disgruntled and cynical person around him. The barest word, hint, smirk, shrug of the shoulders, any unintentional slight or reflection, yea, even silence itself; will suddenly explode this defenseless man.

Anger is dangerous because it may lead to degradation, death, and destruction: **"For wrath killeth the foolish man"** (Job 5:2). Wrath is a fire in a man's bones and blood. Since wrath is self-originated, man must be a fool for indulging in what is self-destructive. Satan has accomplished one of his greatest feats when he causes a man's anger, originally given by God for self-preservation, to be the means of self-destruction.

The danger of anger can be seen because it causes hard feelings in a family. This can be seen in I Samuel 20:34: **"So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat not meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame."** A fit of anger has parted many a husband and wife. The rage of parents has caused some children to flee from the comforts of home. Any thing which has the power to make a house of happiness a center of horror is as deadly as it is dangerous!

### ITS DISCHARGE

How does one get rid of the sin of anger? Is there a cure for it? The Bible commands us to put it off in the same manner we would put off a filthy

garment. **"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath. . ."** (Col. 3:8). Anger is a vice as well as an infirmity. It is a corruption of our natural constitution. Therefore, it behooves us to put this sin out of our lives.

Knowing the possibility of my anger leading to sin, I must summons all my strength and Divine help to war against it. Others win their medals on the battlefield; this is my battlefield, and here my crowns are to be won (I Cor. 9:25). Others have won kingdoms or captured cities; here is the kingdom and city I must take. The wise man said: **"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city"** (Prov. 16:32).

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The best way to avoid sinful anger is to be vigilant to mark and control the first risings of passion. If we are truly loving, anger will die away: **"Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins"** (Prov. 10:12). If we are truly humble, the resentments which stir our anger will have nothing to feed upon. Avoid people who tend to make you angry (Prov. 22:24). Render a soft answer to the words of an angry man. Such things will cure anger, not only in you, but in others as well (Prov. 15:1).

Prayer is a good way to cure anger: **"I will therefore that man pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting"** (I Tim. 2:8). It is impossible to pray an acceptable prayer to God when we are angry toward others. Prayer is the peace of our spirits, the daughter of charity, and the sister of meekness. It is not possible to pray for a person and to be angry with him at the same time.

### ITS DISENGAGEMENT

When anger is cured a life of self-control will follow. James 1:19 says: **"Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."** We need a quick ear, a cautious tongue, and a calm temper. Happy is the man who can control the storm of his mind. How sweet the serenity of habitual self-control! How this prevents many a self-reproach and how it spares us from self-betrayal. Blessed indeed is the man who is master of himself, for he that is not master of himself, is master of nothing.

When anger is restrained a life of understanding follows: **"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly"** (Prov. 14:29). Sinful anger grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), is inconsistent with the profession of the gospel (Col. 3:8, 12-13), and is contrary to the example of Christ (I Pet. 2:23). Anger shuts out of Heaven (Gal. 5:19-21) and condemns to Hell (Matt. 5:22). This evil passion is a fruitful source of sin and misery. Hence the man who avoids it is of great understanding.

### CONCLUSION

Preacher, I have a fixed disposition to get angry and to sin. Many a time the sun has gone down on my wrath. My whole nature is filled with this infirmity. Only something outside of my nature can change my natural disposition to sinful anger.

What you have said is emphatically true. You must be born again. Only a regenerate heart can be humble enough to escape the exasperations of wounded pride. A wrathful disposition can only be cured by Christ. In Christ are moral and spiritual forces strong enough to control the most uncontrollable rage and to

soothe the most irritable temper. Where Christ reigns in the heart evil passions subside and die (Matt. 11:29).

Sinner, bring your sinful anger, your wrath, your sullen pride, and your fretful irritability to the Great Physician of souls. He has the only possible cure. His cleansing blood, His mighty grace, His all-powerful Holy Spirit, His inspired word, can check and subdue your passionate disposition. Christ is the only answer to your sinful anger. Only by His salvation can you be given grace to simmer down before sundown.



**THE**

# BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

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

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

### CHINESE GOVERNMENT STEPS UP PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

(EP)--Five American Church leaders were arrested in China's Henan Province Aug. 15 in the most recent of a string of government attacks on Christians reported by the China Aid Association.

Reports from the Texas-based organization show four American church leaders and 27 Chinese House Church pastors were arrested as they assembled. Earlier this month, more than 40 South China Church leaders were arrested along with two American seminary students. Many were tortured before being released and two were still being held. Also a Sunday school teacher's training class was raided in Jiangxi Province this month. Thirty-five people were arrested and detained for several hours.

The list of recent abuses goes on — an Aug. 7 raid during worship in Xinjiang where 30 were arrested and 10 women were stripped; church raids in at least four towns between June and August that led to more than 400 Christians being arrested and severely fined.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WILL GAZA STRIP PULLOUT SET THE STAGE FOR PALESTINIAN CIVIL WAR?

(EP)--Israeli leaders who ordered Jewish settlers out of the Gaza Strip in the name of making peace with Palestine may find that the pullout simply sets the stage for a Palestinian civil war and gives international terrorism a boost.

The controversial evacuation began Aug. 17, as Israeli troops dragged desperate settlers from their homes and synagogues. Tension has mounted since

early August after one settler went on a rampage killing four Palestinian workers in the West Bank, an incident that Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called "an act of Jewish terror ... out of twisted thinking."

Overall, the first installment of Sharon's "disengagement plan," which will eventually dissolve 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank and uproot an estimated 9,000 people, began smoothly, the government said. However, experts in Middle East conflict say the Palestinian move into Gaza may be anything but smooth.

Radio show host Rabbi Tovia Singer said the pullout "jeopardizes the security of the United States and its allies," by rewarding terror and that it will "incite additional Al-Qaida attacks on American soil."

Palestinian militants say Israel's pullout is a victory for their suicide bombings and rocket attacks, and leaders of Hamas announced Aug. 13 that the terrorist group remains "committed to the choice of resistance as a strategic choice..." and "committed to its military wing and its right to possess weapons."

A top Hamas figure in Gaza, Ahmed al-Bahar, said "Israel has never been in such a state of retreat and weakness as it is today following more than four years of the intifada. Hamas's heroic attacks exposed the weakness and volatility of the impotent Zionist security establishment."

Singer says that Al-Qaida already has a stronghold in Gaza and that the disengagement, supported by U.S. President George Bush among other international leaders, will open the sea

♦ (Continued on page 197)



## Bible & the Newspaper

(Continued from page 196) ♦

port in Gaza, a critical waterway, to increased terrorism.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THE KATRINA "BLAME GAME" BEGINS

(EP)--When it's time to play the blame game in New Orleans, there will be plenty to go around, with some of the fingers that initially pointed to Washington now coming full circle to implicate Louisiana officials.

The Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson, an African American pastor in Los Angeles, had harsh words this week for black elected officials and celebrities who blamed President Bush for the death of thousands of residents, mostly black, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, saying racism was the reason for the slow evacuation of survivors.

"The truth is Black people died not because of President Bush or racism, they died because of their unhealthy dependence on the government and the incompetence of Mayor Ray Nagin and Governor Kathleen Blanco," the Rev. Peterson told Christian Wire Service.

"If Black folks want to blame someone for this tragedy they only need to look in the mirror. Mayor Nagin has blamed everyone else except himself," Peterson added. "The Mayor failed in his duty to evacuate and protect the people of New Orleans. Our prayers go out to the families of the deceased. Hopefully this will help Black people realize the folly of depending on the government or leaders and serve as a notice to avert future tragedies in other cities."

"What Hurricane Katrina exposed was the psychological consequences of the welfare state," wrote Robert Tracinski in the Intellectual Activist explaining the rape, pillage and plunder that followed the hurricane as a "normal" reaction of people who have long lived off of government handouts.

"The welfare state -- and the brutish, uncivilized mentality it sustains and encourages -- is the man-made disaster that explains the moral ugliness that has swamped New Orleans."

Others pointed out the fact that New Orleans and Louisiana had known for years about the area's vulnerability to hurricanes, but had failed to take needed steps to help mitigate storm effects.

Though the mayor of New Orleans, among others, have said that the federal government did not do enough in the years before the disaster, the Orleans Levee Board bragged in 1995 that it had the "most ambitious flood-fighting plan in generations" with an "unprecedented \$140 million building campaign that launched 41 projects." However, the board was near bankruptcy a year later and had broken so many rules in awarding contracts and public bid laws

that the state denied it the authority to refinance debts or issue new ones.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NATION MOURNS CHIEF JUSTICE

(EP)--A caring and quick-witted father with a zest for living or an impeccable legal scholar and principled jurist -- it is hard to say who will miss U.S. Chief Justice William Rehnquist more, those closest to him or the nation he served so well.

A Supreme Court justice for 33 years and chief for the last two decades, 80-year-old Rehnquist died Sept. 3 after a battle with thyroid cancer and was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, but not before being heralded as a hero and a statesman.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick told those gathered at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington that Rehnquist was a "loving father and husband, an outstanding legal scholar, a tireless champion of life and a true lover of the law: in every sense, a great American."

Clerks who had served with the judicial giant said he was "like a second father."

A veteran of the Army Air Forces in World War II, Rehnquist was buried next to his wife, who died in 1991.

While his funeral focused on Rehnquist's personal qualities, many across the nation mourned the loss of a solid conservative leader who often favored states rights over federal government power and was not handcuffed by precedent.

"The Chief Justice consistently countered efforts to make the law rather than interpret the law .... He was a consistent voice on the High Court for religious freedom, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family," said Alan Sears, president of the Alliance Defense Fund.

Breaking ranks with the court majority in 1992, Rehnquist urged fellow justices to abandon the Roe v. Wade ruling and let legislators decide whether abortion should be legal, reminding them that they are not duty-bound to affirm prior rulings.

"Our constitutional watch does not cease merely because we have spoken before on an issue," he wrote. "When it becomes clear that a prior constitutional interpretation is unsound, we are obliged to reexamine the question....(Otherwise), the most outlandish constitutional decision could survive forever."

Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, said it is that kind of sound legal reasoning that will be most missed.

"Liberals were no fans of William Rehnquist's judicial philosophy -- and you can expect them to go full bore in smearing any nominee President Bush puts forward who shares the notion that courts exist to interpret law, not make it."

\*\*\*\*\*

### CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR EXPECTED TO VETO HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE BILL

(EP)--California could become the first state to legalize same-sex marriage through its legislature, but not if Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger sticks to his guns and follows through on a pledge to veto the gay marriage bill "out of respect for the will of the people."

Voters in the state where homosexual couples who register as domestic partners already have many of the same rights of marriage, passed Proposition 22 in 2000 defining marriage as "the union of a man and a woman" by a margin of 61 to 39 percent.

"We cannot have a system where the people vote and the Legislature derails that vote," Schwarzenegger's press secretary, Margita Thompson, said Sept. 7, in a statement.

The governor has until Oct. 9 to issue the veto, which would require a two-thirds vote in both the Assembly and Senate to override. The Assembly approved the gay marriage bill (AB 849) 41-35, while the Senate voted 21-15.

While conservatives celebrated the governor's announcement of the planned veto, some also questioned the timing of the legislature's actions.

"Four years ago, while the nation's eyes were fixed on the devastation in New York City, California's Democrat-controlled Legislature attacked marriage by enacting a sweeping domestic partner bill one day after September 11," said Robert Knight, director of Concerned Women for America's Culture & Family Institute. "While the nation was still reeling from the horrors of Hurricane Katrina, the Legislature voted to blow away marriage completely by doing away with its essential requirement -- that a wedding have a bride and a groom."

"Perhaps they're hoping that Californians are so distracted by the unfolding tragedy in New Orleans that they won't notice their out-of-control politicians in Sacramento."

\*\*\*\*\*

### ONE NATION UNDER GOD? NOT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, JUDGE RULES

(EP) -- "If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under." Words of warning from President Ronald Reagan were echoed this week as Christian leaders across the nation responded to a federal judge's ruling that it is unconstitutional to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools.

U. S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton handed California atheist Michael Newdow a victory in his quest to get the issue before the Supreme Court and indicated he would sign a restraining order preventing children in three Sacramento County school districts

from saying the pledge.

"America is the longest-standing constitutional republic in the history of the world. Yet, if Americans continue to allow humanistic liberals to kick God out of our country, the foundation of our freedoms will be destroyed," said Brannon Howse.

"The founders of our country realized the importance of acknowledging a Creator God who gives us inalienable rights that cannot be taken away by a human government," said Karen England of Capitol Resource Institute. "Stripping away all reference to God in the public square puts us on uncertain footing regarding our inalienable rights. If our rights come from men, they can be taken away by men."

"A reference to God in our pledge has historical significance," England added. "It's a tragedy that an extremist federal judge has now taken away this heritage from our children."

In his ruling, Karlton said the pledge's reference to one nation "under God" violates students' right to be "free from a coercive requirement to affirm God."

William J. Murray, chairman of the Religious Freedom Coalition, pointed out that this "right" does not appear in the Constitution or in any law passed by Congress.

"This is a new 'right' out of the mind of a judge who is out of his mind," said Murray, adding that his Washington, D.C.-based organization is calling on legislators to immediately pass the Pledge Protection Act (HR-2389).

Judge Karlton said he was bound by the 2002 Appeals Court ruling.

If the Appeals Court upholds Karlton's decision, the restraining order preventing the recitation of the pledge would apply to nine western states. A Supreme Court ruling would affect the entire nation.

Karlton's take on the pledge is the opposite of that of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., which ruled last month, via a three-judge panel, that reciting the pledge is a patriotic exercise, not a religious affirmation.

"Undoubtedly, the pledge contains a religious phrase, and it is demeaning to persons of any faith to assert that the words 'under God' contain no religious significance," wrote Judge Karen Williams for the 4th Circuit in August. "The inclusion of those two words, however, does not alter the nature of the pledge as a patriotic activity."

The California ruling, coming in the middle of John Roberts' Supreme Court confirmation hearings, highlights the importance of selecting judges faithful to the Constitution.

"Many judges are bent on rewriting the Constitution to suit their own extremist ideology," England said. "And this does a great disservice to everyone in our

♦ (Continued on page 198)

## Bible & the Newspaper

(Continued from page 198) ♦

country, including our school children who will be most affected by Karlton's ruling."

"If Americans need another example of what the battle over judicial nominations is all about, this ought to do it," said Jan LaRue, CWA's Chief Counsel. "The Seventh Circuit and the Fourth Circuit have upheld the Pledge against these preposterous Establishment Clause arguments. Today's ruling is the ongoing fall-out from the nutty Ninth Circuit ruling in 2002. If anybody thinks Supreme Court nominee John Roberts would make a wacky ruling like this one, not to worry."

\*\*\*\*\*

### GROUP ENCOURAGES PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TEACH BIBLE

(EP)--The National Council on Bible Curriculum for Public Schools (NCBCPS) has released new course work for the classroom and has started a national campaign to get it placed in schools. Family News in Focus reported that many public school teachers and administrators still think any mention of the Bible is banned by law.

Nancy Ridenour, president of NCBCPS, said the curriculum is designed to be an elective course, designed to equip students with a fundamental understanding of the literary and historical value of the Bible.

"The program is concerned with education rather than indoctrination of students," she said. "The central approach of the class is simply to study the Bible as a foundation document of society, and that approach is altogether appropriate in a comprehensive program of secular education."

Steve Crampton, an attorney for the American Family Association, said the Supreme Court has never banned teaching the Bible in public schools. He listed four reasons schools should offer the course.

"First, people want it. Second, our children need it. Third, schools actually like it, believe it or not. And fourth, the laws allow it," he said.

The NCBCPS reports that 90 percent of school boards accept the curriculum once it's presented.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NATIONAL BRIEFS

**NEW ORLEANS**--A handful of die-hard revelers refused Sunday to let Katrina's devastation kill their party spirit or snuff out a famous gay parade. This parade as part of the annual Southern Decadence Day festival (a.k.a. Gay Mardi Gras), that normally draws thousands to New Orleans' French Quarter, was scheduled for this Labor Day weekend. Over 100,000 was expected to attend. Mayor Ray Nagin recognized its importance with an

Official Proclamation to welcome the event. The economic impact on the city was estimated to be in excess of \$95 million.

\*\*\*\*\*

(EP)--A federal appeals court that had ordered a Ten Commandments monument be removed from a city park in Plattsmouth, Neb., last year now says it can stay. The 11-2 ruling from the entire 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed one from one of the court's three-judge panels. According to the Associated Press, the court cited a recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that said a 6-foot-tall granite monument on the grounds of the Texas Capitol -- one of 17 historical displays on the 22-acre lot -- was a legitimate tribute to the nation's legal and religious history and did not violate the Constitution. Similarly, in the Nebraska ruling, Judge Pasco Bowman said the "the Plattsmouth monument makes passive and permissible use of the text of the Ten Commandments to acknowledge the role of religion in our nation's heritage." The monument in Plattsmouth is among hundreds donated to cities and counties around the nation in the 1950s and 1960s by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Lawyers for the town of 7,000 south of Omaha, had argued that the monument is simply a gift from a prominent civic group, not an endorsement of religion. The structure also features two Stars of David. The man who filed the lawsuit said he can see the monument on his way to work each day and when he attends events in the park.

\*\*\*\*\*

(EP)--A self-described Wiccan priestess who won a case against Great Falls, S.C., regarding the town's use of Jesus Christ's name in pre-meeting prayers, is now pushing for the town to pay her more than \$65,000 to cover legal bills. According to Associated Press reports, a judge is expected to rule on the matter within the next two months. Darla Wynne sued Great Falls in 2001, saying that the use of Christ's name in prayers promoted one religion over the other and violated the separation between church and state. She won the case, and the U.S. Supreme Court refused in June to hear the town's appeal of the lower court ruling. The \$65,000, equal to some 7 percent of the town's annual budget, would not be covered by insurance. Wynne's lawyer said the legal expenses totaled only about \$18,000 before the town launched its appeal. But the Rev. Michael Sollers, pastor of Evangel Temple Assembly of God, told the Associated Press that most of the town (population 2,200) supported the council's decision to keep fighting and would be willing to help pay the fees.

\*\*\*\*\*

(EP)--Are those behind the pulpit truly "moved" by God or do they go from

church to church seeking promotions and better pay, like the majority of the job-hopping workforce?

A study released in the September/October issue of "Facts & Trends" magazine shows the majority take a job with a different church because they want to move to a different community, want to lead a larger church, or are seeking a promotion -- not simply because they feel God's nudge to a new post.

\*\*\*\*\*

(EP)--A federal district court judge said the state of Ohio may require girls under the age of 18 to obtain consent from their parents before obtaining an abortion. The ruling Sept. 8 said the law, which has been tied up in the courts for seven years, takes effect immediately. It had been on hold after being challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU has not yet decided whether it will appeal, according to The Associated Press. Although a number of states have parental consent laws, Ohio has had only a parental notification statute until now.

\*\*\*\*\*

(EP)--The number of births to unmarried women hit a record in the United States in 2003, the most recent year for which data has been released. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 1.4 million -- or nearly 35 percent of all births -- were out-of-wedlock. The statistics do not include births to teens, which actually fell for the 12th consecutive year -- down 57 percent from 1991. Bridget Maher, an analyst at the Family Research Council, told the Washington Times there are more births to unmarried women because more women are cohabiting -- and also because they are relying on contraceptives rather than abstinence.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WORLD BRIEFS

(EP)--A Pentecostal preacher accused of hate crimes for denouncing homosexuals will go before Sweden's Supreme Court on Nov. 9, according to an Associated Press report. Ake Green referred to homosexuals as "a deep cancerous tumor on all of society," and warned that Sweden's leniency toward gays could bring a natural disaster. His comments came in a sermon in 2003 on the island of Oland. Green was the first clergyman convicted under Sweden's hate crimes legislation and given a 30-day suspended prison sentence in June 2004. That conviction was overturned in February by an appeals court that ruled it was not illegal to offer a personal interpretation of the Bible and to urge others to follow it. Sweden's chief prosecutor appealed the decision to the Supreme Court. The case has drawn widespread attention in Europe and the United States.

# Under His Wings

By Milburn Cockrell  
(1941 - 2002)

**"The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good. He deviseth mischief upon his bed: he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil. Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light"** (Ps. 36:1-9).

This Psalm was written by David, "the servant of the Lord." In the first four verses he describes the wickedness of an evil man. He lays bare the secret thoughts and intents of the unsaved man's heart. The unregenerate man is seen in his self-flattery and rebellion. Sin is seen in all its colors and causes, in its root and in its branches.

Without a word to break the violence of the transition, the Psalmist set before us the character of God. By this action he seems to say that God is the only hope of the wicked man. We would go mad contemplating the wickedness of the wicked unless we looked to Heaven to God Who purifies evil men. By grace and mercy He cleanses those who rest beneath the shadow of His wings.

### THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

David leaves his distasteful subject of man's sinfulness, and he begins to expound the more delightful subject of the goodness and grace of God. No matter how man may dishonor God by his transgressions, God is unchanged in His nature and attributes. Much is amiss in the world, but there is nothing missing or amiss in the Governor of the world.

### GOD'S INEXHAUSTIBLE GOODNESS

"Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens" (v. 5). If men shut up the bowels of compassion on earth, God in Heaven on His throne does not cease to be merciful. While men think evil of Him on His heavenly throne, He has good thoughts toward them. His mercy flows out to inferior and guilty sinners. Regardless of the disquiet and disappointment on earth, in the heavens the mercy of God reigns in perfection and to eternity. If such were not true, God would destroy the world of

♦ (Continued on page 199)



# Under His Wings

(Continued from page 198) ♦

sinners living today. **"I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God, and not man"** (Hosea 11:9).

Like the blue sky, God's mercy encompasses the whole earth, smiling upon the universe, acting as a canopy for all creatures, surmounting the peaks of all human provocations, rising high above the mist of mortal transgressions. God's mercy is in no way ever altered by the rebellion of sinners. Not until we can measure the heavens will we ever know the bounds of His mercy. His display of mercy to the saved is higher than the heaven of heavens and wider than the universe. **"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him"** (Ps. 103:11).

## GOD'S INVIOLEABLE TRUTH

**"Thy faithfulness reaches unto the sky"** (v. 5 ASV). All wicked men are liars; their words **"are iniquity and deceit."** But God never fails, nor forgets, nor falters, nor forfeits His word. To every word of threat, promise, prophecy, or covenant, God is faithful. He is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He should repent. The Devil and all the demons by all the malice of earth and Hell cannot cause one jot or tittle of His promise to be defeated.

God will not alter the thing that is gone out of His lips. He adheres to His Word. His faithfulness is as fixed as the pillars of Heaven and His immutable throne. The clouds may come and go due to changes in the lower region, but the faithfulness of God remains the same. God's faithfulness reaches so high that it remains unchanged in the actions of men. His faithfulness will endure till the object of it reaches the skies (I Cor. 1:9).

## GOD'S INCONTESTABLE RIGHTEOUSNESS

**"Thy righteousness is like the great mountains"** (v. 6). The Lord is righteous in all His ways. He never did, nor never will do, any wrong to any of His creatures. Even when **"clouds and darkness are round about him,"** yet **"righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne"** (Ps. 97:2). The righteousness of God is undimmed by the mist of man's unrighteousness and despite the lapse of centuries. It knew no beginning and shall know no end. It does not grow weary from winter storms or summer heats. God will never set aside His righteousness, not even to save His elect!

The righteousness of God! How great it is! Who can rise up to it? It is like a great mountain top that pierces the clouds, where no human foot has ever trodden. Godless men may dream of climbing up to Heaven, but no unregenerate person can climb above the towering mountains of God's righteousness. Slumbering avalanches will fall upon him and take him away.

## GOD'S UNSEARCHABLE JUDGMENTS

**"Thy judgments are a great deep"** (v. 6). They cannot be fathomed with the line and plummet of any finite understanding. **"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"** (Rom. 11:33).

God's righteousness is as high as Heaven, and His judgments are as deep as the lowest Hell. His judgments are far and wide, terrible and irresistible like the ocean. At times they appear peaceful, and at other times they are like a great tempest. Like the sea, they are unfathomable and shoreless, deeper than the bed of the ocean.

## GOD'S GREAT LOVINGKINDNESS

**"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God"** (v. 7 ASV). The word translated **"excellent"** may be rendered "precious." No gem in all the world can ever equal in value a sense of God's love and grace. The greatest pearl of the sea is a worthless pebble when compared with the tender mercy of God. The half of it has never been told in song or sermon. Those who know the love of God are rich; without such knowledge men are poor though they gain all the world.

## THE POSITION OF THE BELIEVER

All of verse 7 reads: **"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings"** (v. 7). The believer is under the wings of God because his trust is in the Lord God. There is no other way of getting under the saving, protecting power of God but by faith. It was because Ruth believed that she found refuge under the wings of the Lord God of Israel (Ruth 2:12). The feathers of God's wings are the words of His gospel.

I believe I know what it means to be under the wings of God. I was born on a farm where we had hens and little chickens. Many a time I have seen the little chickens flee to the mother hen when a thunder storm or hawk would come. The old hen would cover them with her wings. There the little chickens were dry and safe.

This figure beautifully set forth how the Lord overshadows His people as a hen protects her brood. When the enemy comes, the believer flees to shelter and rest. God spreads the comfort of His wings, strong and tender, beneath which we may all gather ourselves and nestle. Oh, that men would seek this heavenly shelter!

The words **"put your trust,"** have a beautiful literal meaning. They mean to flee for refuge as a manslayer might flee into the city of refuge. They mean to flee like Lot out of Sodom to the city on the hill, or as David did in the cave from his enemies. They carry the thought of haste and intensity, staying for nothing, going with the effort of one's whole will and nature. Likewise, the sinner must flee to Christ from Hell and harm, from death and the Devil. He must put his entire confidence in Christ.

## THE BLESSINGS ENJOYED

All those who are under the wings of God

enjoy the blessings the psalmist speaks of in verses 8 and 9. Here we see their privilege and happiness. Four distinct facts are stated: (1) satisfaction, represented under the emblem of a feast; (2) joy, represented under the imagery of full draughts from a flowing river; (3) life, pouring from God as a fountain; (4) light, streaming from Him as the source.

## ABUNDANT SATISFACTION

**"They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house"** (v. 8). There may be an allusion here to the festal meal of the priests and worshippers in the Temple on the occasion of the peace-offering. Or this may be a metaphor of God as the Host at a table at which believers are guests.

The clear meaning seems to be that the provision of God's grace will be found amply sufficient for those who hide in Him. The believer shall have his desires supplied and his cravings gratified. Our God is all-sufficient. The Father has given the believer the fatness of His house. Since our Father has such a costly table, why should we go a-begging for the Devil's scraps in the world? To do so is to disgrace our Father's house where there is bread enough and to spare.

By a calm trust in God the whole mass of man's desires are filled and satisfied. God alone can satisfy the needs of a poor and weak creature like man. After billions of hungry men have fed upon Christ, He remains as inexhaustible as at the beginning. Those who have Christ to feed upon know no hunger. **"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger"** (John 6:35).

## FREEDOM FROM THIRST

**"Thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures"** (v. 8). The word **"pleasures"** is the same word translated "Eden" in Genesis, only here it is in the plural number. Those who dwell beneath the Divine wing have a paradisiacal river of delights of which they may drink. The joy of communion with God surpasses all the water in the Garden of Eden.

O blessed river which makes glad the people of God! Our source of joy is not frozen by winter storms or dried up in summer heat. This river is not polluted by scum of putrefaction like a stagnant pond of earthly delight. Jesus said: **"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water"** (John 7:37-38). He again said: **"But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life"** (John 4:14).

## THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

**"For with thee is the fountain of life"** (v. 9). The meaning of these words can never be exhausted. In God is the source of natural life. In Him is the fountain of spiritual and eternal life. All our strength and power comes from Him. He is the Spring and Author of all spiritual actions and the motions toward them.

Wherever there is life there is God: **"For in him we live, and move, and have our**

**being"** (Acts 17:28). The creature is bound to the Creator by a mystic bond of life. The believer is in possession of eternal life because he has a union with Christ. Those severed from Christ have no fountain of spiritual life. They may be alive to lusts and passions, but they are dead to God and the noblest realities.

## CLEARNESS OF VISION

**"In thy light shall we see light"** (v. 9). In the light of His presence we see clearly the light of His truth. When a man lives near God he tends to know what he ought to do. To trust Him is to pass from darkness to light. In His marvelous light, we see light on sin, self, Satan, death and eternal life. Jesus Christ declared: **"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"** (John 8:12).

## CONCLUSION

The sum of the whole matter is that in Christ the believer has life---he has the Bread of Life, the Water of Life, and the Light of Life. He who does not trust under the wings of God is void of spiritual life---he is starving and thirsty---he gropes in the darkness of sin. His life is death, and he is soon to sink into outer darkness. Is this your sad condition? Then flee with great haste to the wings of Jesus Christ saying:

*Other refuge have I none;  
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
All my trust on Thee is stayed,  
All my help from Thee I bring;  
Cover my defenseless head  
With the shadow of Thy wing"*



## BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 8-1-2005 to 8-31-2005

Beginning Deficit.....	\$437.72
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Arthur D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV .....	100.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL .....	36.12
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	1,100.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL.....	60.00
Berea M. B. C., Mansfield, OH.....	50.00
Berea M. B. C., Westpoint, TN.....	150.00
Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX.....	100.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV.....	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	125.00
Cedar Grove B. C., Millport, AL .....	50.00
Charity B. C., Rutherford, NC.....	1,000.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL.....	25.00
Eve Knowles, Scarborough, ME.....	200.00
Faith B. C., Seffner, FL .....	150.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN.....	100.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR.....	25.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME .....	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY.....	100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC .....	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL.....	25.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK.....	35.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC.....	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	100.00
Joseph Jurzec, Richmond, IL .....	25.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM.....	100.00
Leston Farrell, Des Allemands, LA.....	125.00
Martha Hoyle, Mantachie, MS.....	25.00
Morris St. B. C., Hobbs, NM.....	300.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH.....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN .....	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	50.00
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA.....	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	100.00
South Park B. C., Seattle, WA.....	50.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS.....	25.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS.....	50.00
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
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	25.00
Subscriptions .....	485.00
Anon.....	188.00
Sub Total.....	\$5,879.12
TOTAL.....	\$5,441.40
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Printing .....	574.89
Postage .....	982.37
Supplies .....	382.39
Wages .....	2,600.00
FICA .....	281.53
Total Expenditures .....	4,821.18
.....	620.22
Bank Charges.....	19.42
ENDING BALANCE.....	\$600.80



## WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

### *Abortion is Still Murder: Will Judge Roberts Make A Difference?*



Judge John G. Roberts, President Bush's nominee to the Supreme Court, in 1990, co-wrote a legal brief that suggested the Supreme Court overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, the landmark 1973 high court decision that made abortion a constitutional right.

"The court's conclusion in *Roe*. . . that there is a fundamental right to an abortion [...] finds no support in the text, structure or history of the Constitution," the brief said. "We continue to believe that *Roe*. . . was wrongly decided and should be overruled."

But during his 2003 confirmation hearing, the judge said he would be guided by legal precedent.

"*Roe vs. Wade* is the settled law of the land. [...] there is nothing in my personal views that would prevent me from fully and faithfully applying that precedent," Judge Roberts told Senators in May 2003.

The recently passed freedom of access to clinical entrances, (FACE) law facilitates the shameful spread of abortion in America. It is also a blatant violation of the First Amendment's guarantee of peaceable assembly and freedom of speech of the pro-life people who try to persuade expectant mothers to save their babies and not submit to the abortion clinics.

It seems unlikely, however, that the current liberal U.S. Supreme Court will strike down this (FACE) law. Most of the justices have already disclosed their pro-abortion positions.

Will Judge Roberts make a difference?

Indeed, the United States probably has the most liberal abortion laws in the world with the possible exception of the People's Republic of China (Red China). Abortion is now legal in every state in the Union for the full nine months of pregnancy.

Abortion is murder. It is child abuse in the cruelest form. The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment says plainly, "**Thou shalt not kill.**" Moses wrote about the sanctity of life in the womb in Exodus 21:22-23 when he decreed a "Life for a life" as punishment for harming a pregnant woman.

Right to life committees have been formed in all 50 states: From the Alaska Right to Life Committee in Anchorage to the Florida Right to Life, Inc. in Orlando and from Hawaii Right to Life Committee in Honolulu to the Maine Right to Life Committee in Augusta---all coordinated by the National Right to Life Committee, Inc. in Washington, D.C., led by President Wanda Franz, Ph.D.

These people are fighting to save lives, and a good part of their effort is directed at TV and radio executives, writers, directors, producers and Hollywood actors and producers who poison us with anti-religious, anti-family and anti-life themes which permeate news and entertainment today. The television networks, of course, are ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX and CNN.

The fight is also against flip-flop politicians, radical feminists, liberal judges and the national Organization for Women as well as the national media whose members continuously promote abortion in their entertainment and news programs.

A few statistics will illustrate the extent of "Legalized" murder in the United States: 4,500 babies are killed every day, or 1,642,500 every year. An estimated 31,000,000 have been killed since 1973 when the Supreme Court legalized abortion on demand. Therefore, in 32 years we have destroyed a whole generation of children, over ten percent of the population of the United States.

Abortion is simply killing for hire. During early pregnancy, the doctor charges \$250 to \$300. During the later stages, the price goes up; and in some instances, the fee is determined by the length of the baby's foot, the older the baby, the higher the killing fee.

These unborn babies are torn limb from limb. There are no obituaries, no funerals, no mourners. An estimated 171 babies are murdered every hour by legal abortions in clinics protected by the Freedom of Access to Clinical Entrances Law.

The media have largely remained silent about these killings, treating them as normal procedures and protecting participants. But the media have no problems or qualms about ridiculing and denigrating the pro-life movement

whose supporters are called "Extremists" and "Fanatics," Catholic, Evangelicals, Fundamentalists and the "Radical Right." On the other hand, the activities of the anti-life abortionists are described as "Deep Commitment."

The major TV networks gave Bill Clinton and Al Gore a free ride during the 1992 presidential campaign despite the fact they were the most pro-abortion ticket in political history. The life-and-death issue was largely ignored, and the American public was never given the true story.

In January 1994, the pro-life rally in Washington attracted almost 100,000 marchers, but this major event was down-played by the media. However, in 1989 when the pro-abortionists marched, the media called it the largest demonstration in American history. The *Washington Post* put it in its society columns because so many Hollywood celebrities participated. Phil Donahue was there. So were Peter, Paul, and Mary, and of course, Jane Fonda, along with Glenn Close, Cybil Sheppard, Morgan Fairchild, Mary Crosby and Susan Sarandon to name a few.

The news media were interested in the big stars---not in the fact that they were glorifying the murders of 31,000,000 babies since *Roe vs. Wade*.

Almost totally ignored by the media was the huge national Right to Life rally of more than 350,000 pro-life marchers in April 1990, in Washington. This was truly one of the largest demonstrations in American history, but the *Washington Post* gave it only two short articles.

Ted Turner's CNN-TV reported that only 60,000 pro-life demonstrators showed up. Turner, the broadcast king, habitually calls the pro-life supporters "idiots" and "bozos."

The media are waving the pro-abortion banner and promoting the killing of unborn babies. They contribute mightily to the downfall of America. Abortion is part of the immorality of our country. It will be stopped only when morality returns. Morality will not return unless people change. Will they change?

The Bible offers the sure agent of change, and the author of the Book of II

Chronicles said it plainly in Chapter 7, verse 14, "**If my people. . . shall humble themselves. . . and turn from their wicked ways. . . then will I. . . forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**"

Will John Roberts make a difference?

John Roberts looks like Senator Charles E. Schumer's (D-NY) worst nightmare. Mr. Schumer's frustration is pro-found because Mr. Robert's conservative legal colleagues consider him another Antonin Scalia, but without the fireworks.

(Excerpts are from previous writings of Capt. Evans. He lives with his wife, Anne, in Norfolk, VA).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Silsbee, TX is having their 21st Annual Bible Conference on October 21st - 23rd. Services will begin Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. A snack will be provided at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will continue thru the weekend concluding at noon on Sunday.

For further details contact Pastor Tom Horn at (409) 385-9344

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Northport, AL will be having a meeting December 9<sup>th</sup> thru the 11<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker will be Missionary Raymond Bennett of Ithaca, NY. Service times are: Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday (which is the area fellowship) at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday services at regular time. For more information contact Pastor Todd Bryant at (205) 242-8466 or email [ToddBryant@charter.net](mailto:ToddBryant@charter.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS will be holding their Sixth Annual Bible Conference on December 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 4<sup>th</sup>. Services begin on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. with an evening meal provided at 5:00 p.m. All noon and evening meals will be provided by the church women. Scheduled speakers are: Elders Bill McDaniel, Arthur Blevins, Daniel Pope, Jack Green, David O'Neal, Orville Heath, Roger Dohrer, Royce Smith, Larry Wilson, Jerry Dodson and Tom Horn. For further information contact Bro. Edwin Roberts at (620) 845-2164 or email [Roberts@kanokla.net](mailto:Roberts@kanokla.net) or Bro. Gale Wyckoff at (620) 845-6624 or email [pm67022@kanokla.net](mailto:pm67022@kanokla.net).

## ARTICLE INDEX

Bible and the Newspaper .....	p. 196
Bits of Wisdom for the Young and Old.....	p. 189
<b>Comprising Baptists or Does the Truth Matter Anymore? Pt. 2</b> by Roger Reed..	p. 184
Forum .....	pp. 190 - 191
<b>Glorify of the Latter House</b> by Paul Stepp .....	p. 181
Hen Talk.....	p. 187
<b>I Am Looking for Sinners</b> by Curtis Pugh.....	p. 181
<b>Objections to the Doctrine of Election</b> by David O'Neal .....	p. 181
<b>Run, Run, But You Can't Get Away</b> by Roy Mason .....	p. 181
<b>Simmer Down Before Sundown</b> by Milburn Cockrell.....	p. 181
<b>The Source of Contentions</b> by Milburn Cockrell (Sermon Outline) .....	p.194
<b>Under His Wings</b> by Milburn Cockrell .....	p. 199
<b>What God is Saying to Us in the Flowers</b> by J. B. Hawthorne.....	p. 181
World Scene: <i>Abortion is Still Murder ...</i> by G. Russell Evans .....	p. 200

### BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 8-1-2005 to 8-31-2005

Beginning Balance .....	\$3,415.31
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	225.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN .....	50.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....	100.00
.....	375.00
TOTAL .....	3,790.31
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Radio Time .....	360.00
Postage .....	12.45
Tape production (Jan-Aug) .....	350.00
Dividing check .....	125.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	847.45
.....	\$2,942.86
Interest .....	+1.06
.....	2,943.92
Less Corbin, KY fund balance .....	531.52
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$2,412.40
<b>CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT</b>	
Beginning Balance .....	\$691.52
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
WCCT .....	160.00
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$531.52