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High Court Still Hostile to Religion

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia

Whatever in today's world comes down on the side of righteousness of moral stability for our nation, we can depend, in many cases, on the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to sue, the Supreme Court to outlaw and Big Media to ridicule and misrepresent.

Santa Fe football. A near-perfect example is the recent 6-3 Supreme Court ruling, on the ACLU case, to outlaw voluntary prayer before high school football games in Santa Fe, Texas. These customary prayers, led by elected student volunteers, focused on good sportsmanship and protection of the young athletes—definitely a righteous and uplifting operation.

Negatory, said Justice John Paul Stevens, we know better: "Worship is a responsibility and choice for the pri-



G. Russell Evans

the separatists and nowhere found in our Constitution. The First Amendment, as most everyone knows, simply says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

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v a t e sphere," and we mustn't trample on the "constitutional separation of church and state."

T h i s "separation" phrase is an invention of

Coming Persecution of Christians in America

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Tim. 3:12-13).

In verse 12 of the text the words "that will" points to those whose will is enlisted in being committed Christians. These have made it an abiding determination to live a godly life. Such a life is not natural to the human heart. It can only be lived "in Christ Jesus," in vital union and communion with the risen Christ. Jesus Christ is the only source of a truly godly life.

Because of the abiding antagonism of the world to godly living, persecution is the natural lot of the godly: ". . . All that will live godly in Christ



Milburn Cockrell

character. Because of his opinions he may be held up to ridicule, or treated with neglect, or excluded from society, or shunned by those who might otherwise value his friendship. This persecution takes different forms in

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J E S U S S H A L L S U F F E R P E R S E C U T I O N . " This persecution consists of subjecting a person to injury or disadvantage on account of his Christian

Our Eternal Home

By Robert Lee

(Now in his eternal home)

"Half an hour in Heaven, and I am ready for anything," was the testimony of a poor working man. He meant much more than merely having a heavenly time in public worship or private devotion, though naturally that is a good preparation for the walk of life. He meant meditating on Heaven, yea, visiting that blessed abode in heart and mind; but more even than that—for we are *living in Heaven*. That is true of us *positionally*, as Ephesians 1:3 and 2:6 declare; that is also true of us *experimentally*, as Matthew 6:21 shows. Christ, our best beloved, our heart's treasure, is there, and therefore in consequence we are there.

Fifty years ago, our fathers dwelt much on this subject—so much so that many began to think that the sole, or primary object of our Redeemer was to take us to Heaven. Have we not gone to the other extreme? The Gos-

pel prepares us to live; and because prepared to live we are prepared to die. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be

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The First Marriage

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an helpmeet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to

the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And

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Sodomites in the Land!

By John Osburn

Greensboro, North Carolina

My text shall come from I Kings 14:22-24 which reads: "And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had

committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. AND THERE WERE ALSO SODOMITES IN THE LAND: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel."

The word "Sodomite" means "a sacred person, a male devotee (by prostitution) to licentious idolatry, unclean." The Hebrew word that "Sodomite" comes from means "to be (make, pronounce or observe as) clean (ceremonially or morally): appoint, bid, consecrate, dedicate, defile, purify, sanctify, keep, prepare, proclaim."

So what we have in the word "Sodomite" is a description of what is ex-

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



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... Hostile to Religion

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School prayer helped. For 170 years, our country got along just fine with school prayers which have hurt not a soul but, many say, helped immensely in suppressing violence and other lawlessness in our educational system.

Then, in 1970, along came the highly-educated lawyers, theologians and journalists out of Yale, Harvard and Columbia and other elitist institutions with their socialist mission to remake America. The schools and school children were vulnerable targets for their brave new world and the new super-educated and hair-splitting lawyers, all superior to other mortals, were happy to take on the task.

For sure, it's no idle cliché to say, "The more lawyers, the more trouble" or even, "The more lawyers, the less justice."

Court plays mum. Even so, three Supreme Court justices refused to go alone with outlawing these customary prayers before Santa Fe football games. My effort to obtain their names from Ella Hunter of the Court's Public Information Office was an ex-

ercise in futility.

First, the lady said she didn't know and then, hung up on me. When I called back, she promised to mail a copy of the hearing—all in all, suggesting that the Supreme Court of the United States may prefer not to bother with nosy taxpayers.

When the Court says Santa Fe football players are engaged in "formal prayer" and executing "a government-sponsored religious practice that violates student rights to worship as they choose," the Justices are stretching the limits of credibility and making their own law from their high bench position. The Constitution is left behind!

Prayer in Court is OK. When asked to justify the Supreme Court practice of opening each session with the appealation that "God save this honorable court," the rationalization is that it's "customary." So, what's wrong with "customary" school prayers—and if Jews, Muslims, Hindus and atheists are offended, offer them equal prayer time.

One editorialist condemns the minute of silence observed today in many schools as "government efforts to foster religion." So, do we institute mind-control too, i.e., set the boundaries students are allowed to think about? Sure enough, within 48 hours of the Santa Fe ruling, the Virginia ACLU sued to overturn the moment of silence as "promoting school prayer." Shame on the ACLU and Director Kent Willis—and shame on the Supreme Court if it takes this case!

What do people say? Julie Underwood of the National School Boards Association praised the Santa Fe decision and will now advise local school boards to ban student-led prayers at graduation also.

Said Jessica Valenta of Green Run High School, Virginia Beach, "pre-game prayer is important for me. I really enjoy it!"

Two-thirds of the public want student-led prayers (ABC TV Poll, March 2000). Three-fourths of students say, "Prayer is an important influence in our lives," (Gallup Youth Survey, April 2000).

In his *Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx calls freedom and justice eternal truths, adding, "But Communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion and morality."

Nonetheless, the Supreme Court is continuing its hostility towards religion which peaked in 1985 with seven anti-religion rulings, the most in the Court's 195-year history. A cruel example is the 1985 *Anguilar v Felton* case in which the Court struck down remedial studies that had been worked out between public and parochial schools to benefit 300,000 poor chil-

dren of New York. Consequently, these disadvantaged children were denied basic and fundamental learning by a Court hell-bent to show who's boss.

America's underpinning. Before 1947, Americans, almost universally, understood the religion was the underpinning of our nation, namely Christianity. Religious principles and morality are implicit parts of our common law. In 1676, Sir Matthew Hale of the King's Bench called Christianity a part of the common law of the land—later incorporated into US laws.

Chief Justice Joseph Story (1779-1845), one of America's most respected jurists, found "no wall of separation" but instead that "government should and does aid religion for the general welfare of the country." Otherwise, we decay into humanism and eventually, anarchy.

In 1969, Justice Tom Clark of the Warren Supreme Court said, "The First Amendment never meant a majority could use the machinery of state to practice its beliefs." What "machinery"? The one that approves "God" on our coins, opening prayers for the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives and in oaths of witnesses?

School prayer amendment. In 1983, Congress rejected the proposed Constitutional Amendment for voluntary school prayer that said, in part: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions."

Approval of such an Amendment could have removed the hypocrisy of opening their sessions with prayer while a school teacher in Junction City, Tennessee would be violating the Constitution to allow prayer.

Our Founding Fathers revered prayer and religion as the foundations of our country and called on God, our Creator and Supreme Judge by name in our Declaration of Independence. Benjamin Franklin advised the Constitutional Convention of the "need for daily prayer. . . for divine protection."

Leave the Constitution alone. Thomas Jefferson in his Second Inaugural Address warned that "religious exercise should be left as the Constitution found them." It is inconceivable that Jefferson or Franklin could interpret voluntary school prayer as unconstitutional.

President Reagan spoke strongly in favor of voluntary school prayer: "No one will ever convince me that a moment of voluntary prayer will harm a child or threaten school or state." Nonetheless, Dr. James M. Dunn of the Baptist Joint Committee calls this Reagan statement "despicable dema-

gogery for the president to play petty politics with prayer."

The Southern Baptists, America's largest Protestant denomination, support the proposed prayer amendment 3 to 1. Most other mainline churches have been opposed, despite nearly 75 percent public approval.

Social gospel threatened. The mainline churches and their National and World Councils of Churches apparently feel that voluntary school prayer will threaten their social gospel. Some years ago, Dr. James Wall of the *Christian Century* magazine was urging church leaders to "increase efforts to provide religious training to school children." Voluntary prayer should be a priority.

Our First Amendment does not separate church and state, but merely prohibits a state religion. It frees us for religion, not from religion. It keeps the state out of religious regulation, but does not keep religious principles out of government.


It should be troubling to our Congress, Supreme Court and media that the US policy on school prayer is the same as the former Soviet Union's policy—and now the Russian policy.

In conclusion. John Paul Stevens and the other Justices hostile to voluntary school prayer and to all other religious overtones in our educational system are finding things in the Constitution that simply are not there. Constitutional scholars have said that for the past fifty years. As our culture changes, many Justices are changing the Constitution to fit their own agendas.

Obviously, most Supreme Court Judges value legal hair-splitting and legislating their own agendas from the bench in preference to generations of historical precedents and national customs that have served so well to make America great by helping to instill character, honor and morality into our greatest national treasures—our future leaders, the precious school children of America.

(Captain Evans has written extensively on religious and national policy matters. He lives in Norfolk, Va.)





Cockrell's
Corner

(The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the editor of this paper. They do not necessarily represent the views of supporters or readers.)

GLEANINGS ON PERSEVERANCE

In the oldest book of the Bible it is written: **"The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger"** (Job 17:9). By strenuous effort a true believer holds on his way though there is much to discourage him and there are many evil powers to resist him. Many afflictions may befall him in his way, and men may cast many reproaches upon him as he travels in the way of righteousness, but he will hold out faithful until death. The person who does this has a clean hand and a clean heart washed in the blood of Jesus. Such a person will not only hold on his way, but will **"grow stronger and stronger."** An Arminian would have said that he would "grow weaker and weaker," for he denies the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints. A righteous man will advance in strength of his attachment to God. He will become more confirmed in his religious principles.

"FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH"

In Psalm 84:7 it is written: **"They (the pilgrim of Zion) go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God."** The literal Hebrew may read: "Going they increase in strength until they shall appear before God to Zion." If an Arminian had written the Bible, it would have read: "They go from strength to weakness, and very few of them shall appear in Zion." But the Bible says a saint goes **"from strength to strength."** Progress is the great law of life. Where there is life, there is progress. As we travel toward the heavenly Zion, we bear trials better; we overcome difficulties more easily; we walk more cheerfully and triumphantly. None of the pilgrim in the highway of holiness perish during the journey; they will all appear

before God in the heavenly Zion (John 10:28; Heb. 2:13; Jude 24).

"SHINETH MORE AND MORE"

King Solomon wrote: **"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day"** (Prov. 4:18). Those made alive unto God are lights **"in the Lord"** (Eph. 5:8), and they **"walk in the light, as he is in the light"** (I John 1:7). Their light shines before men (Matt. 5:16). They are not like a meteor or a candle which burns out, but like the sun which shines more and more (Ps. 19:4-5; Matt. 13:43). Arminians would write that the light of a believer shines "less and less," but the Bible says **"more and more."** This illustrates gradual growth and increases of the saved in knowledge, holiness, and joy until they be perfected and swallowed up in glory. We shall never know perfection during our days on earth, but the Spirit of the everlasting covenant will bring us to a day without cloud, without night, without morning, without evening.

"GRACE FOR GRACE"

In John 1:16 it is written: **"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."** The expression **"grace for grace"** means God gives us grace to receive more grace. There is always a constant, fresh, abundant supply of new grace to take the place of old grace. This unfailing supply of grace is continually filling up and supplying all our needs. The great principle of the kingdom of Heaven is: **"For whosoever hath, to him shall be given"** (Luke 8:18). Those saved by grace cannot live a life of disgrace because of the constant flow of grace from Christ who is **"full of grace"** (John 1:14). Thank God that **"of his fullness have all we received."** The Bible knows nothing of Christ exhausting His grace.

"FROM FAITH TO FAITH"

I read in Romans 1:17: **"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: The just shall live by faith."** The phrase **"from faith to faith"** is literally "out of faith into faith." The righteousness provided by God springs out of faith and is adapted to a life of faith. We go from a lower degree of faith to a higher degree of faith. We do not go from faith to unbelief as Arminians teach. Paul commended the Thessalonian church: **". . . because that your faith groweth exceedingly. . ."** (II Thess. 1:3).

"FROM GLORY TO GLORY"

II Corinthians 3:18 declares: **"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the**

Spirit of the Lord." True Christians behold the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in the written Word as revealed by the Holy Spirit. This view of the glory of Christ causes us to be transformed from one glorious stage of spiritual growth to another. We go from victory to victory (Rom. 8:37), from doctrine to doctrine, from virtue to virtue (II Peter 1:4-7). We go **"from glory to glory,"** not from glory to shame and Hell. The changing of the redeemed into the likeness of Christ is progressive.

HOW TO SHUT UP THE KINGDOM

Jesus Christ came to open up the kingdom of Heaven and to bring people to be subjects of it. The scribes and Pharisees rejected Jesus as the Messiah and tried to convince the people He was an impostor. They took away the key of knowledge (Luke 11:52) and hindered men from receiving Christ and entering into God's kingdom. Jesus said of them: **"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in"** (Matt. 23:13).

The scribes and Pharisees of the first century shut up the kingdom of Heaven by false interpretation of the Scriptures, by not allowing them to testify of Christ. Many false teachers are doing this in our day. They would prevent men from entering the kingdom by adding something to the sacrifice of Christ. Some say you must have Christ and baptism to enter the kingdom. Others contend you must have Christ and Mary to enter the kingdom. Still others would say that you need Christ and a signed decision card. Such teachings shut up the kingdom to those who might seek to enter into it.

A general truth is seen in Matthew 23:13: Hypocrisy hinders men of all classes from learning the truth. As it were, it shuts the door of truth. Those who desire the truth are repelled by seeing the manifest untruthfulness of such preachers and professors (Matt. 23:3-7). Consequently they are led to reject the truth. Paul said of the hypocritical Jews in his day: **"For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you. . ."** (Rom. 2:24).

One of the greatest curses upon the present-day church is inconsistent Christians. There is a growing immorality in our churches from the pulpit to the pew. Baptists now lead all other religious groups in divorce! No true believer doubts but what many Bap-

tist churches have more goats than sheep. Much of this is due to Arminian evangelism which produces stony-ground hearers (Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21), but sovereign gracers are not totally innocent on this charge.

According to the book *Preaching to a Dying Nation*, the estimate of the number of lost people in our churches is as follows: (1) B. R. Laken - 75%; (2) W. A. Criswell - 75%; (3) Billy Graham - 85%; and (4) A. W. Tozer - 90% (p. viii). The late Rosco Brong put the number at 75% some years ago. Think of it! Some 75 percent of people in the United States claim to be Christians, and religious leaders say 75% of these are hypocrites headed to Hell! We are guilty of shutting up the kingdom of Heaven just like the scribes and Pharisees in Christ's day.

Brethren, we need a revival in our land. We need to return to the old paths. What we do not need is more inconsistent Christians who shut up the kingdom of Heaven to those who seek to enter into it.

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different countries and in different ages. But since the days of Cain and Abel, the basic hostility of the ungodly for the godly remains unchanged.

Another reason for the suffering of the godly is the growing degeneracy of this wicked world. Contrary to the teaching of some of our postmillennial friends, the antagonism of the ungodly will not diminish because **"evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."** Things are not going to get better. Rather things will go from bad to worse. This is one of the reasons why the persecution of the godly cannot cease. The verb rendered **"was"** is translated **"proceed"** in verse 9 of this same chapter of II Timothy, and it means "to advance." Claiming to be "progressive," the wicked world will make progress, but only in moral and spiritual degeneracy.

PRETRIB DOES NOT PRECLUDE PERSECUTION

Opponents of pretribulation rapturists accuse us of believing that Christians are going to escape all bad times upon this earth. This is totally incorrect. Pretrib premillennialists are not ignorant of the sufferings of Israel in the Old Testament. We are fully aware of how Christians suffered in the apostolic age. We are also aware of the 50,000,000 who dies for their faith in the Dark Ages. We know also that Christians in various countries of the world are dying on as great a scale

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as they did in the Middle Ages. Furthermore, we believe that persecution will increase as we near the end of the age and culminate in the worse time of trouble and tribulation the world has ever witnessed.

It is true pretrib premillennialists believe the church will escape the seven-year tribulation period at the end of this present age. As we see it, this seven-year tribulation period is designed to bring the nation of Israel to repentance and to the reception of Jesus as the Messiah. The doctrine of a special tribulation period for Israel is Old Testament doctrine (Deut. 4:29-30; Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 20:33-34; Dan. 9:24-27; 12:1). It is the **"time of Jacob's trouble"** (Jer. 30:7), not the time of the church's trouble. The church is prepared for the millennial kingdom by the judgment seat of Christ, not the seven-year tribulation period.

Pretrib premillennialists believe that true Christians have suffered, are suffering, and will continue to suffer as long as they are upon this earth. There is nothing in Scripture which says that Christians in America may not suffer persecution on even a great scale prior to the rapture. Christians in America are no more exempt from persecution than Christians in China or Cuba. In truth, any Christian should be able to see that we are very soon to be severely persecuted here in America by the global socialists who now run our country.

THE DOCTRINE OF PERSECUTION

The story of God's people is a story of persecution and martyrdom. From **"the blood of righteous Abel"** (Matt. 23:35) until this present hour there has always been a "trail of blood." The godly have often **"resisted"** the forces of evil **"unto blood"** (Heb. 12:4). The elect of God have been misrepresented and lied upon by the non-elect for centuries: **"Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me**

for evil" (Ps. 56:5). Jesus Christ said: **"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you"** (John 15:18-19).

In salvation we are not only given faith to believe in Christ, but we are also given the privilege to suffer for Christ: **"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake"** (Phil. 1:29). Christ's body on earth, His church, must **"suffer afflictions"** (Col. 1:24). Hebrews 13:13 commands us: **"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."** Simon Peter wrote: **"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. . . . Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God. . ."** (I Pet. 4:12-14, 16-17).

It is clear from II Timothy 3:12 that if a person becomes a Christian, he or she must be prepared to be persecuted. Any person who is unwilling to suffer for Christ is not a Christian and should not be able to obtain membership in any Christian church. We can expect to be treated by the wicked world and apostate religions as our Master and the company of priests, prophets, apostles, and martyrs. Those Christians who are never persecuted by the world and false religions, do not live godly. They are hypocrites, mere nominal Christians

who do not know Christ as their Savior. The world loves a compromising Christian and it hates a committed Christian.

Being a follower of Jesus Christ may cost you your life: **"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it"** (Matt. 10:39; & Luke 14:26). He who does love Christ more than his natural life is not a true disciple. Our Lord warned His disciples of possible martyrdom: **"And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved"** (Matt. 20:21-22).

GLOBAL SOCIALISM

The global socialists desire to create a world system of financial control to dominate the political system of each country upon this earth. This elitist group of socialists include many of the corporate and financial leaders of the world. A great number of these are up to their eyeballs in the occult, witchcraft, the new age, and Satanism. This New World Order they seek to create is the Devil's mock millennium—the kingdom of the final Antichrist.

At present a number of things stand in the way of their goal of global government. There is the United States Constitution and 300 million firearms in the hands of 100 million Americans. Then there are millions of Bible-believing Christians who oppose the New World Order because they believe it to be the kingdom of Antichrist. These obstacles must be removed or neutralized before this global government can become a reality. Hence we can expect the coming persecution of Christians in America and other countries around the world.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

America is somewhat like Nazi Germany in the early 1930s. I want to point out some parallels between Nazi Germany in the 1930s and America in the year 2000.

First, in Germany in the 1930s there was a preoccupation with death. The Germans killed 40 percent of all babies conceived. This led to killing of the crippled and handicapped. At one time in the 1930s the Nazis emptied out hospitals, clinics, and sanitariums, killing 275,000. This finally led to the slaughter of 6,000,000 Jews. The United States is headed down this same road. Since the Supreme Court legalized baby killing some 40,000,000 babies have been murdered by abortion.

Second, the Nazis passed thousands

of rules and regulations to control every aspect of the German people's lives. Christians who sent money out of the country to missionaries had their assets seized under Nazi money-laundering laws. In America each year Congress writes and passes at least 2,000 new laws. The Washington bureaucracy (EPA, FDA, FBI, BAFT, IRS, etc.) writes down 86,000 pages of regulations each year to implement these laws of Congress. Because some 250,000 Americans violate these rules and regulations, they are fined and even have their property seized. How soon will it be before Christians, considered politically incorrect, will be fined, arrested, and stripped of all their assets? God only knows.

Third, Hitler completely ignored the German Constitution. Our leaders take an oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution, and then it seems they can't wait to break it for the benefit of their cronies. Hundreds of Executive orders by our President are carefully designed to circumvent the U.S. Constitution.

Fourth, the German people rejected their Christian heritage and national heroes. The liberals, socialists, and globalists in America have been aiding us in doing this for years. It has been done on such a scale until it is no longer "politically correct" to quote the Founding Fathers or the U.S. Constitution in public forum or in the media. The liberals and leftists view this as bad as quoting from the Bible.

Fifth, the Nazis passed gun control laws to disarm the German people so the elitists could set up a dictatorship. Hitler bragged: "1935 will go down in history! For the first time a civilized nation has full gun registration! Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead in the future." The far-left socialists in America talk openly about disarming the American people in defiance of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. That Amendment says that "the right of people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed upon."

Sixth, in Germany in the 1930s there was control of the radio, press, and films. The idea was to eliminate all press in opposition to the Party. A wayfaring man, though a fool, should be able to see that the new media of America is under the control of global socialists. We have a few presses in America—they are free to tell any socialist versions of the story they want to tell! They are free to engage in Christian bashing every day of the week.

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Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	101.5	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WYWY, Barbourville, KY	Sunday 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	950	1,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

Coming Persecution

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The news media is presently demonizing Christians. They are waging war on the church, the Bible, and God.

Lie No. 1: *Christians are enemies of pleasure, enjoyment, and fulfillment.*

Reply: We believe that the greatest pleasure is to do God's good pleasure, yet we do not oppose earthly pleasures which are not against holy Scriptures. The Christian has a joy which is not changed by outward circumstances. Hence the joy of the Lord which a Christian has is superior to any worldly laughter. As Christians we believe that the greatest fulfillment is to know God and enjoy Him forever. Psalm 16:11 declares: **"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."**

Lie No. 2: *Christians are enemies of democracy. Conservative Christians want political power to create a theocracy with places of leadership only for those who agree with them.*

Reply: Christians are the greatest promoters of democracy. Thomas Jefferson would often attend a Baptist Church near his home in Virginia. The pastor one day asked Mr. Jefferson what he thought of the democratic form of government in the Baptist Church. He replied: "It interest me much. I consider it the only form of true democracy now existing in the world, and have concluded it would be the best form for the government of these American Colonies" (*History of Religions of the World*, pp. 492-493, 1883 edition). The U.S. Constitution and many of the laws of the land are based upon the Bible. Real Christians make the best citizens as their religion teaches them to obey the laws of the land. I Peter 2:13-15 declares: **"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so in the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."**

Lie No. 3: *Christians are the enemies of women.*

Reply: There are more women who are Christians than there are men. Christianity has done more to exalt women than any religion on the face of the earth. Christianity teaches a husband to love his wife with the sacrificial love which Christ had for His church (Eph. 5:25).

Lie No. 4: *Christians are enemies of the environment.*

Reply: Christians believe the earth is the handiwork of God. They believe it is their duty to keep it beautiful for the Creator and for the benefit of all mankind. We do not believe as evolutionary pantheists that the earth is god and greater than mankind. We believe that the earth was given to the children of men to use for their benefit (Gen. 1:26).

THE CHAIN MUST BE BROKEN

God intended that mothers and fathers should teach the coming generation the truth of God and Bible morality. Jehovah told Israel: **"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up"** (Deut. 6:6-7). For many years here in America our homes and public schools did this. Now God and the Bible have been kicked out of the schools and condoms, drugs, and guns have been brought in. Children are now being told there are no absolutes—no right or wrong. They say man came from a monkey, and all evil conduct must be excused because the kids are merely giving vent to the animal instinct. The real teachers in the American home are the TV set and the computer.

Years ago secular humanists said children should be kept in government schools most of the day and busy at night with homework so their parents would have little time and influence over them. By this means in one generation the schools could break the influence of the parents and their religious teachings on the children. To further break the parents hold and religious teaching, children would be taught anti-religious thinking and allowed free sex and drugs. The children would be programmed to be obedient, passive serfs in an emerging global neighborhood.

Global socialists and the far left want to pass international laws emancipating children and restricting parents' rights to raise their children as they see fit. Since 1989 they have been pushing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has been ratified in 189 countries and the Clinton Administration wants the U.S. Senate to ratify it. If this is passed, it will utterly destroy parental rights, control, or influence over their children, making children in America the property of the state. Under this treaty, parents who resist state control over their children will be "re-educat-

ed," if possible. If this fails, they will be jailed and have their children taken from them. Global socialists look upon all parents as child abusers. Hillary Clinton has written a book on the government control of children (i.e., *It Takes a Village*).

The global socialists want to control church, children, and employment, or I might say faith, family, and finance.

THE STAGES OF PERSECUTION

Persecution of any religious group always undergoes four states. First, there is identifying and pushing a religious group out of the mainstream to the margins of society. The global socialists have used the media to brainwash the American public into believing that Christians are mentally impaired and opposed to social progress on birth control and terminal illness. It is being said that Christians are conspiracy nuts, religious wackos, racists, hatemongers, politically incorrect, and right-wing extremists. Because of Christians' radical views, they must be kept out of political parties, schools and colleges, the films, and government jobs.

Second, this religious group must be demonized in the minds of the majority of the people. Today Christians are being portrayed as anti-patriotic and as a very real danger to the American way of life. The global socialists present Christians as ignorant, unscientific, crackpots, insane, violent extremists who plan to take over America and impose our radical views on everyone.

Third, there is the putting of legal restrictions on the religious group and eventually the criminalization of the activities of the group. This has already started in the United States. It is becoming illegal to spank your child, to teach homosexuality is wrong, to oppose abortion, or to pray in public schools or in front of an abortion clinic. Such things are now considered child abuse and hate crimes. On the other hand, it is politically correct to bash Christians and hate them.

Fourth, there comes false accusations, arrests, detentions, imprisonments, tortures, and executions. This is the last and final state. In America we are in the third stand, and we have not yet come to the fourth. But we can expect more events in the near future like Waco and Ruby Ridge.

THE WHY OF THIS

Judgment must begin at the house of God. Soon Christians throughout the world will experience a time of great persecution. This judgment for Christians will culminate with the judgment seat of Christ in Heaven. God will judge especially American

Christians because they have become cold, callous, and complacent. We fight among ourselves when we should be fighting the enemies of God and Christ. This persecution will divide the real Christians from false professors. Those nominal Christians converted under humanistic evangelism will become our persecutors. False religion always persecuted true religion.

Christians must stand up and be counted; otherwise, we will be counted out. Martin Niemoeller, a Lutheran pastor who was sent to the Dachau Concentration Camp in 1938, said: "In Germany, the Nazis came for the communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade Unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Finally they came for me, but there was no one left to speak up."

CONCLUSION

1. Bible-believing and Bible-obeying Christians in America had better prepare for a time of persecution, imprisonment and possible martyrdom. We are the greatest obstacle to the one-world government. The global socialists must silence our voice and destroy our influence; otherwise, they cannot complete the kingdom of Antichrist. Things are going to get real bad in America in the next few years.

2. Our Christianity is going to be sorely tried. Things are going from bad to worse, although we should resist this trend with all our might. Very soon it will become very unpopular to be a follower of Jesus Christ in America, as it already is in many countries of the world. As Christian soldiers, we must put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand in this evil day (Eph. 6:11-18).

3. Christ suffered for His elect people. It will be our privilege to suffer for Him and His cause. Remember my text said: **"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."**

Here Comes the Bride!

by Milburn Cockrell

\$7.95

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Our Eternal Home

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like His" (Num. 23:10), was the prophet Balaam's desire, yet not granted, because he was not prepared to live the life of the righteous.

To meditate on Heaven should be no difficult task for the believer, because with the saintly Samuel Rutherford he can say, "Christ hath come and run away with my heart and love, so that neither heart nor love is mine."

D. L. Moody told of a man he knew who lost his only child, and the sorrow almost broke his heart. He had never given much serious thought to a future life, but after his child was taken, his friends were surprised to find him continually studying that sacred Book, the Bible. Someone asked Him the reason, and he said he was trying to find out about the place where his boy had gone. We all have lost many loved ones who, because believers, have most assuredly gone to Heaven—strange, if we do not take up the Bible to find out what it has to say about that Blessed Abode!

There is a third reason why many of us should be interested in Heaven, and that is because in our case old age is creeping on, and if the Lord tarries, in the ordinary course of things, we shall soon be called up there to higher service.

In wonderful wisdom our gracious Master has given us information on important matters in simple language. For example, there is not a finer summary of His personal Premillennial Advent, than in Acts 1:11. It seems incapable of misunderstanding. The same is true regarding Heaven. For surely language could not be simpler, nor more graphic, than we have in John 14:2: "**In My Father's House are many mansions,**" or as another version, "many resting places." "**In My Father's House**"—"HOME!" What an attractive description of Heaven! Heaven is our Eternal Home.

1. HEAVEN IS A HOMELY PLACE.

Mark you, a *place*—not a mere state, though it is that. Of what value is a state without a place? A right state is a preparation for the right place. As to its exact locality, we know it is in the third Heaven (II Cor. 12:2). The meaning of "**the bands of Orion**" (Job 38:31) was unknown until the modern telescope revealed what is known as "the open space in Orion," a great spiral nebula in the belt of Orion in the shape of a band or ring. This band is estimated to be fifty trillion miles in depth, and twenty trillion miles in width. It is by far the most glorious scene in the Heavens, and

seems like a gateway into the Heaven of Heavens, with the glory from the Throne of Jehovah shining through.

Heaven is a homely place, NOT A PLACE OF WEARINESS AND DREARINESS!

Home—what a mystic name; it conjures up visions of peace, joy, delight, happy fellowship, love. Though some of us now have homes of our own, yet longingly and lovingly we think of the olden days when we gathered together in our earthly homes with mother and father, long since gone home. Heaven, a home! Ah, that tones down the feeling of awfulness in the thought of the glorious beyond. HOME ah, that is just what Heaven is! Amidst the august and unimaginable glories of Heaven, the old feeling will come back again of being little children, nestling safe in the Father's Home. Yes, Heaven is a homely place!

II. HEAVEN IS A HOME OF ADORING WORSHIP.

Only on one other occasion beside this, so far as the Scriptures are concerned, did our Lord use the expression "House": "**Make not My Father's House an house of merchandise**" (John 2:16). Thus our great future Home, will be the full realization of what the earthly Temple was but the dim prophecy and shadow. Most of us lament here our human limitations which make our private and public devotions so poor and uninspiring. Even believers with a rich vocabulary, and a wonderful choice of ready and apt speech, are the first to confess how utterly unable at times they find themselves to be able adequately to express the deepest feelings of their hearts and spirits. Thank God, in the Day to come, those human limitations will be abolished, and all that will be a thing of the past, for then we shall worship as we ought. Our Heavenly life will be a life of praise.

III. HEAVEN IS A HOME WITHOUT A SHADOW.

This certainly is a big difference to the very best of earthly homes. Is there one earthly home without a shadow? What dark shadows throw their gruesome shapes across most homes. Some have "skeletons in the cupboard"—a weird and awesome saying. Yet our Heavenly Home is a Home without a shadow.

THE SHADOW OF SIN. There is not an earthly home, however good, but sin at times casts its shadow over it. Yet what is the meaning of this? "**And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie**" (Rev. 21:27). Once sin cast its awful shadow over Heaven, when that bright cherubim, Satan, led that awful revolt which cul-

minated in his and his followers' utter ruin. Is that why the Scriptures speak of Heaven as requiring cleansing? (Heb. 9:23). But that shadow has gone for ever. Sin, therefore, now will never cast its horrible and defiling shadow over our Heavenly Home.

THE SHADOW OF SORROW. It is a home without a shadow of sorrow: "**God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain**" (Rev. 21:4). Shadow of death—what a saddening shadow this is! Yet that shadow will have gone for ever, for, listen, let us again repeat it: "**There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying.**" Heaven will be a life of wonderful joy, and of entire absence of sorrow.

THE SHADOW OF REMOVAL. Some of us know what it is to be so attached to an earthly house that it has pained us to remove from that one into another. Yet that sorrow will for ever have gone when we reach up There, for it is written: "**For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come**" (Heb. 13:14).

THE SHADOW OF SEPARATION. A fisherwoman who had lost her husband and two sons at sea off the Northumberland coast, was asked what she most liked to think about in Heaven, and without hesitation she replied: "And there shall be no more

sea." To her, the sea had been cruel, and she loved to think of the Better Land as sealess, that is no separation, for here it is the seas and the oceans that separate those of one land from another. No shadow of separation there!

THE SHADOW OF NEED. In these days of world-wide financial depression, the old saying, "Keeping the wolf from the door," has a new significance; but up Yonder there will not be any shadow of need, for it is written: "**They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the Throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living Fountains of Water**" (Rev. 7:16-17).

THE SHADOW OF NIGHT. For some, night has fears, and sometimes terrors. It is written: "**And there shall be no night there, and they need not candle neither the light of the sun**"; therefore it will be a home of wonderful light. This means, of course, that our immortal bodies will be constructed very differently from our present ones.

THE SHADOW OF WEARINESS. To the enthusiastic worker for God, sickness or weariness of body which limits or arrests service is a trying shadow. Heaven will know of no

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Funnybone

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

Pastor Brown of the Possumtrot Baptist Church went to visit some prospective members in the hills. He spotted a house up on a very high hill that required at least a two-mile walk from the mail box.

Out of breath from climbing the hill, he arrived at the front porch. He discovered a man rocking back and forth lazily on the porch.

"Howdy, friend, my name is Pastor Brown. What's yours?"

"Calloway's the name. What can I do for you?"

The pastor continued, "Well, I just came up here to talk to you about some things and ask you a few questions."

"Shoot!" replied the hillbilly.

"Well, the first thing I want to know, Mr. Calloway, is, have you made peace with God?"

"Peace with God?" questioned Calloway, "Me and God ain't never had no argument!"

"No, no, no you don't understand, Mr. Calloway, are you a Christian?"

"Nah, I ain't no Christian, preacher; I just told you my name is

Calloway. The Christians live four miles up the road."

"Mr. Calloway, I'm having a hard time getting through to you. What I really want to know is this—are you lost?"

"Nah, I ain't lost. I've been living here in these parts all my life. I know these hills like the back of my hand."

"Mr. Calloway, what I really want to know is, are you ready for the judgment day?"

"Judgment day? When's it going to be?" Calloway inquired.

Pastor Brown replied, "Well, Mr. Calloway, it could be today, or it could be tomorrow."

"Well, land sakes alive, preacher, don't tell my wife. She will want to go both days!" Calloway said.

In the middle of his sermon Pastor Brown noticed that Bill Tightwad had gone to sleep by the side of Deacon Jones.

"Wake Bro. Tightwad up," Pastor Brown called sternly to Deacon Jones.

"Wake him up yourself," the deacon answered. "You put him to sleep."

Our Eternal Home

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such weariness. Our new bodies and ourselves will not be capable of weariness, will need no repose.

IV. HEAVEN IS A HOME OF BLESSED REUNION.

"Will we know one another in Heaven?" inquired a worker's wife of her learned husband. "Why, of course we shall," he replied. "We know one another here, and surely you do not imagine that we shall be bigger fools up there than we are here." The reply, though rather rugged and uncouth, was sound common sense. Certainly it would not be Heaven—that truly human and blessed abode of which Christ is the center, if our individual personalities were annihilated, and we were unable to recognize one another. Moses and Elijah were recognized on the Mount of Transfiguration, though dead or translated hundreds of years. In that blessed spiritual world there will still be distinctions of persons and personalities, with glorious possibilities of love and fellowship. Heaven will be a life of unbroken love. Reunion rests upon the permanence of personality. Personality is an eternal possession.

V. HEAVEN IS A HOME OF HAPPY SERVICE.

It would not be Heaven if it were not. We speak of some homes as "Hives of industry." Heaven is all that, for it is written: "**And His servants shall serve Him**" (Rev. 22:3); "**Therefore are they before the Throne of God and serve Him day and night.**" Of course, we are not informed of the kind of service that we shall be permitted to render. Heaven, therefore, is a life of doing; all being acts of worship. Most certainly it will be service without toil. There will be nothing laborious in the tasks that will be given to us, for the days of weariness and weakness will be for ever at an end. No doubt by eternal youth and vigor our bodies then will be able to accomplish all that we and the Lord will require. What a glorious thing that is—that death is not an end to the energies and activities which have here been consecrated to God.

VI. HEAVEN IS A SPACIOUS HOME.

"**In My Father's House are many Mansions,**" or "resting places." It is spacious, as well as beautiful. There will be ample room in the Father's house for all, with room enough to spare.

VII. HEAVEN IS A HOME OF REST,

though, as already noticed, a Home of happy and blessed service. "Many resting places" is the Weymouth ren-

dering of John 14:2. "**Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours**" (Rev. 14:13). We have heard sick people say, "Oh, I would give anything for rest!" There, the weary are at rest. The life there will be a restful one—none of the old weariness of the heart or of the mind, or even of the body. Our new body given at the Resurrection by and by when Jesus Christ comes, will be incapable of weariness.

VIII. HEAVEN IS A HOME OF LEARNING,

that is, of ever increasing knowledge. If this were not so, then what is the meaning of John 17:3, where our Lord distinctly declares that Eternal life is given to us in order that we might discover God, suggesting that the whole of Eternity will be spent in getting to know God; and then I Corinthians 13:12: "**For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**" Language could not be more definite—the Home we are going to will be a home of learning, of ever-increasing knowledge, for there our life will be one of growth, without limit and without ceasing. There, our life will never reach a point beyond which no advance is possible. Our knowledge will be perfect, and yet ever growing bigger and grander.

IX. HEAVEN IS A HOME OF HOLY LAUGHTER.

JAMES CHALMERS, the great New Guinea missionary, heard a native Christian pray for help to live the holy, active life here for Christ, and hereafter "the place of laughter," for that was the meaning of the phrase he used. After a good day's work, and a good supper, the natives often sit in the street or platform, and shouts of laughter, screaming laughter may be heard, as story after story is told of the day's doings and sayings. All are happy and thoroughly enjoying themselves; and the native word for that custom was the word this native used to describe Heaven. Was he mistaken? No! Heaven will certainly be a home of Holy laughter. Our life's struggles will be over. We shall, with our perfect vision, and unbefogged minds, trace the Lord's guiding hand in our past. We shall tell our experiences, unravel His mysterious providences; and then, do not forget that Heaven is a place where thousands of little children are, and where children are there is laughter.

There are two notable occurrences of the word "received" in John's Gospel (chaps. 14:3; 1:12). The Lord cannot receive us to that blessed Home on high if we, down here, do not re-

ceive Him into our hearts and lives. "Christ possessed by faith here," said RUTHERFORD, "is young Heaven and glory in the bud." But we cannot have the full flower without the bud, neither can we have Heaven by and by, if we have not Heaven here and now. "**The Lord will give grace and glory,**" was the Psalmist's assurance. Notice, grace before glory. But saith an old Divine, "Who chides the servant for taking away the first course at a feast, when the second consists of far greater delicacies?" The Christian's first course is GRACE, the second, GLORY. No glory without grace.

Sodomites in the Land!

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actly going on today in America. We have done almost everything except pronounce sodomy (homosexuality) as clean or normal. There are Sodomites that are ceremonially religious, and will go so far as to say they are "born again." Many of these sodomites will go so far as to say that Jesus Christ was a Sodomite. They have pronounced themselves to be clean and dedicated people who are worthy of adopting children. Our country is bowing down to the demands of these Sodomites and will let them take "innocent" children and train them day after day, year after year, and teach them that living with, and loving the same sex is normal.

JUDAH'S SOCIETY WAS MUCH LIKE OURS TODAY

I Kings 14:22 says: "**And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord.** . ." There is absolutely no doubt that God Himself built THE UNITED STATES. I believe He has used this nation in the past to do much of His work around the world. He has used us to be a "friend of Israel." But today we are nothing like we were 40-50 years ago. Our country is much like a person whose body is "eaten up" by cancer. We are very unhealthy as a nation today.

Sodomites are in the land and gaining freedom that should be to only those who are law abiding citizens. Sodomites are not law-abiding citizens, for sodomy is a crime against God and society! Many states (I believe around 38) had made laws against sodomy and Sodomites in days long gone. Today's politicians will not in any way oppose this terrible crime. Our President has done more for the cause of Sodomites than anyone else. Our society has given this President the highest approval rating of any President that I can remember. Bill Clinton has been the most vile and ungodly man that I have

ever seen to be the leader of this country. Why was he given such high approval ratings? Because there are millions of Bill Clintons in our society.

Let us not just give our attention to the President, but let us look at President hopeful George W. Bush. I was watching him being interviewed by Barbara Walters, and she asked him very directly what he meant when he told some Sodomites that he met with—that he was the better man for them. Needless to say, he answered the question without answering the question. Then she became even more direct with her next question and asked him if he thought that homosexuality was wrong. Do you know what his response was? His response was: "Who am I to say what is wrong or not?" George W. Bush is another Bill Clinton wrapped up in another package.

Our society will not tolerate a politician who condemns sodomy and abortion. There was a politician who was running and did do that very thing, but he had to drop out because of lack of support. His name? ALLAN KEYS.

Judah's society had become so evil in the days of I Kings 14:22-24 that they had exceeded the sins of all previous generations before them. If you take a look at the meaning of the word "Sodomite" you will notice that it not only means a male prostitute, but it has a religious "tone" to it. I believe that from reading these verses, especially verse 23, that one can't help from seeing that Israel let those Sodomites that were in her land have their own places of worship which consisted of male prostitution (II Kings 23:7).

MULTI CULTURISM

It is one thing to let foreigners come to this great land and find a better way to live, and even let them have their religious freedom. It's another thing to make their religion equal to the God Who built America. What made this country the greatest nation on earth was the willingness of those who were here before us to not only come up with a Constitution that had principles from the Bible, but a people that was willing TO ABIDE by it. You don't have to agree with everything, no more than you can expect a person who is wanting to join one of the Lord's churches to agree with everything on its by-laws and statement of doctrines. But if that person can abide by those by-laws and doctrines and not fight against it, then there is no reason why we can't dwell in harmony. Multi culturism demands that no one religion is to have preeminence over another; which puts those in the Christian religion in a very pe-

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Church Organization in 1600's

By Nathan Wood

(now in glory)

At this time the brethren who lived at Newberry desired to be set apart by themselves as a church. "Agreed upon at a church meeting that we the Church at Boston have assented unto the settling of the church at Newberry." ("Church Record") No date is attached to this record but it must have been during 1682. This church had as members resident in Newberry, George Little and wife, baptized in Boston, in 1676, William Sayer and wife, Benjamin Moss and wife, Edward Woodman and wife, John Sayer, and Abel Merrill, all of whom were baptized in Boston, 1st, 4th mo., 1681. How many more there were is unknown. The church in Newberry was in existence in 1689, but there is no certain record of it beyond that time, although there is a hint that it was alive later.

A similar attempt at church planting took place in Piscataqua (Kittery), Province of Maine. "William Screven & his wife & Humphrey Churchwood were baptized the 21st of 4 mo. 1681" (Church Record). In the following February a number more from Piscataqua came to Boston and were baptized. A few months later these brethren and sisters sent word through one of their number to the church in Boston,

that here are a competent number of well established people whose hearts the Lord hath opened insomuch that they have gladly received the word and do seriously profess their hearty desire to the following of Christ and to partake of all his holy ordinances, according to his blessed institutions and divine appointment: therefore I present my ardent desire to your serious consideration, which is, if the Lord see it fit, to have a gospel church planted here in this place: and in order hereunto, we think it meet that our beloved brother William Screven, who is, through free grace, gifted and endowed, with the spirit [] to preach the gospel shall be ordained (Backus, Vol. I, p. 401).

To this request the church made immediate response and sent the following letter:

A Copy of A writing given to Brother Screven in answer to A Request by letter from A Brother and others. Agreed upon at A Church meeting the 11th of 11 mo. 1681. From the Church of Christ in Boston the 11th of 11 mo. 1681. To all whome itt may concern these are to Certify that our beloved Brother William Screven is A member in Comunion with us and haveing had tryall of his gifts Amongst us and finding him to be A man whome God hath qualified & furnished with the gift



Nathan Wood

of his holy spiritt and grace, enabling him to open and Apply the word of God which may be through the blessing of the Lord Jesus usefull in his hand for the begitting and building up soules in the knowledg of God, doe therefore Appoint & Approve & also encourage him to Exercise his gift in ye place where he lives or else where as the providence of God may cast him & so the Lord help him to Ey his glory in all things and to walk humbly in ye fear of his name.

signed by us in the behalf

of ye rest ISAACK HULL

JOHN FARNUM (Church Record)

Elder Screven seems to have exercised his gifts with very gracious results, for in a few months the Baptists in Kittery so increased that they desired to be set apart as a separate church. They sent therefore a formal request to the church of which they were members:

Upon serious & Solemn Consideration of the Church About A motion or Request made by severall members that lived att kittery, yt they might become A Church & that they might p-ceed therein provided they were such as should be Approved for such A Foundacon work, the Church gave there grant and att ye time Appointed did send severall messengers to make yt strict Inquiry & Examinason as they ought in such A case who att there Returne brought ye Coppys here Inserted 26th of 7 mo. 1682.

The Church of Christ att Boston yt is baptized upon profession of faith haveing take into serious consideration ye Request of our Brethren att Kittery Relateing to there being A Church by themselves yt soe they might Injoy the precious ordinances of Christ which by reson of distance of Habitason they butt seldome could injoy have therefore thought meet to make Choice of us whose names are undewritten as Messengers to Assist them in ye same and coming up to them we have found them A Competent Number and in ye same faith with us for upon careful examination of them in matters of Doctrine & practise & soe finding one with us by there (we hope) Conshienous Acknowledgmntt of ye Confession of faith putt forth by ye Elders & Brethren of ye Churches in London and ye Contry in England dated in ye year 1682.

And they having given themselves up to

ye lord & too one Another in A Solemn Covenant to walk as said Covenant may Express & alsoe haveing Chosen their officers whome they with us have Appointed & ordained, we doe therefore in ye name of ye lord Jesus & by the Appointmtt of his Church deliver them to be A Church of Christ in ye faith and order of ye Gospel.

signed by us in ye name

of ye Church the 25 of 7 mo. 1682

ISAACK HULL

THOMAS SKINNER

PHILLIPP SQUIRE

A COPPY OF THERE SAID COVENANT.

Wee whose names are here unde written doe solemnly & on good Consideration god Assisting us by his grace give up our selves to ye lord & to one another in Solem Covenant, wherein wee doe Covenant & promise to walk with god & one another In A dew and faithful observance of all his most holy & blessed Commandm.tts Ordinances Institutions or Appointments, Revealed to us in his sacred word of ye ould & new Testament and according to ye grace of god & light att present through his grace given us, or here after he shall please to discover & make knowne to us thro his holy Spiritt according to ye same blessed word all ye Dayes of our lives and this will wee doe, If ye lord graciously please to Assist us by his grace and Spiritt & to give us Divine wisdom, strength, knowledg, & understanding from Above to p-forme ye same without which we cann doe nothing John 15:4; II Corinthians 3:5.

Signed by

Wm SCREEVEN, Elder (Baptized in Boston 21st 4 mo. 1681)

HUMPHRY CHURCHWOOD, Deacon (Baptized in Boston 21st 4 mo. 168)

ROBERT WILLIAMS (Baptized in Boston July 1682)

JOHN MORGRADYE (Baptized in Boston 20th 12 mo. 1681)

RICHARD CUTT (Baptized in Boston July 1682)

TIMOTHY DAVIS (Baptized in Boston 20th 12 mo. 1681)

LEONARD DROWN (Baptized in Boston 17th 10 mo. 1681)

Wm ADDAMS (Baptized in Boston 20th 12 mo. 1681)

HUMPHRY AXILL (Baptized in Boston 20th 12 mo. 1681)

GEORG LITTEN (Baptized in Boston 20th 12 mo. 1681)

This is A true Coppy compared with ye origenall & owned by all our Brethren and seven sisters as Attest

Wm SCREEVEN in behalf of ye rest. (Church Record)

This was the first Baptist church planted in Maine, and this covenant is the oldest Baptist covenant of which I have been able to get any trace among English-speaking people. The

so-called "Holy Covenant" of the Swansea Church is more of the nature of a "Confession of Faith," and I judge was intended to be a declaration of doctrinal beliefs, rather than a covenant in the ordinary acceptation. Whether it was a copy of the covenant of the mother church or not is unknown. There is no record of any covenant which this church at its organization adopted. Its Confession of Faith, made in 1665, is not accompanied by a covenant, so far as the records show. The covenant which is now used by the church was adopted some time after 1836, and is, for substance, the one which usually accompanies the "New Hampshire Confession."

(*The History of the First Baptist Church of Boston*, pp. 178-183, 1899 edition)

Editor's Note: It is interesting to note that Elder Nathan Wood was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Boston when this book was written. He is quoting directly from the church minutes in many cases.

William Screven (1629-1713) became a Baptist in England, and helped establish that faith in the New World, both in Maine and South Carolina. He was ordained by the Boston church and received dismissal from that congregation to form a separate church in Kittery in 1682. Screven later removed this church to South Carolina, where it became the nucleus of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, the earliest Baptist church in the South.

Sodomites in the Land!

Continued from page 407

cular position. We dare not say there is any other "god" but only our Sovereign God.

FREEDOM FOR SODOMITES IS A SIGH OF PAGANISM AND HEATHENISM

I Kings 14:24 says: "And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord cast out before the children of Israel." Does not this verse tell us that the nations that were in Canaan before Israel took it over were very wicked. For Israel to be doing according to the nations before them would mean that those other nations had Sodomites in them. Nations that worshipped other gods, and were next to uncivilized, allowed ungodly things such as sodomy to remain in its society just like America is doing today. Those other nations did not worship God, nor did they know anything about Him. They were spiritually dead in sin (Eph. 2:1) and loved their

Continued on page 409

Sodomites in the Land!

Continued from page 408

deeds of darkness (St. John 3:19). I believe it is safe to say that America is very heathenistic and paganistic in her ways. As long as the economy is doing good—who cares. Right? I can almost guarantee you that if the economy was doing poor right now Bill Clinton would have already been removed from office.

THE ALTAR OF THE DOLLAR BILL

I Timothy 6:10 says: **“For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”** I believe that the reason Sodomites are where they are today is because we have had the strongest economy in the world for at least 100 years. Around 1900, we were number one in the world with our economy. It is during the times of prosperity that evil seems to have its easiest time (Deut. 32:15-17). There are more millionaires in the U.S. today than ever before, but at the same time, there are more people murdered in abortion, more stealing, adultery, lying, violence, and sodomy than ever before as well. If the economy is doing well, then lets “fill our pockets” and not bother or condemn anyone or thing. That’s the way people are thinking today.

A POSSIBLE LEGAL WAR WITH SODOMITES IN THE FUTURE

If more states follow suite with Vermont, Sodomites will be looked upon as a normal group of people. They are already trying to get a Minority Status just like a minority race of people. We must not ever let the Sodomites get this far and here is why: If they ever succeed at getting states to recognize them as married couples, and get benefits as married couples, then what will keep the Sodomites from demanding to be accepted as church members? What will keep them from going to the government and having it to help them with this issue? What are we going to do as Baptists if the government tells us to either accept Sodomites to become members, or close our doors? You might say that will never happen here in America. But let me remind you that the state of Rhode Island was started by two Sovereign Grace Ana-Baptist preachers who were run out of the colonies by the religious churches and people who lived there!!! The days could very well come that we will lose our church buildings because of THE SODOMITES THAT ARE IN THE LAND.

With the lack of desire and passion that a lot of Christians and especially Baptists have, I doubt very seriously whether there are very many who will even dare to stand publicly against the government and for the Word of God. But thank God for those who will.

THE PASSIONS OF A SODOMITE

Romans 1:26-27 reads as follows: **“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 man, 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 recompense of their error which was meet.”** The apostle Paul is inspired to write that these Sodomites have VILE AFFECTIONS. These are not normal feelings as the “politically correct” crowd would have you to believe. If the Bible calls man and woman being together normal, then that means that two men together in love or two women in love with each other is UNNATURAL. Sodomites are very sick people, and if they are given the same rights as those who are not Sodomites, it will kill our nation. This terrible sin seems to be more prevalent in tropical states such as: Texas, California, Georgia, Florida, etc. Sodomites are every where in every state and all over the world. Sodomy is a deed of man’s depravity. Wherever man is living, you’ll find this sin.

SODOMITES NEED TO GO DEER HUNTING

A deer hunter will begin to scout around the area he is going to hunt in to see where the best place to “set up” is. One of the things a deer hunter looks for is bark rubbed off small branches and trees. When you find that, you know that a buck (male deer) has already “marked off” his territory. Any doe (female deer) that comes into that area is his. If another buck comes into that area there will be a fight between the bucks. They are fighting for the female deer!!! Never in all my days on this earth have I ever heard of two bucks fighting for another buck!!!

Our brother Job who has long since gone to be with the Lord, if he were alive today, would be preaching Job 12:7 at these Sodomites. Job 12:7 reads as follows: **“But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:”** Our food chain is hinged upon the fact that the males and females mate. The animals are here today because Noah took male and female and put them in the ark

(Gen. 7:1-9). If Noah had taken all of THE SAME SEX there would be no animals at all on the earth today.

Back in the days of Jamestown, England sent just the men over to work and get things going over here so that a trade route and business could be established. After about two years, they sent the wives and other women over here for a very important reason. The reason was so that the work could continue on. There would be no way that England could keep on taking men out of herself and sending them over to The New Land. Eventually, she would be short of men and have a serious problem herself. Even though Jamestown still struggled, the point is made that even back then they knew just one sex was not sufficient. Sodomites are completely dependent upon heterosexuals!!! If only one sex was on the earth, in just 120-130 years there would be nobody on the earth for the simple fact that Sodomites can not reproduce.

ADAM AND EVE—NOT ADAM AND STEVE

Genesis 2:18 reads: **“And the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”** Here we see that it is God who master-minded the human race and its beginning. The claim of the Sodomites that sodomy is natural is going to be put to the test. Their claim that God made them a Sodomite from birth is going to be put up against God’s Word itself (KJV). Is sodomy natural? We see in Genesis 2:18 that it was God who made Adam a help meet. Did He make another man, or did He make an individual who was completely different than Adam? Let’s see what God’s Word says. Genesis 2:21-25 reads: **“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, MADE HE A WOMAN, and brought HER unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: SHE shall be called WOMAN, because SHE was taken out of the Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his WIFE: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and HIS WIFE, and were not ashamed.”** Did you read anywhere in these verses of God making two men to live together? Where are the Sodomites getting their belief that God has put His approval on them? They do not want to realize the fact that if God had not made a woman to

be with Adam that NOT ONE PERSON WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN!!!

Acts 17:26 reads: **“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”** This could not have been possible if there were two Sodomites in the Garden of Eden. Two men can commit sodomy all their lives and not produce one human being. Of course the same is true concerning two women together.

Can you see how sick and unnatural sodomy is from just the few verses we have read in the Bible? From Africa to Europe, America to the Middle East, Canada to Mexico, only one blood line has filled all the world—Adam’s through Eve!!! Even today, the marriage that God put together in the Garden of Eden is still reproducing.

WHAT DOES GO THINK OF SODOMY AND SODOMITES?

I have seen many sodomites on TV say that God loves all people including “gays.” Very little of the religious world believes what the Bible says about God’s love for people. God loves only His elect (Romans 9:11-13).

Then they have come up with the lie that they were born a Sodomite—which is other words they are saying that God made them that way. WHAT A LIE!!! First of all, if God made them that way why in the world would He burn up Sodom and Gomorrah with brimstone and fire (Gen. 18-19)? Two angels of the Lord came to Sodom and those filthy reprobates WANTED them for their own depraved sexual desires (Gen. 19:5). It is plain to see this is what they wanted the angels for, for in Genesis 19:7-8 Lot is going to give these “men lovers” his two daughters and they did not want them! Those Sodomites were wanting those men so bad that Lot shut the door behind himself as he was walking out (Gen. 19:6). The only thing that slowed down those Sodomites was the angels struck them with blindness (Gen. 19:10-11).

Let’s take a look into God’s Word and see what He says about sodomy and Sodomites. Leviticus 18:22 says: **“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”** Leviticus 20:13 says: **“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.”** It is plain to see that God never has made anybody to be a Sodomite. It is also plain to see that God hates this sin very much. He hated it so much

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Can a man continue in the office of pastor if his wife divorces him and marries another man, if he remain single? Would he not still be the husband of one wife? --- Kentucky



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If a pastor's wife divorces him and marries another man, and the pastor remains single, it would be the responsibility of the church to make the decision concerning his office. If the pastor is an innocent party in the divorce and remains single, he should not be charged with wrong doing, or be caused to bear the consequences of another's actions. However, should he be the cause behind the divorce, due to some immoral act on his part, he should be removed from the office even if he remains single.

A pastor's wife can be a very valuable asset to his ministry, or as is the case in some instances a troublesome liability. It has been pointed out by many that a pastor's call comes from God, but to be a pastor's wife requires a dedicated Christian woman who is willing to learn to fill this role.

A church ought to understand that the pastor's wife is a public figure who must undergo much more scrutiny than the average female members. Her husband is required to give attention to the needs and desires of numerous families, as well as his own. Some pastors wives can understand and cope with this, and some cannot. Regrettable as it may be the pastor's wife can be treated in such a way as to cause her to rebel against being a pastor's wife.

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"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach."

.One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" (I Tim. 3:2; 5-6).

The above Scriptures list some of the qualifications necessary to occupy the office of a pastor. The Scriptures quoted above deal specifically with the qualifications that relate to his marital status and family. A pastor is disqualified from office if he is divorced and remarried. However, there is no specific prohibition that I know of if his wife divorces him and he remains unmarried. Theoretically, it appears that if the pastor remains single he could still remain in the pastorate. However, without knowing all the details it is difficult to give a dogmatic answer. For example, if the pastor physically abused his wife, then he would be disqualified from office even if he remained single. The point I am making is that there is more than one qualification for the office of the pastor. There are many factors that contribute to divorce. If the pastor was moral, blameless in the community, and faithfully provided for his family he could possibly continue in the ministry.

Practically speaking, I would find it extremely difficult to pastor if I knew my wife was married to another man. The loneliness, grief, and dependency that accompanies divorce would be extremely difficult to overcome in order to concentrate on the various duties of a pastor. Personally speaking, I couldn't imagine myself continuing in a pastoral ministry if my wife divorced me and married another man.

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"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour,

given to hospitality, apt to teach" (I Tim. 3:2).

There are different opinions as to what is meant by "one wife." If the Bible teaches that there are grounds for divorce, then one who is Scripturally divorced does not have a wife. In Matthew 19:9 Christ allows the putting away of a wife who is guilty of fornication. **"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."** The words "put away" are from the Greek word *apolo* and means to: "to set free, to repudiate" (Thayer).

God ordained marriage to be a life time commitment. When there is a divorce it is always because of sin. The sin of fornication destroys the unity (oneness) of the marriage. If a man's wife divorces him without scriptural reasons, and marries another, she is guilty of the sin of fornication. The man would be free to put her away. In this case, he no longer has a wife; and if he does not have a wife, he is free to marry.

I do not believe that this man would be disqualified as a pastor even if he was to get married.

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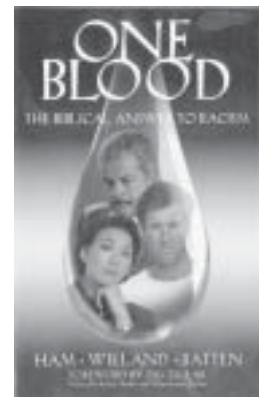
I personally believe such a preacher is not disqualified by Scripture but may be unable to pastor a church because of other circumstances. Certainly such is still the husband of only one wife. One of the problems is the fact that he has not ruled his house well even though it may not be his fault literally, but never the less he is not in control of his house; therefore, there is a problem as to whether he could lead his church.

I must admit that this is a controversial subject, and I do not have a definite answer that will satisfy all, but

my convictions are that a pastor forced into divorce not of his own doing is not disqualified, but will be restricted to some extent as to his ability to lead and pastor a church well.

I must inevitably leave this question to each local pastor and church since I do not have any clear Scripture on the matter.

GARNER SMITH

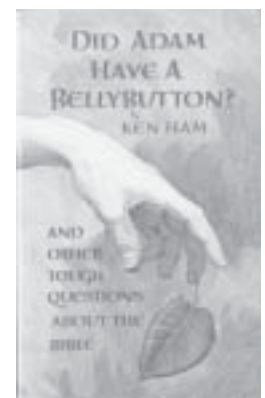


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Can a church remain a true New Testament church if it never practices any church discipline for 40 years?. -- Ohio



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"Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (I Cor. 5:6-7).

A church must practice discipline in three different ways. The greatest of these would be **"teaching them to observe all things"** (Matt. 28:20). If this is practiced, there would be little need for a more aggressive form of discipline.

If a brother is overtaken in a fault, the church is to restore him in a spirit of meekness (Ga. 6:1). This has to do with one of the church members who falls into some sin and should be restored by those who are spiritual.

In I Corinthians 5:6-7 we see another form of discipline that is required. A church must withdraw itself from those who are guilty of moral sins. Paul, in instructing the Corinthians church concerning the man that was guilty of fornication, said: **"That he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you"** (I Cor. 5:2). The same Greek word that is translated **"taken away"** is translated **"put away"** in I Corinthians 5:13. **"But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."**

The church is **"the pillar and ground of the truth"** (I Tim. 3:15). If there is someone teaching a false doctrine which would cause a division in the church, they are to be avoided (Rom. 16:17).

If a church refused to practice discipline and allowed both doctrinal error and immorality to persist in the church, the people would become both unsound in the teachings of God's Word and immoral in their lives. This has happened to a great number of churches in our time. If a church practiced no form of discipline

for forty years, I would think that it would no longer be **"a pillar and ground of the truth"** and would have ceased to be a true church.

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The answer to this question is dependent upon what the questioner means by discipline.

According to the real full definition of discipline a church could not be a church without practicing discipline. According to Webster discipline means: "training that develops self-control, character, or orderliness and efficiency." In other words biblical discipline means the training of believers to produce control, characteristics and orderliness as a follower of Jesus Christ efficiently.

Discipline is training that differs according to the need for a particular purpose of a particular person.

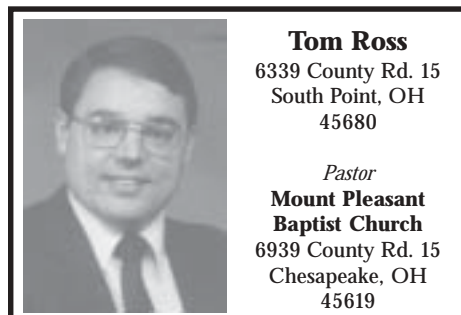
Church discipline includes teaching or formative discipline (Matt. 28:19-20). There must also be corrective discipline (Gal. 6:1). These are such that generally live godly, but from time to time they slip and fall into sin and must be admonished and corrected. Then there is excisive discipline that becomes necessary when there is deliberate sin such as adultery, drunkenness, personal offenses, and refusal to receive scriptural doctrine or causing division in the church. This type of discipline is found in Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:1-13; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14; Romans 16:17-18.

I believe a church that does not practice any kind of discipline could not be a scriptural church because they are not teaching the Bible or teaching all things Christ commanded (Matt. 28:19-20); therefore, Christ would no longer be in their midst and would not have His light to guide them.

There are variations of discipline in different churches but some form of discipline to some extent is abso-

lutely necessary to remain a true church.

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II Thessalonians 3:6 declares: **"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."** In light of this verse, a church that fails to practice discipline when it is necessary would be guilty of flagrant disobedience to an inspired command of Scripture. At best, the church would have to be viewed as being irregular and out of fellowship with the Lord. Whether or not the Lord would remove the candlestick and authority to exist and administer the ordinances, I cannot make a sweeping judgment without knowing what the Lord knows about the church in question. I personally would find it difficult to believe that a church that never practices discipline for 40 years could still be recognized as being scriptural. A church that fails to practice discipline over time would be permeated by the leaven of sin and immorality. In such a state, it would be unlikely that a church would faithfully carry out the Great Commission, protect the ordinances, and remain doctrinally sound. In order to function effectively as a true New Testament Church the practice of church discipline is absolutely necessary. A church that is full of leaven will lose its power because the Holy Spirit will be continually grieved, and it will ultimately lose its influence in the community because of impurity and infidelity. Jesus said: **"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men"** (Matt. 5:13).

TOM ROSS



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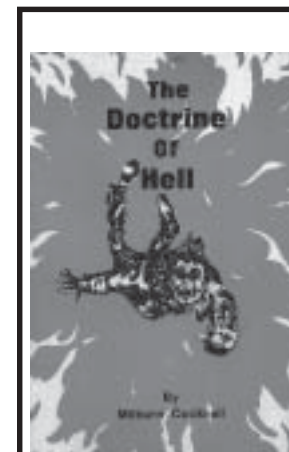
Some churches can remain a true church for 40 years or more and never have a reason to practice discipline. This is rare yet very possible. Many Baptist churches have never heard a message on the subject and have never been called upon to practice discipline, even when a great need exists for its exercise.

A true church can be slow in practicing discipline as is seen in Paul's words to the church at Corinth. When an incestuous relationship was taking place between a man and his father's wife (his stepmother), Paul wrote: **"And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you."** He tells them that in the power (authority) of the Lord Jesus Christ they are **"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"** (I Cor. 5:5).

I do not know of any verse of Scripture which clearly states that a church must practice discipline in order to remain a true church, but there is ample evidence given that lets us know that the lack of discipline can lead to God's action against the offender, or even the removal of the candlestick. The church would cease to exist when and if He removed the candlestick.

Baptist churches should never cease, or even neglect practicing discipline. When an act of discipline is evidently needed, a church should not let anything hinder the act of discipline.

JIMMIE B DAVIS



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Sodomites in the Land!

Continued from page 409

that in the Old Testament He made sodomy a death penalty. Is God the same God today that He was in the Old Testament? Malachi 3:6 reads: **"For I am the Lord, I CHANGE NOT; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."** Hebrews 13:8 reads: **"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."** Since Jesus Christ is the God of the Old Testament (John 8:56; Ex. 3:13-14; John 18:6), He still hates the sin of sodomy, and He hates all Sodomites that are not of His elect!

SODOMITES CAN BE SAVED JUST LIKE ANY OTHER SINNER

Sodomy is not the unpardonable sin! One can be saved from this sin just as people are saved from other types of sin. What we have been saved from is SIN itself. Sodomy, adultery, murder, and all other sins are the fruits of sin itself. If one will look real close at Romans 1:18-32 and especially at (25-31), I'm afraid that we will find that when we were found by the Lord, He found all of us some where in these mentioned sins. Those who die in those terrible sins will have the death penalty brought upon them by God Himself (Rom. 1:32; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:8). What is God's death penalty? Burning in His eternal Hell—body, and soul (Matt. 10:28).

TWO THINGS THAT GOD'S WORD SAYS THAT ARE UNNATURAL

A man with long hair (I Cor. 11:14), and being a Sodomite (Rom. 1:26-27). I have never seen as many men as I have today that have the hair of a woman (Rev. 9:8). Men are growing their hair so long that from behind you can not tell whether it is a man or a woman. Many a time I have had to look at the shoulders if I am following in a car to see which sex it is, and sometimes that still doesn't help. When I was growing up the only sex you would see with a "pony-tail" was girls. In the state in which I used to live I was totally "blown away" with all the man with "pony-tails."

I am in no way saying that every man that has long hair is a Sodomite, but I do believe that there is a connection between the rebellion that is required in having long hair and sodomy.

Many men today will wear earrings, where I came from while in my childhood days you never saw any men wearing them. Men over all have become much more feminine here in the last 10 to 15 years. I am aware of men in the Old Testament wearing earrings, but you do not read of any

men in the New Testament wearing them that I can recall. But in America I do not recall any men wearing any earrings during my days of youth. I do not recall any of the guys I went to school with that wore them. Now it seems as if half the men you see are wearing them. It is one thing to grow up in a culture that practices wearing earrings, while it is another thing to watch a whole culture of men change and become more feminine. As we are nearing the very end of this church age, and are getting very close to the resurrection and rapture, the changes we are seeing taking place in our society only confirms the end is near.

A NATION BEING SPIRITU- ALLY REVIVED

I Kings 15:11-12 says: **"And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did David his father. And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."** Israel was being spiritually revived by God, and one of the first signs of the revival was the removal of the Sodomites out of the land. Another king came up to reign in Judah whose name was Manasseh. He was much like the man we have as our president today. Under this man's reign, the Sodomites were accepted to the point that they had houses or temples to carry out their prostitutions during their heathen worship services (II Kings 23:7). But thank God for a leader like Josiah! He came after Manasseh, and feared God greatly (II Kings 22:8 - 23:28). He got rid of all those false religions and led Judah back to God. I will never be convinced that America is on her way back to God as long as I see and hear that Sodomites are in the land. As long as we have Sodomite politicians, the Sodomites will have a voice in this country.

AS LONG AS THEY DON'T BOTHER ME I DON'T CARE

That is the most common response I hear from many people. They actually believe that they can be like an ostrich and bury their head in the sand, and they will not be affected by these Sodomites. Let me assure you that the goal of the Sodomites is to commit sodomy with every boy they can get their hands on. They are trying to get into the public school systems of America and be allowed to teach that being a Sodomite is normal. When they move in beside you and you can't even go outside, you or your family without seeing two of the same sex kissing, or hugging up, then you are going to wonder and ask yourself: "What happened?" At every restaurant you and your family will go to, there will be Sodomites sitting next

to you—then what? I have myself witnessed two men sitting close to where I was in restaurants and acting like a boy and girl who was out on a date. I have seen on the news many many times men kissing on men and women kissing on women. Many television shows will promote sodomy at "prime time" airing. My wife worked at a well known hospital and witnessed men sending other men flowers on Valentines Day. The medical field is loaded with Sodomites and lesbians.

There has always been less Christians on the earth than lost people, but for some reason we saints who are the salt of the earth are not preserving truth and righteousness. I believe one of the main reasons Sodomites are where they are today is because of the worldliness that is in the lives of God's children and especially His churches. May God help us to condemn this terrible sin when we go to our jobs, malls, games, or wherever else we may go.

In closing, let me say that I'm amazed that so many people have never even heard of the name "Sodomite." To this day, we saints are to call these homosexuals the very same name that God gave them in the Bible which is Sodomite. The city of Sodom was known, and is known today for its sodomy practices. America is the new Sodom and Gomorrah, and Sodomites are in the land!!!

The First Marriage

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Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:18-24).

The modern world has some odd notions about marriage. Young people say to each other: "Be careful, puppy love can lead to a dog's life on a split level," or "Marriage is a proposition ending in a lifetime sentence." Others say the honeymoon is only the interval between the man's "I do" and his wife's "You'd better." In spite of all these sayings, about 90 percent of all people marry.

After some six thousands years of human history it is time that we got back to the basics. We need to consider the wedding bells of Eden. Marriage is the oldest of all Divine institutions. It is older than the Sabbath and human government. There was blissful perfection in that first marriage. The marriage of Adam and Eve was a duet, not a duel. God Himself performed the first marriage. If

marriage is to be perpetuated as God intended, then it must be as He directed.

THE DECLARATION

The Creator had already made many things and pronounced them all **"very good"** (Gen. 1:31). Then there is this single negative statement: **"It is not good that man should be alone"** (Gen. 2:18). God created Adam with an innate desire for companionship. For man to be alone did not fit well with God's purpose nor man's social constitution. Eden, with all its delights, was incomplete to Adam without a companion who would enhance his delights and partake of his pleasures. Without a wife Adam could not express his social and covenant nature, nor could he obey God's command to propagate the race (Gen. 1:28).

"And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:20). The brutes were not a fit companion for man. Beasts were separated from Adam by a wide abyss. He was their lord, and they were unknowingly his servants. The beasts of the field could not enter into the high enjoyments of his intellectual life. The Creator made Adam **"more than the beasts of the earth"** and **"wiser than the fowls of heaven"** (Job 35:11). Adam was too much their superior to find in them companionship.

But was not God Adam's friend and companion? The LORD God did visit the garden of Eden, but nothing more. Also there was a great gulf between the finite mind of Adam and the infinite mind of God. In the case of the beasts Adam was too much their superior to find a companion, and the Divine Being was too much Adam's superior. Elihu well declared **"that God is greater than man"** (Job 33:12).

Eve was to be **"a help meet"** for Adam. The word "help" means "a helper," and "meet" means "fit" or "suitable." So a help meet means a suitable helper for him. The words in the Hebrew literally means "an help as before him" or "as over against him," or, maybe better stated, "a helper corresponding to him." Woman would be man's counterpart. The Vulgate Version has "an assistant, like him." Eve would be a suitable companion, endowed with a nature like Adam's, a second self, a fellow-friend.

Marriage was instituted to prevent loneliness in man. Marriage would not only fill up the loneliness gap; it would over fill it. The wife would help her husband with the chil-

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dren and care of the house (Prov. 14:1; 31:27; Tit. 2:4-5). She would advise him by her counsels (Gen. 21:10 and comfort him in his sorrows. She would help him foresee and prevent danger (I Sam. 25:18, 33).

The woman would complete the man. She would fill his wants and wishes. Man is like a puzzle with a missing piece. Woman is that piece. She is the appropriate and adequate answer to man's needs. A man is to marry because he feels incomplete, inadequate, and insufficient without a woman. The woman must feel the same way. **"Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord"** (I Cor. 11:11). The recognition of mutual need will encourage them both to continue together until death. One is dependent on the other, and both of them on God. The first marriage was a holy triangle—Adam, Eve, and God.

THE OPERATION

It would seem from Genesis 1:27 that Eve was made on the sixth day of the creative week, although Adam had the priority: **"For Adam was first formed, then Eve"** (I Tim. 2:13). In Genesis 2:21 we see the manner of her creation: **"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof."** God was pleased to form Eve out of Adam, even as it pleased Him to form man from the dust of the ground. This was not because God needed any materials, for He could have created her as He did Adam. God wanted to express the truth of the marriage union—their being one flesh. He also wanted to express the fact of the headship of the man: **"For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man"** (I Cor. 11:8-9).

God put Adam to sleep before He performed an operation on him to remove a rib. This sleep was not the consequence of weariness or fatigue. It was a supernatural sleep. Whether Adam was created with an extra rib, or his bones were mutilated, is a question for the curious. From verse 23 it seems the rib with the accompanying flesh was extracted. Later Adam would say of Eve: **"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. . ."** (Gen. 2:23).

Eve was made from a bone of Adam's side, not of his head so she could usurp authority over him. She was not made from a bone of his foot,

so she could be trampled upon by him. Eve came from a bone under Adam's arm, so she could be near his heart and under his protection. By a miracle the LORD God closed up the vacancy. Thus the operation was completed by God Himself.

This is not a myth, nor is it some kind of parable. My text is a historical incident. There is every evidence of historical truth here, but in addition to this there is spiritual truth as well. Sleep is a figure of death (I Thess. 4:13-18). While Adam slept, the mighty hand of the Divine Operator brought forth a helper after His own likeness. It was while the Second Adam was asleep on the cross that His side was pierced to purchase His bride.

Verse 22 says: **"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman. . ."** (Gen. 2:22). Literally, the Hebrew might read: "And Jehovah God built the rib which He had taken from the man into a woman." The word **"made"** is a translation of the Hebrew (banah) which means "to build" or "begin to build." John Trapp says it means she was "created with special care, art, and fit proportion, in the manner of a house." There can be little doubt but what the word **"made"** refers to the physical configuration of the woman's body. She is a building like the tower of David (S. of S. 4:4) and like an ivory tower (S. of S. 7:4). Adam was like an unfinished building until Eve was formed. Adam was created; Eve was formed.

THE PRESENTATION

". . .and brought her unto the man" (v. 22). This was the first wedding march a bride ever made. God Himself gave away the bride who was clothed only in her moral uprightness. The first marriage was made in Heaven by the God of Heaven. God matched the man and woman. By His power He made Adam and Eve, and now by His ordinance of matrimony He made them one. This marriage was made while both Adam and Eve were in a state of perfect innocence. This cannot be said of any marriage since the first one.

God caused Eve to come to Adam. As in verse 19, it is said of the animals that God caused them to present themselves before the man, so here "brought her" denotes the act of a sovereign God in the presentation of the woman to the man in marriage. When man and woman are joined together by God in holy wedlock this is called in Scripture **"the covenant of God"** (Prov. 2:17). In every true marriage God brings the wife: **"A prudent wife is from the**

Lord" (Prov. 19:14).

Marriage is a Divine institution ordained by God in the time of man's innocence in Paradise. It is not a mere human relationship as evolutionists, humanists, and Communists say. God ordained marriage at the beginning of human history for the good of the race. If marriage were of human origin, then humans would have the right to do whatever they wanted to do concerning it. Marriage cannot be regulated by human whims and wishes. It must be regulated by the rules set down by God in the Bible. Neither private persons, nor the state, are competent to decide who may or may not be married. That is God's prerogative.

THE ACCEPTANCE

"And Adam said, This is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Gen. 2:23). Adam acknowledged Eve, the gift of God, as a part of himself. Eve was a part of Adam's flesh and bones. The Apostle Paul said: **"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh"** (Eph. 5:28-31).

Consider the words **"she shall be called Woman."** The Hebrew word for man (*ish*) is used in the feminine form of the woman (*isha*—she-man). Maness would express it, like shepherdess and prophetess. Our English word "woman" (womb-man Anglo-Saxon) comes from "man" as any one can see by looking at the word (wo-man).

GOD'S FIRST ORDINANCE

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). Scholars debate the identity of the speaker in this verse. Some say these are the words of Adam. Others take them as the language of Moses. Our Lord refers these words to the Creator Himself: **"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"** (Matt. 19:4-

6).

God Himself instituted marriage in Eden, and He performed the first marriage ceremony. In the beginning of the race God ordained marriage for all mankind. He foretold the eventual departure of children from the home for the purpose of marriage and the family. Parental authority over a child ends at the marriage altar—whether the child is fifteen or fifty.

The human pair is unlike all others in that they are one. **"One flesh"** was literally true of Adam and Eve. Husband and wife are **"one flesh"** as soon as the marriage takes place (Eph. 5:31). **"One flesh"** points to the unity of persons, and not simply to a conjunction of bodies. Both Malachi (2:15) and Christ explain Genesis 2:24 as teaching the indissoluble character of marriage. In the practical sense, husband and wife do not begin marriage as one person, but as two separate individuals. In order to become one they must work at it. They must think, act, and feel as one.

WHAT MARRIAGE IS NOT

First, marriage is not primarily for the purpose of procreation, for procreation is one of the privileges of marriage (Gen. 1:27-28; Heb. 13:4). Matrimony is not the same as mating. Skunks and hogs mate. Much mating goes on disconnected from marriage in Hollywood and the ghettos. Marriage is not legalized mating as some suppose.

Second, marriage is not sexual relations. If this were so, then rapists and child molesters would be married to their victims. If wedlock is no more than sexual union, then animals are married. If sexual union constitutes marriage, then when a man gets too old to have sex, or suffers physical injury, then he would be compelled to get a divorce. If marriage and sexual union were the same, the Bible would not warn of fornication and adultery. It would only speak of informal marriage, and adultery would be reduced to informal polygamy. The Bible speaks of sexual sins outside of marriage (John 4:16-18), and in the Bible people are called husband and wife prior to sexual relations (Matt. 1:18-20).

The Bible no where says marriage begins on the honeymoon when sexual relations first occur. If this be true as some say, then preachers and Justices of the Peace are all liars, for at the conclusion of a marriage ceremony they say, "I now pronounce you man and wife." Sexual relations do not make a marriage, and they do not break a marriage. Married people who commit adultery need only to repent, not be married again.

Peter S. Ruckman, president

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of Pensacola Bible Institute and an outspoken Arminian, sees marriage only as a carnal sex act. He writes: "In the Bible, a 'marriage' is where flesh joins flesh to make one body. That fact is incontestable. . . some 'historic Fundamentalists' have the funny idea that when two people are standing at an altar, God is joining them together. Can you imagine anything more sick than that?" (*Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*, pp. 6, 10). As we might expect, Peter Ruckman has been married and divorced and remarried.

If Peter Ruckman's idea is correct, then Jesus Christ must have been illegitimate, seeing Joseph and Mary had not yet come together (Matt. 1:18). He must also explain why Matthew in the King James Version called them "husband" and "wife" before they came together (Matt. 1:18-20).

WHAT MARRIAGE IS

According to the Bible, marriage is covenant of companionship. When a man and a woman take lifelong vows to love and live together as husband and wife in God's presence, God joins them together (Matt. 19:6). The marriage vows are the marriage, strictly speaking. This is the covenant of companionship to which God is a witness. It is said of an unfaithful wife: "Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God" (Prov. 2:17). A violation of the marriage oath is a terrible sin for any husband: "Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy cov-

enant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously" (Mal. 2:14-16).

CONCLUSION

1. Marriage is an ordinance of God. He makes the rules for it, not the state. The state is obligated to carry out the rules of God concerning marriage and keep the records.

2. The marriage certificate is not just a scrap of paper. It is a covenant of companionship which God recognizes as marriage. Common-law marriages are no good. There are no vows, no written agreement, and no marriage. Shacking up is not marriage; it is fornication.

3. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4). Marriage is not dishonorable even to ministers of the gospel (I Tim. 3:1-2; I Cor. 9:5). All sex outside of marriage is sinful, and it results in Divine judgment.

4. God intended that marriage be between one man and one woman for life. Divorce was not possible for Adam and Eve. They were the only two people on earth at that time. God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve—not Eve and Edith! Therefore polygamy, unscriptural divorce, adultery, homosexuality, and all forms of sexual impurity violate the original marriage institution and issue in total ruin of society by the sure judgment of God.

to make changes to Pakistan's existing constitution. A military coup on Oct. 12 of last year led by Musharraf deposed the administration of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Sharif has since been sentenced to life in prison for terrorism and hijacking charges for attempting to stop Musharraf's plane from landing the night of the coup. According to reports, the Pakistani people cautiously welcomed Musharraf's abrupt takeover of the country.

The feeling is not shared by human rights groups from inside and outside Pakistan, who were previously concerned about the status of freedom and human rights inside the country. Musharraf's latest actions give further reason for concern that the rights of Christians and other non-Muslims may be in serious jeopardy.

In recent months, Islamic groups had been demanding that Musharraf clearly define the role of Islam in Pakistan. Musharraf's constitutional amendment, Provisional Constitution Order 2000 (PCO), is intended to "uphold all Islamic injunctions contained in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," according to a Pakistani official spokesman.

ICC reports that Musharraf introduced a constitutional amendment that will establish Islam as the sole, supreme religion of the country and that all other religions will be subjugated to the laws of Islam according to the Koran. Furthermore, a newly added article distinguishes Muslims from non-Muslims, creating an apartheid system.

Shahba Bhatti, president of Christian Liberation Front Pakistan, the leading voice in Pakistan for the non-Muslim minorities, was visiting Washington, D.C. at the time of Musharraf's announcement. In a statement to ICC, Bhatti criticized the new induction of Islamic clauses in the PCO.

"This is a death warrant for the religious minorities of Pakistan and Pakistan could very well soon witness the same unrest and violence that has been occurring in Indonesia," said Bhatti. "Musharraf is under the influence of Islamic militant organizations and that the general's actions are a move toward a complete genocide of the religious minorities of Pakistan."

Bhatti accused Musharraf of making Pakistan a religious apartheid state and violating the universal standard of human rights and democratic values. Bhatti also appealed to the international community and human rights organizations to raise this issue and to intervene in order to save Pakistan from further degradation.

". . .the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things" (Prov. 15:28).

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS FOR JERUSALEM VOICED DURING RECENT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

JERUSALEM (EP)—During recent talks between Israeli president Ehud

Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at Camp David, Christian leaders both in the Middle East and abroad voiced concerns about proposed peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Jerusalem's status was foremost on the minds of the leaders of the city's Christian churches. Patriarchs Diodoros I of the Greek Orthodox Church, Archbishop Michel Sabbah of the Catholic Church and Torkom II of the Armenian Orthodox Church sent a joint letter to the assembled leaders at Camp David, urging them to commit that "the Christian communities within the walls of the Old City are not separated from each other."

The letter was prompted by reports that the parties at Camp David were considering dividing Jerusalem into Muslim and Jewish sections. Reportedly, Arafat had suggested cleaving the city into two sections, one half including the Christian quarter, ruled by Palestinians and the other controlled by Israelis. In response, Christian churches have called for a united Jerusalem with no divisions along ethnic or religious lines.

Sites important to Judaism, Islam and Christianity—including the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher—would be affected by the proposed division of the city. Most of the Christian sites in question are located in east Jerusalem.

The three patriarchs stated that access to Christian religious sites must be a "fundamental freedom" to visitors. The leaders demanded that a Christian presence in the city be safeguarded by international law and that they have a say in the decision making process regarding the future of Jerusalem.

A similar plea was directed at Camp David by Pope John Paul II, spiritual leader of the world's one billion Roman Catholics. John Paul voiced the Vatican's position that Jerusalem should be an international city. "Only a special statute, internationally guaranteed, can effectively preserve the most sacred areas of the Holy City," he told reporters from the window of his summer villa outside Rome. The Pope said international governance of the city would "assure freedom of religion and of worship for all the faithful who, in the region and the entire world, look to Jerusalem as a crossroads of peace and of coexistence." The Vatican has not released specifics on a how the international status of Jerusalem would be administered.

Conflict over the fate of Jerusalem was a principle reason why negotiations at Camp David fell apart July 25. Both Barak and Arafat left the summit without a formal agreement. President Clinton, who presided over the summit, told reporters July 26 that the fate of Jerusalem required more time. The two-week period was not enough time for the two leaders to decide.

Clinton said, "I'm convinced that if the



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MILITARY DICTATOR MUSHARRAF DECLARES PAKISTAN AN ISLAMIC STATE

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (EP)—With the stroke of the pen, Pakistan's military leader re-instated provisions of Pakistan's suspended Constitution that will allow Islam to subjugate Christians and other non-Muslims, reports International Chris-

tian Concern (ICC). General Pervez Musharraf succumbed to demands from Muslim extremist groups by announcing July 16 that his regime will restore and enforce procedures of Pakistan's constitution that had not been enforced by Pakistan's previous governments.

This past May, the Supreme Court of Pakistan granted Musharraf the authority

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issue is preserving the fundamental interests of the Palestinians and the Israelis and the genuine sanctity of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish interests in the Holy City, then I think we can do that." Clinton reiterated that more time was needed to resolve the fate of the city.

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all people round about. . . And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (Zech. 12:2-3).

OPEN DOORS' WORLD WATCH LIST POINTS FINGER AT NATIONS PERSECUTING CHRISTIANS

SANTA ANA, Calif. (EP)—Although Indonesia is 25th on the Open Doors World Watch List of worst persecutors of Christians, it is "rapidly getting out of control," Terry Madison, USA president and CEO of Open Doors with Brother Andrew, told Dan Wooding of ASSIST Communications. Madison said the situation in Indonesia is becoming very serious as fanatic Muslims and Christians continue to target each other.

"The Indonesian government seems incapable of taking sufficient measures to end the atrocities," he said. "The Indonesian army and police are either unwilling to interfere or they are scheming the clashes to increase their power, which has been clipped by the new regime of President Wahid. Since the war erupted 18 months ago, more than 2,500 people are reported to have died. These are official figures; the actual number of dead may be higher. In the first six months of this year, nearly 1,000 people were killed. Most of the victims are Christians."

Open Doors, the ministry that was begun 45 years ago by Brother Andrew, the Dutch-born author of "God's Smuggler," has just announced its findings with the semi-annual release of its closely followed World Watch List. The Top Ten "Hall of Shame" is headed once again by Saudi Arabia—as the world's worst persecutor of Christians—closely followed by Afghanistan, China, Chechnya, Sudan, Yemen, North Korea, Maldives, Iran and Morocco.

Northern Nigeria, which is 26th on the list, is also causing great concern to persecution watchers, says Madison.

"Nigeria has experienced a wild start to the year," he said. "There were two major waves of violent clashes between Christians and Muslims. One struck in February, the other in May. Both started in Kaduna, but the waves of violence swept over much wider areas. The divi-

sive force that caused the clashes was the planned introduction of sharia law in a few northern states. Though the regime of President Obasanjo did its best to stop the violence by issuing a cooling-down period before the introduction of sharia, it remains to be seen how much authority the regime still has.

"In clear signs of ignoring the regime's decrees, several northern states have by now implemented sharia law. Many Nigerians give the Obasanjo regime little chance of survival, and it seems likely that the country will either split up, or that the army will take power again in another coup d'etat. Whatever the future will bring, thousands of Christians have decided to leave the north in order to save their lives. Nigeria may never be the same again."

India, which is 29th on the list, has also become a dangerous place to be a Christian, says Madison.

"In India Christians continued to suffer from a large number of negative events," he said. "Still, the police and the regime of Prime Minister Vajpayee insist that the incidents are not related, and that there is no major plan behind the attacks. As a result, the government is unable to provide the necessary protection to the 25 million Christians in India. In the first half of 2000 the number of attacks continued at a high level. At least two priests died at the hands of Hindu fanatics, four churches were bombed, and there were numberless cases of harassment, destruction and attempts at 're-conversion' of Christians to Hinduism."

Madison then turned his attention to war-torn Chechnya. "President Putin's greatest goal was to end the crisis in Chechnya as soon as possible, and to this end a massive military campaign was launched," Madison said. "Hundreds of thousands of people fled for their lives and thousands perished. The Russian army used its heaviest weapons and dirtiest tactics against the Chechen rebels. This led to widespread western protests of human rights violations, but the Russians went ahead undeterred. Putin became immensely popular among his own people with this hard-lone approach. This was demonstrated when, in the May presidential elections, he didn't even need a second round to officially become the next Russian president."

"Most of Chechnya was soon under Russian control, but the Russians never managed to extinguish the Chechen resistance. The Muslim Chechen rebels turned to guerrilla tactics. Everything that was even remotely connected to the Russians became a target. This included Christians. As a result, practically all non-indigenous Christians have now left Chechnya. It is unknown what has happened to those who remained behind. There no longer is a church in Chechnya."

He then spoke about China, a coun-

try Madison has visited personally nearly 40 times and in which he took part in "Project Pearl" in 1981 when a million Bibles were delivered by Open Doors in one night to waiting believers on a beach in Swatow, south China.

Madison said in January *Time* magazine carried a lead story about China. "The basic theme was 'more tolerance does not mean less control,'" he said. "*Time* was right about the fact that in China there was no less control, but the events of the first half of this year indicated that there also was no drive for more tolerance. Several sects like Falun Gong were banned, and there were various waves of arrests. Thousands were sent to labor camps or prison. Harassment was the order of the day. Some perished while in captivity."

"The officially sanctioned church in China experienced relative freedom (as witnessed by the unprecedented airing of a Christian television program on state television, and within the Patriotic Catholic Church, the re-opening of a seminary). But the unofficial churches, both the underground Catholics and the Protestant House Church movement, encountered many problems. Six House Church leaders and five Catholics, among them a bishop, were arrested in January.

"In February China burnt down and blew up churches and took dozens of clerics into custody, among them another bishop, in an intensified campaign against the underground Catholic Church. In March news leaked out that China had written new guidelines for attacking believers."

Madison went on, "The West showed how important human rights and freedom of religion are to them. The United Nations, the European Union and the USA all issued sharp criticism of China's record in these areas during the first three months. The USA energetically attempted to get China condemned in the UN. But the end of the affair was predictable: China escaped condemnation in the UN yet again, and eventually it was even granted Most Favored Nation trading status permanently. The inevitable conclusion of these efforts is that while the West may be interested in human rights and religious freedom, when it comes to taking serious actions, economic values still dominate."

Madison concluded by saying, "Freedom of religion continued to be under pressure in the first half of 2000, as it has been over the past years. Violence against Christians (often accompanied by ethnic and economic tensions) was rampant in many parts of the world. Persecution around the world should be of concern to all Christians. We are instructed to 'bear each others burdens' and we can do this through prayer, by going to encourage them and providing them with Bibles and other tools, and by supporting ministries that reach out to the suffering Church, such as Open Doors."

"Then shall they deliver you up to

be afflicted, and shall kill you. . ." (Matt. 24:9).

GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

Vice President Al Gore, who has expressed strong disapproval of a Democratic fund-raiser at the *Playboy* Mansion, has accepted thousands of dollars from *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner, and his daughter, *Playboy* CEO Christie Hefner (*Washington Times*, 8-6-00).

Black radicals, after they finish with the Confederate flag, might have an even more familiar flag as their target. Said Nation of Islam grand potentate Louis Farrakhan on July 18, "If we are upset as black people they're flying the Confederate flag, you should be upset about flying the American flag. Because all the h . . . we caught, we got on the next flag." Farrakhan conceded. "The people of the South are bigger than the Confederate flag. But the Confederate flag is a part of the history of the South" (*Human Events*, 7-28-00).

Ava Estelle, 81, Melbourne, Australia, was so upset when she found out two thugs carjacked and raped her 18-year-old granddaughter that she tracked down the unsuspecting ex-convicts and shot off their testicles. Using a police artist's photo of the suspects and her granddaughter's description of the suspects' car, Mrs. Estelle spent seven days following the Aug. 21 attack prowling the drug and liquor infested neighborhood where the crime occurred until she spotted the rapists entering their flophouse hotel. She took a photograph of them and showed it to her granddaughter, who immediately recognized the men. Mrs. Estelle returned to the hotel, shot the men and turned herself in to police. "What she did was wrong, but you can't really throw an 81-year-old woman in prison, especially when all three million people in the city want to nominate her for sainthood," Melbourne police investigator Evan Delp said (*Straight Talk*, 8-3-00).

Southern Baptist missionaries and lay people who share their Christian faith in France could be imprisoned for up to two years under a proposed law that accuse religious "proselytizers" of "mental Manipulation" of the public. Southern Baptists are just one of the 173 religious groups labeled "dangerous sects" by members of France's Socialist party. The proposed bill aims to limit the spread of what French officials have called the mental manipulation of the public by evangelical and other religious groups. Currently, Southern Baptists have 40 workers in France and have had an established missionary presence in the country since 1960 (*Western Recorder*, 7-11-00).

IRVING, Texas - When four former

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Catholic altar boys started an atheist "church" here a few years ago, they didn't think they were doing anything special. They just wanted a place where non-believers could gather for fellowship, just as other churchgoers do. But five years later, the North Texas Church of Freethought—nicknamed the "church for the unchurched"—has become a model for other atheist congregations, sparking interest in similar ventures around the nation and the world. . . . About 40 people attended the first service in Irving's Wilson World Hotel in 1995. The church now boasts a membership of 150 and is raising money toward owning its own building. And in March, leaders helped launch a congregation in Houston. Atheists in England and New Zealand have also contacted them about starting a church (*News & Record*, 7-15-00).

A recent directive proposed by the European Union's European Commission (EC) has kindled resistance from Britain's religious leaders. The controversial edict, supposedly intended to promote "equality," would compel Christian charities and schools to employ nonbelievers and practicing homosexuals. It asserts that all employees or prospective employees should be treated equally, "irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, or disability, or age, or sexual orientation." According to London's *Daily Telegraph* for June 26th, the EC holds that "religious organizations will be covered by the directive unless the employee involved is 'directly or essentially' involved in promoting the faith." Which means, for instance, that "a church could insist on hiring a Christian priest, but not a Christian secretary," or that religious schools could insist that a religious education teacher—but not a math teacher—be a believer (*The New American*, 7-31-00).

A provision buried in S. 486, the "Methamphetamine Anti-Proliferation Act of 1999," would allow the Justice Department to secretly search any residence without notification. The bill was passed by the Senate without this provision being challenged. The House version of the bill, H.R. 2987, sponsored by Rep. Chris Cannon (R-UT), contains the same provision. Referred to a House subcommittee on October 20, 1999, the bill has yet to be amended. If signed into law, H.R. 2987 would fly in the face of Fourth Amendment protections against unwarranted searches (*ibid.*).

Alarming news to health officials: the rate of new HIV infections among homosexual and bisexual men in San Francisco nearly tripled over the past two years (7-1 *H. Times*). Experts say powerful AIDS

drugs are making people complacent. AIDS remains a politically protected and largely preventable disease. But President Clinton declared June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month," and Hillary Clinton marched in New York City's "Gay Pride Parade" (*Calvary Contender*, 7-15-00).

Former Southern Baptist President Charles Stanley disagrees with his denomination's stand against women leading the church (6-28 *Charlotte Observer*). He said he was led to Christ by a fiery female pastor and, "There are some godly women. . . ." "I would never say that a woman could not preach. . . ." "You just can't draw the line and say, 'You can't do so-and-so.' You just can't put God in a box." As to it being divisive, he said sometimes our decisions "alienate people." But Jesus was "divisive" and His doctrines sometimes alienated people (*ibid.*).

Promise Keepers still draw crowds but the numbers are smaller. Their first U.S. rally this year was at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University, June 3-4 (6-23-*Religion Today*). Falwell seems to be increasing his links with charismatics. Charismatic pastor Hayford is listed as an advisory board member of his Liberty University Worship Institute (*ibid.*).

Has anyone seen Jesse Jackson around lately? Kweisi Mfume? Al Sharpton? for persons whose political antennae are ordinarily so sensitive that they can pick up racial tremors a thousand miles away, they seem to have overlooked a possible hate crime right in the vicinity of the nation's capital. In April, a man armed with a knife attacked and killed an 8-year-old boy named Kevin Shifflett as he played outdoors in the Del Ray section of Alexandria, Va. Then he fled, apparently by cab. Police searching for the suspect initially found the trail cold, then focused their attention on a paroled felon whose DNA matched evidence found in the getaway cab. As it happens, the so-far-unnamed suspect is black, and Kevin Shifflett was white. *The Washington Post* has turned up evidence to suggest the suspect had racial motives for the slaying. It seems that a witness to the attack says the suspect was yelling "something to the third-grader about hating white people before slashing his throat." Police previously had not mentioned the racist overtones of the attack. There is more. Police have possession of a note found in a hotel room where the suspect had been staying which says, "Kill them raceess whiate kidd's anyway" (*The Washington Times*, 7-17-00).

Pornography is a \$56 billion business and growing (6-24, *World*). Porn companies trade on the stock exchanges. Two years ago, 8,948 hard-core videos hit the U.S. market, up from 1,275 in 1990. AT&T has become a top provider of pornography, and has transformed the image of

"Ma Bell" into a harlot (*Calvary Contender*, 8-1-00).

According to a recent study by hotlineScopp.com, the media is more likely to use negative labels when describing conservatives. In a Nexis search of the phrase "partisan Republican," the term showed up 85 times in the news media over a 90-day interval. On the other hand, a search for "partisan Democrat" appeared only 58 times in the same time span. Another search looked up "extreme right" over the course of a month and found 212 mentions, while "extreme left" was only mentioned 58 times in the same period. Finally, the phrase "far right" was searched and came up with 267 mentions in one week, and "far left" comprised only 130 mentions that week (*Capitol Comments*, 7-00).

The Clinton Administration will push for Senate approval of a United Nations treaty used to promote legal prostitution in China, health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala said on May 31. A U.N. committee recently ordered China to allow women to sell their bodies as "sex workers." The order, issued by the body that will oversee the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, calls prostitution a "reproductive right" over one's body (*Washington Times*, 5-11-00).

On May 5, Federal District Judge Jennifer Coffman ordered historical documents hanging on the walls of public buildings in eastern Kentucky to be immediately taken down. The ruling directly targets courthouses and public schools in Harlan, McCreary, and Pulaski counties. In defending her decision Coffman said the displays have the effect of "conveying a very specific government endorsement of religion." Judge Coffman's ruling demonstrates either a profound ignorance of America's history or a profound contempt for America's history. In either case, the judge declared war on America's deep Christian heritage. The offending documents ordered removed included the Declaration of Independence, the preamble to the Constitution of Kentucky, and the national motto, "In God We Trust." A page from the congressional record of Wednesday, Feb. 2, 1983, Vol. 129, NO. 8, which declares 1983 as the "Year of the Bible" and lists the Ten Commandments, was likewise ordered removed. In addition a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan making 1983 the "Year of the Bible," a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln designating April 30, 1893, a "National Day of Prayer and Humiliation," the Mayflower Compact, and more were ordered removed. Any document having any reference to God was ordered taken down (*Capitol Comments*, 6-00).

According to a Chinese scientist who lives in the United States after defecting from China in the late 1990s, the Chinese acquired more of the specialized military equipment and technology they needed from the DF-31 in the United States, with help and approval from the Clinton Administration (*Washington Times*, 6-4-00).

Bill Clinton signed Presidential Decision Directive #25. That says, in a national emergency, command and control of all U.S. Military will pass from the U.S. President to the Secretary General of the United Nations. Did your beloved major media tell you this? Of course not! (*Washington Report*).

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A House bill to ban online casinos failed to pass July 17. The vote favored the bill, 245-159, but that fell short of the two-thirds majority required to bring the bill to the floor. Bill sponsor Rep. Robert Goodlatte (R-Va) said he hoped the House leadership would "honor the will of the majority" by bringing the bill up for another vote, this time under normal rules requiring only a simple majority vote. While critics of the bill condemned it as a restriction on the inherent freedom of the Internet, Goodlatte said, "One way to promote the Internet is to make sure that the seamy side of life is dealt with on the Internet. Just like child pornography has to be dealt with on the Internet, so does unregulated, out-of-control, illegal gambling." Nearly 700 web sites offer on-line gambling and the business is expected to triple to \$3 billion in 2002.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—By an overwhelming vote, the U.S. House has registered its objections to an effort to revoke the Vatican's United Nations status as a permanent observer. Abortion supporters are working to oust the Vatican from the U.N. Austin Ruse of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute says, "The crime of the Catholic Church was to espouse the deeply held religious belief in the inviolability of every human life from the moment of conception." The house voted 416-1 to "strongly" object to any effort to expel the Vatican from the U.N. Rep. Pete Stark, (d-Calif.) was the lone "no" vote.

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (EP)—A persecuted group of Christians in the Thu Thiem district of Vietnam's capitol city were subjected to further oppression July 1 when city officials tore down a simple shack the Christians constructed for use as a church. The Christians, led by Nguyen Trong Tai and Pastor Truong van Nghanh, had received verbal permission to congregate at the site in Thu Thiem for Christian services. After a lengthy appeals process, Nguyen and Truong had still not received permission to build a

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Bible & the Newspaper

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permanent house of worship on the site, but they decided to construct a simple shelter anyway for a July 2 service. According to Compass Direct, the structure was torn down by the authorities before it was even used. When the Christians returned to the spot for the services they were subjected to further harassment and videotaping by militia. Compass Direct reports that there are 3,500 house churches in Vietnam of various denominational affiliations, including the Evangelical Church of Vietnam (ECVN), which has been operating within the country since 1929. The ECVN has yet to be recognized by the Vietnamese government, even though Vietnam's constitution guarantees "freedom of religion" to its people.

ATLANTA, Ga. (EP)—Charles Stanley has responded to critics who said he should have stepped down as pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church after his divorce. Stanley, who said in 1985 that he would resign if a long-threatened divorce ever became final, told Baptist Press that the pledge doesn't apply. Stanley said the pledge was for that particular time and circumstance, and that he did not mean he would necessarily follow through in the future.

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—Communications giant AT&T is reconsidering its decision to form a partnership with a pay-per-view pornography network. AT&T announced that it will wait 60 days before deciding whether to carry "The Hot Network" on its cable TV system. AT&T planned to add the pornography channel, but has been deluged with complaints.



Dear Berea Baptist Banner,
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I thank God that I've had the opportunity to know or at least to hear about you'll and most importantly about the "Banner" that is published every month.

—South America

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Enclosed is a check to use as you decide. We are happy to have a part in supporting the good work you and the Berea Baptist Church are doing there in Mantachie. You and the church are always

in our prayers.

—Florida

Brother Cockrell,

Grace and peace that comes from above. Please remember my family in your prayers. As we see this world getting worse and worse it is a blessing to know people like you living for God. Just because the world goes bad does not mean we Christians have to give up and join in. What a blessing to know Jesus as Saviour. Stay *warm* and my prayers are with you.

—Arkansas

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

We have been enjoying the tapes you sent and the two booklets. Enclosing a check to take care of the postage and tapes. Hope all are well and every phase of the work is being blessed.

Enjoyed talking with you, but so grieved at the news concerning Bro. Harvey. In the flesh we will miss him, but what rejoicing for him in his home going. Pray for us, as we do for you all.

—Tennessee

Dear Sister Cockrell,

I pray all of you are well and that your garden is not completely gone as they are here because of deep draught. I pray the Lord will send rain to us soon.

My prayers are with all of you. May God bless you and keep in His tender mercies!

I really enjoyed the article on "Christ Is All In All"! Thank you for feeding "His children" with the truth!!!

—Alabama

Dear Pastor Milburn,

We are enclosing a check for Berea Baptist. Please use it where you need it most.

We are thankful that our Lord has given us a few men like you who are willing to spend every possible hour serving Him and helping others to learn more about Him and His wonderful love for all of the people in this world who care for His "forgiveness" and the eternal life only He can give.

We pass the *Banner* on to others. Some are not pleased but others ask for our paper and pass it on or share it with their study groups. Thank you for it.

—Kansas

I really do like this paper.

Enjoy the old old preacher's sermons. Also your younger ones too. Hello to all the Cockrells.

Sign me up another year.

—Mississippi

Dear Bro. Cockrell and family,

We received the books and are so grateful to you for sending them. They will be a wonderful study help in our ministry. We were so blessed for having Bro.

Cockrell out here in Oregon. We are thankful that you are able to get on the radio and you can be heard out here weekly. Our prayer is that you all will receive a great blessing for your faithfulness to our Lord and Saviour.

—Oregon

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Let me say your book *Scriptural Church Organization* has been a great blessing to me. It makes the truth on church organization so plain and clear. Any person who can't see the truth after reading your book is either blind or willfully deceived. There are many. . . who would rather follow man's ways than God's ways. Certainly such cannot be "Landmark Baptists."

—Kentucky

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Thank you so much for the e-mail giving me your permission to produce your material into Braille and on tape. The only book I have of yours is the one regarding women and the head covering. I'm sorry I don't know the exact title. I do not get the *Banner* but I would very much like to. My mailing address is enclosed.

I would certainly be interested in getting other books you may have, so please keep in touch with me to see what we can work out! Once again, thank you so much!!!

—Washington

Bro. Cockrell,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed Bro. Mark Minney's article in the August issue entitled "The Authority Theory (Theory??)." I appreciated how he used the Word of God to back up all he said. And I also appreciated the attitude in which he said it.

—Billy Holbrook, Illinois

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I trust the Lord continues to bless in the work there. I look forward to the BBB and I'd like for my neighbors to receive it and trust it will be a great blessing to them.

—Texas

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I was glad for your friendly reply and just wanted to thank you, also on behalf of my kinsmen according to flesh and the brethren in Finland, for your praying.

—Finland

To whom it may concern:

My name is. . . I am an inmate on the Florida Department of Corrections. The reason for this letter is one. I enjoy reading the *Baptist Banner* newspaper.

—Florida

Hi Brother Cockrell,

My name is. . . Brother Fountain gave me your e-mail address. I'm trying to find some copies of the "Trail of Blood." Brother Fountain said that you

might either have some that I could buy from you, or that you can put me on the trail of where I could find some. I'd appreciate any help you can be. I've been talking to some of the Southern Baptist pastors in the area and two are interested in finding out more about the history of the Baptist churches.

—Kentucky

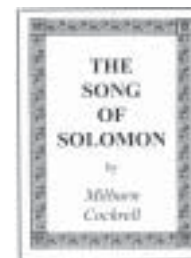
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GLEANINGS

**WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL
PLEASE GOD BUT GOD
HIMSELF**

OR

**CAN THAT BE OBEDIENCE
WHICH HAS NO COMMAND
FOR IT? AND IF NOT
OBEDIENCE IS IT NOT
DISOBEDIENCE?**

(Furnished by Curtis Pugh, Romania)

The following is
An Excerpt From the Book

**THE SCRIPTURAL AND
HISTORICAL ARGUMENTS
FOR INFANT BAPTISM
EXAMINED**

By J. Torrey Smith

Published by the
**American Baptist Publication
Society, Philadelphia
A.D. 1850**

**Part II
INFANT BAPTISM**

Chapter II
(Complete and Unabridged)

**INFANT BAPTISM, IF NOT
COMMANDED IN THE WORD
OF GOD, IS FORBIDDEN.**

I have already shown that most Pedobaptist writers concede that the Bible contains no command expressly enjoining infant baptism. Some go so far as to claim that the demand for such an express requirement is unreasonable. (footnote: Dr. Peters on Baptism, p. 160).

But IS this demand unreasonable? On the contrary, is it not the ground which every Christian should take, and strenuously insist upon, to **admit no religious rite, without a peremptory challenge for its authority; and to admit none, without express Divine command, or clear Apostolical precedent;** whatever other claims it may put forth? If the history of the Church teaches any lesson, this is written as with a sun-beam.

If infant baptism be a duty, it is a positive duty. All must admit that it is not a moral duty. It does not "arise out of the nature of the case, prior to external command," the terms in which Bishop Butler defines moral duties. But if not a moral duty, it is a positive duty. Will any one join issue with Bishop Butler in the following proposition: "Positive duties do not arise out of the nature of the case, but

from external command; NOR WOULD THEY BE DUTIES AT ALL, WERE IT NOT FOR SUCH COMMAND RECEIVED FROM HIM WHOSE CREATURES AND SUBJECTS WE ARE." (footnote: Analogy, Part 2, Chap. I.) This is our position in relation to infant baptism; it cannot be a duty without express command or clear inspired precedent. Of those who would impose it upon us, we demand that express authority, and whoever claims that we are unreasonable in that demand, must join issue with Bishop Butler in the declaration above.

How earnestly Baxter pleads for the same principle, in the following words: "Who knows what will please God but himself? And has he not told us what he expects of us? Can that be obedience which has no command for it? Is not this to supererogate, and to be righteous overmuch? Is not this to accuse God's ordinances of insufficiency, as well as his word; as if they were not sufficient to please him, or help our own graces? O the pride of man's heart, that instead of being a law-obeyer, will be a law-maker!"

But I do not base this principle on the authority of Butler, or Baxter, or a score of others whom I might quote, who state it as distinctly and strongly as they have. In Col. 2:20-22, the principle is clearly laid down, *that all religious rites not expressly required, are forbidden.* "Wherefore, if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in it, are ye subject to ordinances, after the commandments and doctrines of men?" This principle is a broad one, covering all religious rites, infant baptism with the rest. (And what other things shall we properly include in our Baptist Church meetings besides those things commanded or Apostolical? Do we think to please God by observing what He has NOT commanded? Are not the pagan holiday observances of "Christmas" and "Easter" equally as un-commanded and non-Apostolical as infant baptism and therefore are their observances in our Church meetings equally as disobedient as would be infant baptism? And so with all innovations such as the giving of "invitations" to come to the front which have been brought into Baptist Churches and which are not commanded by God or possessed of Apostolic precedent. C.A.P.) Christians are here expressly required not to be subject to ordinances, after the commandments and doctrines of men. Infant baptism is maintained as an *ordinance* binding on the Church. If so, it must have had an *ordainer*. But it is admitted that God has not commanded it, and that there is no clear Apostolical precedent for it. But if

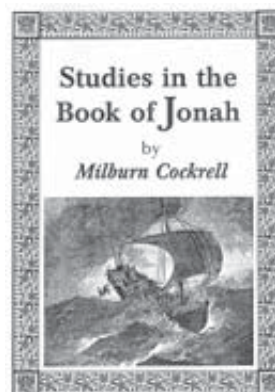
God has not commanded it, it is a commandment of men, and we are forbidden to be subject to any such ordinances. It is forbidden in the next verse as *will worship*; i.e. those who practice religious rites not commanded of God, worship God according to their own will, and not according to his will.

We are sometimes asked for an express prohibition of infant baptism. (And today some ask for an express prohibition against "Christmas", "Easter", "invitations", and other innovations. And Bro. Smith's answers equally apply to these innovations as to infant baptism. If we allow one, in order to be consistent we must allow all the others! C.A.P.). As well might the Pharisees have asked where in the Old Testament were their traditions expressly forbidden. The Bible must have been a large book to have prohibited in terms every false notion the human mind might conceive, down to the end of time; and the Catholic has as good a right to demand a prohibition of holy water, and the sign of the cross, or of auricular confession, as the Protestant Pedobaptist has to demand a prohibition of infant baptism. (Or the modern Baptist to demand a prohibition against the observance of holidays and other modern innovations. C.A.P.). But by this one principle not only infant baptism, but

infant communion, invocation of saints, prayers for the dead, the use of holy water, the sign of the cross and anointing with oil in baptism, auricular confession, penances and pilgrimages - in short, all religious rites not commanded - are forbidden. Dr. Sherlock, answering such a claim made by Catholics in his day, says, "They make the demand with just as much reason as if one should tell me that by the laws of England, every man is bound to marry at twenty years old; and when I desire him to show me the law which makes this necessary, he would answer, though he cannot show me such a law, yet it may be necessary, unless I can show him a law which expressly declares it is not necessary. Whereas nothing is necessary but what the *law* makes so; and if the law has not made it necessary, there is no need of any law to declare that it is not necessary."

(Brethren, how shall we please God except by obedience? And since God alone knows what will please Him, are we not obligated to do those things which He has commanded? And do we think to obey God when we obey the traditions of men and do those things which God has not commanded? And if our innovations are not obedience to God's commands, are they not disobedience? Let us be Biblical Baptists in both our doctrine and practice! C.A.P.)

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 David A. Reed \$9.99
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 Dr. Steve Wilke \$4.95
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 David Benoit \$11.99
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 Bill Uselton \$2.95
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America's Fascination with Astrology
 Charles Strohmmer \$9.99
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 W. Davis, P. Myers, & M. Duckworth .. \$2.00

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**BEREA BAPTIST BANNER
 Financial Report
 6-30-2000 to 7-31-2000**

Beginning Balance \$5,122.57
RECEIPTS:
 B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL 23.82
 Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV 300.00
 Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 125.00
 Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 200.00
 Berea B. C., Stoning, IL 60.00
 Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN 50.00
 Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH 50.00
 Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX 15.00
 Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL 25.00
 Charles E Burt, Hendersonville, NC 100.00
 Faith B. C., Seffner, FL 50.00
 Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN 100.00
 Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 60.00
 Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY 35.00
 Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK 50.00
 Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL 25.00
 Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem, NC 25.00
 Indore B. C., Indore, WV 100.00
 J. B. Wild, Flint, MI 20.00
 Joe Jurzec, Lake-in-the-Hills, IL 40.00
 John H. Otis, Agra, KS 50.00
 L. H. Farrell, Long Beach, MS 230.00
 Landmark M. B. C., Monck's Corner, SC 25.00

Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM 150.00
 Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL 100.00
 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
 Northland M. B. C., Delaware, OH 50.00
 Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA 40.00
 Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM 50.00
 Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL 50.00
 Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR 50.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS 50.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS 100.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC 100.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL 100.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX 30.00
 Sovereign Grace B. C., Warren, OH 75.00
 South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA 25.00
 Temple B. C., Appalachia, VA 25.00
 Temple B. Mission, Johnson City, TN 25.00
 The Lord's C., Goose Creek, SC 50.00
 Truman Phillips, Beaver Creek, OH 15.00
 Victory B. C., Courtland, VA 100.00
 Wanda Fowler, Texarkana, TX 1000.00
 Wayne Huffman, McNeil, AR 200.00
 Subscriptions 285.00
 Anonymous 296.80
 Sub Total \$5,285.62
TOTAL \$10,408.19

EXPENDITURES:
 Wages 2,015.00
 Printing 1,023.00
 Postage 1,249.50
 FICA taxes 189.34
 Supplies 2,334.37
 Dividing Check 12.00
 Total Expenditure 6,823.21
 Bank charge -6.65
 chk#182 +.07
ENDING BALANCE \$3,578.40

**BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST
 Financial Report
 6-30-2000 to 7-31-2000**

Beginning Balance \$ 3,283.20

RECEIPTS
 Grace B. C., Corbin, KY 100.00
 Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS 100.00
 Livingstone B. C., Barboursville, V 303.75
 Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY 75.00
 Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN 165.00
 Calvary I. B. C., Everson, WA 150.00
 Dividing Checks 425.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS 4,601.95

EXPENDITURES:
 Radio Time 985.00
 Postage 15.20
 Dividing Checks 425.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1,425.20
 Bank Charge -5.47
BALANCE \$3,171.28

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance \$978.32
RECEIPTS
 Total 978.32

EXPENDITURES:
 WYWY 175.00
 Total Expenditures 175.00
ENDING BALANCE \$803.32

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Tom Ross has the book *Elementary Eschatology* for sale for \$6.95. He is planning to offer *Cultivating Christian Character* for \$4.95, and *Outlines of Systematic Bible Doctrines* (outlines of Bro. Simmons' theology book) for \$7.95. On orders up to \$20 add \$3 for postage and handling; on orders from \$20 to \$100 add 15 percent; on orders over \$100 they pay all postage. Make check payable to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 6939 Country Rd. 15, Chesapeake, OH 45619. Phone (740) 894-6546 or Fax: (304) 736-7065.

GLEANINGS



EPILOGUE

There has always been in the sinner's heart a prurient desire to find some way to the secrets of the hereafter, and hence they have resorted to magic and sorcery, fortunetelling, soothsaying, necromancy, and ten thousand other ways. Even in Hell the rich man had that desire: "Father Abraham, send Lazarus back to yonder world to tell my brothers not to come here." Abraham said: "They have Moses and the prophets; they have the light." He said: "No, Father Abraham, if one would go unto them from the dead they will repent." Abraham said: "If they would not repent under Moses and the prophets, they would not repent under one that came from the dead." Whoever is not willing to be saved by this revelation, a stored up, a precious treasure of life, deposited with the churches, then how can he be saved? That is why I told you, and probably shocked some of you by saying, that whoever is not saved through the shining of the candlesticks and stars, through the ministry of the light of the churches and the preachers, cannot be saved. Therefore no man can be saved after Christ comes; all of the saving light is deposited with the churches. That is why I prefer to take my conception of the churches from Jesus Christ rather than from man's idea of what is the church. He established the church as an institution; He calls the concrete expression of the institution, "the churches": He says, "These are the candlesticks and the stars that are to illumine the world." I count being a church member a very great honor. Others prefer to run over the range as mavericks—Texas cattlemen know what that means—wild stock with no brand or make on them. And there are quite a lot of preachers who prefer to be "free lances," independent of the churches. Paul says that Jesus set the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and teachers in the church: that is where He put them; they are not turned out loose in the world like wandering stars: they must have anchorage; they must hail from some port and must be going to some port. (B. H. Carroll in the epilogue to Book of Revelation, p. 297).



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Second Amendment Rights Are Still Sound



Our Founding Fathers gave us our Second Amendment rights to “keep and bear Arms” for a very good reason—as sound today as it ever was: It is our last-ditch defense against government encroachments on our freedoms and sovereignty. These precious rights have nothing to do with rabbit-hunting and target-shooting, as some media and political do-gooders have us believe.

Our White House and Congress today, more and more, lean toward world government controls and piecemeal surrender of national sovereignty and freedoms in United Nations operations. For this, stalwarts like Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Bill Clinton, Al Gore and indeed, the Republican majority in Congress can take a bow.

They have joined the gun control advocates as a means for more and more control over our lives and eventual disarming of the people in order to phase out our freedoms and dictate on their own terms.

WHAT OUR FOUNDERS DID

So, what exactly did our forefathers mean about bearing arms? Said Thomas Jefferson: “No man shall ever be debarred the use of arms. The stronger reason for the people to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.” Added Tench Coxe, an assistant secretary of the treasury in 1789, “The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but...in the hands of the people.”

The Federalist papers are full of justifications for armed citizens. Indeed, in No. 29, Alexander Hamilton expounds on the far-fetched idea of any danger to our liberty from an armed militia; and in No. 46, James Madison wrote, “Americans possess the unique advantage of the right to bear arms over almost every other nation—a barrier against the enterprises of ambition...”

THE CLINTON FIX

When President Clinton claims, as he did, that a trigger-lock might have saved the 6-year-old girl shot recently in Michigan by a 6-year-old boy, he is not being realistic. This is politics.

After all, is it realistic to expect that a trigger-lock would concern the little fellow’s guardian—a drug dealer with an arrest warrant pending, with two stolen guns and a friend who leaves guns lying around the house?

Lawsuits threatened against gun manufacturers for crimes committed with guns caused Smith & Wesson to sign a “voluntary” gun control agreement—something our laws do not require.

Gun manufacturers Clock Inc. and Browning refused to sign and soon, New York’s Attorney General Eliot Spitzer warned, “If you do not sign, bankrupt lawyers will be at your door.” This is pure coercion and a frightening example of bold tyranny.

THE BRICIE TRIBBLE FIX

In Mesa, Arizona last February, elderly lady Bricie Tribble heard noises downstairs at two o’clock in the morning. She investigated with her trusty .45 caliber pistol—no trigger-lock,—and found a big burly burglar robbing her blind.

Said the burglar, “I’m going to kill everyone in this house, including you.” Said Bricie, “No way” and she promptly shot him between the eyes—a one-shot conclusion to a chance meeting.

Earlier, police found that this burglar had abducted a young woman, then raped and shot her. A nervous and frustrated Bricie, fumbling with a trigger-lock, could have made Bricie a victim too.

TRIGGER-LOCKS - NO FIX

Trigger-locks are no sure-fire fix—just another encroachment on the people’s right to bear arms.

Governor Parris Glendening proudly spear-headed Maryland as the first state to mandate trigger-locks—but, at a news conference called to demonstrate the “safety feature,” he couldn’t unlock the handgun. This fi-

asco was later featured in a commercial by the National Rifle Association (NRA) to demonstrate that a criminal won’t be waiting for some nervous nelly to unlock a legal gun, but, instead, will fire his own gun.

Fortunately, the NRA is in the forefront to protect our constitutional rights to “keep and bear Arms.”

Out-lawing AK-47s and Uzi guns is not the answer either, nor is wild-eyed gun control. Self-control, family values and virtue are solutions to the moral anarchy that produces gun violence in our country. Laws and trigger-locks won’t do the job.

(Captain Evans is author of *The Church and The Sword* (St. Thomas Press) and lives in Norfolk, Virginia.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Berea Baptist Broadcast can now be heard on station KORE, Springfield, Oregon, on Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m. The station is 1050 on the AM dial with 5,000 watts of power.

The article on “The Authority Theory (Theory???)” was taken from *Voice in the Wilderness*, Perkins, W. Va., June 8, 2000. We forgot to give the source of this article.

The Berea Baptist Church, Collinwood, Tenn., and Pastor Ray Sexton will have special services Sept. 25-29. The speaker is Elder Clyde Hancock, Wayne, W. Va. This church and pastor will also have a special fellowship meeting and Homecoming Sept. 9th at 3:00 p.m. to be followed by an evening meal. On September 9th the three speakers are Elders Roy Mitchell, Corbin, KY; John Massie, Wayne, WV; and the Editor. For more information contact Pastor Sexton (931) 724-5588.

The New Testament Baptist

Church, 865 Bethel Drive, Bristol, Tennessee, and Pastor Dan Phillips will be having special services September 25-October 1. Services will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday services will be at 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. with dinner on the grounds following the Morning services. Elder Troy Sheppard from Inverness, Florida will be the guest speaker. For more information contact Pastor Phillips at (423) 323-2541 or (423) 323-3281.

The Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Willow Hill, Ill., and Pastor Billy Holbrook will have a “Focus on Singles” Conference Oct. 5-8. This will be to teach on issues that single, godly people face today. For more information call Pastor Holbrook at (618) 592-3806.

The Calvary Baptist Church, 726 Wilson Ave., Piqua, Ohio 45356 and Pastor Wayne Brickner have reprinted *What Baptists Believe* by O. C. S. Wallace. The books sell for \$7. Please order from Calvary Baptist Church. For more information you may call (937) 773-8002 or 773-4126.

NEW CHURCH ORGANIZED

On July 8, 2000, members of the First Baptist Church of White Plains, Ky., met with their sponsored mission at Dover, Tenn., for the purpose of organizing into a church. Their adopted covenant was read by the mission pastor. It was approved by vote of First Baptist Church. Their confession of faith was read by the mission pastor, and it was also adopted by First Baptist Church. Upon approval of covenant and confession of faith the First Baptist Church voted to release letters for fourteen people for the purpose to organize the New Testament Missionary Baptist Church at Dover, Tenn. Thus a church was born. We believe it could not have been a more needful place. At this time the church chose a clerk and a treasurer. The new church extended a call to Elder Larry Lafferty for pastor, and he joyfully accepted the call. The new church and pastor send a courteous invitation for all to come and hear the sovereignty of God and church truth proclaimed. Their address is New Testament Baptist Church, P. O. Box 145, Dover, TN 37058. The time of services is Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (This information was sent by Elder Walter McCoy, pastor of the First Baptist Church, White Plains, Ky.).

Coming in the next issue . . .

Gleanings from John Hall
United Nations Call for Global Democracy by G. Russell Evans
God's Estimation of the Death of a Saint by Milburn Cockrell

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