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

September 5th, 2005 — Volume XXV, Number IX

The Berea Baptist Banner

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

The Fruits of Love

By Milburn Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)

"Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation" (Ps. 91:14-16).

The writer of the 91st Psalm is unknown, as is the occasion on which it was composed. The Jews generally attribute this Psalm to Moses, and most Christian commentators do the same. The internal evidence seems to favor Moses as the composer. It may very well have been written about the first Passover in Egypt when the faithful Israelites were sheltered by God.

Some believe David was its penman. This may be the case, but its writer is not so very important. It is verbally inspired of God. The important thing is what message does it contain for us? Its message to us should be of greater interest than the human instrument who recorded it.

In the whole collection there is not a more cheering Psalm. It is entirely general in its nature. It is of immeasurable worth to all who are exposed to danger and hardship. It alternates between

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Jesus Shall Come Again

By Timothy Hille
of Pleasant Plains, Illinois

Acts 1:1-14

"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven," (Acts 1:11). We read here of the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, as He was received up into Heaven to be seated at the right hand of God. He had accomplished the work which God the Father had sent Him to do. He had revealed the truth of God unto men as Immanuel, God with us, God tabernacling amongst men in a tabernacle of flesh and blood. He had kept those sheep which the Father had given Him, loving them unto the end. He had established His kind of church and gave unto her the keys of the kingdom,

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We Need Preachers

By James Kurtz

"We have a terrific Bible teacher," "Our pastor sure is a go-getter when it comes to calling," "Since pastor so and so has come, our Sunday School is really going ahead, he knows his Sunday School work." And on and on we go. It is rare today that we find a church member talking about their PREACHER and the old time gospel message that a PREACHER would be expounding from the pulpit.

Have you ever really studied the fourth chapter of II Timothy? What a chapter! I was amazed at the information and instruction given in the first eight verses. It would do our theological schools wonders and the men they turn out, if

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What Kind of God Would You Like God to Be?

By Frank B. Beck
(1917-1964)

Scripture reading: John 1:1-18.

What kind of God would you like God to be?

It is apparent that many people do not wish God to be like the God of the Holy Bible. That is evidenced in that they do not worship the God of the Scriptures on Sundays in His churches. They do not want the God of the Bible because they do not really *know* Him or understand Him. **"They know not me, saith the LORD"** (Jer. 9:3). They do not understand or know the God of Scripture

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What Parents and Teachers Should Tell Their Children

By Thomas Theodore Martin
(1862-1939)

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." This is an unheard note in many modern homes. Instead, there is heard, "Jimmie, you must be a good little boy, and mind Mamma and Papa, and do what they tell you to do, and Jesus will take you to Heaven when you die; but if you do not obey Mamma and Papa, the 'booger man' will catch you." A more fatal, soul-destroying teaching could not be given. Jimmie is not going to be saved by obeying Mamma and Papa. If he dies before he knows right from wrong, he is going to Heaven; for all babies go to Heaven when they die; but, after he knows right from wrong, he will be saved just like any

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Compromising Baptists Or Does the Truth Matter Anymore?

By Roger D. Reed
of Mansfield, Ohio

Last year I was invited to speak at a Bible Conference and was given the subject *Compromising Baptists*. The theme of the Conference was Revival. I was thankful for the opportunity to preach on such a subject since the Holy Spirit already had me thinking on these lines. I hope this will be a blessing and a help to all who read this article.

The first question I want to ask the reader, "Did Jesus compromise?" Then the second question comes to mind; "Then why do you?" So dear reader,

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Mennonitish Baptists

By Steve Martin
of Collinwood, Tennesse

Please read Galatians 2:11-21. We see here where Paul withstood Peter to the face, **"because he was to be blamed"** (v. 11). The reason James, Barnabas, and the other Jews withdrew and separated from the Gentiles, **"fearing them which were of the circumcision"** (vv. 12-13).

In verse 14 Paul tells us, **"But when I saw they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of the Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"** Please note the Jews being in the Lord's early church, **". . .livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews."**

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Though the scorpion be little,
Yet will it sting a lion to death;
So will the least sin,
If not pardoned by the death of Christ.

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

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Fruits of Love

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the expressions of personal trust and exhortations to trust---hence the interchange of the pronouns **"I"** and **"Thou."** In this message I shall limit my remarks to the later portion of this great Psalm which gives the six fruits of God's love for His covenant people.

The exceeding and precious promises in this Psalm are for persons fitting the threefold description herein given. To properly understand them we must ascertain for whom the six promises are intended; otherwise, we have a letter with no name on the front of it. These promises belong to the **"he"** and **"him"** the writer mentions. Now let us look at the description of the true believer given here by the mouth of the Lord.

Verses 14 and 15 describe the true believer in covenant relation with God. Here is found a threefold description of such a believer: (1) He knows God's name; (2) He sets his love upon Christ and allows no rivals; (3) He constantly calls upon God in prayer. It is to such a person God promises the six fruits of love in the text.

First, he is said to know God's name: **". . .because he hath known my name."** The nature and attributes of God he does not fully know, but the Lord's name he does know. The first operation of the Holy Spirit in salvation is a conviction of the character and perfections of God. The sinner first knows His name as a sin-avenging God, which brings conviction of sin and repentance. Then he knows His name as the Saviour of sinners, which brings faith and salvation (Acts 4:12).

Second, the favorite of Heaven is said to have set his love upon Christ. In verse 14 Jehovah tells us: **"He hath set his love upon me."** The salvation the believer obtains through the name of Jesus Christ excites deep love in his soul for the Saviour. This is an intense, single-hearted love for Jesus Christ which permits no rivals. The Hebrew word expresses the strongest attachments, and it is equivalent to our expression "to fall in love." The true believer sees such a beauty in the character of God that he falls in love with Him.

It is remarkable that God does not say: "Because he is without sin, or because he has perfectly kept my precepts, or because he is worthy." Love for Christ is in the heart of the weakest saint. With all of his imperfections a believer truly loves Christ. This love is the fruit of grace and a reflection of God's everlasting love to him (I John 4:19).

Third, these promises are to the praying believer. Verse 15 says: **"He shall call upon me."** The person called by God calls upon God. The elect **"cry day and night unto him"** (Luke 18:7). The Christian has the privilege of going before the throne of grace on the merits of Christ's blood, and he does it often with pleasure and joy.

I WILL DELIVER HIM

Having already observed what the Lord says "of" the believer, I wish now to point out what the Lord says "to" him. In verse 14 the Lord says to him: **"I will deliver him."** First, the Lord may be said to deliver the believer in the sense of salvation. When the Lord saves a soul He delivers him from the penalty and pleasure of sin (Ps. 31:8). The Lord delivers him from the snare of the Evil One. The psalmist elsewhere relates his experience: **"The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. . . .Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul"** (Ps. 116:3-4). He found God to be merciful, for he went on to write: **"For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling"** (Ps. 116:8).

Second, God has obligated Himself. To deliver from danger and difficulty those who know His name, who love Him, and who call upon Him. This is a deliverance in trouble and a deliverance out of trouble. The deliverer is not delivered because he deserves it, but because God desires it. God delivers him because He loves those who love Him (Prov. 8:17). With the psalmist the true Christian can say: **"He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me"** (Ps. 18:19).

The Lord has never promised to deliver His people from all trouble. Rather, He has promised to deliver them in time of trouble. Psalm 41:1 says: **"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble." "The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them OUT OF all their troubles. . . .Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him OUT OF them all"** (Ps. 34:17, 19). Paul wrote of **"what persecutions"** he endured, and he added: **"But OUT OF them all the Lord delivered me"** (II Tim. 3:11). II Peter 2:9 declares: **"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly OUT OF temptations."** (Emphasis mine, MRC).

The Word of God is replete with many examples of God's performance of His promise to deliver His people out of trouble. Jehovah delivered David from the lion, the bear, and Goliath (I Sam. 17:36). He later delivered him out of the hand of King Saul (II Sam. 12:7). He delivered the three Hebrews out of the fiery furnace in Babylon (Dan. 3:17, 28). He **"delivered Daniel from the power of the lions"** (Dan. 6:27). He delivered Paul from his enemies until he had finished his gospel ministry (Acts 26:17). One glorious day, by either death or the Rapture, He will deliver the godly **"from every evil work"** (II Tim. 4:18).

I WILL EXALT HIM

In verse 14 God says: **"I will set him on high."** This is done when God acknowledges the sinner as a regenerated son of the Highest and treats him accordingly. The Lord lifts the sinner out of the deep pit of human depravity and sets him **"in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"** (Eph. 2:6). How wonderful is saving grace which delivers a lost sinner from the lowest Hell and gives him the hope of a topless Heaven. Such a person is enabled by the grace of God to look down upon earthly things with a holy contempt and indifference. He ever keeps his eyes upon the heavenly world.

The greatest privilege in all the world is to be among **"the children of the Highest"** (Luke 6:35), to be numbered among **"the saints of the most High"** (Dan. 7:18). One day we will drop this robe of flesh and ascend up to high and holy places (Isa. 57:15) to be forever with **"the Highest"** (Ps. 18:13). There in the spiritland we shall be higher than the sun, the moon and the stars. Only in that blissful hour will we begin to comprehend what God meant when He said: **"I will set him on high."**

Some day if you hear that Milburn Cockrell is dead, don't believe it. It just simply will not be true. I will not be dead. I will have moved higher up. My body will rest beneath the sod, but my spirit will have gone up in great swiftness to a topless Heaven above to sing God's praise for endless days.

I WILL ANSWER HIM

The Lord solemnly promises in verse 15: **"I will answer him."** There is no greater privilege---no greater promise in all the Bible than this! The called of God call upon God. Blessings come through prayer---not without it. God's people are a praying people. They make their requests known unto God. They ask and receive the petition they desire of Him. There is no receiving without asking; no finding without seeking; no opening without knocking (Matt. 7:7).

A Christian does not pray in vain to an unknown God. He is not an orphan in an empty house crying without a father to answer. John wrote: **"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us"** (I John 5:14). The God who puts His people's tears in a bottle will certainly never forget their prayers. He has promised in Isaiah 65:24: **"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."**

Adoniram Judson once said: "I never was deeply interested in any object, I never prayed sincerely and earnestly for anything, but it came; at some time, no matter at how distant a day, in some shape, probably the last I should have devised, it came."

Some person may be saying, "God

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does not answer my prayer. I pray and the heavens seem as brass. I never seem to receive any petition I make before the throne of grace." This statement reveals a misconception of the word "answer" in my text. "Answer" does not always mean "a grant." It may mean a grant in some cases, or a refusal. The God Who hears the prayers of the righteous is a God Who gives attention to our every request. He may grant it, refuse it, tell us to wait a while, or give us something better.

I WILL BE WITH HIM

In verse 15 the God Who cannot lie promises: **"I will be with him in trouble."** God's people are not immune to trouble, for man **'that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble"** (Job 14:1). But the believer has something in trouble that the worldly man has not. He has the special presence of God. When a believer has more trouble than others he also has more of God's company. The Lord's presence with him provides for his safety. **"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee"** (Isa. 43:2).

The Divine presence is with the obedient believer. The Lord told Jacob: **"And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of"** (Gen. 28:15). Jacob was about to travel down an unknown road to an unknown land. In all these travels the Lord promised His favorable presence.

It is not as hard for a Christian to forsake his country as some suppose, for the Christian has a better country. At home or abroad he has the assurance of God: **"I am with thee."** He can leave his earthly friends, knowing the Lord has said: **"I will not leave thee."** Heaven be praised! Those God loves He never leaves. This promise is true to all the seed: **"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"** (Heb. 13:5).

The Lord has not promised His special presence to a believer who willfully sins. God never condones sin; He ever condemns it in every form. God is not with us when we engage in things not in our best interest. A disobedient believer looses the consciousness of Christ's special presence. Hence it becomes all Christians to ever desire the sweet feeling of God's special presence by seeking to obey Him. Moses said to the Lord: **"If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence"** (Ex. 33:15). In more modern language Moses said, "Lord, if you don't go with me, then I refuse to go."

God is always present with His people, yet when we sin against Him we feel that He has forsaken us---He seems to be a God afar off rather than a God at hand. John Newton expressed it like this: "How tedious and tasteless the hours. . . When Jesus no longer I see. . .Sweet prospects, sweet birds, and sweet flowers. . .Have all lost their sweetness to me. . .The midsummer sun shines but dim. . .The fields strive in vain to look gay. . .But when I am happy with Him. . .December's as pleasant as May."

My Savior is not only with me in life, He will also be with me in death. A man goes on board an airplane to arrive in a land he has never seen. He trusts the pilot, who knows the way, to bring him safely to his desired destination. Even so, I must convey my soul into the hands of my ever-present Savior. I must trust Him to carry me through death to the spiritland. He has promised to be with me in life and also in death. Therefore, I can say with the psalmist: **"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me"** (Ps. 23:4).

I WILL HONOR HIM

In verse 15 the Lord says He **"will honor him."** It is hard to believe such a verse. How can it be that God should condescend to honor a worm of the dust? I do not know why He has promised to do so, but I know from this verse in the Holy Book He has obligated Himself to do so. A man is truly honorable whom God puts honor upon. God honors the believer by taking him into covenant and communion with Himself.

Our God has said: **"Them that honor me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed"** (I Sam. 2:30). A real believer will seek that honor which comes from God only (John 5:44). All real and lasting honor comes from God, and all real believers receive in Christ the honor which comes from God only. Jesus said: **"If any man serve me, him will my Father honour"** (John 12:26).

In what manner does the Father honor the believer? First, He honors him by His elective purpose. By election God chose us to be **"vessels unto honour"** (Rom. 9:21). Second, He honors that elect in time with the gift of salvation. Third, in the Christian life He honors some of His children with **"riches and honour"** (I Chron. 29:12). Fourth, He keeps in reserve for each of us **"honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ"** (I Pet. 1:7). A believer is destined to rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4-6). He will sit upon a throne, wear a crown and execute judgment in the earth. **"This honour have all his saints"** (Ps. 149:5-9).

I WILL SATISFY HIM

The last promise the Lord gave is in verse 16: **"With long life will I satisfy him."** The margin renders it "length of days" instead of "long life." This would seem to mean with days lengthened out or multiplied. This implies that long life on earth is a blessing from the Almighty (Prov. 3:2, 16; Ex. 20:12).

Godly living tends to lengthen our days in this old world. Virtue, calmness of mind, and freedom from excessive vices contribute to good health and length of days. Proverbs 11:19 tells us that **"righteousness tendeth to life."** The Lord promised King Solomon: **"I will lengthen thy days"** (I Kings 3:14).

The righteous shall live until he has finished his testimony. He is to go on living in this land of sin and sorrow until he has completed the work of the heavenly Father. He will live until he is satisfied with living. A time will come in his old age when he will have more friends and treasures in Heaven than on earth. He will come to the place when death appears to him to be a gain. In such a time he will cry out: "Lord, I have had enough. Let me depart in peace to a better world. I have filled the measure of my days."

One has well said: "I would not live always. . .I ask not to stay. . .Where storm after storm rises dark o'er the way. . .The few lucid mornings that dawn on us here. . .Are followed by gloom or beclouded with fear. . .I would not live always, thus fettered by sin. . .Temptation without and corruption within. . .No, welcome the tomb. . .Since Jesus has lain there I dread not its gloom. . .There sweet be my rest till He bid me arise. . .To hail Him in triumph descending the skies."

The Bible certainly does teach that long life is a blessing from God which He promises and performs. But I heard someone say, "Many of God's children die an untimely death! How can this be true then?"

An early grave in the case of the righteous man is a blessing not a burden. God takes such a man away from all the evil to come upon the earth (Isa. 57:1). To take a person early and save him from the many years of struggling with sin, is more a performance of God's promise than a breach of it. It is better to live forever in Heaven than a few days down here. It is no ill bargain to be taken from earth to Heaven, from conflict to victory, from sinners to saints, from the company of ungodly men to the company of the godly and God.

CONCLUSION

All men from birth are condemned as soon as they are born. Human life is a mere reprieve, a suspension of punishment, a breathing time of mercy, a suspending of God's wrath, a testimony of God's long-suffering. An unsaved man is a fool if he thinks he shall live for ever. He will not live always. But blinded by sin and full of iniquity, he never seems to realize life is a sleeping storm, which is soon to burst forth in showers of destruction on all who are not sheltered in Christ.

There is a life beyond the grave which follows this life. Death does not end all. Life on earth is only the state of infancy, only our education for the next world, only a time for us to plan for eternity. No man is prepared for death and the next life unless he knows Christ, of whom to know is to possess life eternal (John 17:3). May this be to you a day of good tidings. May this be the happy day the Lord will show you His salvation.

We Need Preachers

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they would teach this chapter.

Streaming from our schools are hundreds upon hundreds of young men schooled in many varied jobs in the ministry except PREACHING. Trained precisely in church organization, human relations, fund-raising, youth work, dramatics and visitation, experts in everything but PREACHING; and yet the great need of our present day is that of spirit-filled PREACHERS.

I've heard many of these young graduates give a fine speech. Not a single error in grammar, poise, voice control, ah, perfect. Perfect, yes, perfect for the church that cares no longer for the old faith. Smug and content in their building programs, publicity and membership growth. PREACHERS are old fashioned, so some think; give us a polished young man who will tickle our ears and make us feel good in our sinning.

There are few young men who have really heard the call to PREACH. You see, my friends, PREACHING is not easy. It takes a man who cares little for public or congregational opinion, but who with all his heart cares to preach the whole gospel in boldness and power. We need today more than ever in our pulpits, PREACHERS, not puppets, PREACHERS, not promoters, PREACHERS, not social climbers, tea sippers and after dinner speakers. The need is for men who love the truth enough to lose their jobs, love the truth and PREACH it regardless of the voice of the council or the crowd.

We have been lulled too long in the quietness of spiritual half-truths. A good percentage of our ministers today have become completely contrary to old time PREACHING. When was the last time you heard a Hell-fire and brimstone sermon? Don't come back at me with the favorite expression, "Well, we don't want

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Tongues Have Ceased
The Scriptural Proof
Part 2

By Lucien J. Le Sage Jr.
of Pride, Louisiana

(Continued from last issue)

Full Gospel or Another Gospel?

Most Charismatic churches call themselves "Full Gospel " to distinguish themselves from those who believe that tongues have ceased or at least do not practice it in their churches. Now, does that mean that churches that do not speak in tongues only have part of the gospel? A person cannot be saved apart from hearing and believing the gospel. In I Corinthians 15:1-4 Paul tells us what the gospel is. It is that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that this death was according to the Scriptures (the Old Testament Scriptures which indicated a substitutionary and vicarious death); that He was buried and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures. Should I trust in anything more? Is there another message in which I need to place my faith? Is the object of our faith anything more than the atoning work of Jesus Christ? Is the object of our faith in something we have done or some feeling or experience? If it is, then I am afraid we have missed Christ!

The Sovereign Bestowal of these Gifts

When all of the gifts were in existence, did all have the gift of tongues? Was it God's will that every member in the early Church speak in tongues? The Biblical answer is a resounding NO! Paul in I Corinthians 12 said there were differences in the operations of God, but the same Lord, and he went on to say, **"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will"** (I Cor. 12:8-11). Paul then made an analogy of the church to the human body. The human body has many members and they all serve the body in a particular function. The whole body could not be an eye, else, where would be the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, where would be the smelling? Paul then went on to list the order and importance of the gifts when he said, **"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues"** (I Cor. 12:28). Isn't it interesting that the gift which seems most important to some is listed last? Notice Paul said, **"God hath set *some*"** (emphasis added), not all, with certain gifts. He asks the question in the very next two verses, **"Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?"** Well the obvious answer is *no.* I remember reading these verses to a young Charismatic man and when I read, **"do all speak with tongues,"** he immediately said "yes." A man would have to be either ignorant or in complete rebellion to what Paul is writing about to answer "yes" to any one of those questions. The questions that Paul is putting forth are rhetorical questions in which no answer is expected, but are asked to make a point because the answer is so obvious to even the most casual reader. It would be like asking the question, "Is every citizen of the United States the President?" No one would answer "yes," would they? Now, for a man to answer "yes" to Paul's rhetorical question, **"do all speak with tongues?"** can only indicate that he is so carried away with his experience that even the Word of God won't bring him in line. When we get to that state we are in serious trouble. The fact that the gifts were bestowed in a sovereign manner and that not all members in the early church had the gift of tongues, should forever silence those who teach that unless a man or woman speaks in tongues, he or she is not saved. Such a teaching leads men to trust in an experience and not in the person and work of Christ. What would a handicapped person who cannot speak, think of such doctrine? It should also silence those who teach that every Christian can speak in tongues. Tongues have ceased!

Pentecostals and Tongues

Several years ago, I heard a Pentecostal preacher on the radio quote John 3:3 the following way: "Except a man be born again, and speak in tongues as the spirit giveth him utterance, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Is not this a very dishonest use of God's Word? What the Bible does say is **"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** I realize that most Charismatics do not take speaking in tongues to that extreme and I am not sure all Pentecostals do either. This kind of interpretation is a direct contradiction to the teaching of scripture. As Paul plainly teaches in his epistle to the Corinthians, even during the apostolic age not all believers had all of the gifts, but they were bestowed in a sovereign manner to believers in the church or local assembly.

A More Excellent Way

If tongues, prophecy and special knowledge were not to cease then why would Paul say, **"and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way"** (I Cor. 12:31) than the extraordinary gifts? If tongues were to continue, then why would Paul make the statements, **"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also"** (I Cor. 14:14-15). **"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue"** (I Cor. 14:18-19). In our day we have the "more excellent way" of expounding the completed Scriptures.

Why do Charismatics Not Follow Paul's Commands?

In the fourteenth chapter of I Corinthians, Paul laid out some specific rules for the exercise of the spiritual gifts that were still in existence in the early Church. There were only supposed to be two or three at the most that should speak in tongues; it had to be done one at a time and there must be an interpreter. If there was no interpreter then they were to remain silent. Listen to Paul's words, **"If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God"** (I Cor. 14:27-28). Even if what Paul meant was two or three sentences at the most the same rule applied about an interpreter. Then there is the other rule that Paul laid out: **"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church"** (I Cor. 14:34-35). What is truly amazing is that not only do women speak in tongues in Charismatic Churches, they even preach. That is a long way from what Paul commanded. Paul then went on to say at the end of that chapter, **"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant"** (I Cor. 14:37-38). Tongues have ceased!

Why Not Poison and Snakes?

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18). Those that use these Scriptures to try to prove that tongues are for all believers in all ages must also take the other things mentioned in these two verses. Some have tried to handle poisonous snakes and when bitten have become ill or died. It is one thing to handle a poisonous snake and another to be bitten and shake it off as if nothing had happened. This is exactly what happened to the Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts**. "And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god"** (Acts 28:3-6). Now that's a real fulfillment of Mark 16, not the snake handling that goes on in some of these churches. Where is the raising of the dead that was wrought at the hands of the Apostles to prove what they were preaching? Paul and Peter raised the dead. If this Scripture teaches that tongues are for all believers in all ages then it also teaches that those who do not speak in tongues are not believers. We know from other Scripture that this is certainly not the case. They were the signs of the early church in general but not a mark of every believer, nor the mark of every age. As Paul said, **"Whether there be tongues, they shall cease."**

Tongues Cross All Denominational Lines

If the modern day tongues movement is of God, then why do the same tongues appear in many denominations that teach different doctrines? If the Bible teaches the eternal security of the believer, which it certainly does, then why do most churches that speak in tongues teach that a man can lose his salvation and then regain it again later? How can the same Holy Spirit that is supposed to be still giving out this gift lead in so many directions when it comes to doctrine? Does the Holy Spirit lead one man to believe one thing and another man something so different, especially when it comes to the doctrine of salvation?

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Tongues Have Ceased

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The thing that separates denominations is their understanding of Scripture. Thus the modern day tongues movement tends toward non-denominationalism. The fact that they boast of this is incriminating if anything. What they really mean is that doctrine is not that important. We, as Baptists, believe that the church is a local visible assembly with our only head being the Lord Jesus Christ and not some board or earthly man in some city. Our only rule of practice and doctrine is to be the completed Word of God, the Bible.

How Do We Try the Spirits?

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but *try the spirits* whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1). In the early church, if there was no interpretation of a tongue, then how could the spirits be tried? And what do we try the spirits against? The word ***"try,"*** according to the lexicon, means to "test, examine, or prove." The only way we can do this is to compare what is being said to the Scripture. Now if there was no interpretation of a tongue, and proof that the interpretation was accurate and not made up, then there was no way to try the spirits. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he said, **"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost"** (I Cor. 12:1-3). Evidently someone had spoken in a tongue in the Corinthian church and had actually cursed Jesus Christ and did not realize it. Evidently someone knew the language in which he spoke and realized that the person was cursing Christ, and this event must have been reported to Paul. The context of what Paul is dealing with must be tongues because he goes on to say ***"that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."*** Now we know that many call Jesus Lord in their own tongue but that is not necessarily by the Holy Spirit. In fact Jesus said, **"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I *never knew you*** (emphasis added): **depart from me, ye that work iniquity"** (Matt. 7:22-23). Now these men say that Jesus is Lord, yet Jesus professes unto them that He never knew them. It was not that He knew them at one time and then they lost their salvation, but rather at no time did He ever know them. So then, they never said that Jesus was Lord by the Holy Spirit. This, along with the context of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, leads us to believe that Paul is dealing with an incident in which a man called Jesus accursed in another tongue or language. So, this spirit was tried or tested by someone who understood the tongue or language that was spoken in which Jesus was cursed. Should this not make a person cautious about speaking in an unknown tongue in which there is no positive interpretation? The spirits could not be tried without a real interpretation of the tongue. Concerning the modern day tongues movement, when it comes to interpretation, we should point out that other writers on this subject have shown that interpretations seem to differ in length greatly from the tongue that was spoken. Language being what it is and the fact that words can only carry so much meaning, there should be a basic parallel between the length of an interpretation and the tongue. This leads one to believe that their interpretations have nothing to do with what is spoken in an unknown tongue and are probably "made up." As an example of how interpretations are "made up," I read of a story in which a man got up and quoted one of the Psalms in Hebrew and then someone else got up and gave an interpretation that had nothing to do with the Psalm. These interpretations are not the work of the Holy Spirit but are the works of men.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

From what I have read, many tongues leaders say that the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit in a man is the gift of tongues. They say you can be saved and yet receive the Holy Spirit later. If the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues then how could it be said that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15), and yet John the Baptist never spoke in tongues? How can tongues be the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit when it is clear that even during the Apostolic age not all members of the local church had the gift of tongues?

It is evident from the teaching of the Scriptures that every true believer has the Holy Spirit residing in him. If he does not, then he has not been saved. In Paul's letter to the Romans he said, **"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his"** (Rom. 8:8-9). Paul says that every believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit until the very end. **"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"** (Eph. 1:13). **"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"** (Eph. 4:30).

The work of the Holy Spirit is to convince men of sin (John 16:8). It is the Holy Spirit that takes a depraved sinner and quickens him to life, whereby he sees his lost condition and is then given faith to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work for a place of safety. Paul told the Ephesians that they had been quickened after being dead in trespasses and sins (see Eph. 2:1-5). Jesus told His disciples that it is the **"Spirit that quickeneth"** (John 6:63).

The Holy Spirit Does Not Speak of Himself

It seems that the Holy Spirit is glorified and spoken of more than the Lord Jesus Christ in most Charismatic/Pentecostal churches. Yet we see from the very words of Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit would not speak of Himself but would focus men's attention on Christ Himself. **"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."** (John 16:13-14). The Holy Spirit glorifies the work and person of Christ. His work is to quicken sinners to life and convict them of their sins, showing them through God's Word that they are indeed wretched and that their only hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood. It is the Holy Spirit that shuts a man or woman up to the completed work of Jesus Christ in their behalf and so He points them to Christ rather and not to Himself. It is the Holy Spirit that strips a man of all self-righteousness and brings him to a place where there is nowhere to turn, but to Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that takes the Gospel message and makes it real to the sinner. It is the Holy Spirit that makes a man understand that Christ is the **"end of the law for righteousness."**

God Told Me

I was watching a religious television show recently in which a Charismatic preacher said that he was taken to Heaven and was shown all the wonders of Heaven. He proceeded to describe these wonders and how that God spoke with him. He then revealed to his audience what God had told him. If such a thing were really true, we should add it to the back of our Bibles. I find it interesting that this man could describe Heaven in such detail and relate all that he had heard, and yet the Apostle Paul said that he knew a man that was caught up into paradise where he heard things which were not lawful to be uttered (see II Cor. 12:4). It is a very dangerous thing to say, "God told me" and mean that God spoke to you by any other means than His Word, the Bible. I realize that the Holy Spirit may impress on our hearts certain things and then use God's Word to speak to us, but it is quite another thing to say that God spoke to us in an audible voice. God's Word is complete and it is all that we need **"for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."**

Diabolical Experiences

A very close preacher friend recently related to me a story about an experience that was related to him by two men who had "got the holy ghost." They told him that when they "got the holy ghost" they had sexual orgasms. Both men said this happened to them. They told my preacher friend that it was the greatest thing they had ever experienced. If a man believes this is the work of the Holy Spirit then God help him. A young man related to me that when he "got the holy ghost" that he felt warm honey flow from the top of his head down to his feet. When I tried to talk with him about Christ and sin he was not even interested. He was obsessed with "honey flowing from the top of his head down to his feet." That was his salvation experience. This is not the work of the Holy Spirit. I recently read of a man who was in this movement in which he witnesses a man "slain in the spirit" and lay on the floor stiff as a board all through services. After services were over they carried him out and put him in a vehicle where he remained stiff until about midnight. When he recovered he said that he wanted to move but could not. He said that he had no control over the situation. The Holy Spirit does not take over men's bodies in this manner.

Paganism at Corinth

Paganism had existed in the city of Corinth long before Paul had preached the Gospel there and a church was established. The "mystery religions" had spread all over the Gentile world and Corinth was by far no exception. I have read that on the towering hill of Acropolis

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Tune in to the

Berea Baptist Broadcast

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

Tongues Have Ceased

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stood the great temple of Aphrodite who was the goddess of love. To that temple were attached one thousand sacred prostitutes. It is no wonder Paul had to deal with immorality in his letter to the Corinthians. Among the pagans it was believed that ecstatic experiences were evidence that a god had entered their body. The temple prostitutes practiced "glossolalia" (tongues) before Pentecost. As you can see, the diabolical experiences mentioned above are very similar to the experiences of paganism that was going on in Corinth.

Prostitutes, pagans, witches and heretics speak in the same type of tongues as the modern tongue movement (uttering of unintelligible sounds and babblings).

If Tongues have Ceased then What is Going On?

John MacArthur, Jr., in his book *Charismatic Chaos*, believes modern tongues fall into one of three categories. First, they may be satanic or demonic. He points out that some who are against the tongues movement want to put all tongues speaking into this category. This is probably not the case in all tongues speaking, but I believe Satan is probably behind the movement in general. In his book he quotes former tongues speaker Ben Byrd who believed that some of his extraordinary abilities were "psychic and possibly satanic." MacArthur pointed out that the *Encyclopedia Britannica* contains articles on "glossolalia" (tongues) among pagans in their worship rites. There are reports that in Africa demon possessed persons can speak fluently in Swahili or English, although under normal circumstances they would not understand either language. Evidently Satan can give people the power to speak in tongues. There are incidents of tongue speaking among those who practice the occult. We need to remember that Satan has ministers that appear as ministers of righteousness. In fact this was something that Paul warned the Corinthian church about when he said, **"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works"** (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Secondly, MacArthur points out that tongues speaking may be a learned behavior. He thinks that most tongues speaking falls into this category. MacArthur points out that there are seminars held that instruct people on how to receive this gift. They encourage people to speak funny little sounds. Moody Adams in his book *Jesus Never Spoke in Tongues*, tells of "pump-priming" people to get them to speak in tongues. I recently read an article by a former Charismatic who said that he was being encouraged to speak in tongues, so he just started to "jibber jabber" and then the pastor told him, "That's it, keep speaking, that's the tongue you have received. You must now cultivate the language by speaking it as much as possible." People are just being deceived by this method. As MacArthur said, "Why a person would have to learn how to receive a gift from the Holy Spirit is baffling." Many probably like the attention that it brings and that it makes them look spiritual to others. Well, if you are so spiritual, then acknowledge that the things that Paul wrote to the Corinthian church are the commands of the Lord.

Thirdly, MacArthur thinks that tongues can be psychologically induced. He says "the condition in which most people sense the euphoria of the tongues experience seems to be closely related to the hypnotic state." He says that after an extensive study of tongues-speakers by Kildahl and Qualben; they concluded that people who were submissive, suggestible, and dependent on a leader were those most likely to speak in tongues. MacArthur points out that would be tongues-speakers are often instructed to enter into "passive renunciation of willful control."

In Conclusion

One of the most dangerous things a person can do is to seek after spiritual experiences that are not in God's Word. To seek after something that God says has ceased and then experience something that does not really resemble the original is a frightful situation. If you are seeking something that you have seen others, who may have seemed very spiritual, have and want to have it also, then I admonish you to stop, think, and examine God's Word. Follow His Word rather than the teachings of men. Please do not trust in what you see or feel, rather trust God's Word. **"Believe not every spirit, but *try the spirits whether they are of God*: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** If you are involved in such a movement, then my suggestion would be to come out of it immediately, and find a church that teaches salvation by God's sovereign grace and holds the Bible as its only source of doctrine and practice. Tongues have ceased!

We Need Preachers

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to drive folks away, you know." Listen, friend, I believe if the church today would return to the position of the local church in the Book of Acts, we would see men and women shaking their heads and saying, "We have seen great things today." But no, we want to cooperate, we want to be nice, we want no part of a controversial Christianity. Yet, the early infant church was hated because it refused to join the ranks of the masses who were denying the precious faith. Let us once more draw the lines and face the issue.

The mess we have in Christian circles has been caused by men, evangelicals, who are compromising with the truth. Unionism, legalism and conformity have caused our altars to lose the fire that once flamed with the penetrating convicting power of the old fashioned gospel.

God send us PREACHERS, young men with the courage and ruggedness to stand for truth and for the **"faith once delivered unto the saints."** We need PREACHERS! ---Tract.

What Kind of God

(Continued from page 161)

because they do not read and believe and obey and love His Word. If they would they would make a blessed discovery. They would discover that the God of the Holy Bible whom they inwardly despise is actually the God they desire!

What kind of God do you want?

Surely you want a God who is greater than yourself.

If God were no greater than yourself He would not be God. **"God is greater than man"** (Job 33:12). If God were no greater than yourself He would be like yourself. He would then be a pitiful God! He would be a God subject to mistakes, change, moods of frustration and anxiety and worry. A God of limited knowledge, of inability to do what should be done at all times. How could you trust such an inferior God? You would not need such a God.

The God we want must be a God greater than we are. He must be eternal to have the world ready for us when we enter it, and to outlive the storms of life and history. He must be perfect. He must be honest and truthful. He must be just and righteous. He must be pure love. He must come down to us and be with us and help us.

Let me point you to the God of the sacred Scriptures. He is the very God you are looking for.

We want a God who is greater than we are.

This is the God of the Holy Bible. Of Him it is written: **"But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth"** (Job 23:13). **"But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased"** (Psa. 115:3). **"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"** (Dan. 4:35). On earth in the person of His Son God said: **"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"** (Matt. 28:18). **"For in him we live, and move, and have our being"** (Acts 17:28). **"For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen"** (Rom. 11:36). This is the only true God, the God revealed in Christ through the Holy Bible. He is greater than men.

Many times we are dissatisfied with the justice of our law courts. We are disgruntled with the circumstances of life. "Why do the wicked Christ-rejecters prosper?" "Why do the godly oftimes suffer?" "Why should this good person be an invalid all these years?" "Why should this little baby be born blind?" Questions demanding justice!

Then do we want the God of the Holy Bible. **"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"** (Gen. 18:25). In the person of His Son God is called **"the just"** (I Pet. 3:18). "But how can God be just if He ordains or permits all this evil in the world?" one may ask. He is just if He does so for a good and righteous reason. He has a good *purpose* for it which we cannot see, for God's **"judgments are a great deep"** (Ps. 36:6); **"how unsearchable are his judgments"** (Rom. 11:33). This purpose will be fully manifested in the day of judgment. Then every wrong will be righted, and every work (whether good or bad) will be rewarded. **"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God"** (I Cor. 4:5). **"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works"** (Matt. 16:27). Then the saved will sing **"Just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints"** (Rev. 15:3). This is the God of the Holy Bible.

Certainly we want a God who is love.

Not a silly, sentimental love. Not a god who loves everybody and everything and punishes nobody. What would the New Jerusalem be like with gangsters and thugs shooting at each other around the corners, and dope peddlers selling their forbidden wares, with a red neon sign on each corner saloon selling liquors, and down in one corner a section of houses be known as houses of prostitution? If God took such Christ-rejecting sinners to Heaven He would be unjust to His Son.

But a God who loves **"his own. . .unto the end"** (John 13:1). A God who loves His Israel **"with an everlasting love"** (Jer. 31:3). A God Who, in the person of His Son, **"loved the church, and gave himself for it"** (Eph. 5:25). A God who **"so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but**

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Bits of Wisdom for the Young and Old

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

What to Look for in A Place to Live

By Mark E. Cline

INTRODUCTION

There are many options to us as Americans as to where we choose to live. It is a good topic to write upon, and I am just in a writing mood with a few minutes. I pondered this thought once when I was a young lad, just moving out into the world. I really didn't want anyone's advice as to where to live. After all, I was now a man, standing on my own two feet. Or was I? Anyway, that is a long and sometimes adventurous story, although sometimes dull and methodical. Here are four things I have found to be of importance when considering where to live.

1. A SOUND CHURCH.

A good sound Church needs to be in close proximity to where you decide to locate. Now I say this because I am saved by the grace of God. Not anything to do with me being some great person, because I am not. I am wicked and corrupt, and aside from the merciful grace of God, would be Hell bound and deservedly so--Yet by His grace I am saved, and I am what I am because of Him (God). So, having said all of that, let me get back to my first point. The importance of a good sound Bible believing and Bible teaching church should never be underestimated or ignored in the process of selecting a place to live.

It is there that your Spiritual needs are attended to, and your Christian stewardship is encouraged and used of God. Jesus Christ receives glory through His Church. And it is there that your brothers and sisters in Christ, along with you, grow in Spirit and truth and stature as saints of the Living God. Contained in the church there are bowels of mercy that cannot really be fully understood by the world, or at times even family members who don't belong to the church. There is a watchfulness of your well being in the Lord's Church. Often this comes directly from God through the pastor whom He has placed there to tend and guard His sheep. There are often others in the church who seem to make it their job to look out for the other sheep in the flock, as to their material things and general good health. You may find some of this in a general club, or association, but not with the heartfelt drive which will be experienced by being a member in the Lord's true Church. Many a tear has been shed in prayer through the years for me, in the church and for my wife and family. I believe it is this prayer through the providence of God that sustained me, and my family through many rough waters over the years.

It is also found in the Church's responsibilities. This may seem like a strange notion or thought because we all have responsibilities, wherever we live or whatever we do. Nevertheless, I mention this because there are responsibilities, which each Christian has in this life, aside from regular daily responsibilities, which we owe unto our jobs, families, friends, etc. We have responsibility to gather ourselves together to worship God. And I would quickly ask, "How are we to do this if there is no local New Testament church for us to attend, and be added unto as faithful Christians?" Now I know there are some, who would differ from this thinking, because through the years I have heard some say unto me that it is not necessary for them to attend a church in order to serve the Lord. Now I would not argue the fact that you can serve the Lord other places than the church, such as on your job, in your home, school, or for that matter even while grocery shopping. In fact we are commanded that in all that we do, do for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet there is a designated place of gathering in which the Lord is to receive glory, and the Bible tells us that this place is His Church for which He (Christ) has shed His blood.

So I do not deny that one can serve the Lord outside of the church, in fact it is demanded that we do. Yet one cannot serve the Lord to the fullest, and it should be our desire to serve Him (Christ) to the fullest in all that we do. Without a church, we are sheep without a flock to which we may have fellowship with other like sheep. We are sheep without the comfort of like companionship for our labors, and we are without the comfort and protection of the under Shepherd (pastors) to which Christ has given us for protection and instruction and comfort.

2. FAMILY

Another consideration one should consider when choosing a place to live would be family. Now I will not try to convince anyone that they must live by family or they cannot be happy for I have met many a person who is seemingly miserable because of their family. Yet I consider this to be important when considering your place to live. Family is defined as dads, mothers, brothers and sisters, etc. I might again quickly call your attention to the words of Christ. **"But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother"** (Matt. 12:48-50). Now I would never say that there are not blessings that are not to be enjoyed from your earthly family. I myself, having come from a rather large family, have through the years had many an occasion to rejoice in times which we the family have had. We have gathered for family reunions, anniversary dinners and thanksgiving meals to which I can say, have for the most part been very nice times to remember. And I hope that you all may have had many occasions to recall of your own earthly families, which you may remember and say you were glad to be there.

Yet your earthly families may not always be your eternal family. And the Lord here is referring to our eternal family. Many children may come forth from the same womb, yet there is no guarantee that they shall be joined as family throughout the ages to come, unless all are saved by the grace of God, or all die in their sins not knowing Christ. When considering family we should consider our eternal family and join ourselves ever so close to them in this life. How might we do this if we remove ourselves from brothers and sisters of like faith and practice? It would be walking out on your family literally to up and move away from your eternal family, without consideration of them or others like them to which you are to be joined. I had always thought that there was nothing thicker than blood when it came to matters of this life and family, and there is certainly closeness to our siblings that cannot be surpassed by others, speaking in an earthly manner. Yet I have found that my eternal family is even closer than some of my earthly family as the years have gone by. And I realize that my original thinking was in fact true (nothing thicker than blood) when it comes to family, yet not just any blood but the blood of Christ Jesus my Lord. It is to His family that I am by the grace of God joined eternally, and to them, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that I am truly a kin to. Although I am still greatly thankful for my siblings, and for the most part am able to live peacefully with all of them, yet I find that in many matters, especially concerning the Lord, I cannot walk with them. You may know and experience this yourself, an earthly family member which you love, yet when it comes to matters of the one you love the most (Jesus Christ) there can be no joint fellowship there. And this severs the closeness which you may otherwise have. Since I believe it to be a great sin to place importance upon earthly things over that which is heavenly, I would consider it to be a sin likewise to walk closer to an earthly sibling, which does not know the Lord Jesus Christ, than to a eternal family member which shares with you the joint heir-ship of Christ. One might find themselves in the state as Brother Lot, if not careful considering the place of our dwelling here on earth. I believe with all of my heart that there is no closer walk than to walk with Christ. And to those which He is also walking with. In doing this, you will as one has said, find yourself in good company. I believe also that walking with your eternal family causes one to be more Christ-minded in this life, which can not always be said concerning your earthly family. So it is of great importance that we consider this right near the top of the list concerning relocating.

3. INCOME

Income is surely a great factor as to where we shall live in this country. Yet, one must be careful as to priorities and not run off with eyes fixed upon only dollar signs and numbers. To make a good living is a wonderful blessing. Our labors are a good feeling and quite rewarding in this life, yet I believe one should be careful as to not fix their eyes upon just dollars and ignore other things which have afore been mentioned. I might ask also what is my desire concerning comfortable living? Or to what extent am I willing go so that I might have a good and comfortable earned wage? Most of us have a little nest egg so to speak laid aside, although mine has many times been broken into by myself and found quite empty at times. A better question might be where do your treasures lay? Or what are your treasures? Too many times I believe that in my lifetime I have put up treasures in places where they just don't last. **"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"** (Matt. 6:19-21). You know, if I would have paid closer attention through the years to this passage of Scripture I believe I would be better off now for sure. Too many days were spent in laying up treasures where they just seemed to disappear. I believe I have forfeited a great pile of precious treasure which I cannot go back and attain, yet I will focus a little more on the heavenly starting today. We may be assured that it will be

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What to Look for in

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there waiting for us upon our arrival at heaven's shore. I mention this because I know that many make the mistake of putting worldly financial prosperity first when considering a place to live. Don't get me wrong I am not ignorant concerning matters of economics and I realize that to own a car you must earn enough money to pay for it and to keep it in good shape, the same with a house, or any earthly possession. And I believe it is our duty to provide for our families the best that we can afford to do. Yet when considering relocating to a new area and doing this based upon income only and ignoring the aforementioned I believe would be a grievous error on our part. Now I know there are some parts of the country that a better standard of living than others. And there are better paying jobs in some locations than others depending upon what you do for a living, yet you need to be careful that this is not the primary or only consideration when moving there. I believe that to move to a new location and triple your income without a good place to attend church and ability to fellowship with your eternal family would be a huge deficit on your part, and I believe you would soon find yourself in despair. I might ask this question. What price would one put on a good marriage? Or how much is your family's well being worth to you? Money itself can solve but a very few problems and oftentimes will generate more problems than it can fix. Many times we as Christians may find ourselves if we are not careful, slaves to the dollar bill. Working more than we might want to in order to pay for the treasures that we have carelessly stock piled in this life in earthly things. I have found myself in this state and grieved over my mistakes greatly, wishing only that I might go back in time a ways and focus on things which would have been more profitable now or most importantly in the future.

4. OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY

In closing, a lot can be said as to a proper place to live. But let us consider one more thing; our Christian duty, of witnessing to the world. I have often thought that a great place to live would be up the mountains far back in the hills, and of course living in a beautiful although moderate log cabin home. The thought of this has often entered my mind, and with much joy I have dreamed of its furnishings and the surrounding landscapes, a beautiful trout stream close by and good woods to hunt in. But then I must consider this. Where and who would I witness to concerning Jesus Christ? Where would the people be to which I owe a testimony of Jesus? To totally remove ourselves from the labor field of the ministry would be a grievous error on our part. Although I enjoy some solitude from time to time, to move ourselves to a place where it makes it very difficult to witness because of a lack of people, would be an injustice to our calling and purpose here on earth. The Lord says that the fields are white unto harvest, and proclaims that few are the laborers. How embarrassing it would be if my only true reply unto Him (Christ) would have to be that I couldn't see the fields due to my location in the hills, Lord. And there I had solitude, much study, much prayer and a good deal of meditation. But there was no one there to share your message of grace with, Lord. That would not be a testimony I would want to share with Him, concerning the stewardship of my talents that He has placed in me. Would you? To sum things up, I believe that a good place to live is in close proximity to the Lord's true blood bought church, I believe this to be a Sovereign Grace New Testament Baptist Church. I believe that throughout this great land, there are many who call themselves churches, and many that call themselves servants, yet apart from the services of the Lord's true blood-bought church, there is much wood, hay, and stubble. Many will look upon Her (the church) with disgust, and even embarrassment as to her size, accommodations and building structure, as often times the Lord's church buildings are modest and plain in appearance as Christ was when the world and religious leaders thereof looked upon His vesture. Yet they knew not the power and authority contained within Him. And I am sure the power and authority to which He (Christ) gave unto His church, is not seen by worldly eyes and religious leaders of today either. Yet this does now detract in one degree the awesomeness and great privilege of the grace of God, to which we have been blessed, not only now but also in the ages to come, for His faithful Church servants now shall be His Blemishless Bride in ages to come. These are just a few things to consider.

What Kind of God

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have everlasting life" (John 3:16). A God who so loved the sinner, He clothed Himself in human flesh and bowed His head in blood and gore and died the death of Hell on the cross to save all who surrender to Him (I John 3:16). Do you not want such a God as this? He is the God of the Holy Scripture!

We want a God who is honest and dependable.

Science is not such a god. It is always changing its theories and doctrines, except where it has been made to agree with the science of the Scripture. Human philosophy is not such a god. It is too uncertain, too contradictory. But the God of the Holy Bible is such a God. He is **"the truth"** (John 14:6). His Word is truth (John 17:17). He **"cannot lie"** (Tit. 1:2). Written near the close of His Scripture are these words: **"These sayings are faithful and true"** (Rev. 22:6). They have never been proven false. Yet the world will trust in every other word but this.

We want a God who has written His Word and preserved it in a book.

What if the living God has spoken to men some 4,000 or 2,000 years ago? If that message had been handed down to us *orally* by men God could certainly keep each man from error in his repetition of that word; but we might forget what we heard a few seconds later, or as quickly as we forget the average sermon! However, if God would lead man to write His messages down and secure them in books, how much better! We can then go to the Book and read what God says, word for word. It is always there. Now it is a funny thing that there are some modern preachers who tell us to hear the Word of God and believe the Word of God, but they will not hear to us proving everything by the Holy Bible, or believing everything in that Book. They accuse us of Bibliolatry, or worshipping the Bible! They jeer at an infallible Book. As if an infallible God were not able to give us an infallible Book! As if God were not allowed to publish His Word in *Book form!* It is just as much God's Word when it is written or printed as it is when it is spoken by God's mouth.

The God of Holy Scriptures *has* given us a Book. It is the 66 volumes of sacred Scripture of the Old and New Testaments. This Book is God's own Word to us. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved. Obey it to be happy. Its importance is indicated by the Saviour's words to us in John 5:24: **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."**

What kind of God do you want? A God who is *greater* than we are. A God who is *just.* A God who is *love.* A God who is *true* and *dependable.* A God who has *written His Word in a Book* and *preserved* it for us.

There is only one God like that. He is the true God. The God who came down to this earth in Jesus Christ His Son. Who gave us His Holy Scripture. Who left His blood-bought church in this world. Surrender to Christ! Believe and obey His Word, the Bible! Join His church and attend and support it! Amen.

A humble soul knows,
that to bless God in prosperity,
is the way to increase it;
and to bless God in adversity,
is the way to remove it.

Jesus Shall Come

(Continued from page 161)

to preach the gospel and to carry out the work which He gave her to do. He had made atonement for the sins of all His people, suffering and dying the Just for the unjust. He had led captivity captive, bringing those who were held in Paradise into the very presence of Almighty God. He rose after three days and three nights in the grave, giving assurance unto all men that He is the Son of God. He ascended up on high to be glorified as the only Savior and the Prince of peace.

We read here of the last time that Jesus met together with the apostles prior to His ascension up to glory. He had shown Himself undeniably alive after His resurrection. The church of the living God has a living Head in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not dead, but He liveth. He gave unto that church a work to carry out until He comes again. **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."** When Jesus comes again, He will take an accounting of His kind of church as to how she has carried out this work. He will take an accounting of every church member as to his or her part in this work. He will not be interested in other works. He will not care for many of the things that are being done in the hour in which you and I are now living. He knows the works of every one of His churches and every member of every one of His churches, and He knows whether or not they are being faithful to the work which He has given them.

"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." The Bible declares plainly that Jesus shall come again. He who went away shall come again. He shall come again literally, He shall come again bodily, and He shall come again apparently or visibly – we shall see Him when He comes. **"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure"** (I John 3:1-3). **"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I**

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Jesus Shall Come

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am, there ye may be also," (John 14:1-3). Now Jesus was not here referring to His death and burial and resurrection, because He said, **"I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"** The apostles were not with Him now. He had ascended up into Heaven. They remained on the earth. We who are saved are not now with Him; but we shall be when He comes again, and we shall be with Him forever and ever. **"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"** (I Thess. 4:16,17). **"For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come"** (I Thess. 1:9,10). We have work to do until Jesus comes again, and this work can only rightly be done if we are working in anticipation of His soon coming again.

1. When shall He come?

"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." When will Jesus come again? He will come again. He is going to come literally, actually, bodily, and visibly. He will come in the same manner in which He went away. What does the Bible say about the time in which He will come? The answer is that the time of His coming shall be soon. **"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come"** (Matt. 24:36-42). **"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh"** (James 5:7,8). **"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last . . . . He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus"** (Rev. 22:12,13,20). The Lord Jesus shall come again soon. He shall come quickly. You may be thinking, "Well, He has not come for nearly two thousand years." **"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"** (II Pet. 3:1-9). You should be glad that He has not yet come, for while He waits He is extending His saving mercy and grace unto us. He is longsuffering to us-ward. If the Lord had come prior to 2004 A. D., some of you who are here today would not have been saved. You would not have been granted repentance of your sins. God waited that He might be gracious. **"And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him"** (Isa. 30:18). God is not affected by time. One day or a thousand years are the same to Him. Now we for whom God waited to be gracious are to wait for Him.

The Bible also states that Jesus will come again when He is not looked for or expected. **"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"** (Matt. 24:44; also read Mark 13:32-37). Jesus will come when He is not looked for. Not many are looking for Him now. Not many are living as though Jesus will come again and reward every man, woman, boy, and girl according to his or her deeds. If you were expecting someone whom you loved and whom you desired to see to come, then you would be making everything ready for that person to come. If that person showed up at a time that you were not expecting, then things may be out of order and in disarray and not as you would have them to be. Are we ready for Jesus to come? He will come when He is not expected. It is getting more and more difficult to tell any difference between the world and church members. They do all of the same things, go to all of the same places, and seemingly have all of the same priorities and concerns. When the Lord comes, they will be buying and selling, marrying and giving in marriage, eating and drinking, and living as though this life and the things of this world are all that matters. You do not hear of too many revival meetings taking place. You do not see too many going out and telling others about the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't think very many are really expecting Jesus to come or are desirous of His coming.

2. Why shall He come?

Now someone may be saying, "Why is Jesus going to come again?" If we are saved, our spirits will go to be with the Lord when we die, for we believe even as the Bible states that **"to be absent from the body"** is **"to be present with the Lord"** (II Cor. 5:8). Nevertheless, there is more to being saved than merely going to Heaven. When the Lord comes again, He will come to complete our salvation. **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"** (I Pet. 1:3-5). **"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed"** (Rom. 13:11). We received salvation when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; yet that salvation is not complete. God has not yet done all that He is going to do in saving us. We are even now in the possession of the title deed to eternal life and glory, but we do not yet have that which we shall have in eternity with Christ. **"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it"** (Rom. 8:18-25). We are waiting yet for the redemption of our bodies. We are waiting for the Lord to come and save us even from the presence of sin. **"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself"** (Phil. 3:20,21; also read I Cor. 15:51-53). When Jesus comes, He will give unto His saints new bodies fashioned like unto His glorious body, bodies that were never used in sinning and which shall never be made subject to the curse of sin and death.

Another reason for which Jesus shall come is to receive His own out of the world. **"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"** (John 14:2,3). **"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 15:19). **"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world"** (John 17:24). Those who belong to Jesus shall be gathered unto Him. He desires that they be with Him where He is. He desires that they partake of and see His glory. **"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"** (I John 3:2). In order to see Him, we shall be made like Him. **"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me"** (Job 19:25-27). Job had faith that even after

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

Was John the Baptist beheaded before or after the Lord started His church? - Tennessee

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John the Baptist was beheaded after Jesus started his church. The word "church" simply means 'a called out assembly'. Also, in I Corinthians 12:28 we read, "**And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**" If the apostles were the first ones added to the church, then all we need to know is when were the apostles 'called out'? According to the gospels, Jesus had already called them out prior to John's death.

For example, in Matthew 4:18-21 Jesus calls four of His apostles to follow Him. By the time we get to Matthew 10, we find the complete list of the twelve apostles mentioned, and they are sent out to do mission work. It is not until Matthew 14 that we read about the death of John the Baptist. The other gospels follow this same pattern. Clearly the church was functioning prior to John's death.

Also, Jesus refers to His disciples as "**children of the bridechamber**" and to Himself as the "**bridegroom**" in Mark 2:19 prior to John's death in Mark 6. This is language typical of Christ and His church. Therefore, I conclude that the church was established and functioning before the death of John the Baptist.

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We aren't given any specific information with which we can answer this question. The various gospel writers present the ministry of Jesus Christ, more in accordance with the purpose and people to whom they wrote than in a chronological order. This is why, for instance, many events in Matthew are bunched together in the 'Sermon on the Mount' but appear in a different chronology in Luke.

Neither are we given any specific mention of the organizational beginning of our Lord's church. Indeed, the organizational structure of the church, if you will pardon the expression, evolved to what we have today as the church in Jerusalem grew and as the scattered saints and appointed missionaries planted new churches.

There are, however, some incidents recorded in the gospels in such a way that they give us some chronology.

Mark 1:14 implies that Christ's ministry started when John was imprisoned, but the account of John (John 3:22-36) clearly shows a period of contemporary ministry and that Jesus had gathered and authorized His disciples by that time. (John 4:2)

John 4:1-3, "**When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee**," would demonstrate that Mark's statement (Mark 1:14) was not the beginning of Jesus' ministry but rather referred to this time.

The synoptic gospels all record Herod's fear that Jesus was John raised from the dead, *before* they record the Lord's questioning the disciples, "**Whom do men say that I am?**" It is there that we find Peter's declaration "**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the loving God**" and our Lord's response, "**I will build my church**."

So there is no definitive answer to this question! We don't *need* a definitive answer to this question! I suspect the question has more to do with whether John the Baptist was in the church. John, himself, answers that question saying, "**He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled**" (John 3:29). Christ's description of John in Matt. 11:8-11 would also imply that John is numbered with the great prophets of the Old Testament.

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According to the chronology of John chapter one, the day after John the Baptist saw Jesus and proclaimed: "**Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**" (1:29 cf. 35-51) Jesus began the process of calling out some of the disciples of John and making them the members of the first church. The apostles were the first members of the church according to I Corinthians 12:28: "**And God hath set some in the church, first apostles...**" John was still alive when Jesus called out the materials prepared by the Baptist and formed them into the first New Testament Church. Later Christ would send them out to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, but they were already a church before that.

Halley's Bible Handbook records the following regarding the time frame between the time when John baptized Jesus and when the Baptist was imprisoned and finally executed by Herod:

"About a year after he had baptized Jesus, he was imprisoned by Herod, to satisfy the whim of a wicked woman, Matt. 14:1-5. This was at the close of Jesus' Early Judean Ministry, December, Matt. 4:12; John 3:22; 4:3, 35. The place of his imprisonment is not named, it is thought to have been at Machaerus, east of the Dead Sea, or at Tiberias, on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee, at both of which places Herod had a residence. He was beheaded about the time of the second following Passover, Matt. 14:12-13, John 6:4 (p. 455).

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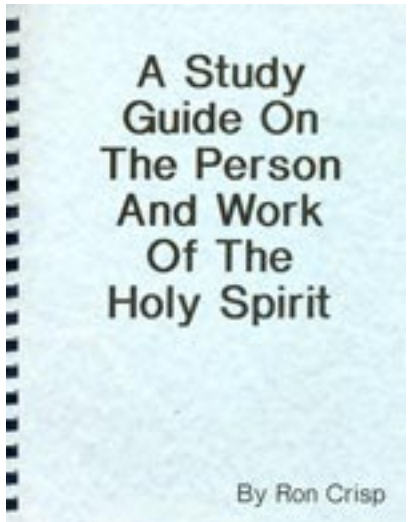
"**There was a man sent from God, whose name was John**" (John 1:6). "**The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight**" (Mark 1:3).

God sent John for a specific purpose—to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. Though the primary purpose of Christ's first advent was to die for the sins of His people, He did have another reason for His personal ministry. It was during this ministry that He established His church. John was sent to lay the foundation for the Lord's church. We know and understand that John was the link between the Old and New Testament economies. He was, therefore, not a member of the Lord's New Testament church (John 3:29). Still yet, he was used by God to supply Christ with what was necessary to organize His first church in Jerusalem. It was John who baptized Christ (Matt. 3:15) and the apostles (Acts. 1:22).

The question before us, however, is of a slightly different nature than that which we have explained. It was necessary, nevertheless, to begin with those facts in order to answer the question. When did Christ begin His church? We know He started it during His personal ministry because He commissioned it just before He ascended into Heaven (Matt. 28:18-20). She had to be organized before she was commissioned. Any other belief is illogical and Biblically unfounded. Still yet, precisely when did the Lord start His church? Did it begin with His baptism? Surely, He is the chief cornerstone of the church (Eph. 2:20) and His baptism was a declaration of this truth. Did it begin with the placement of the first members by Christ? Who were the first members? The Scripture declares that the apostles were the first to be set in the church (I Cor. 12:28). These men were called out well prior to the murder of John the Baptist. As baptism is the entrance into the local church (as there is no other type of church mentioned in the Bible) and they received their baptism from John, we must conclude that John was very much alive when the Lord established His church as he was part of the God ordained process. As we have previously said, however, John was not a member of the Lord's church.

TODD BRYANT



This is a 64 page study guide on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to do an indepth study you should obtain this guide. It is a very thorough study on the subject. Retail price is $4.00 Add $2 for postage.

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

Is the Holy Spirit a person and as such part of the Trinity of God; or is the Holy Spirit the power of God? - Texas

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"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you *another* Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever" (John 14:16).

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when *he* is come, *he* will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when *he*, the Spirit of truth, is come, *he* will guide you into all truth: for *he* shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever *he* shall hear, that shall *he* speak: and *he* will shew you things to come. *He* shall glorify me: for *he* shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that *he* (i.e.: the Holy Spirit) **shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you"** (John 16:7-15). (Italics mine)

Many volumes have been written concerning the *person* of the Holy Spirit. He is spoken of in the second person, masculine singular (see John 16:7-15) although there *are* references that use the third person, neuter. The latter because the word pneuma (pneuma) is a neuter word, used for breath, breathing, wind, and ghost and the KJV translators were trying to be *grammatically* correct, so the question is understandable.

The Holy Spirit's various works, witnessing, convicting, empowering, etc. and especially His submission to God the Father and Jesus Christ (John 16:13) all pretty well demand that He be a *person,* not a mere passive or abstract force.

Perhaps the best way to answer this question would be a quick lesson in Greek. In John 14:16 Jesus says He will **"give you another Comforter."** The key is the word 'another' (allos allov), meaning 'another of the same kind' as opposed to another (eteros eterov) of a *different* kind (equally translated as 'other.'

Paul places both of these words in juxtaposition in Gal. 1:6-7. "**I marvel that ye are so soon removed…unto another** (eteros – *different*) **gospel…Which is not another** (allos)." The distinction becomes clear. The Holy Spirit is *another of the same kind,* not something different as an abstract force.

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The Holy Spirit is indeed the third person of the sacred Trinity and not merely a manifestation of the power of God. He is included in the baptismal formula in Matthew 28:19: **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."**

The Holy Spirit is revealed as having the Divine attributes of infinity, eternity, sovereignty, and power throughout Scripture. He is a person that can be lied too (Acts 5:3) and grieved (Eph. 4:30). You cannot lie to a manifestation or influence. You can only lie to and grieve a real person.

Furthermore the Holy Spirit is included in the Holy Trinity in I John 5:7 which declares: **"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."**

I would suggest that anyone wishing to study the Person and work of the blessed Holy Spirit get the book that Pastor Ron Crisp of Independence, Kentucky wrote some years ago. It is one of the most comprehensive and concise studies of the Holy Spirit I have ever read.

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The Holy Spirit is a person, but there is no antipathy between personhood and power. The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit both in individual, personal terms, and as the power and presence of God in His people. He is not an impersonal force or power, but a person of the Godhead who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

We know the Holy Spirit is a person of the Godhead because of the way He is spoken of in Scripture. For example, He is mentioned with the other members of the Godhead in Matthew 28:19 where we are commanded to baptize disciples "**in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**" These three are mentioned here as distinct persons of the Godhead, yet they are one (I John 5:7). This means the Holy Spirit is one and equal with the Son and the Father. Just as the Son is a personal being or the Father is a personal being, so is the Holy Spirit.

Christ refers to the Holy Spirit in a personal way in Matthew 12:31 when He taught that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit cannot be forgiven. The Holy Spirit is referred to as a person in that He may be lied to (Acts 5:3); He calls men to mission work (Acts 13:2); He intercedes for believers (Rom. 8:26); and He may be grieved (Eph. 4:30).

The Holy Spirit is also spoken of as the power and presence of God in others. Jesus Christ was filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit during His earthly ministry (Matt. 3:16, 4:1). Those who believe in Jesus have the Spirit indwelling them, too (Rom. 8:9-11). The Holy Spirit is the one who enables the saints to worship and serve God (Acts 1:8). The Spirit produces holy fruit in the saints and causes them to live out their salvation in true righteousness, which is something the law could not do (Rom. 8:3-4; Gal. 5:22-23).

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The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity as He is declared to be in the baptismal formula (Matt. 28:19). Many have proposed that since God is a Spirit that the Father and the Spirit are one in the same in the Trinity. However, such reasoning would eliminate the Son from the Trinity as He is very much a physical person and He is obviously declared to be God in the Scriptures (John 1:1). Also, the Father is actually said to send the Spirit (John 14:26). This point, by itself, should be enough to satisfy any thoughts of the Father and the Spirit being the same in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit has His work in the salvation of sinners. While the Father chose His elect and the Son died for them, the Holy Spirit regenerates them (Tit. 3:5).

These points alone should suffice as an answer to this question, so long as the questioner doesn't have a theory to defend. Those with a theory to defend will always find an answer to plain Scriptures.

TODD BRYANT

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER
Financial Report
7-1-2005 to 7-31-2005

Beginning Balance	$184.01
RECEIPTS:	
Arthur D. Richardson, Cedarville, WV	100.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	26.46
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	1,100.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL	60.00
Berea M. B.C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Berea M. B. C., Westpoint, TN	150.00
Bethel M. B. C., Pasadena, TX	100.00
Bible Believer's B. C., Naples, ID	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	200.00
Cedar Grove B. C., Millport, AL	50.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	25.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR	25.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL	25.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK	35.00
Hillcrest B. C., Winston-Salem,NC	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Joseph Jurzec, Richmond, IL	50.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	100.00
Leston Farrell, Des Allemands, LA	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 Testamant B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Ocoonita M. B. C., Keokee, VA	40.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Burghill, OH	75.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C. , Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC	100.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	25.00
Subscriptions	384.00
Anon.	717.00
Sub Total	$5,047.46
TOTAL	$5,231.47
EXPENDITURES:	
Printing	543.08
Postage	971.92
Supplies	152.22
Wages	3,680.00
FICA	299.89
Total Expenditures	5,647.11
	-415.64
Bank Charges	-22.08
ENDING DEFICIT	$-437.72

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST
Financial Report
7-1-2005 to 7-31-2005

Beginning Balance	$3,456.31
RECEIPTS:	
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Dividing check	200.00
	675.00
TOTAL	4,131.31
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	450.00
Tapes	66.00
Dividing check	200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	716.00
	$3,415.31
Less Corbin, KY fund balance	-691.52
ENDING BALANCE	$2,723.79

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance	$891.52
EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT	200.00
ENDING BALANCE	$691.52

Jesus Shall Come

(Continued from page 169)

his physical body had been destroyed and gone to corruption in the grave, he would be raised in the resurrection and see the Lord. This shall take place when Jesus comes. **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation"** (John 5:25-29). Those who have heard the voice of Jesus and have believed on Him have eternal life. Those believers who have died will Jesus raise from the grave, and along with those believers who remain alive when He comes they will be changed into the image of Christ.

When Jesus comes, it will be to render unto His servants according to their works. **"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"** (II Cor. 5:7-10). We must all appear before Christ's judgment seat. He is going to judge our works which we have done in these bodies. He is going to judge our deeds which we have done as His servants (read Matt. 25:14-23; I Cor. 3:10-15). The Lord is going to try our works to see whether or not they are according to His Word. Have we done that which He has commanded us to do? Have we been faithful to Him who called us into His service? **"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God"** (I Cor. 4:1-5). We are to live and serve God in order, not to please men or have the praise of men, but to please God and have His praise when at last we receive from Him according to how we have served Him. **"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him"** (James 1:12). **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing"** (II Tim. 4:7,8).

3. What should we do, knowing that He shall come?

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:6-8). We do not know when the Lord shall come. We do not know when He will fulfill many of the things that are spoken of in His Word. We do know the work that He has given us to do. The greatest incentive we have to be missionary is because Jesus is coming again. **"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen"** (Matt. 28:18-20). This is the only work which we have to do until Jesus comes again. Every one of the Lord's churches has this same work.

We should be missionary at home, as well as abroad. No one rightly recognizes the need abroad who does not recognize the need at home. What are we doing to hold forth the Word of life in the communities where we are, live, work, and go to school? This is where our work must begin. **"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain"** (Phil. 2:14-16). The field of Baptist labor is the world. The work is as broad as the need of man and as great as the love of God. **"Why stand ye gazing up into heaven?"** There is work to be done, and the power for that work comes only from Him who shall come again and take an accounting from every servant according as his or her work shall be.

We should be watching for (expecting) His coming. The disciples were not left to wonder, but were given the promise that Jesus would come again. If we know that He shall come, then we should be living with a holy expectation. If we expect Jesus to come, then we should live as though we are ready and waiting for Him to come. We should live as though we want Him to come. Everything that is worthwhile to a believer will be realized when Jesus comes. **"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"** (Tit. 2:11-13). His coming is our blessed hope, for then shall night be turned to day; then shall sorrow give way to rejoicing; then shall iniquity be overcome of righteousness; and death shall be overcome of life. **"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure"** (I John 3:3). Nothing will make us holier than the hope that Jesus is coming. Nothing will make us more earnest in our efforts than to be watching and waiting for our Lord to come. **"But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers"** (Luke 12:31-46). Watching for (expecting and desiring) the Lord to come is the greatest guard which we can have to keep our hearts from the lusts of the flesh and the cares of this life. Lift up your heads, and look up: your redemption draweth nigh!

"This same Jesus . . . shall so come in like manner." Do you know **"this same Jesus"**? This Jesus is the One whom you must have as your own personal Savior. This Jesus is the One whose death, burial, and resurrection you must have a part in by faith and by the power of the Holy Spirit. If you do not have a part in Him and what He did at the cross, then you will not have a part in Him when He comes again. The only part that remains for you is weeping and gnashing of teeth. You cannot have another Savior. You cannot get to God another way. You must have **"this same Jesus,"** or you cannot have eternal life.

What Parents and

(Continued from page 161)

other sinner, by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by Christ dying for his sins (**"Christ died for our sins"** I Cor. 15:3); by Christ's dying redeeming him from his future sins as well as his past sins (Our Saviour Jesus Christ, **"Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity"** Tit. 2:13-14).

Yet many fathers and mothers, alas! many Sunday School teachers utterly blind children to God's way of salvation by telling them they are going to get to Heaven by being good boys and girls and by loving Jesus. They are like the city dude who decided to become a farmer. He built him a splendid home on the farm, and then built himself a splendid barn for his corn. Someone then told him that if he didn't have a good lock on his barn some of his mean neighbors would steal his corn. The city dude got a fine lock and had the carpenters put it on the barn door. Someone then told him that if he did not have some cats to catch the rats that the rats would destroy his corn. He got an old Maltese cat with five kittens. His little head then came up against a granite wall of difficulty; for he saw that

(Continued on page 173)

What Parents and

(Continued from page 172)

if he locked the barn door to keep the neighbors from stealing the corn, the old cat and kittens could not go in and catch the rats; and if he left the door open so the old cat and kittens could go in and catch the rats, the neighbors would go in and steal his corn. He thought he was ruined as a farmer until one bright idea got loose in his head. He had the carpenter cut a hole in the bottom of the barn door about four inches in diameter, so that the old cat could crawl in and out while his door was locked, and the neighbors could not crawl through and steal his corn. Then he had the carpenters cut five little holes by the side of the large hole, one hole for each kitten! Foolish do you say? Yet many parents and many Sunday School teachers are just that foolish in dealing with children---they talk to them about being good children, and obeying Mamma and Papa and loving Jesus, and that they will go to Heaven, when there is not one word of truth in it, but the most deadly, soul-destroying error. **"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life"** (John 3:14-15). The people bitten by the serpents and dying, God told Moses to make a brass serpent and put it upon a pole, and tell them that every one that was bitten **"when he looked upon it shall live."** An old hardened sinner, looking at the brass serpent was certain to live; a small boy or girl, bitten by the serpent, could understand that, if he would look at the brass serpent he would live.

Why not tell the child of God's love for sinners; that our sins must be punished; but that Jesus came and died for the sins of all believers; that He gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity; that the moment he repents from his sins and receives Jesus as his Saviour, as the One Who died for all of his sins, clear up to the time he dies, that the moment he trusts his whole salvation to the Saviour, that Jesus says, **"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"** (John 5:24). Then tell the child to live a good life, and do right, from love to Jesus for dying for his sins, for Jesus said, **"If ye love me, keep my commandments."**

Compromising Baptists

(Continued from page 161)

answer this for yourself, if Jesus did not compromise, why then do you? It is a stirring question and one we do not like to have asked, let alone answer. Does the question anger, offend, or put you on the defensive? If many were honest the answer would be "Yes," and then you would probably put a "but" on the end, that's called Depravity. As you continue to read, hopefully your eyes will be opened to some issues that will make you stop and say, "I never realized or I never looked at it that way before." See if this sounds familiar, "Preacher, you can preach to me, just don't get personal; don't tell me about my sin or how to live my personal life." Or, how about this one, "Yes, I know I haven't been at Church lately but what about so and so? I saw them at the store after Church. Why weren't they at Church today?"

Look at what John 21:15-19 says, **"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me."**

Now let's examine verses 20-23, **"Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?"**

Baptists are doing the same thing now as Peter did then, always worried about what the other person is doing instead of listening to what Jesus told them to do and to be focused on their own service to a Holy Sovereign God. Baptists continue to excuse their actions and then try to justify their excuses because they know they have been caught red-handed *Compromising*. This is sad, so very sad. When are we going to see this error, admit the wrong, repent, and go on with our lives serving God the way He wants?

Here is the mindset of the world, and sadly many Baptists. It all starts with this one little word, *apathy*. Here is a quote from one of the great preachers from the past, way before this writer was ever born. *"Everywhere there is apathy (indifference, unconcern). Nobody cares whether that which is preached is true or false. A sermon is a sermon whatever the subject; only, the shorter it is, the better."* (Charles Haddon Spurgeon). Are you surprised? C.H. Spurgeon saw this in his day and I wonder if he'd be surprised to see how it has grown into the monster it has become in our day. Beloved, depravity has no dispensation for one certain age; it has been around since the fall of Adam.

Before we go any further let's define two words. Since the theme of the conference was revival, let's look at this word first. Revival—"1) Restoration to life, consciousness, vigor, or strength; 2) The revival of old customs; 3) white shirts and ties; A reawaking of interest in the care of religion; 4) An evangelistic service or a series of services for the purpose of effecting a religious awakening." Now look at this word, Compromising—"1. To expose or make vulnerable to danger, suspicion, scandal, etc.; jeopardize: Such mistakes compromise our safety. 2. To make a dishonorable or shameful concession: to compromise with one's principles" (Webster's American Family Dictionary).

Now considering these two words together, here is what we get. These two words are the opposite of each other but yet they compliment each other. If you compromise that means you are not revived. So you need revived because you compromise. I believe revival starts with each of us in our own personal and private lives and we need to take a closer look at how and what we compromise.

The purpose of this article is to get us to see where we compromise as Baptists. Also to ask my Baptist brethren, does the truth matter any more? Since so many are falling away from Bible doctrine to get more members, I believe this to be a fair question to ask. I feel led to make an effort to those who call themselves true Baptists. I am not concerned (though I do care) with Christendom as a whole, but to those, as I said, who are drifting away from the truths I hold so dear, and our forefathers died for, and those who have true authority from or Lord to be His Blood Bought Church.

Before we get to the heart of this article let me ask the reader another question. Have you ever heard the term, "all things in moderation"? Is this term fact or myth? I ask this because one of my members wanted me to do a series on the subject. I hear it all the time but never stopped to see what God's Word had to say about it. Well, I looked and I looked but there is no such teaching in the entire Bible, which I could find. If the reader knows of such a place I welcome the Scripture to prove such a teaching. Before my retirement I would sit and take breaks with 3 to 5 people I worked with who confessed to be Christians. The one told me one day, "I have a beer every night after I work out in the yard." So I gave him one of those looks that causes one to jump on the defensive right away and he said without me uttering a word "all things in moderation," calling me by name. I take that as guilty, don't you?

Here is what happens when we come up with things like "all things in moderation." "I don't celebrate Xmas, I just give gifts to my family"; "I don't celebrate Easter, I just let my kids color eggs (that they tell them the rabbit laid) and give them a basket full of toys and candy." And let's not forget those who don't celebrate Halloween, "I don't let them wear monster costumes, I just let them wear cute happy costumes." As far as I'm concerned "all things in moderation" is just another way of saying it doesn't hurt anything to compromise. The reason for this is there is no back bone in our homes anymore and parents are afraid to just stand for the truth and say NO to these worldly and ungodly practices to their children. Those who hiss and stomp their feet at this and would tell me I'm wrong apparently have never studied these issues and cannot see their error to compromise. I want the reader to realize something, these holidays are just minor issues to some but they are important issues and this preacher believes they are a slap in our Lord's face. This is how Satan works his lies, he gets you hooked on things that appear to be harmful and religious but in truth are false doctrines. And at this point if you say "Yeah, but" you've just compromised. It's an age-old issue…mankind hates Truth.

Before I get to that I want us to look at three people in the Bible who must have thought it was all right to do "all things in moderation". First there was Eve. Here Eve is in the garden, looking everywhere but where she should be looking. She hears the serpent's plea, (paraphrased), "Eve, you won't surely die. God knows that if you eat of this tree you'll be like Him, and Eve, God didn't say anything about tasting the fruit. He just doesn't want you to eat the fruit." Now our second character, Adam, comes along (I believe he was beside her the whole time this was going on) and Eve says, "I'm not dead, honey, so we must be able to do *'all things in moderation.'"* So Adam takes this little bite thinking that this moderation thing sounds like a good idea. **"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death"** (Prov. 16:25). And the rest is history.

Now allow me to bring in our third and final character. Oh, there are many more but I do want to get to the message. Our third person to look at is David. You know the story of David in 2 Samuel

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Outlines for Country Preachers by a Country Preacher

Sermon Outlines by Milburn Cockrell

THE YOKE OF CHRIST

Matt. 11:29-30

These words are some of the best known and most beloved of all the sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here is a direction given, and a promise made to those who come to Christ. None come to Him but those who labor and are heavy laden with the service of sin and its consequence. When a sinner throws off the yoke of sin, he puts on the yoke of Christ.

I. THERE IS A YOKE TO BE BORNE---"TAKE MY YOKE."

1. A yoke was placed on the neck of an ox, and it put him under restraint to a man. The yoke of Christ puts the believer under restraint to Him.
2. The word **"yoke"** in Scripture is sometimes an emblem of bondage (Deut. 28:48; Lev. 26:13; Jer. 27:8) and affliction (Lam. 3:27). To embrace and obey the doctrines and precepts of Christ is the yoke in this text.
3. To take on this yoke means a life of entire submission to the work and will of God. It means to be yoked with Christ, co-workers together with Him.
4. The yoke of service is not thrust upon us; we are invited to take it. This is not a command given or a duty enjoined. It is a gracious invitation.
5. Passing under the yoke meant goodbye to personal liberty. Christ requires an absolute submission, a full and complete surrender. This first act of that submission we call consecration.

II. WHAT THIS YOKE INVOLVES---"UPON YOU."

1. It is a yoke of faith---the assent of the mind to the plan of salvation and the service of Christ (Gal. 2:20; 5:6).
2. It is a yoke of public profession---profess Christ openly before the world (Matt. 10:32-33; Gal. 3:26-27).
3. It is a yoke of church fellowship (Matt. 5:15-16; II Cor. 8:5). This is essential to pleasing Christ and to spiritual enjoyment.
4. It is a yoke of service to God and man (Matt. 21:28; Gal. 6:2). A believer is not to be idle. There is much service to be performed.
5. It is a yoke of submission. A Christian will meet with persecution, afflictions, and numerous trials (Acts 20:18-19). These must not discourage us and cause us to faint (Acts 20:22-24). Hold fast! Don't waver in your profession of faith!
6. It is a yoke of doctrine (Jude 3). It demands the prostration of the mind before Him. The doctrines of the cross which were a stumbling-block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks.
7. It is a yoke of law---the moral law (Heb. 8:10; Rom. 7:22). Christ did not abrogate the moral law, but He explained, spiritualized and enlarged it (John 14:15; 15:14).
8. It is the yoke of a cross (Matt. 16:24-25). This involves self-denial and possible abandonment of friends, wife, children, houses, lands, and maybe life itself for Christ's sake.

III. THE LESSONS HE COMMUNICATES---"LEARN OF ME."

1. Among the Jews a pupil who submitted himself to the instructions of a certain teacher was sometimes said to take his yoke.
2. Christ is our teacher (John 3:2; 8:31; 13:17; Col. 1:7). Christ alone can teach us properly. From him alone can we learn that type of character which we ought to develop.
3. This is figurative language for saying, "Become My pupils, submit yourselves to My instructions, learn the law I enjoin, the sacrifice I demand. You will discover that My laws are reasonable and tender; My spirit is mild, gentle, and sympathetic; My government is not harsh and oppressive.
4. Christ is our prophet and we are to always hear Him (Matt. 17:5; Acts 3:22-23).
5. Christ is our perfect example (John 13:15; Phil. 2:5; I Peter 2:21; I John 2:6). He does not ask us to do anything He has not already done. He has trodden the path, and we are to follow Him and walk in His steps.
6. We are to learn from Christ to be meek and humble in mind (Phil. 2:8-9; II Cor. 8:9). Christ is not a harsh and haughty teacher, nor should those who follow Him teach this way (II Tim. 2:24-25).
7. To learn of Christ we must get close to Him and be yoked with Him. The yoke of service comes before spiritual wisdom. We learn best while in the yoke (Acts 9:6).
8. In the school of suffering and testimony for Christ we learn the deeper things of God. Some learn nothing because they are ashamed of Christ's yoke; they refuse to keep company with Him.
9. With Him we learn to be patient in suffering, to walk humbly, to trust implicitly, to love intensely, and to rejoice exceedingly (Eph. 4:20-32).

IV. THE BLESSING HE PROMISES---"AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS."

1. How rich and sweet is the blessing of bodily rest. Rest from mental excitement---the sailor rests from the storm when it is past---the soldier when the battle is over---the weary traveler---the toiling laborer, etc.
2. Bodily rest is truly sweet and indispensable, but how much more precious is rest to the soul. Christ only can give soul rest! This is service rest---a life of restful activity!
3. Christ does not give it as a prescription, but as an actual, conscious possession. How wonderful is this to weary, disappointed, downcast, and fruitless workers. Bring your burdens to Christ for rest and relief.
4. Soon will come the heavenly rest (Rev. 14:13). This is rest from toil, conflict, sorrow, suffering, crosses, temptations, the warfare with Satan, etc. This is full, uninterrupted, and everlasting rest.

V. THE MOTIVE HE ADDUCES---"MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT."

1. What a contrast to the yoke of sin. The yoke of sin is full of the gall of bitterness (Rom. 6:21). The slave of Satan has a labor which is cruel and severe. Its wages is death. Wretched bondage indeed!
2. It is easy when compared to the forms of paganism. The whole systems are written in blood---torture, groans, sacrificed children. Christ's yoke is full of mercy, gentleness, peace, and purity. Goodness is its essential feature.
3. It is easy when compared to the Jewish dispensation (Acts 15:10). Consider the numerous services and sacrifices, purification, gifts, etc.
4. It is easy because it contains nothing degrading or irrational---nothing is oppressive in Christ's yoke (I John 5:3). His yoke is easy to the willing mind; His burden is light to the loving heart.
5. All things are light to love (I Cor. 13:7; Rom. 15:1; Gal. 6:2). Christ's burden is light because He helps us bear it. When it becomes heavy He puts Himself under the load with us (I Pet. 5:7). Two can bear a yoke (Phil. 4:13; II Cor. 12:9).

CONCLUSION.

1. All Christians are invited to take Christ's yoke. There is no rest for a Christian except in the yoke of Christ.
2. Encourage all disciples to take the yoke (Rev. 14:4).
3. Do you have salvation rest (Matt. 11:28)? Christ gives rest from guilt, the fear of death, and the dread of judgment. He gives it to the heavy laden; He does not sell it or offer it!

Compromising Baptists

(Continued from page 173)

11-12 so I'll cut to the chase. Again I'll paraphrase; Nathan confronts David about his adulterous affair with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah. Those who do believe *"all things in moderation"* will probably not want to read this next part. Again I'll remind the reader I am paraphrasing here; you should study these things for yourself to see if they be so. Here is David's thinking; I only committed adultery with one woman. It's not like I did it with the whole town and I didn't really kill Uriah. It was an act of war that he died. By now I can hear some say, "That is the most ridiculous thing I ever heard." My reply, "IS IT? Why?" I believe David was thinking he wasn't going to get caught because he was the king and no one would dare confront the king. David like every one else, justified and lied to himself, until he got caught. What are most people sorry for, really, that they sinned or that they got caught? Like I said earlier, Baptists will excuse their actions and then try to justify their excuses because they know they have been caught red-handed. Then, making matters worse, they try to defend their sin while they make their excuses. It is a vicious circle. Beloved, when are we going to get it into our heads that every thought, every action and every word is known of our Almighty Sovereign God?

I used to watch a child's TV show before I started grade school and this is what they would say at the end of every show. "Remember kids, you can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL MOM." Well, I never forgot that and beloved as hard as you try YOU CAN'T FOOL GOD!

I have always wondered how long it would have been before David repented if Nathan had not confronted him. Also, the way Nathan confronted David, that was God working through His servant. What if Nathan would have just said to David right out, "Did you lay with Bathsheba?" And, "Did you kill her husband Uriah?" We can only speculate what would have been David's reply but God never gave him the chance, that's why He's God! I am most thankful we serve such a God, aren't you?

Now just in case the reader wants to refer to 1 Corinthians 6:12 and 1 Corinthians 10:23, or any other Scripture to refute what I have just said and defend their stand on "all things in moderation", I would ask before you do, please study the whole of those chapters along with

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Compromising Baptists

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Galatians 5:13 and 1 Peter chapter 2 paying attention to verse 16.

Now, let's look at the subject, *"Compromising Baptists".* My wife and I compiled a list of things we believe Baptists compromise. I am sure the reader can come up with many more than we found, for our list only consists of 68 things that we feel are as I said compromised by Baptists. Below is a chart with again the definition of the word compromising (just in case you forgot)!

Compromising Baptists

Compromising--1. To expose or make vulnerable to danger, suspicion, scandal, etc.; jeopardize: Such mistakes compromise our safety. 2. To make a dishonorable or shameful concession: to compromise with one's principles.

Did you note that one part in the definition? "Such mistakes compromise our safety." That would be a good reason not to compromise. You jeopardize your safety, the safety that only God can provide. Look at what God told His people through the prophets Jeremiah and Malachi!

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it" (Jer. 6:16-19).

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?" (Mal. 3:1-7).

We can see the message that was given to Jeremiah and Malachi from the Lord was one of urgency. We are messengers like Jeremiah and Malachi, sent by God to tell the world what is their doom if they do not trust in the only true Savior, Jesus Christ, and repent of their sins and come out of their evil and wicked ways.

Remember the warnings of Paul? **"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears"** (Acts 20:29-31). Guess what? We didn't listen! And why didn't we listen? Because we thought it better to compromise! After all we don't want to hurt someone's feelings. We're Christians. We have the truth but we just don't preach all of it because it might offend someone. We should love, and have compassion for those who sin and are full of wickedness if we really want to reach them. Yeah, right! Does that work for you? It doesn't for me. Don't get me wrong. We are to have the love that Christ has for His elect of this world. Beloved people are dying and going to hell at breakneck speed and they must hear the gospel, not some service that appeals to the flesh. Just name me one place where Jesus compromised. In fact, didn't He call the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites, serpents and vipers? (Look at Matthew chapter 23). People today want to hear the love of Christ, but that's it. You start talking about sin, hell, damnation and God's wrath; they want no part of that!

I just want to briefly give my reasons and define the 68 compromises I have listed, so at least you'll know where I'm coming from. I want to point out also that when compiling this list I considered all of Christendom because these issues have filtered down into the Baptist ranks.

Angels---They are given credit many times more than God and usually female in gender and there are figurines sitting on one's shelf for protection.

Baptism---It will save you and wash away your sins, or one is baptized without being saved because numbers are needed more than true believers.

Beliefs---We don't all agree; the Bible says we should be of one mind; so the head covering, women speaking out in the church services and women preachers, etc., are options to believe or not; concerns for Bible truths are just a thing for Paul's day and have nothing to do with us today.

Children and Grandchildren---They are not being taught by our living example in our homes. They are not being instructed at an early age what sin is. This will and has jeopardized their future.

Church Attendance---It's a thing to do if one feels like it or if there is nothing else going on that day, like your kids in sports or you stubbed your toe.

Church Discipline---It might take a year or so before one that is in gross sin is to be disciplined, or it's someone's relative and we don't want to lose the whole family.

Commandments---They are in the way and too hard to follow; it interferes with having fun; that's not what they really mean; no one wants to learn them anymore.

Denominations---Doesn't matter what church, just as long as one is happy; all are God's churches.

Devotions---What's that? You mean take time in the day and sit down with God and have the family all together and pray and read God's Word? Who has the time for that?

Doctrine---We need more love; doctrine offends; that's your interpretation; doctrine doesn't really matter as long as you love Jesus.

Dress---It's too hot; it's more comfortable; shorts; short shorts; short dresses; women wearing pants to church and at home; belly shirts, sleeveless shirts and blouses, or hardly anything at all when in public; no more white shirts and ties for men and boys (a tie, what's that?).

Earth---Litter; burning things not fit to breathe; have no regard for the environment, do not leave the woods as they found them.

Faith---Can not believe God can handle all things; not willing to wait; don't believe God would do this or that.

Family---Putting family before God; not concerned enough for their eternal good (soul).

Fellowship---Always too busy with other things to spend time with the saints, to pray, to do studies and sit down and have talks with them.

God---Always given second place or no place; only give Him time if it is convenient or nothing else to do; could care less if He meets with the saints on the Lord's day; no reverence toward Him at all. I'm glad God has a sense of humor.

God's Word---Haven't picked up the Bible for days, weeks, months; left it at church; hid under papers, magazines or dust; just don't have enough time in the day.

Hair Style--- (Women) I'm not in subjection to my husband, I don't believe that; it's my hair; it's too hot, can't stand it on my neck; I like it this color. (Men) I look good with my hair long; Jesus had long hair; I'm trying to reach the younger generation; I want to hide the gray, and I don't like being bald.

Health---America is the most well-fed undernourished nation in the world, and the drug companies have made their fortunes.

Holidays--- Too much time, effort and money is spent on what the world calls religious holidays that are no more than ancient pagan idol worship that have nothing to do with Jesus Christ or God.

Holy Spirit---He is ignored eighty percent of the time. He is treated like He doesn't exist; is mocked and disrespected.

Images---Crosses, praying hands, fish, statues, pictures and t-shirts; but it shows people I'm a Christian, (yeah right).

Inviting People to Church--- I didn't invite them because they're not our kind of people. I left Bible tracts in the restrooms. I didn't think they would come. Or when they were invited, the one who invited them wasn't at church when they showed up. And they asked, "Is so and so here? They invited me to come." I had some come once and because so and so wasn't there they left. (Good witness).

Jesus---Treated the same as He was before we were saved; don't want to fellowship with Him on Sunday morning; as long as He's there when I really need Him; other than that He's in my way. He's up in heaven just laughing and if He were here today He would entertain us. (So we are to just forget what He did?).

Jokes---What was wrong with that? It was clean; did you here about...(out of respect for everyone and everything) I will not say anymore about jokes, (you get the picture).

Language---Yeah but I smashed my finger; I was praising God when I used His name; it isn't anything you haven't heard before; oh, it slipped.

Laws of the Land---But Officer, I was only going 60; I don't care, it's my life and I'm not wearing my seat belt; It's just a peace of paper; I don't recognize this court and I don't respect you as a judge; my dog only goes outside to potty, why does he need a license? I just cheated a little on my taxes; Uncle Sam gets his fair share.

Length of Church Services---Why does he have to preach so long; why do we sing all those songs; why does he read so many verses of Scripture? I wish he'd hurry up, I have things to do; the games on; I'm hungry.

Lusts---I want to get a new house. Did you see that car? I must have one of them. Did you see him/her sure is good looking; I want this, I want that, and I want, want, and want.

Marriage---Husbands and wives going their own ways; no communication; not sacred anymore; is easier to get a divorce than to get a marriage license.

(Continued in the next issue.)

Mennonitish Baptists

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And as Paul asked Peter, I also ask some of the Lord's Church, "Why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" We still have the same problem in the Lord's Church today with some separating to follow the ways of the Jews.

So many are using II Corinthians 6:17 **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord"** to go back to many Jewish ways, using this verse to excuse them from much of our Christian battle and carrying the gospel to every creature.

Christ plainly commanded, **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"** (Mark 16:15). The question is---How does one go into all the world and separate from the world at the same time? (Naturally one can not). So many choose the Biblical Jewish ways to look separated, withdrawn and avoid contact with the world as much as possible.

The Amish would be a good example. For several years now, I have had an Amish family to saw logs into lumber for me. I have dealt with the Amish for about 15 years or more. I have sold them lumber and even cut timber on many of their farms. Many of them have invited me into their homes and seem to have a trust in me business wise, but never once have they invited me to church to worship with them. Truly these people have separated themselves from the world as much as possible without building guarded fences so no one can enter from the outside world like many cults and sects have done.

Another group we might mistake the Amish for are the Mennonites. This group also seeks separation from the world, yet they have a few modern conveniences (cars, trucks, tractors, some electricity, computers, etc.). Their beliefs vary from some observing the 1st day Sabbath to observing the 7th day Sabbath.

Jonas, the man who saws for me, told me that, "Mennonites were Amish that have jumped the fence." Apparently we have some Baptists 'jumping the fence' and leaning toward the Mennonite ways of separation and the Mennonite culture, of which I see as Gentiles compelled to live in ways as do the Jews, an age old problem within the Lord's Church.

Years ago, early in my ministry, I, too, felt it would be good to separate from this evil world (especially when it came to our public schools), and I probably would have if I had gotten hold of some of this "Mennonite" movement preaching and literature I am hearing and seeing today. I am thankful that at that time I had only the Word of God to show me that as Christians we are to let our Christ-like light shine. Matthew 5:14: **"Ye are the light of the world."** Matthew 5:16: **"Let your light so shine before man, that they may see your good works."** If we separate from the world, how can they see our good works? How can we let our light so shine before man? How can we be the salt of the earth? God's Word does not contradict itself! **"Separate"** in II Corinthians 6:17 means (Strong's Greek Dictionary) "to set off by boundary, limit, exclude, appoint." Separate does not carry with it here to withdraw from the world but instead set off by boundary fig. (i.e.) to limit, to exclude, and to appoint things we are to do or not to do in this world. Like in II Corinthians 6:17, **"...and touch not the unclean thing,"** and as taught in Ephesians 5:6-11, **"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."**

Something else we might notice is Christ's prayer to His Father. John 17:11, 14-18, **"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."** Christ has sent us into the world and when we separate, as to withdraw from the world as the Jews were to do, we have deserted and abandoned our duty to bring glory to our Lord by being lights in the world---putting our *'light under a bushel.'*

Matthew 5:16 says, **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."**

"Light": shine by being seen---not by sound or by being heard

"Preaching": concerns sounding out or being heard

"Salt": concerns taste---much like Christ tasted death for us

We are to not only preach Christ to the world but the world should be able to see and taste Christ in us. What good is light in this world if the light is separated or hid from the world? What good is salt for seasoning and preserving if it is kept closed up or contained from mixing with anything?

We need to remember, Jews were never commanded to go preach, to be lights, or salt of the earth but God commanded them to be separated, to not mix, and even commanded them to destroy every creature where they were going many times. So the Lord's Church has no business trying to follow the Jews. The bride of Christ does not need to pattern her life after that adulterous wife of God!!

We will never bring glory to Christ by following after the Jews. They rejected Christ. They shamed and dishonored Christ, and when we choose to live as do the Jews and not as Gentiles, we shame and dishonor Christ also.

Now, let's look at some of the Mennonite ways or teachings that seem to be appealing to some Baptists. Mennonites separate themselves favoring plain dress and plain living. I see nothing wrong with plain dress and plain living, but I have noticed they spend most of their time preaching and condemning those that do not dress and live the way they do---always critical of anyone different than they with a holier than thou attitude like we read of the Jews with Christ and His disciples.

First, they teach it is sinful for a woman to wear pants and that pants (trousers) are for men, but I find no such teaching. In fact, I have not found pants or trousers as the attire of men in the Bible anywhere. As for 'breeches,' they were part of the priest's attire worn also with linen bonnets upon their heads as found in Exodus 39:28, **"And a miter of fine linen, and goodly bonnets of fine linen, and linen breeches of fine twined linen..."** and in Ezekiel 44:18, **"They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon the loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat."** The Biblical dress of men and women was very similar dress with robes, coats (shirt), and cloaks (dress) worn by men and women alike. So what Scripture do we have against similar dress today? But at the same time, a man should not wish to dress to look like a woman or a woman dress to look like a man, but be content with what God has created us. I cannot preach it is a sin for a woman to wear loose slacks when working around the home or even in public for that matter (no Scripture that says it is a sin, only a teaching of men).

Second, Mennonites also teach a head covering should be worn by a woman or any female at all times. Here again they seem to follow the teachings of the Old Testament for Jews rather than the Word of God for His Church. Notice I Corinthians 11:5, **"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head. . . ."** (v. 6), **"...let her be covered."** The Greek meaning of prophesieth is to foretell events, speak under inspiration. (We could safely say to talk of the Word of God or teach the Bible to children or others outside of church services). We need to always keep in mind I Corinthians 14:34, **"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."** Also in verse 35, **"...for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."** I see the head covering for a woman as a Christian symbol of submission and subjection to the man in obedience to the divine order given by God for the Lord's Church. For a woman to wear a head covering not in subjection or that does not believe in submission to her husband is hypocritical, and she is making mockery of godliness as much as a lost person being baptized without faith in Christ. The same is true with unbelieving daughters. I have no problem with a godly woman wearing a head covering all the time if she feels led to do so. My problem is with men that teach it is wrong for women not to wear a covering all the time. In our New Testament, it plainly teaches what women are to do---men are not to do. Notice I Corinthians 11:4, **"Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoreth his head."** (v. 7), **"For a man indeed ought not to cover his head. . ."** We have the same words for a man not to do as we have for a woman to do. Most of the time when you see an Amish or Mennonite man, he has a hat on. I fail to see why the Word of God means what it says for women all the time and only part of the time for men. (Same wording in I Corinthians 11 except one do and the other not do).

Some might say, regarding the covering for women, that it is taught in the Old Testament, but we do not worship God as they did in the Old Testament. We have the first day of the week Sabbath instead of the seventh day Sabbath. We do not offer animal sacrifices and man does not worship God with a linen bonnet upon his head as found in Exodus 39:28 and Ezekiel 44:18.

We are not Jews, keeping the Old Testament laws for Jews. We are Gentiles, saved by the grace of God serving and worshipping the Lord in His Church. And here in I Corinthians 11 His Word says, **"Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head"** (Christ!!) in verse 4. **"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head"** (man) in verse 5. If a woman is to wear a covering all the time, then man should not cover all the time. I ask you, which does the greatest dishonor?

As for my brothers and sisters that see this covering as a woman's hair, I am still trying to figure out how we men are going to uncover (take our hair off) when

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we go to pray and prophesy. Brethren, we need to rightly divide the Word of God and be consistent in our preaching.

The third thing we might notice. Is sending our children to public schools wrong and sinful? If you listen to those Baptists separating to "Mennonites" you would think so. They preach home schooling is the only way a Christian can be not sinning and pleasing God, using II Corinthians 6:17, **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord"** As I stated earlier, I too, was tempted to pull my children out of the public schools. It is something I prayed long and earnestly about, desiring God to give me wisdom in the matter and what I needed to do.

First we need to realize this world is changing and things are not going to get better. Look at II Timothy 3:12-13 (the battle is not getting easier). **"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."** We cannot change this world but we can try to teach our children about it and how to deal with this worsening world, just as our parents taught us. Public schools give a hands on experience of what the world is like. Oh it's hard!! If our children would only listen and obey what we tell them, but no, most of their learning comes from the school of hard knocks. Just like, "No, don't touch the heater! It's hot!" They don't seem to know what "hot" is until they touch it, then we've got to doctor them. I personally am glad that I was around to teach and doctor my daughters when they touched the world those 12 or 13 years they were in public schools. If I had separated them from the world all those years by home schooling, they would not have known what the world was like and I probably would not have been around to teach and doctor them.

Second, I see we are to be Christ-like or like Christ. Christ prayed in John 17:15, **"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."** This too became my prayer. Again, God has not told us to withdraw from the world but to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works." Apparently our light even shown through our children in school with the comments the teachers made concerning our daughters. On one or two occasions the teacher, calling my wife at home, was overwhelmed with what our daughters had done, explaining that this was a rare occasion, for usually it was to complain. Many teachers told us it wasn't any trouble to tell children that were raised by parents that cared and had real Christian parents. I ask you, are our public schools exempt from our going into all the world and letting our light shine?

Some would say, "But they are taking God out of our schools." I say, "Not if godly people would get involved." Not if we have godly teachers and principals. Not if we have godly students attending and godly parents teaching their child about God at home and attending PTA meetings. I believe the government can never take God out of public schools as long as people like Bro. Roy Mitchell are there.

Some say, "They teach evolution and other lies." I say the homes that have children who would believe what their teacher at school says before believing their parents, has a greater problem at home than evolution being taught at school. I was taught evolution in school. I do not believe it. To the best of my memory, I have never met a home-schooled Baptist, nearly all attended public schools and some even college and none of them believe evolution either.

Many try to run their homes as/or like the church with family members shunned or disowned that are rebelling. Proverbs 22:6 tells us, **"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."** This verse does not say the way you want him to go but train in the way he **"should go."** Do you want your child to be a hypocrite all his life? Many are training them to be just that, if the Lord chooses not to save that child. Many train their children to be Christians. But training and environment will not save a child, only by the hand of God through grace is a soul saved. Think about it, make them read a Bible they don't understand, pray to a God that does not hear them, fast to an unknown God, tithe for a blessing (you can never outgive God), wear a head covering, dress like a Christian, talk like a Christian, act like a Christian and every way possible be like a Christian. Teaching them to pretend to be something they are not. No wonder they are hypocrites the rest of their lives if the Lord does not save them or even be seven times as bad of sinners. No wonder the deacon's or preacher's kids are the meanest kids in school. They had to be perfect Christians at home and in church, but away from mom and dad their true depraved nature shows with flying colors.

I have never tried to make my children be something they are not. I have taught them right and wrong, the commandments or at least principles of God, to fear God and to respect the Lord's Day. When they asked, "Why don't we have a Christmas tree?" I showed them Jeremiah 10. The Word of God says, **"learn not the way of the heathen"** and read to them Jeremiah 10:1-5 and Ezekiel 20:39, **"pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts and with your idols."** When they wanted to exchange gifts with their friends, I told them just don't do it in the name of Jesus, don't do it to celebrate His birth. When I spanked for lying I showed them in the Scripture that no liar will be in Heaven. I have read to my children and have prayed with my children but never made them do either. I hopefully have done my best in being a Christian before my children but never tried to teach them to be something they were not. I have taught them that boys are bad and can't be trusted. I have taught them to respect other people and other people's things, taught them the world is evil, drugs destroy, sex is only honored by God in marriage, taught them to work and that I and their mother love them very much, that we were young once and know what life was like at their age. We taught them that no matter what they might do, no matter how bad, they should always be able to tell us, that we probably would be able to help. I have never expected more of my children than I was able to do myself. I told them if they got in jail, they could get out, but don't call me. I never tried to pick them a mate (even told them no boy would be good enough for my girls), so they had better choose a husband wisely, they were the ones that had to spend the rest of their life with them; there was no dating until 16 and then never alone, along with many other guidelines (time to be home but most of the dating was done at home) until they were 18 years old. But never did I raise my girls to be Christians. God raises Christians!! Moms and Dads only raise hypocrites. Is a hypocrite the way that a child **"should go?"** Christian moms and dads can help but churches train Christians after one is saved and baptized. **"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. . ."** Matthew 28:20 (the Lord gave to His church), which brings us to my next point I feel led to say. Christian schools are okay if God has allowed the way to do so. But many times churches are too small for this undertaking. If God has not provided means without compromising regular duties and principles of the church, it should not be done. We are to teach Christ to all nations, baptize those that believe in Christ and teach those that are baptized all things the Lord has commanded but no where do I find we are to teach sinners anything other than Christ or the Word.

The problem is man seeks honor and praise. It is plain to see these "Mennonites" want all the honor they can get (wives with head-coverings, children behaving like Christians, children only taught what their father can teach them, their house working like a well oiled machine, separated, holier than others). I have not forgotten Who deserves the honors. I am more concerned with the honor I bring to Christ than I am the honor my wife and children bring me. My honor is like a "gnat" and the honor I bring to Christ a "camel." I am more concerned with the souls of my children than I am of any reputation or honor I could receive. God has not saved me and called me that I might receive honor and praise. God has called me to preach and teach His Word and to bring Him praise and glory. Neither has He called me to preach and teach the teachings of men.

Are Mennonite ways the ways for Gentile Baptists or are they the ways of Gentile "Mennonites" separating to live as do the Jews seeking honor for themselves with little regard of the honor they bring Christ? If they were concerned in bringing glory to Christ, they would place greater obedience and love for the New Testament teachings for His Church than in Old Testament teachings for the Jews. Paul said in our text (Gal. 2:14), the apostles being Jews in the early church, **"livest after the manner of Gentiles."** He also asked, **"Why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"**

The separating the Lord desires of His Church is not as much in outward appearance as it is in inward appearance. A showing of the traits of the Spirit to the world **"in all goodness and righteousness and truth"** (Eph. 5:9); **"walk as children of light"** (v. 8). **"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness"** (Eph. 4:24); **"putting away lying"** (v. 25); **"steal no more"** (v. 28) continuing in saying, **"but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth"**; **"no corrupt communication"** (v. 29); **"grieve not the Holy Spirit of God"** (v. 30); **"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clammour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you"** (vs. 31-32). When we separate from the world in **"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance"** (Gal. 5:22-23) we bring glory to Christ far greater than any outward dress. To "live" and "walk" in the Spirit is the true separation Christ desires for His Church not by following Jewish laws of separation. The head covering all the time for the women and long beards for the men were the looks of that adulterous wife of God but nowhere in the New Testament do I find it for the Lord's virgin Bride-to-be.

You men with long beards need to be cautious if you desire to bring glory to Christ and not be in shame. This same I Corinthians 11 tells us in verse 14, **". . .if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him."** This chapter is dealing with bringing glory to your head. For a man to have long hair is a shame unto him because it dishonoureth his head (Christ). I have

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heard some say a man's beard is not his hair. They need to argue that with God and not me. Isaiah 50:6 states: **"I gave my back to the smitters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair."** We notice in this account of the sufferings of Christ for His people one day, that it is said to be "hair" that was to be plucked off His cheeks.

I say it is as much a shame for a man to have long hair hanging off the front of his head as it is for the sides and back of his head. As for me, it is more honoring to Christ if I keep the hair on my cheeks plucked off (shaved). Let me also give you something else to think upon. After Christ was risen why didn't the two disciples recognize Him when He appeared and walked with them? In Luke 24:16 it says, **"But their eyes were holden that they should not know him."** Why did Mary Magdelene not recognize Jesus standing before her? John 20:14 states: **". . .saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus"** until Jesus spoke her name in verse 16.

We know Jesus bore the marks of His crucifixion when He appeared to Thomas and the other with the nail prints and the place in His side. I have no reason to believe the hair of His cheeks was not gone also that had been plucked off. Without His beard they didn't recognize Him at first. One can read of the beards of Old Testament saints and of Christ as separated men of God before Christ's death but I have not read of any New Testament beards of the saints. Is I Corinthians 11:14, **"if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him"** not the reason? I would think so, since this was written to the Church at Corinth **"to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours"** (I Cor. 1:2).

Christ has given His bride-to-be a different look as to that of the wife of God. The Lord's Church has the first day of the week as its Sabbath instead of the seventh day Jewish Sabbath, neither does the Church observe the many other holy days and observances. The Church has the Lord's Supper instead of the Passover; baptism instead of circumcision. The Church had one atonement and offering **"once for all"** (Heb. 10:10) but the wife of God **"offered year by year continually"** (Heb. 10:1). It is said of Christ plainly in Hebrews 10:9, **"He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."** Christ has taken away the penalty of the law that was for those of the wife of God and established church discipline for His bride with possible forgiveness. But under Jewish law there were no second chances.

Israel was to be a separated people from the world and sinned when they didn't. The Lord's Church is **"a peculiar people"** (Tit. 2:14 and I Pet. 2:9) that has been sent **"into all the world" "to every creature"** to preach the gospel. They are to **"Let your light so shine before men."** They **"are the salt of the earth."** If we do not, we are judged as unfaithful servants.

In the Lord's Church it is a shame for a man to have long hair. Not so in the Old Testament, it was a sign of consecration to the Lord. Also in the church men no longer worship God in a linen bonnet but are told they need to pray and prophesy uncovered. The women are told to cover their head when praying and prophesying.

We are Gentiles living in the age of the Gentiles. Paul withstood Peter in Galatians 2:14 and said, **"If thou being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"** Even in the New Jerusalem with Israel (the wife of God) and the Church (the wife of the Lamb) we see a distinction in the two wives. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel on the twelve gates (Rev. 21:12) and the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb in the twelve foundations (Rev. 21:14). The bride of Christ is to be a chaste virgin (II Cor. 11:2). The twelve tribes of Israel (Jews) have been an adulterous wife, to **"thy maker"** (Isa. 54:5). When you read about Israel and the Lord's Church, do they look alike to you?

So why should we compel the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? These Baptists separating to Mennonites are teaching that the Lord's Church must live as do the Jews. I do not say these men are sinning in separating to live as do the Jews, but I do say they are leaving the battle and race of the church. They are failing in their service to Christ.

God has not called everyone to **"go into all the world,"** be **"lights"** and **"salt"** of the earth. He has not told Jews to go, Amish to go, Mennonites to go and many others to go. These men are not disobeying the Lord's Commission. It is not given to them to go any more than it was to baptize.

I will not call these "Mennonites" sinners but I would not want to be them when their children go out on their own if God does not save these children. Training a child does not save him. Neither does it change his depraved nature.

Also within this "Mennonite" movement I have seen literature preaching it is even sinful for the preacher to shake the hand of wives or daughters of other men in the church using I Corinthians 7:1, **"It is good for a man not to touch a woman"** as the Scripture forbidding it. Also forbidding children (boys and girls) to play together. These "Mennonites" are giving I Corinthians 7:1 a whole new meaning. Paul said to the churches, **"Greet ye one another with an holy kiss"** (I Cor. 16:20) and (II Cor. 13:12), **"the brethren"** (I Thess. 5:26). Paul apparently did not limit this holy kiss to just the brethren. In Romans 16:15 Paul said, **"Salute. . .Nereus, and his sister."** In verse 16 he continues, **"Salute one another with an holy kiss."** How are we to greet our sisters with a kiss of charity if it is sinful to even shake their hand?

Also, this "Mennonite" literature taught that marriage should be arranged by the parents, mainly by fathers. These marriages seldom ended up in righteous marriages even to those separated Jews. Daughters often went to the highest bidder or were given to polygamy.

No, God has not called everyone religious in the world to go, to be lights, and to be salt. But He has called His Church to go. If we separate, do not go, do not be lights, and not be salt, how long do you think we will be a Church? I greatly fear this will be another one of those movements that will once again split our churches.

I for one can not follow these teachings of men in compelling Gentiles to live as do the Jews. I love and fear the Lord enough to stand as Joshua said in Joshua 24:15, **"Choose you this day whom ye will serve: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**

THE BIBLE AND THE NEWSPAPER

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

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

DANGERS OF THE NEW 'SUPERNATURAL SPIRITUALITY'

by Jan Markell

Good people of faith are playing with matches. An endless array of deceptive and "spiritual-sounding" religious experiences are flourishing today. Some call it the new "pop spirituality" and because so many Christians don't fully understand it or its origins, "people are perishing for a lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

A lot of this new phenomenon is "feelings-based" and fits in well with "comfortable Christianity" and the "feel good" longings 21st century people seem to hold now. Here are some examples that might illustrate how there has been a "death of discernment" today among good people of faith.

Legions from all faiths – Catholic and Protestant – are devouring Dan Brown's novel "The DaVinci Code," a conspiracy thriller based on the theory that the Catholic Church concealed the central role of Mary Magdalene and her sexual relationship with Jesus.

What about Harry Potter? Why are Christian parents letting kids read about a "hero" who practices sorcery? Why are they allowing their kids to cheer for Harry, who is a wizard and who engages in dozens of practices forbidden in the Bible?

And why are notable Christian authors writing books in defense of Harry, one claiming that you can actually find God in Harry Potter, and another saying Harry is "a Christ-like figure?" Excuse me, he's a sorcerer!

"Christian yoga" – an oxymoron to me – is making giant inroads into churches today. A pastor's wife in North Carolina recently said, "I started a class in 'Christian yoga' because we wanted to open the doors to people who were afraid. We call it Christian because we wanted Christians to feel OK about it."

An expert on such things, Doug Groothius, recently wrote in Christianity Today on-line that, "Overstretched Americans [and Christians] are increasingly turning to various forms of Eastern practices in search of relaxation and spirituality. Underlying these meditative practices is a worldview in conflict with biblical spirituality."

Some call this the new "supernatural spirituality." This mysticism began in the Garden of Eden when Eve was told that "her eyes would be opened." Since she didn't need glasses in that perfect environment, the Devil meant she would be able to "see like God." In the last 20 years that longing has exploded so that today more "enlightened Christian leaders" have a huge following.

The Bible speaks about an end-time falling away from truth in II Timothy 4. There will come a generation – probably at it's height in the 21st Century – when people will not **"give heed to sound doctrine,"** will want **"their ears tickled,"** and will even chase after **"the doctrine of demons."** This new "pop spirituality" can destroy more than one's spiritual health and one needs to have a "buyer beware mentality" concerning discernment and faith issues.

Mysticism is the longing to get closer to God through means that aren't all that Godly. For the sake of those you love, be careful of many of the "pop theology" options now so rampant and available at church.

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(EP)--Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), the state's oldest and largest pro-life group, took some credit for a reported

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drop in abortions in Minnesota. The number of abortions reported in Minnesota last year was lower than any year since 1975, according to the annual abortion report released by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

There were 13,788 abortions reported in 2004, compared to 14,174 in 2003.

"More women are deciding to give life to their unborn babies in our state and this is a positive trend," said Scott Fischbach, MCCL executive director. "With the recent passage of life-affirming legislation to inform and support pregnant women, we hope this trend will accelerate."

In Minnesota, the number of abortions in 2004 was down 3 percent when compared to 2003. And while MCCL's efforts may indeed be part of the reason, this decline correlates with national numbers. The number of abortions actually peaked in 1990 at about 1.6-million. Last year, according to government estimates, the actual number of abortions was around 1-million.

Experts say that there are several reasons for the drop. Pro-life efforts do seem to be having some impact. During times of economic expansion, the number of abortions often drops. But the main reason may be simple demographics. The number of women in their child-bearing years has been declining. Not only have the number of abortions been dropping, but the number of live births has also been dropping significantly since the late 1980s.

(EP)--Conservatives across the nation applauded President Bush's July 19 nomination of judge John G. Roberts Jr. to the United States Supreme Court, calling Roberts "a brilliant constitutional lawyer with unquestioned integrity," and a "conservative strict constructionist."

But perhaps the most telling indication of the conservatism of the President's choice is the adverse reaction of the nation's most liberal organizations.

"We opposed Roberts when he was nominated to the District of Columbia Circuit and we now oppose his nomination to the Supreme Court," leaders of the National Abortion Federation said in a written statement.

The National Organization for Women vowed to fight Roberts' confirmation out of fear of his votes on "issues like abortion and birth control [and] affirmative action." And the Human Rights Campaign, which advocates for expanding homosexual privileges, told its supporters that having Roberts on the bench could undermine "rights to privacy and liberty that are the legal underpinning for the freedom of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans."

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AMENDMENT SHORES UP RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCOUTS, MILITARY

(EP) – The U.S. Senate sent a message July 27 to the ACLU and anyone else looking to keep the Boy Scouts of America off of the nation's military bases, approving the Support Our Scouts Act of 2005 by a vote of 98-0. The amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill would permit bases across the country to open their doors to Scouting events such as the one under way now at Fort A.P. Hill in Bowling Green, Va., where 40,000 Boy Scouts, leaders and volunteers set up a massive temporary city and the Army trains personnel in crowd control and other skills.

The arrangement at Fort A.P. Hill, which has worked since 1981, was in jeopardy after a federal judge ruled in favor of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois in a lawsuit which argued that the Defense Department's sponsorship violated the First Amendment because the Scouts swear an oath of duty to God. The Scouts have also come under attack because they don't allow openly gay men to become Scout leaders.

The vote on the act sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is a relief to the Boy Scouts of America, which has invested some $20 million over the years on Fort A.P. Hill improvements. It is also a victory for the local economy. The Scouts funneled some $26 million into the community for the 2005 Jamboree by hiring local businesses for preparation and maintenance.

"This amendment protects a unique American tradition that teaches our youth the importance of honesty, integrity and character," Frist said. "It enables the Scouts to continue their public service without the distraction of senseless legal and political attacks."

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UNFPA Backs Abortion for 10-Year-Olds

(EP)--Abortion rights for 10-year-olds is one goal of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and a radical Canadian lobbying organization called the Youth Coalition. The groups argue that abortion is a human right and a means to reducing poverty in Third World nations. The UNFPA's report, entitled "The Case for Investing in Young People," calls for "reproductive rights" which is commonly interpreted as including abortion. Joseph D'Agostino, vice president of communications with the Population Research Institute told Family News In Focus, "They don't want to come out and say, 'We want global right to abortion for everyone' because that would alienate too many people. They're talking about sexual and reproductive rights for youth, and then they define youth as age 10 to 24 years," he said. "So they're talking about sexual and reproductive rights for 10-year-olds."

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USAFA LEADER PASSED OVER FOR PROMOTION IN WAKE OF RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY

(EP)--The second-in-command at the United States Air Force Academy has been passed over for promotion after being criticized for talking about his Christian faith in memos and speeches.

Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Johnny Weida's name was on a list of 21 Air Force generals nominated to receive a second star, but the U.S. Senate, which must vote on the promotion, pulled his name from the list.

Weida, a 1978 academy graduate, was nominated May 9 for promotion to major general. John Ullyot, a spokesman for the Senate Armed Services Committee, told the Associated Press that because Weida is still under investigation, the committee would not act on his nomination.

The Air Force inspector general's office cleared Weida in June of six of seven allegations he improperly shared his faith, saying he did nothing wrong.

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BUSH ADMINISTRATION PRAISED FOR STAND AGAINST UNFPA

(EP)--President George W. Bush's administration is being praised for its continued stand against the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Population Research Institute vice president Joe D'Agostino says the UNFPA supports abortion as a form of population control. Though the UNFPA denies the charges, the U.S. withholds certain UNFPA funds because the charges seem to be credible. D'Agostino maintains that the UNFPA subsidizes China's one-child policy, a policy that results in forced sterilization and forced abortions, and U.S. law prohibits the use of tax dollars for such programs.

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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST ELECTS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT

(EP)--Disciples of Christ elected a woman as its leader Aug. 2 in Portland, Ore., becoming the first major U.S. Protestant denomination to do so. More than 3,000 delegates of the Indianapolis-based church stood to register their vote for the Rev. Sharon E. Watkins, some wearing T-shirts printed with her photograph. "We are a church whose time has come," Watkins told the assembly. The 770,000-member denomination was founded on the American frontier and counts former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson among its past members. Adair Lummis, a researcher at the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, said there have been women bishops, but never a woman elected to head a mainline Protestant denomination. Watkins, 51, is pastor of a church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

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TOURISTS MISTREATED, PASTORS TORTURED IN CHINA

(EP)--More than 200 Chinese house church pastors and believers have been arrested in Hubei, Hebei and Henan Provinces since July 2005, according to reports from Texas-based China Aid Association. Two American tourists were reportedly mistreated when they were arrested and a house church in Shanghai was ordered closed.

The two American theological students, taken from a home where they were preparing to have Christian fellowship with a group of pastors and other Christians, were not allowed to contact the U.S. Embassy and endured a seven-hour interrogation at a government "hotel." They were released but some of their possessions, including Bibles and notebooks, were confiscated. The raid at the home involved some 30 plain-clothed police officers.

The same day, 41 Chinese pastors and believers from the evangelical South China Church were taken to prison. At the time of the report 30 had been released, but the remaining 11 were still being held and likely tortured.

Other reports revealed that some 100 Christian high school aged students were arrested in Hebei Province and interrogated for hours after attending a Vocational Bible School (VBS) organized by their Christian parents.

"To disrupt and close normal Christian fellowship meetings, as well as confiscate personal property is contrary to the government's claim to guarantee religious freedom in China," said Bob Fu, CAA's president, "to handcuff innocent American tourists and mistreat them is unprecedented, totally unacceptable and certainly deserves strong diplomatic condemnation. We urge people of all faiths to take action to protest the mistreatment and torture of these pastors and demand their immediate release."

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ABORTION SUPPORTERS CHALLENGE IRISH LAW

(EP)--Predominantly Roman Catholic Ireland is under attack from abortion proponents who claim that the country's pro-life stance violates the European Convention on Human Rights. Ireland's Family Planning Association announced Aug. 9 in Dublin, a 13-point plan designed to build political support for changing the law. The group reported that more than 6,000 Irishwomen travel to England every year for abortions. Catherine Forde, the association's chairwoman, told the Associated Press that the campaign, "Safe and Legal in Ireland" would center on a lawsuit filed Aug. 8 by three Irishwomen at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. Trinity College law professor Ivana Bacik, a leading spokeswoman for abortion, said the announcement was "just the start of what will become a very significant movement for legal abortion in Ireland."

The faith of expectance will in time rise up into a faith of reliance, and the faith of reliance will in time advance itself into a faith of assurance.

WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Radical Islam Thinks It Is Okay to Nuke American Cities

Some people are critical of my writing about the Muslims. Some editors refuse to publish the articles. They say it is bad for business. It is the truth, and I will explain why it is the truth.

Radical Islam's clear message is hostile to Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and other great religions.

"MEET THE PRESS"

Recently I saw "Meet the Press" on television. The guests were the chairmen of the 9/11 commission, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, the former Senator Sam Nunn and former Senator Fred Thompson. The host of the program was Tim Russert.

He held up a card which read "Do you think the fundamental Islam clerics would authorize a nuclear attack on American cities? The answer was in the affirmative." In other words, the fundamentalist clerics would authorize a nuclear attack on American cities.

The radical Islam clerics are ready for action. With modern technology, a nuclear bomb could be concealed in a suitcase. The guests on "Meet the Press" were in agreement that American cities are in an extremely dangerous situation; hundreds of thousands of people are in danger of losing their lives.

Not only would American cities be devastated, a series of nuclear attacks in the world would be a danger to civilization.

It is time for everyone to know more about the Islamic faith and more about the Muslims who practice it world-wide. And certainly, it is time for our leaders, who should know better, to quit misleading us with blandishments like, "their god is like our God" "Muslims love America just as we do," and "Islam is peace." So, let us look at the record.

TWO KINDS

There are two kinds of Muslims: the violent and the non-violent. Both quote the Quaran. Both worship Allah and the Prophet Mohammad. And, both are out to "conquer America."

They leveled the south end of Manhattan Island, devastated the Pentagon and massacred thousands of innocents on Sept. 11th. Mastermind of this bloodiest day in America Osama bin Laden, a devout Muslim of the violent variety, ecstatic in success and crying "Praise be to Allah and Allah is great." Nothing here about "Islam is peace."

WHAT THE QUARAN SAYS

The Muslims Holy Book is called the Quaran, or Koran. It was promulgated by the 7th century prophet Mohammad from revelations, at various times, from Allah (their god supreme) through the angel Gabriel. The Quaran has many chapters, called surahs.

In surah 2, verse 193, Allah tells Mohammad to kill whoever rejects Islam. "Kill them until there is no persecution and the religion is Allah." But, in verse 256, Allah tells Mohammad not to impose Islam by force saying "There is no compulsion in religion." Surah 0:29, Allah tells Mohammad, "Fight those who do not believe in Allah, those who do not accept the religion of Islam."

Egyptian author Mohammad Hassanein Heikal in his book *"Autumn of Fury"* (Random House, 1983) explains two separate stages of the Muslims (1) The first stage is the "preparation" stage of love and conciliation the weakness stage, to soften up the infidels. (2) The second stage is the Jihad stage (Holy War) of violence and conquest. The prophet Mohammad in the 7th century AD experienced these two stages: the first in Mecca and the second in Medina.

THE BISHOP MISLEADS

It is wrong for the Catholic Archbishop of Washington, Theodore E. McCarrick, to say the Islamic god Allah is the same God as Christians worship, as he did on NBC-TV's "Face the Nation" program on December 23rd. The Christian God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not the Allah of the Muslims.

Bishop McCarrick went on at great length about how Osama bin Laden's talents could have benefited mankind if properly used. We can say the same for Al Capone, Adolph Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin---even Satan himself but what we've got is the cowardly, cruel bin Laden with no mercy, no conscience, no soul and no care for anything but power.

"CROSSFIRE" TOO

An Islamic environment is helped-along by such organizations as Muslim Student Association and the Arab-American Institute, whose spokesman James Zogby, on a recent "Crossfire" TV show, used the term "Judaic-Christian-Muslim America" a far stretch, to be sure, and audacious, but illustrating the sly creep of Muslims into America. "Crossfire" hosts Tucker Carlson and Peter Fenn were unfazed and let it pass unchallenged, as our liberal media often do.

A TRUE STORY

This is a true story and the author, Rick Mathes, is a well known leader in prison ministry.

"I was particularly interested in what the Islamic imam had to say. The imam gave a great presentation of the basics of Islam, complete with a video.

"When it was my turn, I directed my question to the imam and asked: "Please, correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand that most imams and clerics of Islam have declared a holy Jihad (Holy War) against the infidels of the world. And that by killing an infidel, which is a command to all Muslims, they are assured of a place in Heaven, if that's the case, can you give me a definition of infidel?"

NON-BELIEVER

There was no disagreement with my statements and, without hesitation, he replied "non-believers."

I responded, "So let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can go to Heaven. Is that correct?"

The blank expression on his face changed from one of authority and command to that of a little boy who had just gotten caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He sheepishly replied, "Yes."

Then I stated, "Well, sir, I have a real problem trying to imagine Pope John Paul commanding all Catholics to kill those of your faith or Dr. Stanley ordering Protestants to do the same in order to go to Heaven!"

IMAM SPEECHLESS

The imam was speechless. I continued, "I also have a problem with being your friend when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me. Let me ask you a question. Would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order to go to Heaven or my Jesus Who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven and He wants you to be with me?" You could hear a pin drop as the imam hung his head in shame.

Needless to say, the organizers and/or promoters of "Diversification" training seminar were not happy with Rick's way of dealing with the Islamic imam and exposing the truth about the Muslim's beliefs.

ISLAM GLORIFIES VIOLENCE

RadicalstrainsofIslamarefundamentally at odds with western culture. From its extreme practices regarding women and non-believers, radical Islam glorifies violence and demeans the individual "in the interests of national security, the United States should not flinch from official "profiling" of individuals with ties to radical Islamic nations or groups. Rather than wasting billions of dollars, work hours, and disrupting the lives of millions of American citizens who never fit the terrorist "profile," the United States should focus its efforts on controlling our borders and closely monitoring those who enter them---especially if the individuals match the profile of suspected terrorists" (Phil Kent *The Dark Side of Liberalism*---Harbor House).

"Radical Muslims view the west as culturally inferior and morally bankrupt. Christian Arabs and moderate Muslims are especially despised. In the eyes of Osama bin Laden and others, today's terrorist efforts are Allah's vehicle to topple the "weak" democratic western powers and Arab leaders who are U.S. allies" (Phil Kent, *The Dark Side of Liberalism*---Harbor House).

There is nothing so powerful as truth---and often nothing so strange (Daniel Webster, April 6, 1830).

(Excerpts are from previous writings of Capt. Evans).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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