

The Berea Baptist Banner

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

The Gospel of Jesus Christ Why Came We Forth Out of Egypt?

By E. D. Strickland
(1915 - 2003)



the seed of David according to the flesh) and in His Deity (declared to be the Son of God with power). The word "made" suggests a beginning and "declared" eternity past. Christ had

a beginning as a human being but was eternally God's Son.

The Gospel concerns the Person of Christ, revealing who He is and also it reveals Christ's work for sinners. It tells what Christ has done to redeem us from hell and eternal death. It tells of Him as our Sinbearer and Substitute.

Paul had preached the Gospel while in Corinth. Now he is writing them and repeating his message. The Gospel will bear repeating continually. It is the one message that God uses to save those

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By Andy Proctor
of Citrus Springs, Florida



"And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone. And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; But even a whole

month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?" (Num. 11:16-20).

There are many "why" questions in life and those contained in the Holy Scriptures are often a question that comes from the depths of despair, but when answered, it lifts souls to the highest heavens. It is a question asked sometimes when we are out of focus or seeking for direction or meaning.

In our day of so many matters in this world being at odds against God we can

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Heaven Is A Real Place The Man In The Pulpit

By Paul Stepp
Indore, West Virginia



that Heaven is a real and tangible place.

Heaven is just as firm as the ground under your feet; and just as real and tangible as the body that you've been given; and just as important (or more)

as the world in which you live. Heaven is a real and on-going part of the creation of God.

THE REALITY OF HEAVEN AND HELL

In this first point, I suppose that I should define what it is that I mean by Heaven. When I say that Heaven is real, I am not referring to the sky or some part of the atmosphere, or even outer space itself. But, when I refer to

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By Frank Beck
(1921 - 2007)



"go not from house to house" would be very applicable.

However, we are prone to think that the fault of empty pulpits is not always the preacher's fault. Many a pastor might well ask of

his congregation the questions asked by another preacher in Acts 10:29: **"For what intent have ye sent for me?"**

I

There are some churches that expect their pastor to be a preacher only. Let him be bold to **"declare. . .all the counsel of God"** (Acts 20:27). Let him **"Preach the word. . .reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine"** (II Tim. 4:2. Let him: **"preach good tidings"** (Isa.

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We are taught by the Master that Heaven is to be assaulted by prayer after the same manner as earthly things. If you want a job, ask for it twenty times, and the boss believes you really want a job. Of the two temple men who prayed, which one is most of us? When Uncle Same gets down where his tears can flow for his sins God has a place for him at the very top. (Sunday School Times, 1931).

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

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

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Heaven Is A Real

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Heaven, I am referring to the dwelling place of God and of His angels and of His created beings that are ever in His presence. The Heaven that I am speaking of is the same Heaven that Jesus Christ referred to: **"But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem for it is the city of the great king"** (Matt. 5:34-35). So, according to the Lord Jesus Christ, Heaven **"is God's throne."** Therefore, if God is real---then so must His throne be real. And, if His throne is real---then we know that there must be a real place called Heaven where His throne resides. Given this understanding of the place called Heaven, if we deny the existence of Heaven, then we take away the throne of God, and we make God to be no longer King---or, we at least make Him to be a King without a throne!

There are many references to Heaven in the Bible which are simply references to the skies or the atmosphere or even outer space. In fact, in the King James Bible, oftentimes the word "heaven" is used to describe either the skies or the atmosphere or even what we would call "outer space." For this reason, I suppose some folks might be confused or misunderstand the literal concept of the place that is Heaven.

However, despite this confusion that may exist, there still are, obviously, many references to Heaven in the Bible, which are clearly references to some real place---especially some real place that is the dwelling place of God. We read in Psalm 11:4: **"The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."** And then, we read the words of the Lord in Isaiah 66:1, **"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"** Surely the place of the throne of God, and the place of the dwelling of God, is in Heaven itself.

However, let me change tack here for just a moment. In fact, what I want us to do, before we go any further in our discussion of the reality of Heaven, is this: I want us to confirm the reality of Heaven by referring to the reality of Hell. Truthfully, if we are going to contend that Heaven is a real place, then we must also contend that Hell is a real place. I just want to bring this out, because in the Bible, especially in the New Testament, we have some very clear references to Hell---and these references are almost always portrayed in opposition to the real place called Heaven. What I want us to realize is that the existence of one does not preclude the existence of the other. In other words, just because God is so good

to have created Heaven as the destination of those that are His people and the dwelling place of the beloved angels and created beings, this does not mean that He cannot also have created Hell as the destination of the wicked, and Satan, and the fallen angels. But in reality, the existence of one---and the characteristics of one, requires the existence (and the characteristics) of the other. In fact, I think that we can safely say that Heaven, as the destination for the saints of God, is a monument to the grace and love of God; whereas, Hell, as the destination for the wicked and unbelieving and reprobate, is a monument to the justice and holiness of God.

I believe that the very fact that the Lord relates to us the parable (which I believe to be a true story) of the rich man and Lazarus, proves to us that there is a real Paradise and a real Hell (See Luke 16:19-31). From this parable we can plainly see that the torments of that Hell are terrible! On the other hand, when we read this parable, there is a very plain implication that the pleasures of that Paradise are wonderful!

Another example of the reality of Hell comes from Matthew chapter ten. Here, in this passage, one of the things that the Lord warned His disciples about, as He sent them out into the world, was this: **"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"** (Matt. 10:28). The Lord taught His disciples that there was a place of judgment and a place of torment---and that place was (and is) Hell.

In the next chapter the Lord warns the city of Capernaum this way: **"And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee"** (Matt. 11:23-24). During the earthly ministry of the Lord, in the King James translation of the Bible, we have recorded for us 15 verses in which the Lord Jesus Christ used the word "hell." On one occasion the Lord said to the wicked Scribes and Pharisees of His day, **"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"** (Matt. 23:33). Of course, according to the preaching of Jesus Christ, we know that the Scribes and Pharisees could not **"escape the damnation of hell,"** until such time as they accepted the kingdom of Heaven. Since the Lord went about, during His ministry, confirming the reality of the kingdom of Heaven and the reality of the damnation of Hell, shouldn't we, also, be warning folks about Hell and preaching to them the promises of Heaven?

I believe, that as churches of Jesus Christ, this is what we are all about today. We preach to the world the reality of Hell and we direct them to the real place called Heaven. In fact, the Lord told Peter and His first church, **"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"** (Matt. 16:18-19). Since the church is essentially the gate of Heaven on this earth, shouldn't we, the members of that church, be avid believers in and avid contenders for the real place called Heaven?

THE HOPE OF HEAVEN

So since Heaven is a real place, don't we that are saved have a wonderful hope set before us? Therefore, shouldn't we strive to enter into that wonderful and real place? Shouldn't we, as human beings, given the reality of Heaven and Hell, turn from evil and seek an entrance into Heaven? Well, sadly, the world of mankind is rushing headlong towards that wicked and real place---Hell. And, sadly, the world of mankind loves to have it so. Men will flee the light and run to the dark---until, ultimately, they will be cast into outer darkness (there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth).

But those of us who are called out by the grace of God, shouldn't we at least be rushing towards that place of light and goodness that even now awaits us in Heaven? The Lord Jesus Christ gave hope unto His disciples when He said unto them, **"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 am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know"** (John 14:1-4). The Father's house must exist somewhere (Heaven), and in the Father's house there **"are many mansions."** Therefore, if the Father's house is real then the mansions must also be real, and the Lord Jesus Christ said that He went **"to prepare a place for"** His people. Therefore, I believe that the **"Father's house,"** the **"many mansions,"** and the **"place for you"** and me must all be real and literal places---and these are all, even now, in Heaven. Now we can debate whether or not our dwelling place will be in a mansion, or in the Father's house; and we can debate about the precise location of the **"place for you"** that the Lord Jesus Christ has gone to prepare; and I suppose we can even debate what exactly is meant by these places. But, at least we must admit

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that these places are real places. And quite plainly, the Lord Jesus Christ had some real destination and some real hope in mind when He spoke these words unto the disciples.

I believe that the Apostle Paul saw some of these heavenly places when he made reference to Paradise and the Third Heaven in II Corinthians 12:1-5, **"It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities."** This "third heaven" and "paradise" that the Apostle Paul was "caught up to," was a real and literal place. Though he was only there through a vision or a revelation, the things and places that he saw were real. And we know this because he obviously refers to them as if they were real and literal, and as if they were still yet his hope and his glorious, eternal abode. Perhaps the reason that it was "not lawful for a man to utter" these things, is because we, in our mortal condition, cannot comprehend the glories of that real place Heaven! And, perhaps the reason that Paul did not speak of these things is also because we, as mortal men, would not desire to live here any longer, if only we were once exposed to that real place called Heaven. Of course we know that Paul is also talking about our human sinfulness and frailty--and that no mortal can inherit immortality. But still in all this, there is a sense of a real and literal Heaven---the place of the glory of God, and the place that is the hope of the believers.

The Apostle John, through the revelation that Jesus Christ gave unto him, prophesied of the wonderful, literal Heaven that even now exists. We read in Revelation 21:1-3, **"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."** What a blessed hope we have, that we can inherit

such a real place as this!

THE INCENTIVE OF HEAVEN

Next, I want us to think for a little while about the incentive of Heaven. Now I know that it might seem like I am just repeating my previous point; but what I want us to consider as our incentive is the fact that, even now, the reality of Heaven has a bearing and an effect on our salvation. What I mean is this: Since Heaven is real, that means that there are real angels and real ministering spirits of God. And since Heaven is a real place, doesn't that mean that what goes on here on earth must, somehow, echo in Heaven?

I believe that if we would keep this thought in mind---that we are not, primarily, citizens of this earth, but we are citizens of a real and literal Heaven---then we would prosper so much more in the cause and glory of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ.

Maybe, a verse of Scripture that could help us in considering these things is found in I Peter 1:10-12, **"Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."** Do you see how the salvation which the Lord God has delivered unto us; and the glory and the praise that He receives from that salvation; and the service that is rendered up by those that are faithful unto Him on this earth; do you see how that all of this is witnessed by the heavenly angels, and must, somehow, redound to the glory of God in Heaven, as well as in earth?

And, consider also, that after the writer to the Hebrews had enumerated that great hall of faithful men and women who have preceded us into Heaven, he then begins the next chapter with these

words: **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"** (Heb. 12:1-2). Very plainly, these verses teach us that there are "witnesses" who behold our endeavors---or that at least will bear witness for us or against us. Some might understand the "witnesses" to be made up of the men and women of the world who, even now, behold our conversation here on earth. But I tend to understand this great "cloud of witnesses" to include those that are mentioned in Hebrews 11, who have preceded us into Heaven. And the writer is saying that these "witnesses" are even now beholding our feeble endeavors; or, he is saying that they will one day be witnesses either against or for our faithfulness and our service that we render unto God.

But in any case, the words of Hebrews teach us that there is a real Heaven; and there are real folks in Heaven; and there are real rewards in Heaven. We can also see that there is a "throne of God" where "Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" has "set down" ---which place, where Jesus is, we hope to attain to as well as these others who have preceded us.

What about it? Do you and I seek to "sneak" into that real place called Heaven? Or do you and I hope to attain Heaven's glories by the skin of our teeth? Remember, Paul said that those who did not labor for the cause of Christ would have their works burned up: **"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"** (I Cor. 3:15-16). Do we want to arrive in that real place called Heaven, despite our actions and witness to the contrary in this life? Now, I know that those that are saved are saved unto good works. But, I also know

that sometimes, we that are saved have a tendency to leave those works behind, and we do not labor and live as we should. Therefore, I am sure there are some folks who are saved by the grace of God that have an eternal security in Heaven, who still will not bring many works or crowns by which they may glorify God. Their works which they might have thought they had performed on the behalf of Christ will be all "burned" up. But, they themselves will be saved, **"yet so as by fire."**

On the other hand, Peter speaks of an abundant entrance into the glories of Heaven: **"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"** (II Pet. 1:10-11). The things we do; and the words we say; and the witness we exhibit, in this life ought to pertain unto the life that we expect to live out in the halls of glorious Heaven. These deeds and words and testimonies have an effect even in Heaven. Again, I know that those who are saved are saved by the grace of God, and they are saved for all of eternity. But I also know that the Scriptures speak of rewards and crowns, and of the duties of men unto God. So, since heaven is a real place and since we have that place as our hope and as our home for all of eternity, shouldn't the words which we speak and the deeds that we do in this life be said and done in anticipation of that eternal hope?

Really I just want us all to see and use these things as an incentive. Remember, Heaven is a real place, and even now what you say and do bears an effect on your entrance and perhaps place of dwelling in that real place called Heaven.

THE FEAR OF HELL

I know that I have already referred to the reality of Hell. But in this last point I want us all to consider that terrible place again. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the Lord Jesus told His disciples about the fate of wicked men. In that parable, the Lord said this about the rich man: **"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from**

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thence" (Luke 16:23-26). Do you realize that that particular rich man is still, even now, in Hell? And do you realize that in that real place called Hell, that particular rich man is still, even now, longing for a drop of water to "cool" his "tongue?" And do you realize that that rich man is still, even now, being "tormented in" that "flame?" The place where that rich man is is just as real as the place where you are right now. While you are here in this place listening to the Word of God being preached, that rich man is in Hell being tormented. And there is no chance that he will ever leave that place!

Brothers and sisters and all of those that are reading this, these thoughts ought to cause us to stop and consider our own conditions! Those of you that might be lost, I urge you to consider that if you leave this world without Jesus Christ then you will be ushered into the same place of torment that, even now, the rich man inhabits! You will partake of the same sufferings and torments as he---and without hope of ever escaping! Oh, what an awful and terrible and real place! And perhaps the greatest of the torments of Hell will be the realization that there is no hope, and there is no escape. There is only an eternity of suffering and torment.

Now don't somehow imagine that God is unfair to have created such a real and terrible place as Hell. No, God is only just and righteous and He cannot do any wrong. In fact, God is perfectly righteous and just to send every one of mankind into that terrible destination of Hell. You see, we have sinned against Him. And if we do not repent and if our sins are not atoned for, then there is no other destination for us except Hell.

However, as we have already noticed, God has also created a real place called Heaven. In reality, the fact that there is a place for mankind in Heaven is more of an anomaly (or unexpected destination) than that of Hell. Praise the Lord that there is a place for redeemed mankind in Heaven! That man could ever inhabit Heaven is a greater miracle far, than that man could ever inhabit Hell!

If you are lost today I urge you again to think about these things. I would to God that the Holy Spirit would work in your heart and cause you to see yourself as a sinner who is bound for Hell; if He shows you this, I know that He will also show you the Savior Jesus Christ. He is the Door by which men will enter into that real place called Heaven.

CONCLUSION

So often in this world we get distracted by the things going on around us; and so often in this world we get caught up in our own importance and the reality and pressing needs of the world around us.

But now I want you to just stop---stop and think about how real Heaven is. When you walk out the door, you will step on the sidewalk and ground outside. That sidewalk and that ground are not any more real than the golden streets of Heaven. And actually the more you will think on the reality of Heaven, in the end, I believe you will realize that, if any thing, Heaven is more real than this place where we are now. This is true, because, in the Day of the Lord, all of this shall be changed, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. This earth shall be purged with fire; and I hardly imagine that much of what we see and behold will survive the judgment of God. However, the real and tangible place called Heaven is eternal. And I believe that one day Heaven itself will descend to this earth, and then how real will the earthly things seem that are so enchanting to you right now?

We read what John the Beloved saw in the Book of the Revelation: "**And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God**" (Rev. 21:10). The seventeen verses that follow this one all demonstrate the reality and the beauties of Heaven. It is not an accident that these walls and buildings and foundations and gates are all spoken of so literally! These are the walls and buildings and foundations and gates of the city of New Jerusalem---where you and I who are members of the churches of Jesus Christ---will dwell for all eternity! And these are just as real---no, they are even more real and eternal---than the places where you and I live and dwell right now.



Gospel of Jesus Christ

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that believe. Let us not be fearful to preach and teach the Gospel continually and perpetually. In this we will be both Pauline and Biblical. "**I declare unto you the gospel which I preach**" (I Cor. 15:1). Notice the tense of the verbs. He was declaring again what he had already preached! When younger in the ministry I used to fear repeating old sermons. Now I fear lest I fail to repeat the "old, old message" of the Gospel!

The Corinthians had received the Gospel (I Cor. 15:1). To receive is to believe---John 1:12. To obey the Gospel is to believe the report---the revealed truth of the Gospel (Romans 10:16). Since they had believed the Gospel, it is evident that they had first been ordained to eternal life---Acts 13:48. They had been "**Chosen. . .to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Where unto he called. . . by our gospel**" (II Thess. 2:13-14). Sinners

then are called by the Gospel which is made effectual by the Holy Spirit. So saints may not boast of their believing the Gospel but should praise God for opening their blinded eyes and hearts---II Cor. 4:6. God uses the Gospel messages to bring dead sinners to life---"**called. . . by our Gospel**" (II Thess. 2:14). See also John 11:43.

As the Corinthian saints were chosen and ordained to eternal life they heard the gospel message through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and they believed and were saved---saved by the gospel. "**By which ye are also saved**" (I Cor. 15:2). They were saved by the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

Their standing was in the Gospel---"**wherein ye stand**"---I Cor. 15:1. The believer's standing is in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Standing speaks of relationship and acceptance. We have favor with God in the merit of God's Son in Whom the Father is well pleased: in both Christ's Person and Work. Being God's eternal Son, Christ was qualified to be our Sinbearer---our sins were put on Him (I Pet. 2:24). Our sin nature was also judged in Christ's death (II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:12-21) Christ's righteousness is put to our account and we stand in Him complete (Col. 2:10).

How Did Jesus Christ Die?

1. Let us note the negative side.

(a) Christ did not die as ordinary men die: Not by merely dying on a cross on a given day. Two other men died in like death in this respect. Yet they could not die for others. There not only had to be death for sin but this death had to be experienced by the Eternal Son of God. It had to be substitutionary, and acceptable to the Father.

(b) Christ did not die because He was compelled to die by men's force. He could have called down help from Heaven had he desired and needed it (Matt. 26:53).

(c) Christ did not die as our example. He is our example in patiently enduring suffering---I Pet. 2:20-21. Jesus, as our example, could never save us, as we never measure up to His example in any way. And God requires perfection, which man of himself does not produce.

(d) Christ did not die to show us how to die. He is not the way shower but the "way."

Now let us notice the positive side as to how Christ died and rose again.

(a) Christ died and arose according to the Scriptures.

"**Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and. . .He rose again the third day according to the scriptures**" (I Cor. 15:3-4). The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ were in direct fulfillment of the Old Testament predictions. The Psalmist had predicted the very words Jesus would utter on the cross, "**My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?**" (Psalm 22:1). Matthew 27:46 records that Jesus actually said these words as He

bore the wrath of God for us.

Isaiah speaks of Christ's death "**He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken**" (Isa. 53:8). Luke 23:46 speaks of fulfillment of the prophecy: "**and when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, 'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit,' and having said thus he gave up the ghost.**"

The resurrection of Christ was also according to the Old Testament Scriptures. "**For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption**" (Psalm 16:10). In Luke 24:6 we have the testimony of the angel---"**He is not here but is risen.**" And again Acts 2:24 speaks of the resurrection of Jesus "**Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.**"

These and other Old Testament predictions and their exact and precise fulfillment as recorded in the New Testament prove that Jesus is the Messiah and our Saviour. Had He deviated in the least in fulfilling the prophecies regarding the Messiah and His passion and resurrection, He could not have been the anointed of God.

But praise God He did fulfill them. That is good news. It is our gospel message!

(b) Christ died to pay the penalty demanded for God's broken Law.

The penalty for transgression of God's law is death. "**The wages of sin is death,**" (Rom. 6:23) and all apart from Christ are under the penalty of death. This is not good news or the Gospel. When we measure ourselves by God's eternal law or the Mosaic law or the law of sin and death, we conclude with Romans 3:10, "**There is none righteous, no, not one.**" Hence---there is no Gospel, no good news in any message which recommends that man by his own efforts or work measure up to God's law by which to be saved from hell's penalty for sin. Those who preach human merit and not the grace of God through Christ, or a mixture of human works and the grace of God for salvation are ministers of another gospel which is not another, and are accursed before God (Gal. 1:6-9).

But the hell penalty for breaking the law of God has been paid by Christ Himself for every believer, for all the elect---What GOOD NEWS! That is the Gospel.

"**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us**" (Gal. 3:13). The curse is lifted and the redeemed will never be returned to the slave market and sold under sin. Praise our Redeemer!

"**For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be**

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Gospel of Jesus Christ

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made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21).

Now **"Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth"** (Rom. 10:4). Christ died as our suffering, Substitute, Sinbearer and Saviour.

(c) Christ died a death of extreme suffering.

Christ is set forth predictively in the Old Testament as the suffering servant of Jehovah. This is especially true to Isaiah chapter 52 and Psalm 22. As the suffering One, He is set forth by the prophets of the Old Testament either specifically or in type and shadow.

"But those things, which God before hath shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled" (Acts 3:18).

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18).

Here we see that fact of Christ's suffering. Also we see He suffered for sins. He did not suffer for His own sins, for He had none. He was the Holy One of God. He was in all points tempted as we, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15). Being Holy Spirit conceived and Virgin born He escaped the sin nature of Adam. No one honestly could convince Him of sin (John 8:46).

(1) Christ suffered in the flesh. We read of the smiting, the scourging, the crown of thorns, the stripes, the nails in His hands and feet, the sword in His side, the loss of blood, the heat of the day and the cool of the sudden night. When we read in Holy Writ of such extreme torture we are amazed and stand in awe considering how much the Man could and did endure.

(2) He suffered in His soul. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Isa. 53:3). In Gethsemane He uttered the passionate cry: **"My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death"** (Mark 14:34). Also we read, **"And being in agony He prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground"** (Luke 22:44).

(3) He suffered in His Spirit. As the infinite Son of God, He bore all our sins in short interval. He gave Himself a ransom for sinners. He suffered spiritual separation from God the Father. This is indicated in the forsaken cry: **"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** (Matt. 27:46).

(4) The suffering of Christ was once and for all (Heb. 9:24-26). His suffering once and forever has satisfied the justice of God in relation to God's children and their spirit. God reckons the sin debt

paid in Christ for every believer in Him. What good news to learn!

(5) He suffered as the sinner's substitute: Our sins were put on Him and He bore God's wrath for us. The unjust, who come to believe on Christ, escape the suffering of hell because Christ has already borne the hell penalty for them. How glorious and how true is this Gospel!

By Christ suffering for us, death loses its terror. If Jesus does not come in our generation we will have to die physically; but this should not trouble us since physical death for God's child is only a door into the presence of Christ (Phil. 1:23; II Cor. 5:8).

Someone has said that Christ has taken the stinger out of death for God's children. We know that that **"Sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law"** (I Cor. 15:56). But Christ died for sin and is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth (Rom. 5:15-21; Rom. 10:4).

I read about a mother and friends gathering around the crib of an infant. The lady friends became very excited when they saw a hornet flying near the body of the child. They inquired as to why the mother was not more concerned about the child's safety. She assured her friends that the hornet could not harm

the child since it had just left its stinger in her own body. Though we may experience physical death, the stinger of spiritual death went into Christ. He felt the full fury of God's wrath on sin when He bore in His own body our sins on the tree.

Spiritual death, eternal death, the second death has no terror for those for whom Christ died.

Good News. Glad Tidings is this Gospel of God concerning His Son made of the seed of David and declared to be the Son with power (Rom. 1:1-4).

Good News, the gospel! **"How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"** (I Cor. 15:3-4).



GONE FOREVER NEVER TO RETURN

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Spurious Professions and Why They Do Not Last

By H. B. Taylor
(1870 - 1932)

"For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20).

"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:31).

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24).

"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" (John 16:8-11).

In last week's News and Truths we called attention to the large number of spurious professions in our meetings today and asked why they do not last. The Bible says: **"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Conversions that are made by death bed stories or experience or preaching love or preaching law or any one of many other appeals in evangelistic meetings do not last because the only true and abiding foundation for lasting conversions is the



Word of God. If you want your converts to last, cut out everything but the Book and preach it. Funny stories and tearful appeals, and worldly motives, and jazz, or raggy or sensual music

do not produce lasting conversions. The Bible says: **"Friendship of the world is enmity with God."** How can a preacher be a friend of the world during the day and then be God's friend that night? He can't. He is no friend of God's. He is a friend of the world. His converts do not last because they are not genuine. He may be a blind leader of the blind and all of them land in the ditch. If he himself is saved however, his converts in the day when his works are tested by fire, will be wood, hay or stubble and he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire. Poor fellow! What will all his popularity and money be worth to him then? Bushels of tears will be shed then over his shoddy methods and his spurious converts. What is the matter with his work?

1. His preaching was not the kind to save anybody.

If he preached love, that will not save.

If he preached law, that will not save. If he preached morality that will not save. If he preached baptism and church membership, that will not save. The great book in the Bible on how sinners are saved is the Gospel of John. The great Book in the Bible that shows how the man taught by Jesus during His earthly ministry, put in practice the Gospel of John after His resurrection and ascension, is the Book of Acts. There are two words for love in the New Testament, namely, phileo and agapao. Neither of them is found in the book of Acts. There are many sermons in Acts. It covers a period of 33 years. If that spells anything at all, that means that the Holy Spirit did not direct them to preach on love and they did not do it. These preachers did speak of the law, but always with a warning, that by works of law will no flesh be justified before God. Men are not saved by preaching law, nor by preaching love. That is not the kind of preaching that saves. Neither does political preaching save, nor social preaching, nor educational preaching, nor preaching morality. Paul says: **"I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."** That is the preaching that saves. No other kind does. Law has to be preached to awaken the lost and self-righteous: but law does not save anybody. The first thing necessary if we have genuine conversions is the right kind of preaching. Preaching law or love will not save anybody. More about that later. We have to have the right kind of preaching, if conversions are to be genuine.

2. Defective conviction will not save anybody.

There are three kinds of conviction spoken of in the New Testament. First, conviction wrought by conscience (Rom. 2:15). All men have that, even the heathen. That is the ground of the damnation of the heathen. Their consciences convict them and will be witnesses against them in the judgment. Second, legal conviction. **"By the law is the knowledge of sin."** That is the kind that makes sinners tremble. But the law and legal conviction, it matters not how deep and pungent they may be, do not save anybody. They may lead to remorse at getting caught up with. They may lead to reformation and tears and profession as in the stony ground hearer and even some joy (Matt. 13:20-21); but he was not saved. Legal repentance does not lead to salvation, if that is all. If the preaching is emotional or hortatory, without any teaching, the profession will be spurious and will not last. "The law is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ." If the ministry is a teaching ministry and the law has a chance as a tutor to lead the sinner to Christ, then conversion will be genuine and only then. Then, there is the third kind of conviction, namely, evangelical conviction. That is the only kind that leads to salvation. Evangelical

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conviction is produced by the preaching of Christ. The only sin the Holy Spirit convicts of (John 16:8-11) is the sin of rejecting Jesus as Saviour and Lord. J. W. Gillon said in the Murray meeting that 75 percent of the church members of this country are not saved. He is probably right about it. They have legal conviction: but nobody presents the Lord Jesus to them: the Holy Spirit has nothing to work on because Christ has not been upheld. Many such profess and join the church, but they are not saved, because Christ and His finished work were not presented to them. The noisy convictions are nearly always legal. The Holy Spirit is very quiet in His work. His convictions are deep: His voice is a still small voice. He reveals Christ as Saviour; as our righteousness; and as the One, Who took our sins upon Himself, when we acknowledged the justice of God's judgment against sin and that it is worthy of death. Evangelical conviction has to do wholly with our need of Christ and His finished work. Preaching law doesn't save because it gives the Holy Spirit no chance to reveal Christ. Preaching love doesn't save for the love that is preached is sensual and earthly and doesn't make anybody love Christ. It is self-pitying and carnal. Preaching Christ saves: no other kind does. That kind of conversions last.

3. Defective repentance does not save anybody.

Paul tells us in II Corinthians 7:10 that godly sorrow worketh repentance but the sorrow of the world works death. The sorrow of the world is the sorrow that is wrought by death-bed stories or fear of Hell or getting caught up with. It is towards self: it is self-pitying; it is man-wrought. Godly sorrow is God-wrought: God-ward; leads to the confession and forsaking of sin: and fruits in a radical change of mind that is never repented of. There are generally more tears in the sorrow of the world than in godly sorrow: because that crowd bores for tears. Those, who preach Christ, do not. But note again, Peter said that Jesus was exalted to give repentance. Death-bed stories do not give repentance: preaching law does not work repentance: sob-stuff does not produce repentance. Preaching love works sob-stuff and both the sob-stuff and the love that produces it, are of the earth earthy. Preaching law does not work repentance. There is just one thing, only one thing, that works repentance. That is the uplifting and exalting of Jesus Christ. When men preach Jesus, that produces evangelical conviction, which is conviction as to the need of Christ and the worth of His finished work as the only ground of a sinner's acceptance with God. Let me say it once more. Evangelical conviction is produced by the preaching

of Christ: the exalting of Christ gives repentance, and repentance always fruits in a personal trust in Christ the Lord as the only Saviour, Who has never yet lost a single soul.

That kind of conversion always lasts forever.

(News and Truths, 1928)



Why Came We Forth

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be easily set off course. This principle of being focused is no new thing, it is a biblical principle: businesses push to attain goals of more profit and growth, educators are called upon to say things like, "pay attention, now; stay focused, stay on task." The military calls out, "Attention!" to focus respect to their officers. Even false churches embrace such books as *The Purpose-Driven Life* which focuses your attention away from the true Christ from the beginning in its watered down gospel which is not the gospel.

The children of Israel had asked this question when they were out of focus and had forgotten their purpose. Their focus was on themselves and their circumstances as they perceived them to be. We put ourselves in a precarious position when we are focusing on ourselves and thus, out of focus with the Lord.

One thing we know for sure is that the longer we stay out of focus, the worse our position becomes and the more out of focus we become. It compounds our problem and entertains an awful time in getting out of it and becoming, at least what we once were, to come to glorify God. If I took a t-square and made a vertical line, being time, and a horizontal line, distance. Now, let's say, the goal is to stay straight and perfectly on the vertical line heavenward. If I were to go just a degree or two off that vertical line, over time the vertical line, my distance, the horizontal line would begin and go further and further off course. This is what happens spiritually, it starts as a seeming small matter and next thing we know we are following Christ afar off like Peter did.

One of the old Baptist Confessions of Faith tells us that the chief end, the chief goal, the chief purpose of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. This we must focus on. To answer the question more fully of "Why came we forth out of Egypt?" We will ask three other questions—Where Did They Come From?, Where Did Their Complaint Come From?, and Where Do We Go From Here?

First, let us examine, Where Did They Come From? Consider the context of the Book of Numbers from chapter one and following: Consider Israel in bondage in

Egypt with taskmasters breathing down their necks with whips beating down on them, the heat beating down on them, being weary and afflicted by the burdens put upon them. And they ask, Why Came We Forth Out of Egypt? Consider the setting in order and getting organized and packed to march towards the Promised Land where they would be free from the atrocities in Egypt and they ask "Why Came We Forth Out of Egypt?" Consider Israel's deliverance wrought by God with a high hand, not even one hoof left behind, not to mention the spoil they took from the Egyptians, and they ask "Why Came We Forth Out of Egypt?" Consider the parting of the Red Sea before their eyes to deliver them from Pharaoh's hateful hand and they ask, "Why Came We Forth Out of Egypt?" Consider being led by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night to lead, guide and direct their steps, and they ask, "Why Came We Forth Out of Egypt?" Consider the manna graciously provided by the hand of God for their nourishment and they ask, "Why Came We Forth Out of Egypt?"

It is understood that the applications could be directed to the believer as well as the unbeliever, as not all Israel was the true spiritual Israel. To the unsaved, would you really rather go to Satan, that cruel taskmaster who is your enemy, than to go to Christ Who could be your Greatest Friend; would you rather go to your own fragile flesh than go to the Almighty God Who can save you from your sins and give you eternal life in eternal Paradise; would you rather go to the world which is in line with Satan and your sinful flesh, than to go to the Lord Jesus Who can give life and that more abundantly?

To us who are saved we can lose focus and lose our direction, leave our first love, and forget what manner of person we were before God saved us when we were in the darkness and cruel bondage of Egypt.

Now, let's give thought to: Where Did Their Complaint Come From? If you begin reading in Numbers 11:1, the word "**complained**" carries with it the idea that their complaints were coming from the heart and not vocally expressed. But, at any rate, it is "**out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh**" (Matt. 12:34). This is where their complaint came from—their own depraved heart. It shows itself in facial expressions, tones of voice, body language. Does our heart show itself in such outward manifestations that we are not pleased with God's Providence, but rather murmuring and complaining against God's graciousness and loving-kindness which is above our ways and thoughts?

When our children were smaller I used to sing "Rise and Shine Again" to the tune of "On the Road Again," their facial

expressions and body language sometimes didn't show they were ready to rise and shine! When we lose focus, it is because we lose heart. It starts with the heart. Therefore, as Proverbs 4:23 counsels us, "**keep our heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**" Mere outward forms, formulas, and fashions won't do. It is likened unto whited sepulchers full of dead men's bones. It is what Jesus said to the religious leaders, "You honor me with your lips, but your heart is far from Me."

In reading Numbers 11:1-9, the murmuring (which, for you English enthusiasts, is a synonym for whining—don't get me wrong, I fully understand this more than I wish that I did, but the bottom line is...no whining), came from the heart, and then was rendered vocalized and spread like wildfire; they murmured among themselves now, the heaven began to leaven the whole lump, the whole congregation, and the whole multitude commenced to murmuring, complaining, and whining, if you will, like a pack of dogs. The plague of the pity party paralysis was setting in and breaking out and progress was petrified. Just like the grateful saint cannot hold back his thanksgivings unto God, the murmuring mongrel can't hold back his complaining.

In Numbers 11:10-15, note that the murmuring and complaining, this root of bitterness, this cancer, begins to take its toll on Moses as well. Have you ever complained about someone's complaining so much that you sin, and complain about the vocation God has called you to be providentially around this complainer? We will deal more with Moses' complaining later. However, you can be sure that it is a telltale sign that we are out of focus and we are not glorifying God or enjoying Him (doesn't mean we won't have sorrow, but it does mean we can overcome overmuch sorrow and it does mean we can be sorrowful, yet always rejoicing in our God).

They looked back and remembered the fish, the cucumbers, the melons, the onions, the leeks, and the garlic, but forgot the bondage, the taskmasters, the heat, and the affliction. Looking back when you should be looking forward is dangerous. There's a commercial where a news reporter is looking sideways at the camera and not forward and runs into a sign. Again, there was a boy driving down a highway when I was pastoring in Mississippi who looking down at his food and slammed head-on into a tree and wound up in the hospital. We, probably all know about Sylvester the Cat and Tweety Bird, and that big Bulldog. Sylvester would be running away from that big dog looking back, not knowing that the dog doubled back and had a trash can lid waiting for Sylvester's face. We lose our sense of direction, when we keep

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looking back. We act as if God has not given us that gift of a sense of direction, the Word of God which is as a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path. We act as if we are lost.

The last thing we want to examine is: Where Do We Go From Here? The children of Israel were evidently at a loss as to the proper place or person to go to. They were non-examples for us to avoid. These were written for our learning and admonition that we might not repeat the same mistakes they did. The correct answer to the question, "Why came we forth out of Egypt?" had apparently, escaped the minds of the Israelites in our text. They forgot that it isn't all about them, but it is all about God. They misplaced their spectacles of faith, so to speak, and had, at best, blurry vision.

To start off with, if you find yourself out of focus, it is helpful to have God search you and try you, to see if there be a wicked or an evil heart of unbelief within you. It may be that you have never been born again of God's Spirit, never been made a new creature in Christ. You may have lost focus because you have no focus. Your body may have crossed the Red Sea, but your heart is still in Egypt. Your lips may honor God, but your heart is far from Him. You are blind to spiritual matters, blinded by Satan, dead in trespasses and sins, and you need to cry out to God to save you from your iniquities through the cleansing sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for all those who would truly believe on Him to save them.

What you need to do to glorify God and enjoy Him forever is to see your sins as a stench in the nostrils of God, repent of your sins, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ that you may be saved from the power of sin, the penalty of sin, and in eternity, the presence of sin. This was the problem with many, if not most, of the children of Israel who entered not into the Promised Land because of unbelief—they did not believe God, (not that they did not believe in God, for the demons do that). They did not trust in the Lord, nor had they faith in Him. Their life was characterized by unbelief which showed itself by their constant complaining.

Notice what Jesus said in Luke 9:62, **"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God?"** This has more reference to preachers, but contains broad principle that could be appropriately applied to any who are stationed in God's Kingdom whatever their vocations may be. Looking back makes one unfit to serve in the Kingdom of God and may be evidence that you've never been translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son. Instead, there is as Hebrews 10:27 puts it, **"But a**

certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." Or, from the warning given against looking back, it is evident that this man's discipleship was not yet thorough, his separation from the world not entire. It is not a case of going back, but of, looking back; and, as there is here a manifest reference to the case of Lot's wife. The ploughman is obliged to look forward to his work, or he will never draw his furrows either straight enough, or of just depth.

Moses, on the other hand, is set forth as an example of what we ought to do, where we ought to go from here. What did he do differently? Why didn't God reprove Moses for his complaining? If you will notice in Numbers 11:10-11, it states, **"Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?"** Moses' complained about sin in the camp; he wasn't publicly at his tent's door, and most importantly, he lodged his complaint to the LORD. He uttered his complaint to God alone, in a time of personal and private petition, not with others present to hear it. Why is that important? If we complain outwardly we bring reproach upon God. Just think if Moses vocalized his complaints publicly every time the

impulse struck him (and it probably did often)? His call as a leader of the people would be even more disrespected and his experience even more miserable, not to mention, the damage that would be done to the people's souls. Too many of us feel the need to share our complaints, our woes, to someone on the phone, or in person, before, or even, without even bringing it to the Lord! This ought not to be so among the people of God. To say, "My wife, or my husband, does this or that" as we complain in public, but are never able to, **"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"** (I Thess. 5:18) even privately. Something is wrong with that picture.

You may be asking yourself, "But, I thought it was sinful to complain." That is a legitimate objection, but let's look a little more deeply at this. If you read some of the Psalms we read of honorable utterances of complaints unto God, making petitions unto the God of all power and might and Who is rich in mercy; in other words, the complaints were not against God's character or works, but rather, they were complaining of their pain, their difficulty, and imploring the Lord of mercies to relieve them and help them.

Note, furthermore, that Moses' petition to God was immediate; he conferred not with flesh and blood, not even in himself, but unto God. Moses didn't permit it to fester or smolder lest it break out and wreak havoc upon him and the rest of the camp.

We need to realize that the enemy seeks to distract us and set us up for disaster. As collegiate and Army wrestlers, we were taught to set up our opponent for maximum performance and efficiency. It takes more energy and strength to simply overpower your opponent, than to use his momentum and strength to help you accomplish the maneuver you are performing. Therefore, you set them up with a push to the shoulder and then use their resistance to complete your move. In war, the distractions become deadly; in spiritual warfare, the distractions are devastating for the devastation is eternal damnation to the lost, and eternal loss for the saved. It certainly doesn't make for one to glorify or enjoy God.

So, what must we do to refocus, to regain our purpose, our chief end of glorifying God and enjoying Him forever? We first need to cultivate the habit of continual communion with our Lord, acknowledging Him in all our ways and being assured that He shall direct our paths (Prov. 3:5-6).

What is one of the reasons why we pray? We do so because we know the God with Whom we have to do. The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits (Dan. 11:32). Be still and know that I am God, I shall be exalted above the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth (Ps. 46:10). We remember how great our God is, His great love wherewith He loves us as was exhibited at Calvary, His great mercies which are new every morning, His great power in which there is nothing impossible!

Ponder what Moses did in Numbers 11:23-24, **"And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD'S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not. And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle."** What is so significant here? Moses simply took God at His Word, he didn't need an entertaining song, a dramatic movie or theatrical production, or any of the multitude of other things that so many of us seem to think that we "need" to get us back on course. Do we complain because all we get is that manna every time the church door opens, or do we want something more that has a more Egyptian flavor to it? Let us not forget that the saints of old amidst the fires of persecution thought God's Word of more value than gold, even fine gold, moreover, of greater worth than their necessary food, and that sustained them through the fiery trials, not the fancies of their day. The power of God's Eternal Word has not changed, but I'm afraid many of God's people have changed to their own detriment, and we wonder, "Where is the joy?"

We ought not only to remember

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Why Came We Forth

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Who our God is, but what He does. We remember and proclaim His wonderful works as they did in Acts 2—first and foremost, we recall the miraculous and wonderful deliverance wrought for us when we were delivered out of the darkness and bondage of Egypt. We recall that we have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of Light, the Kingdom of God's dear Son! If God spared not His only begotten Son, shall He not freely give us all things?

We recall our Lord's wonderful provision for us thus far, and the promise of an everlasting provision in Heaven forever! God brought us out that He might bring us in to the Land of Promise, not to destroy us, if we are His children (Deut. 6:23; 11:9-24; Heb. 11:13-16).

To regain our purpose and direction we must consult in and abide in the Word of God. **"Where there is no vision, the people perish,"** they languish, wallow, stagnate, are hindered, wither up and die. After all, we know about God from His Word. The vision here speaks of God's Word—if we are not ever meditating upon, contemplating, and pondering the Word of Life, the Bible, not chewing with delight as we taste and see that the Lord is good, He is the Bread of Life, we will be wretched complainers, miserable, angry, bitter, and then dead. What a defeated way to end life on this earth. God has a much better way for us to follow that ends with thanksgiving, joy, peace, and victory, to leave a legacy to encourage future generations, and to bring glory to God after we are dead and gone.

We cannot be reminded of Who God is, of what He does, unless we confide in the Holy Scriptures, for in them we find eternal life, the life which we are to now live, which is by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved us, and gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20).

Earlier, I only quoted part of the verse, **"Where there is no vision, the people perish,"** now, look at the rest, **"but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."** If you study and search the Scriptures, and keep the precepts therein, you will have the joy of the Lord which shall be your strength. How precisely shall we observe God's statutes? It says in Deuteronomy 5:32, **"Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left."** Also, it can only be done in the power of God's might, for then, we will be successful in God's eyes, as intimated in Joshua 1:7, **"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou**

mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

Our eyes must be on the Captain of our salvation, Who is the blessed Hope, the Living Word, not the bare letter of the Law, but the spirit of the Law, so says Titus 2:13, **"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"** and Hebrews 12:2, **"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."** If we look to ourselves and others we will surely be disappointed and embittered, so let us follow God's counsel to be diligent in this endeavor by His grace as it admonishes us in Hebrews 12:15, **"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."**

Let the return of our dear Saviour comfort and encourage our hearts being mindful of the Apostle Peter's epistle in II Peter 3:12, **"Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"** May we surround ourselves and guard ourselves in the love of God as our brother Jude says in Jude 1:21, **"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."**

Have you been distracted, complaining too much, lost focus? Do you remember Peter in Matthew 14:24-33 and the companion passage in Mark 4:38-41? Peter started out bold as a lion walking on those treacherous waves, but as soon as he was distracted by the troublesome and boisterous winds and waves, he turned into a kitty cat. We are all prone to do so. But, what did he do? Did he complain to himself, complain to his fellow disciples? No, he looked unto Jesus and cried out to Him because he knew that Jesus was full of mercy and compassion and love for him. Yes, this Christ Whom the winds and waves obey, calls you to obey Him, to repent of your sins, and believe on Him, else you shipwreck your lives with sin and end up in everlasting perdition and damnation. As the hymn says,

*Have faith in God, He's on His throne,
Have faith in God, He watcheth o'er His
own;*

*He cannot fail, He must prevail;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.*

Don't lose sight of the fact that it wasn't until after Peter went through the storm that the Lord Jesus commanded the winds and waves to cease. It keeps us from forgetting Who we need to turn to, it aids in building our character, and helps us to be touched with the feeling of the infirmities of others that we may comfort them by pointing them to the God of all comfort Who comforted us in

our time of trial.

Nonetheless, Peter, like ourselves, lost focus again. John 21 records for us this occasion whereby our Lord Jesus reminds Peter of his calling back in Luke 5. Though, a strong willed person by nature, Peter lost sight of his calling, his purpose. After pride deluded him to trust in himself, he denied the Lord three times. Peter decided he would go back to fishing because he was so disgusted and discouraged with himself that all he could see was how weak and pitiful he was. He was so focused on self (and we need to see our failures as they are, but Satan desires to run us into the ground). Peter was having a pity party—strong, bold Peter! He was distracted away from Christ, but the Stranger on the shore came through for him once again. Jesus reminded Peter that He had called him to be a fisher of men, and an Apostle to feed God's sheep. Once again, the Living Word bolstered Peter up and he was used of God to preach where three thousand souls were saved in one day! If the Apostle Peter had these struggles, is it really surprising that we have them as well from time to time? If our Saviour Jesus Christ brought Peter out of his out-of-focus hole that he crawled into, can He not do the same for us?

Barnabas, the son of consolation, encouraged the church at Antioch and **"exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord"** (Acts 11:19-24). Let us follow his Holy Spirit inspired counsel to cleave unto the Lord with purpose of heart, not faint-heartedly, or half-heartedly, not cleave to some magic formulas that some self-proclaimed spiritual guru touts as the snake oil to solve all our problems. It is obvious that the church took God's counsel and the church grew. This was not some evangelistic campaign, but Barnabas kept Christ lifted up and so people were drawn unto Christ, not Barnabas, their focus was on Christ, not in a man.

From minute to minute, people pass on into eternity. If you never come out of Egypt and unto Christ what you glory in now shall be your everlasting shame and contempt. Why will you and would you want to go to such a place called hell? The obituaries are a constant reminder that people are constantly going either to the place of ultimate bondage in the prison house of hell or to the place of absolute freedom in the paradise of God.

May God grant you repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ that you may know the joy of having Christ as your Saviour; have a noble purpose in this life, and in life eternal where eye has not seen, nor ear heard what God has prepared for those who are called according to His purpose.

My beloved brothers and sisters, may we not lose sight of the privileged position we have in Christ as heirs of God, heirs

of eternal life, and our privileged purpose we have in Jesus to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever! O Father of mercies, forgive us our sins, thank you for sending your only begotten Son into the world so that we may have eternal life, and let us never forget our calling out of Egypt, and our calling into eternal life, and unto eternal and loving service unto you our King. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



The Man In The Pulpit

(Continued from page 161) ♦

61:1), **"preach Jesus Christ"** (Acts 5:42), **"preach. . . that (we) should turn from. . . vanities unto the living God"** (Acts 14:15), **"preach the gospel"** (Rom. 1:15), **"preach the gospel of peace"** (Rom. 10:15), **"preach Christ crucified. . ."** (I Cor. 1:23); let him stand up and preach; let him preach without fear or favor; and let him halt right there! Let him not take any hand in the affairs of the church. Let him, for instance, preach hard against adultery, but make sure that he never takes a hand in calling on the church to discipline any who are thus ensnared. He is to preach, that is all.

II

There are some churches that expect their pastor to be a physician, nothing more. He is to acquaint himself with all the sicknesses of the saints. Alas! They are myriad.

There are the infants in the faith. These **"new born babes"** he must be careful to supply with **"the sincere milk of the word, that (they) may grow thereby"** (I Pet. 2:2).

There are the invalids in the faith. Some are suffering from deafness. They apparently are deaf to the voice of God. **"Hearing they hear not"** (Matt. 13:13). For this reason a preacher and pastor and physician is needed. **"How shall they hear without a preacher?"** (Rom. 10:14). Some have personal grievances between themselves and brethren in the church and even **"neglect to hear the church"** (Matt. 18:17) and must be excluded.

Some in the church are dumb. They cannot testify of Jesus Christ or pray. Oftimes they lose this spirit of dumbness outside of the church house, and sometimes they regain their speech in church business meetings, for the most part they remain in silence. This is spiritual lock-jaw. God has said; The Lord is good. . . **"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so"** (Psalm 107:1-2). **"Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed"** (Rom. 10:11).

Others in the church have failing eyesight and feeble minds. Such as these are spoken of in II Peter 1:9: **"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."** People

♦ (Continued on page 169)

The Man In The Pulpit

(Continued from page 168) ♦

in such pitiful condition are indifferent toward foreign missions for they **“cannot see afar.”** Likewise they think little about prophetic preaching. Future events, and even eternity it seems, hold little for them. It is “far off” to them.

Some have been crippled up by the scourge of “yellow fever.” They have such a consuming desire for gold that it has paralyzed the end of their fingers. These attacks happen quite severely when offerings are taken. **“God loveth a cheerful giver”** (II Cor. 9:7). The pastor-physician must know how to deal with these “crippled givers.”

Thus the pastor must needs be a physician. But let him cease there! He may pamper, pillow preach and pet, but put the surgical knife far from him (Heb. 4:12).

III

Some churches look upon their pastor as a priest. This he is, but not any more a priest than his fellow believers. I Peter 2:9: **“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood. . .”** This is written to all the faithful. Both pastor and people compose a common priesthood.

The pastor is not a priest after the order of the Romish clan. He cannot pray away the sins of the flock. Nor can he make up for the lack of praying in the lives of others. Yet some members think of the pastor as being “paid” to make the Sunday morning prayer!

All churches should expect and assist their pastor to be a pastor.

The word itself occurs but once in New Testament writings **“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”** (Eph. 4:11).

That a pastor is required to be a teacher is clearly seen in that they are connected together: **“pastors and teachers.”** That a pastor is not merely a teacher is clearly seen in that they are made distinct; **“pastors and teachers.”**

“Pastor” means shepherd and is so translated elsewhere in the New Testament. It is used in reference to the shepherds in Luke 2 and concerning Christ in John 10:11: **“I am the good shepherd”** and Hebrews 13:20 and I Peter 5:4.

As the shepherd (under the Chief Shepherd) the pastor has the God-given duty to loading, feeding, fleeing, and guarding the flock. **“Obey them that have the rule over you. . .”** (Heb. 13:17) is the word given the flock. The church is to obey the pastor and follow his leading according to the Scriptures.

Pastoral work is governing work. Churches should expect and assist their pastor to govern and rule. As a shepherd leads the flocks and not the flock the shepherd, so pastors should lead the

church and not the church the pastor. He is to be a pastor not a puppet. The shepherd was the door of the sheep, not the door mat.

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: that is unprofitable for you.” (Heb. 13:17).

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves” (I Thess. 5:12-13).



“THE STEWARDSHIP OF TIME”

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Ps. 90:12).

“LORD, make me to know mind end, and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am” (Ps. 39:4).

TIME IS OUR CAPITAL

Who is the individual who can measure the true value of time in dollars and cents? Time spent in the presence of God, in the service of Christ in quest of a lost soul can never be properly evaluated. Time spent for my church in lifting up the fallen and helping others to a better life is worth more than all the gold and silver of the world.

Commodities of all nature are sold in the great stores of our cities; men may purchase railroads, air-lines, horseshoes or carpet tacks with money, but never in the history of civilization has one man been able to buy one hour, one minute, or even a small part of a second over the counter of exchange. Time is our capital, given of God to be used either wisely or foolishly. The choice is ours, but the results of time used unwisely, will bring untold regrets.

TIME IS A TRUST

We cannot beg, buy nor borrow time; neither can we sue it or earn it as we do money. We cannot lay time up and let it multiply, for time unused is time forever gone. From the gracious heart of God comes the trust of time and for Him must this time be used, that His Cause may be extended throughout the world. As a druggist measures the precious drugs and the jewelry man cuts the precious

diamond and preserves carefully the precious cuttings, much more should we measure the precious time given us of God saving every golden moment possible, for the glory of God. The precious time saved and used in the Master’s vineyard will be like golden hours set in frames of precious stone in that day when we shall see God face to face and give an account of His blessings given us in life. Time is a trust; are we faithful to this trust?

TIME IS AN UNCERTAINTY

By the grace of God we are on this side of eternity and are all blessed with the gift of time, but this gift may be withdrawn from us at any moment. At no time has God promised more than “the here and now” to us as Christians. We have absolutely no promise of a tomorrow, nor can we recall yesterday; it is gone forever. We may weep over the caskets of lost time until our eyes become fountains of tears, but we cannot recall one spilt second of time, for God has folded yesterday and put it aside. Tomorrow may find us on the other side of time and in the eternity. How uncertain time is! We are responsible to today; the past is gone and the future belongs to God. It is important that we use the opportunities given us today. Now is the time to serve God; now is the time to win a soul; now is the time to give of our means and our time to our church; now is the time to be that Christian that the world needs so badly; now is the time to use the blessings of time as it is given us of God.

TIME IS AN OPPORTUNITY

By properly using time we will not go into the hands of God empty handed. We can take our friends and our loved ones to Heaven with us if we use the time and opportunities of leading them to the saving knowledge of Christ. In the marvelous plan of God, we are left here upon earth after we are saved for a specific work, that of reaching others for Christ. Not that God must leave us here to complete the work of saving our souls in a progressive manner, but we are left here to live for, witness to, teach, preach, and testify to those who are lost. Through the love of God we are given time to accomplish the work for which we are saved and to lay up treasures in Heaven and to have a full reward. If we use the precious time allotted us wisely, we will hear the Master say, **“Well done thou good and faithful servant.”**

TIME AND YOU

What are YOU doing with time? Are you using this great blessing from God to help others? No other person can answer these questions for you. You, yourself, must make full use of the God-given blessings of time. Time given yesterday is gone; tomorrow may never come, **“Now is the accepted time.”** We must be faithful to the stewardship of time!

(Prepared by D. Dewey Morgan)



Is One Church As Good As Another?

By Roy Mason
(1894 - 1978)

Some people are needlessly contentious, and that is bad as well as an un-Christian attitude; but far more people are unwilling to contend even for the most precious truth of the Bible.



Satan gives them a Scripture that helps them along in their spinelessness. It is Matthew 5:25 which says in part, **“Agree with thine adversary quickly.”** People who are not willing to give in when their personal interests are at stake, readily toss the truth and the right to the wind in order to be “broad” and “agreeable.” The Scripture mentioned above has no reference to throwing away the truth for the sake of being in weak agreement with others. It relates to material things, secular things, if you please.

What are some of the things in which people compromise or throw away the truth for the sake of being thought “broad?”

One thing is the church question. There is a popular saying that “One church is just as good as another; it doesn’t matter which church you belong to.” The trouble with that statement is that it contains a couple of lies. Is one woman just as good as another? Can it be truly said, “It doesn’t matter which woman you marry?” A wife would probably use the rolling pin on the man who suggested that any other woman would have done “just as well.” Is one car just as good as another? The man who is shopping around for a car doesn’t fall for that. When people go shopping and when they ask for something that is known to be of high quality, they are not willing to accept some shoddy article on the pretext that it is “just as good. . . it doesn’t matter which article you buy.” Only in the matter of the church and religion are people willing to be so soft-brained as to feel that “it doesn’t matter.”

Jesus started the Baptists. He started the first Baptist church that ever existed, and such churches have existed from that time until now; in unbroken succession. This is abundantly proven by history. Jesus said (Matt. 16:18), concerning the church He started, **“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”** So then, the true church must have been started by Jesus during His lifetime, and it must have had continuous

♦ (Continued on page 171)

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1. What, scripturally, is the doctrine of predestination?

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in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 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.”

TOM ROSS

The words predestinate and predestinated are found in four verses of the New Testament. Romans 8:28-29 declares: **“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”** Ephesians 1:4-5, 11 state: **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will...In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”** (Emphasis, TWR).

Simply stated, the Scriptural doctrine of predestination is God's eternal purpose to save His elect and conform them to the image of Jesus Christ in time. Before the world began, before time, space or matter existed, God purposed within Himself to save a multitude out of Adam's fallen race. When God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit dwelt alone in the solitude of eternity the purpose of grace was formulated in the Covenant of Grace. God the Father chose a specific number of people to be saved, God the Son agreed to redeem the elect given to Him by the Father, and God the Holy Spirit agreed to regenerate, indwell, seal, and preserve the elect in time. The Holy Trinity predetermined the eternal destiny of those chosen in Christ before the world began.

The results of predestination are clearly stated in the above Scriptures. The predestinated are called, justified, and glorified in time. The ultimate end of predestination is complete conformity to the image of Jesus Christ and the enjoyment of an eternal inheritance. Jesus prayed about this in John 17:22-24: **“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou**

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I have thought long and hard over these two questions and it seems to my limited knowledge and understanding that they can neither be handled separately nor can they be adequately addressed in the obvious space limits of a venue such as this. The answer to one is pretty much the answer to the other.

The doctrine of predestination is one of the most misunderstood, and therefore misused and hated doctrines in the Bible! The second question of this month's forum reflects both that misuse and misunderstanding. It would be an exercise in futility to attempt an answer that would satisfy either those who use predestination to condemn whole segments of the race to eternity in hell, deprived of any chance of salvation or to satisfy those who profess a “more moral position than God”, accusing God of unjustly condemning souls to hell even if there is a degree of morality (humanistic morality) and/or an earnest prayer and desire for salvation.

No one is forced into heaven against their will! C. S. Lewis' statement about being “dragged into heaven kicking and screaming” borders on blasphemy. **“Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power...”** (Psalm 110:3). Neither is anyone who honestly comes to Christ, in humble repentance seeking salvation, turned away! **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”** (John 6:37).

Over the years we have become so steeped in our denominational traditions and dogma, and so possessed by our own concepts of morality, that we have claimed - even in Baptist circles - nearly the same infallibility which the Pope claims. When we cannot understand or explain certain doctrines, we “jump

through theological hoops” in our attempts to explain our position and/or justify our opposition to clear statements of Scripture rather than simply submit to the authority of the divinely inspired Word of God. **“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law”** (Deut. 29:29).

Romans 8:29-30: **“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”**

Ephesians 1:4-5: **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”**

Ephesians 1:11: **“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”**

The words “predestinate” or “predestinated” only appear four times in the King James Bible as seen in the above texts. Each time it is the word “proorizw proorizo *pro-or-id'-zo* - to predetermine, decide beforehand. Strong adds “in the NT of God decreeing from eternity”. All four times it is in aorist tense, i.e. action in a point of time, generally past time.

The term “predestination” has become so closely associated with election that for most people, even a lot of “clergy” they are indistinguishable, but I suggest there is a difference, and although subtle it is distinguishable and important. Perhaps “predestination” has more to do with sanctification and the perseverance of the saints than it does with election. Follow the order in Romans 8:28-29.

“Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate.” Election is choosing. **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”** (Eph. 1:4). He chose those whom He foreknew. **“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God...”** (I Pet. 1:2). “Foreknowledge” refers to a previous or longstanding acquaintance, - not to an omniscient knowledge of what someone would do at a future date.

Predestination differs from election, then, in that election is unto salvation, i.e. choosing to save some out of the teeming masses of lost humanity, and predestination is that those chosen ones are to be **“conformed to the image of his Son... according to the good pleasure**

of his will” but predestination to the planned purpose for the one chosen.

Notice that the references to predestination are all indicative. Predestination is an undeniable statement of fact, whether in active voice, as in the references to God's action and determination in eternity past, or passive voice, as in reference to man (Eph. 1:11). The sovereign omnipotence of God, then, decrees that those whom God has elected in eternity past will come to Christ for salvation and that that salvation will manifest itself as the changed life becomes more and more conformable to the image of Christ.

Dear reader, this calls for personal application of II Corinthians 13:5: **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”** Is your life becoming more conformable to Christ or more conformable to the world and culture around you?

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Scripturally the doctrine of predestination is that all things have a predetermined end, which the council of God has determined before the beginning of all things. **“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”** (Isa. 46:10).

Predestination is a wondrous part of the whole of the sovereignty of God. God is in control and, **“According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Eph. 3:11), has chosen those that Christ suffered on the cross for, and secured their eternal life by the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb in which He was laid.

Mike DeWitt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Berea Baptist Church is working on an article index for *The Baptist Examiner*. This is a project that the editor has been wanting done for some time. I always remember reading an article, but then can't remember what year and issue I read it in. This index will be of great help to the editor, and others as well.

Also, an index of articles printed in the *Berea Baptist Banner* is currently being completed.

All indexes will be available as searchable PDF's on the church's website.

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2. Did God predestinate sin and the non-elect to damnation?

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Exodus 9:16: **"And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth."**

Luke 22:22: **"And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!"**

Jude 4: **"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."**

Mt 25:41: **"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."**

There is a sense in which we have to answer this question in one word, "yes". But there is still a word of hope. Read this answer to the end.

Notice that each reference declares that certain events and, as in the case of Pharaoh, certain persons who were preordained (or predestinated) to their just condemnation. Referring back to the previous question, predestination always has to do with God's purposes and good pleasure. Augustine wrote, "He (God) judged it better and more indicative of his power to bring good out of evil than to prohibit evil altogether."

When finally in glory with our Lord we will willingly agree with God's determination that those condemned to hell deserve hell. They hated God here, fought against God here, and will continue to do so in hell. "Gnashing of teeth" is not referring to the suffering in hell but to the anger and hatred as expressed against Stephen in Acts 7:54: **"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth."** **"And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth"** (Matt. 13:42). It is reported of Stalin, by his daughter who was at his bedside when he died, that Stalin's last act was to rise up in bed and shake his clenched fist at God just before he died.

This truth will/should incite one

of two responses: anger and rebellion from the reprobate, those whose hearts are hardened against the truth of God's Word as seen in Stalin, or repentive action and plea for mercy, subjective to the sovereign will of God from those who may still be lost but are the objects of God saving grace as demonstrated in Jonah 3:9: **"Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"**

Notice that Nineveh's action was not to argue with God, question the morality of God, or any attempt to justify themselves. It had nothing to do with stopping or changing their cruel warlike society. That would merely be the natural result of true repentance. Their action was purely penitent and totally submissive to God's sovereign mercy.

Dear reader, how does that compare to your response to God?

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Please refer to the Scriptures related to the doctrine of predestination quoted in question number one. Strictly speaking, the words relating to the doctrine of predestination only have reference to God's purpose of grace in the election, adoption, calling, justification, sanctification, and glorification of the elect. Nowhere in Scripture are the words predestinate or predestinated ever associated with sin or damnation. As Baptists we must speak where the Bible speaks. Predestination has nothing to do with the origin of sin or the damnation of the non-elect. Scripturally speaking it has only to do with God's purpose of grace.

Included in the eternal decree of God is the permission of sin and the damnation of the reprobate. However, God is not the author or the first cause of sin. Romans 5:12 clearly states that sin among human beings started with Adam: **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."**

Those who die in their sins are the non-elect or the reprobate who were passed over in the Covenant of Grace. The doctrine of election clearly implies that some were chosen to be saved by

grace, and all others were left, passed over, and rejected for their sins. By virtue of Adam's federal headship the non-elect were already condemned for their sins. The reprobate remained in the corrupt lump of fallen and sinful humanity and therefore will be damned for their iniquity. There is no doubt that the doctrines of election and reprobation are both included in the eternal decree of God. Deuteronomy 29:29 declares: **"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."**

John Gill, the Baptist theologian of the 1700's wrote: "If men were chosen from the beginning, that is, from eternity to salvation; then those that were not chosen, or not ordained to eternal life, were foreordained as early to condemnation...And, indeed, there can be no new decree, appointment, or purpose, made by God in time; if the decree of election was from eternity, that of rejection must be so, too; since there cannot be one without the other, if some were chosen before the foundation of the world, others must be left, or passed by, as early..." (*A Body of Doctrinal and Practical Divinity*, p. 140).

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Did God predestinate sin? Does God make you lie? Did God cause Cain to rise up and kill his brother Able? Did God cause David to commit adultery? Did God cause Achan to covet? Can God go against His moral character, His ten commandments, that were given to honor and obey Him with? Does God contradict Himself?

The origin of sin is found in a finite creature God created in eternity past. Lucifer, a non-elect angel, sinned against God and many other non-elect angels, finite beings, followed after Him. If finite beings were made to be infinite then they would be Gods as God is infinite. Thus election is tied very closely to predestination.

The pre-destination of sin and its originator, and all the non-elect is the lake of fire. The pre-destination of all that opposes God will be punished with eternal torment. **"The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil"** (Pro. 16:4). **"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished"** (II Peter 2:9), Rev. 20:11-15: 20:10; 21:8.

Mike DeWitt

Is One Church

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existence through the centuries, If He told the truth, the church He started was a visible institution, and it was added to on the day of Pentecost when three thousand were saved. It was not started on Pentecost, for in that case it could not have been "added to" and it would have been started by the Holy Spirit instead of Jesus. The Roman Catholic Church cannot be the one that Jesus started, for Gregory the Great was the first real pope (590-604 A.D.). Contrary to the notions of some, the Roman Catholic Church did not come into existence for several centuries after Jesus was here. The various Protestant Churches cannot be identified with the church that Jesus started, for they did not come into existence until the Protestant Reformation of the 18th century. (Remember that Baptists are not Protestants). The various sects and cults that have risen in recent times cannot be identified with the church Jesus started, for they began centuries after Jesus started His church. The promise of Jesus to perpetuate His church can only find fulfillment in the Baptists for they are the only people who have been in existence since the days of Jesus. This truth is frankly recognized in "Handbook of Religions" by Phelan (who was himself a Methodist).

Now, is a church that was man-founded, far this side of Christ, "just as good" as the one that Jesus started? Of course not, and it is spineless utterance of nonsense to say such.

But there are churches that deny the deity of Christ, and teach salvation by works. Is a church with a false way of salvation "just as good?" Of course not.

Some churches, bearing the Baptist name, are untrue to the Bible and to the historic faith of Baptists. Some are worldly and have a program of amusement and entertainment. Are such churches "just as good" as a church that holds to the truth and seeks to carry out the Commission of Christ? Of course not.

In many other things this "just as good" stuff is used to deceive. The Bible says (Jude 3) **"Earnestly contend for the faith, once delivered to the saints."** It says **"Buy the truth and sell it not."** Many "sell the truth" for the sake of being thought of as "broad." No Christian should want to be "broad" in that sense. Jesus said, **"Narrow is the way that leadeth unto life..."** Mathematics is a narrow science. Twice two always makes four, and this cannot be broadened without error. Religious truth is just as narrow as any other truth.

The statement which says "one church is just as good as another" is a statement to be spit upon with contempt. It is not so!



THE BIBLE NEWS PAPER

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.

COHABITATION UNHEALTHY FOR MARRIAGE, STUDIES CONTINUE TO CONFIRM

(EP News)--A recent study by the University of Denver shows that most unmarried couples who live together want to spend more time together without a formal commitment, which debunks the "trial marriage" myth of cohabiting. "It does seem like it's something that most people tend to kind of slide into, that it just kind of happens," said Dr. Galena Rhoades, senior researcher with the University of Denver. "And they do that without really making a commitment to a future together." Rhoades said cohabitation is not a healthy step to marriage. "That group of people who lives together before they have plans to marry," she said, "might be most at risk for problems in their marriages if they go on to marry." The 2008 U.S. Census reported 13.6 million unmarried, heterosexual couples live together.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REJECTS D.C. SCHOLARSHIPS, ADDS ABORTION FUNDING

(EP News)--Under legislation in the U.S. House, students in Washington, D.C., will not be able to get funding to attend a better school — but they likely will have access to taxpayer money for an abortion. On July 14, the House Rules Committee rejected an amendment to the Financial Services bill that would have preserved the successful D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program. It also rejected an amendment that would have continued to ban taxpayer funding of abortions in the District. Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List, expressed her concerns in a recent article in *The Weekly Standard*: "If Obama gets his way on this, the left-liberal District of Columbia government will be free to spend government money on abortions for the first time since 1995," she wrote. "This is apparently what the president has decided our nation's capital needs, given its steadily declining population, low rate of family formation, and recorded legal abortions already nearly equal to the number of its live births."

PRO-LIFE SENATORS OFFER AMENDMENTS TO PREVENT ABORTION FUNDING

(EP News)--Several pro-life amendments were offered -- and narrowly defeated -- as the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) approved the massive health care bill introduced by Sen.

Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, offered an amendment to prevent funding of abortion; it failed. An amendment from Sen. Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., to prevent the bill from mandating abortion coverage, also was defeated. Two amendments from Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., also failed: one to codify conscience-protection laws; and another to prevent the bill from pre-empting state laws on abortion.

TWO-THIRDS OF IOWANS WANT TO VOTE ON MARRIAGE

(EP News)--Two-thirds of Iowa voters want to decide the definition of marriage for themselves, by placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot. The earliest that could happen is 2012. The poll, conducted for *TheIowaRepublican.com*, comes three months after the state Supreme Court dragged same-sex marriage into the Heartland. The results mirror surveys done last year. Thirty states have amended their constitutions to protect the definition of marriage.

ARIZONA GOVERNOR SIGNS PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION

(EP News)--Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law significant pro-life legislation in July, signaling a positive new direction from her predecessor and long-sought victory for life advocates. While former Gov. Janet Napolitano vetoed every abortion-limiting bill sent to her during six years in office, Brewer has already signed several pro-life measures in her first year as governor. These new laws include a ban on partial-birth abortion, a ban that prevents medical professionals other than doctors from performing surgical abortions, and a bill that protects the conscience rights of healthcare workers to refuse participation in an abortion. Of particular note, the Abortion Consent Act — which strengthens parental-consent provisions, requires a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion, and requires physicians to fully inform women about the risks of abortion — capped a 13-year effort to pass an informed-consent law in Arizona.

JUSTICE GINSBURG LINKS ABORTION TO POPULATION CONTROL

(EP News)--In a recent interview with the *New York Times*, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg responded to a question about poor women's access to abortion and the Supreme Court's 1980 decision upholding a legislative ban on federal funding for abortion. She said: "I thought that at the time Roe was decided,

there was concern about population growth and particularly growth in populations that we don't want to have too many of, so that Roe was going to be then set up for Medicaid funding for abortion, which some people felt would risk coercing women into having abortions when they didn't really want them. But when the court decided (the Medicaid funding case), the case came out the other way. And then I realized that my perception of it had been altogether wrong."

DELAWARE NOTCHES PAIR OF PRO-FAMILY WINS

(EP News)--A Planned Parenthood bill that would have restricted parents' access to their children at an abortion clinic has failed in the Delaware Legislature, and lawmakers also passed tougher restrictions on sexually oriented businesses. Senate Bill 169 was an attempt by Planned Parenthood to restrict prayer outside abortion clinics. The measure would have gone so far as making it illegal for a mother to talk to her daughter within 100 feet of an abortion clinic. A second piece of legislation, Senate Bill 179, sought to redefine sexually oriented businesses to make it easier for communities to shut down offensive businesses that threaten children and families. Any unlicensed sexually oriented business can now be declared a "public nuisance" and shut down.

SENATE COMMITTEE TRIES TO KILL MEXICO CITY POLICY FOR GOOD

(EP News)--The Senate Appropriations Committee voted to permanently ban the Mexico City Policy, which had kept U.S. tax dollars from going to promote or provide abortions overseas since the mid-'80s. The amendment, offered by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., passed by a vote of 17-11 and now gives the executive order signed by President Barack Obama reversing the Mexico City policy the force of law. Republicans in the Senate are upset with the move, saying it endangers the foreign-aid bill that has enjoyed bipartisan support. "It is just going to create a really big fight," Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., told *The Associated Press*.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH VOTES TO LIFT BAN ON GAY BISHOPS

(EP News)--Leaders at the Episcopal Church's tri-annual convention voted overwhelmingly to pass a resolution that opens "any ordained ministry" to homosexuals. The move lifts a moratorium on ordaining gay- or lesbian-identified bishops that the church passed three years ago. Rev. Canon Julian Dobbs, canon missionary for the Convocation of Anglicans in North America said, "The Episcopal Church is determined to move further away from a traditional and a clearly Biblical position of Christian marriage, which affirms that marriage is a life-long relationship between one man and one woman." Since the Diocese of New Hampshire elected openly gay bishop V. Gene Robinson in 2003, there has been a mass exodus from the Episcopal

Church. The biblically orthodox Anglican Church of North America, now consists of over 100,000 members.

DEMOCRATS SIGN LETTER OPPOSING TAXPAYER-FUNDED ABORTION

(EP News)--Nineteen Democrats have signed on to a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi saying they will not vote for the president's health-care reform unless it specifically excludes taxpayer funding for abortion. Lincoln Davis, D-Tenn., who signed the letter, said there may be other pro-life Democrats sitting in the wings ready to protest taxpayer abortion in health-care legislation. "I think there are probably as many as 40 pretty solid votes when it comes to being opposed to any type of funding for abortion," he said. Democratic leadership, however, is pushing hard to fast-track health-care reform.

POLL: MORE AMERICANS SAY DEMOCRATS ARE 'TOO LIBERAL'

(EP News)--A new Gallup poll shows a marked increase in the percentage of Americans who consider the Democratic Party's views as being "too liberal." The number rose from 39 to 46 percent. Brian Darling, director of senate relations for *The Heritage Foundation*, interpreted the increase as an indication of the difference in people's perception before and after the presidential election. "I think many perceive that the Obama administration is packed more to the left than President Obama campaigned for as president," he said. Darling added that numbers also indicate Americans are generally unhappy with the nation's lawmakers. "They don't like Congress," he said. "The American people are very dissatisfied with the direction of the country. I think it's a bipartisan problem." The Gallup numbers show no change in the past year in the percentage of Americans who describe the Republican Party as "too conservative." The percentage of Americans who say the GOP leans too far to the right remains at 43 percent.

OBAMA MAKES BIG POLICY PROMISES TO GAYS

(EP News)--President Barack Obama opened the White House to hundreds of gay activists in early July, promising them that by the time he leaves office they would "have pretty good feelings" about his administration. During an event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of what gay activists consider the launch of their political movement -- several nights of violent riots in and around a New York gay bar -- Obama rattled off several policies he plans to implement to please his homosexual constituency. "I want you to know that I expect and hope to be judged not by words, not by promises I've made, but by the promises my administration keeps," he said. "We've been in office six months now. I suspect that by the time this administration is over ... you

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guys will have pretty good feelings about the Obama administration.”

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS ILLINOIS PARENTAL-NOTIFICATION LAW

(EP News)--The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld Illinois' parental-notification law as constitutional. The law had been on hold since it passed in 1995. In the decision, Judge Richard D. Cudahy wrote the law is "a permissible attempt to help a young woman make an informed choice about whether to have an abortion." Pro-life advocates have been waiting a long time for this kind of law. "Since *Roe v. Wade*, minors have not been protected under Illinois law," said Mailee Smith, staff counsel with Americans United for Life. She noted that the decision is likely to be appealed.

FADED GLORY: HOW THE NETWORKS TRIVIALIZE PATRIOTISM

(EP News)--The word "patriotism" conjures images of Old Glory, the Liberty Bell, soldiers landing on the beaches at Normandy and the Founding Fathers – at least in the hearts of most Americans. But on the broadcast networks, "patriotism" has become little more than a marketing term. ABC, CBS and NBC gave more emphasis to the "patriotic" trappings of holidays – like patriotic potato salad and red, white and blue fashion – than either "patriotic" ideals or the men and women who defend them.

Several times each year, Americans are called to celebrate their patriotism. The Culture and Media Institute analyzed five years of network coverage surrounding five such holidays – Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans' Day. As 2005 and 2009 saw new presidential terms, researchers also included Inauguration Day 2005 and 2009 in this study.

Analysts examined 139 transcripts from ABC, CBS, and NBC for the week leading up to each holiday in which the words "patriotism" and "patriotic" appeared. Their conclusions show the broadcast networks focused on the trivial side of patriotism, treating these days as they would Halloween or any other secular holiday. Other findings included:

- *American Ideals Forgotten:* Networks only discussed patriotic ideals – such as the pursuit of happiness, self-reliance, ambition, courage, unalienable rights, entrepreneurship, economic liberty, and the freedoms of speech, press and religion – just three times during the study. NBC even used "unalienable rights" as a segue to plead for immigration reform.
- *Networks Pay Little Attention to the Military:* The three networks labeled food "patriotic" nearly twice as often as members of the armed services (20 to 11). ABC's July 4, 2008, broadcast of "Good

Morning America" featured "patriotic" [potato] salad," "patriotic" cobbler and "patriotic" chicken wings. Viewers didn't see "patriotic" soldiers, Marines, sailors or airmen in the broadcast.

- *Patriotic Potato Salad:* Of the 118 "patriotic" labels, 31 percent (37 out of 118) used in network broadcasts applied to food, fashion, music and decorations. Especially around Independence Day, networks were more concerned about helping viewers create "patriotic" picnics than anything else.
- *Media Deflect Obama's Patriotism Problem:* Twenty-five references to Obama's patriotism aired around Independence Day 2008 and focused largely on the candidate's new-found willingness to wear an American flagpin on his lapel. Networks helped convince viewers he was the victim of petty criticism from his conservative rivals. Larger questions regarding Obama's patriotism were ignored. Those included his association with anti-Americans such as William Ayers, a terrorist who bombed the Pentagon, and the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, a preacher who damned America – neither of whom was mentioned during the study time period.

R.I. STILL ONLY N.E. STATE WITHOUT GAY MARRIAGE

(EP News)--Rhode Island will remain the only New England state not to embrace same-sex marriage, at least until the Legislature reconvenes in September. The General Assembly adjourned abruptly at 1 a.m. Saturday after a marathon session, leaving several pieces of legislation in limbo, including bills on both sides of the marriage issue. The Assembly is expected to meet for one day in July, and resume regular meetings in September. Advocates for special rights for homosexuals are looking to pave the way to full-fledged gay marriage. Family advocates are trying to introduce a marriage-protection amendment. Many lawmakers and analysts have said such an amendment would stand a good chance with voters if it ever gets to the ballot. "I think that if you put it to the voters on a statewide basis," said Rep. Jon Brien, D-Woonsocket, "gay marriage would fail."

POLL SHOWS ABORTION HARMS WOMEN

(EP News)--Fifty-three percent of respondents to a recent Marist College Poll said abortion harms women, while about a quarter (26 percent) said it improves a woman's life. Georgette Forney, president of Anglicans for Life and co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, said there's a misguided mentality today that abortion is good for women, but personal experience teaches a different lesson. "What we've done when we've had the abortion," she said, "is we've just exchanged one problem for a variety of other problems." And Forney noted that since you won't hear this from the mainstream media they took their message to the streets. "They really don't want to cover our story. Or if they do, they always want to

juxtapose it with 10 women who love their abortion experience."

MARRIAGE AMENDMENT DEFENDED IN WISCONSIN

(EP News)--Wisconsin Family Action, with the help of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), has taken the extraordinary step of filing a lawsuit with the state Supreme Court to stop the governor and Legislature from violating the state's marriage amendment. The lawsuit will try to undo the recognition of "domestic partnerships" in the 2010-11 state budget that was signed by the governor. The recognition grants to same-sex couples many of the same legal rights reserved exclusively for marriage. In 2006, 59 percent of Wisconsin voters approved the state's marriage-protection amendment, which defines marriage in the state Constitution as solely the union of one man and one woman. The amendment also states that "legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state." The lawsuit was filed July 23.

INDIANA'S PENCE SEEKS TO DENY TAX DOLLARS TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(EP News)--U.S. Rep. Mike Pence is expected to offer an amendment to a public-health funding bill that aims to withhold public funds from Planned Parenthood. From 2007 to 2008, Planned Parenthood received nearly \$350 million of American taxpayer money, and provided more than 300,000 abortions. The amendment states that "None of the funds made available under this Act shall be available to Planned Parenthood for any purpose under title X of the Public Health Services Act." The funding bill is scheduled to come before the House in late July.

POLLSTER: CHRISTIANS LACK UNDERSTANDING ON KEY ISSUES

(EP News)--Christians don't have a thorough knowledge of the Fairness Doctrine, hate-crimes legislation or the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), according to recent research by Wilson Research Strategies. CEO Chris Wilson said the data examined suggest that Christians don't fully understand the negative impact of these policy proposals on the ministries they support. "The recent change in control of both the White House and Congress has reintroduced the possibility of the Fairness Doctrine being revived," he said. "Ministries would avoid any commentary that could be interpreted as relating to political or policy issues or risk action by the FEC. Stations would feel pressure to pro-actively drop some radio ministries in favor of music or left-leaning content. There is a clear need for a widespread and coordinated education campaign to ensure that Christians have the information they need to make an informed decision on all of these issues when action on them in Washington becomes imminent."

SENATE OKS SWEEPING "HATE-CRIMES" LEGISLATION

(EP News)--By a voice vote July 13, the U.S. Senate approved an expansion of the federal "hate-crimes" law. The legislation creates a new class of crimes based on the victim's gender, sexual orientation or "gender identity." Pastors who preach against homosexuality could face prosecution if they are found to have "induced" a hate crime against a self-identified homosexual by preaching from the Bible. The House passed a similar bill in April, and President Barack Obama supports the legislation. The Senate approved an amendment from Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., which reiterated that the Constitution protects religious speech.

W.V. SCHOOL BOARD UPHOLDS RIGHTS OF ALL KIDS

(EP News)--A West Virginia school board has voted unanimously not to include "sexual orientation" as a special category in a new cultural-diversity policy – marking a significant victory for parents and pro-family advocates who used a Focus on the Family resource. Family advocates said if sexual orientation was not removed from the bullying policy by the Kanawha County School Board, it would have created a special class of protection for some students based on sexual orientation or gender identity, while leaving others unprotected. It could also have set up a system that would be ripe for reverse discrimination. Jeremiah Dys, president of The Family Policy Council of West Virginia, said adult activists are trying to push an agenda at the expense of children's education. "We don't need to create an inequitable system of justice within our public school system simply to cater to a radical homosexual agenda," he said.

MARRIAGE SUPPORTERS TURN IN MARRIAGE PETITIONS

(EP News)--The Stand for Marriage Coalition in Maine is asking for a question on the November ballot that would restore the definition of marriage as one man and one woman. To that end, they have turned in 100,000 petition signatures. They only needed 55,000 signatures to qualify. In May, the Legislature voted to allow gay marriage, making Maine the fifth state to okay the practice. Gov. John Baldacci signed the bill into law. Question 1 would repeal the law. Executive Director of the Christian Civic League of Maine Mike Heath says the response is encouraging. "As we've known for years," he said, "when this matter is made plain to the public there is huge resistance to it and opposition to it."

GAY ACTIVISTS BANKROLL OPPOSITION TO PRO-MARRIAGE STATE SENATOR

(EP News)--Pennsylvania state Sen. John Eichelberger, R-Hollidaysburg, sponsored a constitutional amendment in May that would protect marriage from redefinition. In response, activists set up Keystone Progress,

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an entity dedicated to “progressive” politics in the state, but specializing in bringing down the Republican freshman. The group has ties to Tim Gill and others who have set up similar organizations in other states. The tactic, according to Eichelberger, is designed to send a message to other lawmakers. “They’re going to be afraid to come forward, they’re going to be afraid to sign on as co-sponsors,” he explained. “They’re going to be afraid to make that vote.” To date, tens of thousands of dollars have been spent on the effort to discredit Eichelberger. Most of the money is coming from Gill-associated groups in California and Colorado.

IRS DROPS INVESTIGATION OF MINNESOTA PASTOR

(EP News)--The Internal Revenue Service has withdrawn its plans to audit Pastor Gus Booth over sermons he preached as part of last September’s Pulpit Initiative, a project of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). Booth sent the tax agency a copy of sermons he preached at Warroad Community Church concerning May and November elections. After launching an audit of the church in August 2008, the IRS recently sent a letter announcing that it is closing its examination of the sermons — due to a procedural problem. Booth said he was disappointed with the decision. He had hoped that the case would provide additional clarity for pastors regarding what they can and cannot say from the pulpit.

WASHINGTON MARRIAGE DEFENSE GETS CLOSER TO BALLOT

(EP News)--More than 138,000 signatures have been gathered in Washington state to allow the people to repeal a domestic-partnership law that was passed by the state Legislature. Protect Marriage Washington turned in petitions on Saturday containing more than the minimum 120,577 signatures. State election workers will now certify the names and if enough are deemed valid, the issue would appear on the November ballot. It would allow the people to decide the fate of the domestic partner benefits legislation. Marriage supporters have also filed suit against the Washington secretary of state to prevent the release of the names of petition signers. That step was taken because opponents have threatened to publish the names and addresses in order to intimidate marriage supporters.

DEMOCRATS PURPORT TO SEEK “COMPROMISE” ON ABORTION

(EP News)--In a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi about health-care reform, some Democratic lawmakers have urged “common ground” on the issue of abortion. But life advocates say look closer at what they’re asking for. U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan is leading the coalition that wants to allow health-insurance companies to decide whether to

cover abortion: “(We) believe that a common ground solution is to include language in the final legislation that makes clear that no insurance company will be required to pay for an abortion except in extraordinary circumstances,” the Ohio Democrat wrote in the letter to Pelosi. But according to Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, it’s all a ruse. “Congressman Tim Ryan is... working actively with the abortion lobby,” he said, “in order to confuse the public.”

MEDIA FINALLY ADMIT HEALTH-CARE REFORM TO INCLUDE ABORTION

(EP News)--The mainstream news media are finally reporting a major problem with health-care reform — it would mandate insurance coverage for abortion. The topic was picked up by The Associated Press Thursday and carried in newspapers and Web sites around the world. Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the secretariat of pro-life activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said no one with government health insurance would have the option of exempting themselves from the coverage. That means insurance premiums and tax dollars would pay for abortions. “This is the opposite of health care,” he said. “This is something that takes life instead of enhancing or saving life.”

REACTION TO OBAMA’S POLICIES SHOWS UP IN POLLING

(EP News)--Two gubernatorial races have Republicans in commanding leads. Public Policy Polling shows the Virginia Republican candidate for governor, Robert McDonnell with a 14-point lead over Democrat Creigh Deeds. Dr. Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, said President Barack Obama’s policies are the reason. “If Obama continues the downward slide, if health care continues to be very controversial, and other issues involved with Obama continue to be unpopular,” he said, “then I would expect McDonnell to win.” New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine is facing an uphill battle with Republican Christopher Christie who also leads by 14 points.

HOUSE VOTES TO GIVE FDA GREATER POWERS

(JBS)--Yet another bill that would give the Food and Drug Administration new powers over our food supply has been introduced and passed in the House of Representatives. This new bill, known as the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 2749), was passed on July 30 by a vote of 283-142.

H.R. 2749 is just one of several bills in Congress that would expand the powers of the FDA. What are the differences between one bill and another? Anyone’s guess is as good as another! This bill, like many others, was literally rushed through the voting process leaving House members little-to-no time to read, debate, or offer any significant amendments on the legislation.

WASHINGTON MARRIAGE PROTECTION ON TRACK FOR BALLOT

(EP News)--If the number of petition signatures being verified remains at the current rate, an effort to protect marriage in Washington state will appear on the November ballot. The effort is aimed at overturning a domestic-partnership law by letting voters decide. Because it’s ordinary for some signatures to be rejected, Protect Marriage Washington turned in 137,689 when only 120,577 were needed to qualify. After 35,000 names were checked, the rejection rate was 11.5 percent. If that level is sustained for the rest of the petitions, the referendum will appear on the ballot.

IDAHO BIBLE-AS-TEXTBOOK PLAN MAY FACE ACLU CHALLENGE

(EP News)--Nampa Classical Academy administrators in Nampa, Idaho, plan to use the Bible as a textbook in a secular manner. That has prompted an investigation by the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho to determine whether using the Bible violates the “separation of church and state.” Isaac Moffett, director of operations and a founder of the Academy, said there is no reason to exclude the Bible. “You cannot understand civilization,” he explained, “without first understanding the religious background that they come from.” Gateways to Better Education President and Founder Eric Buehrer said as long as the school uses the Bible in an academic sense, there is no problem. “They’re perfectly within constitutional guidelines,” he noted, “and there is no, quote-unquote, separation of church and state problem.”

DEMOCRATS SHUT DOWN CAPITOL MAIL ROOM

(EP News)--Democrats are not letting Republican House members send letters to constituents that are critical of health-care reform, according to a report in Roll Call. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, created a chart to illustrate the proposed health-care plan, but Democrats claimed the chart was misleading. Brady says that’s laughable. “It’s almost as if they object to America having a say in this massive health-care bill,” he said. GOP members said the majority party was preventing them from communicating with their constituents. “This is, I think, the most outrageous example of censorship since I’ve been to Congress,” Brady noted. “It’s not censorship of Republican members. It’s of America.”

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES BENEFITS FOR GAY SPOUSES

(EP News)--The House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce Issues passed domestic partnership benefits on a 5-to-3 party-line vote. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., sponsored the bill, which would grant benefits to domestic partners, defined as “an adult unmarried person living with another adult unmarried person of the same sex in a committed, intimate relationship.” Tom McClusky, vice president of Family Research Council Action, said the bill will likely move quickly through the House. “This is just one part of what this administration and the Democratic leadership is trying to do,” he said, “to help pay off the homosexual lobby that helped them get elected.”



From the Pen of a Country Preacher

Milburn R. Cockrell
(1941 - 2002)



The Conversion of Lydia

“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, after they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief

city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us” (Acts 16:6-15).

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The Conversion of

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The events of this account occurred at the beginning of Paul's Second Missionary Journey into Europe. The missionary team consisted at this time of the Apostle Paul, Silas, Luke, Timothy, and perhaps others. They arrived in Philippi and rested a few days before beginning the work of the evangelization of Philippi. This was one of the famous cities of Europe at that time. Philippi had been repaired and adorned by Philip the father of Alexander the Great, and after him was named. This city was colonized by native Italians and enjoyed the privileges of an Italian city. Chiefly inhabited by discharged soldiers, it was a stronghold of defence on the frontiers.

In the story of Lydia we see one of the most graphic and moving conversions in the entire Bible. She is a mighty trophy of converting grace. It is not written that she was quickened, and twenty years later she was saved, and then ten years later she was baptized. This woman was converted and baptized in a very brief space of time. The means of her conversion were the ordinary means of grace---the preaching of the gospel.

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is plain from our text that the early missionaries were guided in their work by the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit forbade them to preach in Asia and Bithynia (vv. 6-7). Here we see how completely the Spirit controlled the lives of these first-century preachers. These men were wholly yielded to the sovereign Holy Spirit. In the New Testament churches the Holy Spirit was the administrator of evangelistic work. He directed their journeys and appointed their fields of labor. Often in our day a mission board or a missionary committee selects the field of labor for a missionary instead of the Holy Spirit.

While in Troas Paul had a Divinely wrought vision one night: **"There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us."** Paul gathered his companions together and started into Macedonia, being persuaded that the Lord had called them to go there and to preach the gospel of grace (v. 10).

Modern-day evangelists do not have time to waste for the Spirit to guide them. This might hinder the increase of funds and prevent a big brag about how many decisions they got. The would-be-soul-winners of this age have little or no time for the Holy Spirit, for they boast that they can lead any sinner to Christ with their super salesmanship. Paul and his companions were of another mind. They did not go unless the Spirit moved them and empowered them (Ezek. 37:9). They desired to see men quickened by

the Spirit and converted to Christ. In this respect Paul and his team greatly differed from the present day statistic-hungry preachers.

The Apostle Paul did not come to Philippi for a five-day crusade at the invitation of the Philippian Ministerial Alliance. Neither were he and his companions the Pauline Evangelistic Association, Inc. They knew nothing of the modern-day para-church organizations. They came to Philippi because the Holy Spirit and the church at Antioch had sent them (Acts 13:2, 4). They were acting under the authority of their church, for they believed the church was God's appointed agent in evangelism. They knew that the Great Commission was given to the church, not some evangelistic association or mission board.

THE RIVER SIDE PRAYER MEETING

On the Jewish Sabbath they went to a river side prayer meeting. Evidently, this spot was set aside for public worship. The Jews often had their places of prayer near a river that they might attend to the rites of purification. This river was probably the Gangas River which was about a mile out of the city. These places of prayer were called "oratories of prayer." They generally consisted of elevated stone walls without a roof. There were some kind of seats there for Paul and his friends **"sat down."** The only worshippers on that day were women. As to whether they were Jews or Gentile proselytes we are not told, although both may have been in the group.

Please mark the words: **"The women which resorted thither."** Where were the men? Maybe they were like many today who do not have time to attend public worship or a prayer meeting. Since the entire group was female, Paul and his fellow-laborers spoke **"unto the women!"** What a tribute here to female piety! Women as a rule are more gloriously inclined than men. Thank God for the pious women in our churches! Heaven be praised for their stability and support of God's servants!

THE WOMAN LYDIA

Verse 14 gives us a concise account of the first European convert of Paul. First, her name was Lydia, a very common female name among the Greeks and the Romans. It would seem that her name coincided with the name of her country. She was a Lydian by birth, for Thyatira was a city in Lydia. This should be a favorite name with all Christian mothers.

Second, as to her vocation she was **"a seller of purple."** Lydia was a business woman; she was not idle (I Tim. 5:13). It is not said that she wore purple, but that she sold either purple dye or purple cloth. However, she did not allow her business to keep her from prayer meetings. This was true of her even in her unconverted

state.

Third, it is said that her native home was Thyatira, which was a long distance from Philippi. Doubtless she was born and bred there, maybe even married there to her husband. This is where she became acquainted with the trade she was now engaged in. Thyatira was famous for its purple dye made from the secretions of the mollusk or from the foot of the madder plant. Perhaps her husband had emigrated on this business and died at Philippi. The trade being prosperous, the widow continued the business assisted by her servants and children.

Fourth, she worshipped God according to the knowledge she had. She was not likely a proselyte like the Ethiopian eunuch and Cornelius. Lydia was no harlot, but a woman of good moral character. She was a formal female worshipper of the God of Israel. But this was not good enough. She needed to be a believer in Jesus Christ, for there is no coming to God as a Father except through the Mediator.

THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED

Lydia was not subjected to the Sunday morning circus, or told of God's four spiritual laws. She did not even see a sign from Heaven. There were no cloven tongues of fire, no earthquake, nothing unusual. Lydia had the greatest privilege in all the world; she heard the simple gospel of God's saving grace preached by Paul. The text of the sermon and the message that followed are not given here. We can be sure from verse 10 that Paul preached the gospel to her. He told her how every person is a sinner, how Jesus Christ died to save sinners, and how by repentance and faith in Christ sinners are forgiven and justified.

Today I hear a lot about people being saved without the gospel. Lydia was not saved without the gospel but by the preaching of the gospel. She heard the gospel because God sent her a preacher (Rom. 10:14-15). This has always been God's plan. People hear the gospel, repent of their sins, believe in Christ, and are converted (Acts 4:4).

EFFICACIOUS GRACE EXERTED

Weigh heavily the words: **"Whose heart the Lord opened."** The gospel would have been of no effect to Lydia had the Lord not opened her heart. The word **"opened"** implies her heart had before been closed and shut up by ignorance, hardness, and unbelief. An unconverted soul is shut up and fortified against Christ as was Jericho against Joshua (Josh. 6:1). It is like a dark house securely locked up without inhabitants. There is no spiritual light in it, and it is empty of the grace of God, the fear of God, and the love of God. The Spirit of Christ does not dwell there, but foul demon spirits who love darkness.

Conversion work is God's work. He must work in the sinner both to will and do His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). God must

regenerate the sinner, enlighten his mind, and gently draw him to Christ. Without this work, no man can understand or enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). No preacher, be he Paul or someone else, can convert a sinner by training, preparation, eloquence, subtlety, or wit, or power of persuasion. The gospel must come not in word only, but in the power of the Holy Spirit (I Thess. 1:5), for only then is the gospel **"the power of God unto salvation"** (Rom. 1:16).

Conversion work is heart work. Lydia did not give her heart to Jesus, nor did she open up her heart's door so little Jesus could get in. No! No! This is not the way it was. Rather, the Lord opened her heart; He gave her a new heart by efficacious grace. The Lord said in Jeremiah 24:7: **"And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. . ."** Again he says in Ezekiel 36:26: **"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."** If the sinner's heart is opened it must be opened by God. If he is to be saved God must give him a spiritual heart transplant, seeing his old natural heart is incurably wicked (Jer. 17:9).

Paul could preach the gospel to Lydia, but he could not open her heart. She could not even open her own wicked heart, but the God of all grace could and did. She was renewed in the spirit of her mind and prepared to receive the truth of the gospel. The Holy Spirit caused Lydia to see her wretched condition and her sinful state by nature. She was made to see the insufficiency of her works and worth, and the importance of the finished work of Christ for her. The Holy Spirit made her willing to come to Christ and to surrender to His lordship. Oh, my friend, between hearing the gospel and heeding it the Lord must open the sinner's heart!

In this example of primitive preaching it is made clear that more depends on the preparation of the hearer than on the preacher's skill. The good seed may be sown, but it will only produce fruit where the ground is broken to receive it. Modern preachers never seem to realize this. They are content with an easy believism which leaves lost sinners deceived, doomed, and damned. Instead of telling sinners that God must give them a new heart as the Bible says, they tell totally depraved sinners with an incurably wicked heart to give their heart to Jesus. I am confident that the Lord would rather have their liver than their corrupt heart!

How many times have we heard the modern evangelist cry: "Open up your heart and let Jesus come in. The knob is on the inside, and unless you open the door of your heart, Jesus can't come

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The Conversion of

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in." Such man-centered evangelism is God-dishonoring. It implies that man is stronger than God, and that man's eternal destiny is in his hands. This is the language of free will and not free grace. Imagine the God of Heaven and earth being unable to come into a sinner's heart! Jesus Christ says in the Bible: "**I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it**" (Rev. 3:8). There is nothing too hard for the Lord. If He could tear down the walls of Jericho He surely can open the sinner's heart as He did in the case of Lydia.

The Arminian message of the modern evangelist discourages sinners from seeking the Savior. It makes men at ease in their sins and causes them to wait until the eleventh hour to want to be saved. It allows sinners to bargain with God instead of bowing to His sovereign will. It permits the powerful sinner to do something with Jesus, instead of calling on Jesus to do something for him. This man-centered evangelism of today makes the sinner look to himself instead of the blessed Savior.

Sinner friend, you cannot be saved unless God opens your heart as he did Lydia's. If he is not pleased to open your heart by converting grace you are doomed to everlasting Hell-fire without any hope. Your eternal destiny is not in your own hands; it is solely dependent upon the power and mercy of a sovereign God. The gospel is good news to poor deaf, blind, dead sinners that Christ can do for them what they cannot do for themselves. God can give you repentance and faith to believe the gospel. He can open your heart that you may believe it to the saving of your soul. Your cry should be: "**God, be merciful to me a sinner,**" for apart from His mercy you are Hell-bent, Hell-born, and Hell-deserving.

LYDIA OBEYED THE TRUTH

When God opened Lydia's heart "**she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.**" This not only consisted of obeying the gospel by believing it, but of her becoming a real disciple of Jesus Christ. Saving faith produces obedience. Her heart had been changed; therefore, she "**obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered**" unto her by Paul. We are not Christ's unless we learn of Christ and follow Him. When the heart is opened by the grace of God, it will attend to the Word of God. Those who do not obey the Word of God have never been saved by the grace of God!

Unlike modern evangelists, Paul and his missionary companions made Christians, not church members. Lydia was a convert who actually got converted! Paul did not need to use a "follow-up program" on her. This woman became a real follower of Jesus Christ---she proved

her faith by her works. Paul did not even have to ask Lydia to raise her hand, or to walk the aisle of the church and "get saved." He never bothered to tell her to come to the mourner's bench and pray through. No decision cards were passed out and no invitational hymn was sung. When the Lord opened Lydia's heart she became willing to obey the Lord in all His commandments.

Now compare Paul's method in evangelism with the modern methods used today and what do you see? Paul depended upon the Holy Spirit to use the gospel to convert sinners. The modern evangelists look to the gospel gimmicks, preacher-puppeteers, excessive emotional pressure, psychological manipulations, and a handshake, to get on-the-spot visible decisions. Shallow decisions are being substituted for an experience of grace in the heart---believing with the head instead of believing with the heart. Such superficial evangelism with its man-centered methods and techniques have taken the place of Holy Spirit wrought repentance and true discipleship. Sinners are being told to make a little decision as some kind of a Hell-insurance policy; they are being told of a savior from Hell but not a Savior from sin! This Arminian evangelism which makes man his own savior is enlarging the population of Hell and filling our churches with vile reprobates. God help us! We are not seeing people born again, but we are seeing people stillborn as a result of this salesmanship soul-winning.

PROVED HER FAITH

The Apostle Paul did not tell Lydia to "join the church of her choice" and then to have a joy ride to Heaven. This woman was instructed in the need of church membership. She was baptized probably by Paul, and she became the first member of the Philippian Church. Even her servants and children who received the gospel followed the Lord in baptism. There is not a word here about infant baptism.

In the apostolic church when a person was converted they immediately followed the Lord in baptism. Jesus Christ taught: "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved**" (Mark 16:16). The modern evangelist of our generation often has a difficult time getting his converts to be baptized and to become church members. Paul did not have this problem because the people who heard him had their hearts changed by a miracle of Divine grace.

Lydia entreated Paul and his friends to go home with her. She did not make some mere formal request, but she insisted that they go with her to her residence. She would not take "no" for an answer. She "**constrained**" them. Her home was their home. I believe that a truly converted person will welcome the servant of God into his home. He will share with the preacher some of his temporal things,

having received spiritual things of the preacher.

CONCLUSION

Have you ever been truly converted as was Lydia? Did the Lord open your heart to receive the gospel of grace? Were you really saved before you were baptized? Did you ever truly repent of your sins against God? Have you received a heart to know God? Are you a true disciple of Jesus Christ? Do you have churchanity or Christianity? If you know not my Lord, I invite you to hear the gospel, repent

of your sins, believe God's Word, obey Christ, and profess your faith publicly in Him.

I would solemnly pray that today salvation may come to your house. May this be the day that you will make your calling and election sure. May it please the Lord to open your heart that you may attend unto the words I have spoken unto you this day that you may go on your way rejoicing in a Savior's love.



CELLBLOCK TO CELLBLOCK

By David G. Hoffman

Encouragement and thoughts from a prisoner to other prisoners and readers.

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried" (Rev. 2:10).



Greetings, grace, and peace to you, dear reader. I pray this finds you doing well and in the highest of spirits.

I'm doing well, gearing up for another semester of college. I've just about given up on the culinary class. Another new class starts in a couple of weeks and if I'm not in it then I'm going to put my nose to the grind-stone in academic classes here at Jester III.

However, I haven't given up on getting a job back in the kitchen. It seems that our kitchen captain got herself in a wreck and was escorted off the unit---effectively fired. So there will be a regime change, and like all regime changes around the world, with it will come new opportunities. I'm hoping it will give me the opportunity to go back to work in the kitchen as a baker.

If I am hired as a baker I'll have just enough time to earn an On-The-Job-Training certificate before my parole eligibility date. Then I would ride out the rest of my time baking while I wait on parole.

In the meantime I'm sweating out the hot, humid southeast Texas summer. And boy, is it H-O-T!

Please continue to pray for me, dear reader, as I continue to stumble down this rocky, sometimes pothole filled path they call prison.

I sometimes run across a book I think should be in the locker or on the bookshelf of every one of my readers. And this time it is Bro. Tom Ross' wonderful book, *Abandoned Truth: The Doctrines of Grace*.

It is very true that the Doctrines of Grace have been largely abandoned, and mostly shunned, spurned, and forgotten by so-called, "mainstream" Christianity. The 'free-willers' reject the Doctrines of Grace because they place God in His rightful place---as Sovereign Lord over all that is and ever will be. They point to God as the beginning, the instigator, and

the author of our salvation. Not man. Not some mumbled, scripted prayer. Not the will of man. BUT GOD!

The Free-willers will have you believe that our God is some powerless being sitting in the corner of Heaven wringing His hands and grieving because lost sinners will not choose Him by chanting the "Sinner's Prayer."

But God's Word teaches that He chooses, not man. And Brother Ross' book is an excellent study on the Biblical doctrines that prove this to be true. Every point is proven through Scripture and the fact that these doctrines were once the prevailing teachings in early Christian churches is proven through historical quotes from early theologians and historians.

In the introduction Bro. Ross states that he has "attempted to prove that the system of faith known as the doctrines of grace is undeniably supported by the Holy Scriptures." And "only the doctrines of grace completely ascribe all glory to God in the salvation of unworthy sinners. God is exalted to the highest place of honor and dignity, whereas man is shown to be helpless and hopeless apart from sovereign grace. No doctrine that impugns the majesty and sovereignty of God by attempting to exalt man's supposed free-will is glorifying to God." (Pg. 21)

I believe Bro. Ross' book does an excellent job of proving the doctrines of grace and should be studied by all true believers whether incarcerated or not. *Abandoned Truth* lays out the doctrines in simple, everyday language that all should find easy to understand.

Abandoned Truth: The Doctrines of Grace can be purchased through The Berea Baptist Church Bookstore.

Until next time, may the grace of God be with you. . .



**BEREA BAPTIST BANNER
Financial Report
7-1-2009 to 7-31-2009**

Beginning Balance\$4,771.22

RECEIPTS:

Amazing Grace B. C. , Stockdale, TX.....	25.00
B. C. of Brimfield, Brimfield, IL	25.17
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	1,021.36
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL.....	60.00
Berea M. B. C., West Point, 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.....	150.00
Buffalo Valley B. C., Clay, WV	100.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL.....	25.00
Faith M. B. C., Lynn, AR.....	25.00
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME	20.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY.....	100.00
Grace M. B. C., Marion, IL.....	50.00
Grace B. C., Winston-Salem, NC	50.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK.....	35.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	200.00
L. H. Farrell, Des Allemands, LA.....	100.00
Leroy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM.....	100.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH.....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL.....	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR.....	50.00
South Park M.B.C., Seattle, WA	25.00
Southside B. C., Fulton, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL.....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Wake Forest, NC.....	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Warren, OH.....	75.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	25.00
Subscriptions	166.00
Anon.....	150.00
Dividing checks.....	150.00
Sub Total	\$3,877.53
TOTAL.....	\$8,648.75

EXPENDITURES:

Printing.....	581.71
Postage	702.31
Supplies	97.00
*Wages	3,063.00
FICA	175.90
Dividing Checks	150.00
Total Expenditures	4,769.92
ENDING BALANCE	\$3,878.83

*Extra wages were for extra help on several projects we are working on. These funds reimbursed by Berea Baptist Church.

**BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST
Financial Report
7-1-2009 to 7-31-2009**

Beginning Balance\$11,416.25

RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	225.00
Berea M. B. C., West Point, TN	50.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY.....	100.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY... ..	100.00
.....	475.00
TOTAL.....	11,891.25

EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time	600.00
Checks	15.25
Tapes	135.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	750.25
.....	\$11,141.00
Interest	+ .86
.....	11,141.86
Less Corbin, KY des.	-648.52
ENDING BALANCE	\$10,492.48

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance\$808.52

RECEIPTS:

.....	808.52
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EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time (WCCT)	160.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$648.52

What Is A Revival?

By John C. Williams

I was brought up in a home that was religious but was not godly. I never remember family prayers in the home, or my father ever speaking to me about the things of God. I was left at twelve years of age to support myself. I started to work in a foundry as an apprentice, and at that tender age when most boys are still at school, I started to work for my daily bread, leaving home at five o'clock in the morning and getting back at almost six o'clock at night. I do not remember much of childhood. Then I became connected with church, and in due course became a preacher. I preached my first sermon on my twenty-first birthday. It is possible to be active in the service of the church without having any knowledge of God, or of the redeeming grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. As time went on I became imbued with socialistic ideas, and preached democracy. In the furtherance of this plan, I had a class of five hundred or six hundred working men on Sunday afternoons in great industrial center in England, where I then lived. We met under the flag of Christianity, and propagated the principles of Christian socialism. I believed at that time that there was a divine spark in every man, and it only needed the right and proper environment for that spark to be fanned into a flame. I believed that the flame would so grow that the man himself should by the process of a divine evolution; develop after the image and conformity of the Lord Jesus Christ. I believed it sincerely; I preached it to these men.

I GO TO WRITE UP THE SPIRIT'S WORKING

In the years 1914 and 1915 there appeared, from time to time, strange stories in the press as to extraordinary manifestations of divine power taking place in Wales. I am a Welshman, and coming from Welsh stock, this appealed to me. At that time I was writing a good deal, and I had a request from an editor of one of the magazines of the day asking if I could go down to Wales and report on these scenes that were taking place and give an unvarnished opinion as to what was the meaning of it all. So I arranged my business, and went down to Wales. A minister of the Gospel, and also a deacon, went with me. Like Moses, we stepped aside to see the great sight of a bush that was burning, and yet not consumed. The three of us went in a critical spirit. My deacon friend was an Englishman, and I said to him, "When we get there, we shall see that this is merely emotion, and we shall be able to trace it to its source. Let us three, independently, take notes, and at the end of each day compare our notes and thus make a judicial summary, and settle the whole thing."

I recognized everything but God. Not one of the three of us knew God; neither the minister, nor his deacons, for I was a deacon, too. We knew a great deal of creed and dogma; but of God the Father, of God the Son, and of God the Holy Ghost, we discovered that we knew nothing of the triune God. * * * * *

The dear old minister looked at me, and said: "My brother, have you a word from the Lord?" Well, now, if he had asked me to give an address I could have done it, if he had asked me to preach a sermon, ---but to put it that way, "Have you got a word from the Lord?" Well, I got up, opened my mouth, and stood there for quite a time with it open. Not a sound!

It was a dark January morning, and as we came near the place where I thought Evan Roberts was at work we called the porter, and said, "Come here can you tell me where the revival is?" He just gave me one look, began to cry, and said, "I don't know, but it is in me!" It did not matter where you were. It reminds me of the days when even the bells of the horses shall have inscribed upon them, "**Holiness unto the Lord**" (Zech. 14:20). That is revival. It is revival when men in the street are afraid to open their lips and give vent to blasphemy that may be in their hearts because of the Spirit and the atmosphere around them. It is revival when sinners fall down, without any apparent reason; when they cry out for mercy at the street corner; when the whole town is overawed by the presence of God; when every shop becomes a pulpit, and every home becomes a sanctuary, and every heath becomes an altar, and every lip is touched by the flame of God's presence. And that is how it was in Wales. Whosoever spoke, spoke with bated breath. It was as if men were walking in the corridors of the heavenly city, as if they were conscious of the presence of the omnipotent God, and walking softly and humbly before Him. We reached the place, and the station was a mile away from the village. I know nothing of how I covered that mile but they told me afterward it was just like Bunyan, running from the City of Destruction. When the Spirit of God puts His book into a man and begins to draw, neither seas nor continents, neither the eyes of men, nor the fears of the world can stop the march of that soul, until it finds peace. The drawing power of God was manifested that night and that day; and there in the dawn of that wonderful morning, there was a man running for his life.

At last I came to the church, and outside of the chapel I found a group of people, and said, "Where is Evan Roberts?" Mark you; I thought that he would be up at any hour of the day or night. "Whereabouts is Evan Roberts?" They said, "We do

not know." "Well where is the revival meeting?" Why, everywhere, of course." And so I asked, "Is there a meeting here?" "Oh, yes, there is a meeting on here, but you cannot go in." "Well, shall I have to go on to the next village? Is there any other chapel?" "Oh, yes, there are other chapels, but they are all filled." "But," I said, "It is only a quarter to eight in the morning." "Oh, that may be," they said. "Well, when did this service begin?" "Well it really began at six o'clock last night." And so it was. Men forgot the ordinary vocations of the day. Miners forgot to go down to the pit, and when they did go down into the bowels of the earth, those men gathered together in groups, and prayed to Almighty God. That is revival when grace spreads over the whole community. Down there in the depths prayer was being made for China, for India, and for the whole world by these men who had just come out of darkness.

SATAN'S TEMPORARY VICTORY

Some of the people came out of the chapel and we slipped in. My friends had overtaken me, and went in with me. We were seated just by the door. And there, all at once the Devil came in. It was as if I had been led into the very wilderness. The Devil came and said, "Well, now, you are making a fool of yourself. What about that article you have to write?" I said, "Yes, of course, what about that article?" My mind began to work, and the flesh lusted against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. The thoughts of men and the carnal mind that is in us are against God, and there the conflict was going on. At last it seemed as if the flesh triumphed, and I became cold and cynical. I began to analyze the whole thing from a fleshly standpoint and it seemed as if the Spirit of God withdrew and my old self was left.

Then I began to make notes, as the service went on. Oh, the singing and the prayers, ---first in English, then in Welsh, and then somebody would break out in French. It seemed as if all the languages were there, but there was no confusion, there was no lack of harmony, because God was the presiding genius of it all, and the Holy Spirit had charge of the meetings. As it went on, my heart grew colder and colder, until at last the enemy whispered, "You are one of those that cannot enter in; you are one of those that cannot be saved; this salvation, this grace, this power, is not for you. It may be for others, but it is not for you." How I hate the Devil! How I hate him for his lies, for his caricature of truth, for his malignant hatred of the children of men, for the lifelong misery he has brought into the world! How I glory in the cross of Jesus, in the triumph of Calvary that has put Satan under the feet of my Lord, in the liberation that comes to the captives who are imprisoned by Satan, in the glorious freedom that is the heritage of the children of God! That is the lie

◊ (Continued on page 178)

Outlines for Country Preachers by a Country Preacher

Sermon Outlines by Milburn Cockrell

MARKS OF THE UNSAVED Jeremiah 8:20

I. HE IS WITHOUT LIFE (Eph. 2:1).

1. The unregenerate are destitute of the principles and power of spiritual life, separated from God the fountain of life (Eph. 4:18).
2. Dead in law as a condemned criminal (John 3:18; Ezek. 18:4).
3. He cannot perform any spiritual good (Prov. 15:8). He does have animal life and mental powers.
4. He cannot improve his condition or aid others. Only God can raise the dead (John 5:24).

II. HE IS WITHOUT STRENGTH (Rom. 5:6).

1. Man by nature is weak, wicked, and powerless to do good. He cannot put himself in a savable state.
2. Here is man's total moral inability. We see how he is bankrupt of all moral and spiritual inclination toward God and holiness.
3. Man is so enfeebled by sin that he is not capable of fulfilling the law, atoning for the transgressions of it, or doing any good thing, or being able to put away the wrath of God, or devise a scheme of justification.
4. Man's inability to help himself is not recognized by heathen religions or some branches of Christianity.

III. HE IS WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS (Rom. 3:10).

1. There is not one single person on earth possessed of a righteousness that can meet the demands of God's holy law (Isa. 64:6).
2. No human being has in himself ever been righteous. Adam was innocent, but not righteous.
3. Man is not inherently righteous (Note Rom. 3:11-19).
4. Men are righteous only in Christ (Rom. 5:19), and by faith (Rom. 3:21-22; 4:3-8).

IV. HE IS WITHOUT HOPE (Eph. 2:12).

1. He has no hope in the promised Messiah, of the resurrection of life---no hope that is sure and steadfast, purifying and makes one not ashamed---no good hope through grace.
2. No ground of looking forward to a better time---no improved spiritual condition (I Cor. 15:19).
3. Those who are not Christians are hopeless. Those without faith are without hope, for without the promise there is no faith. Faith is the ground of promise, and faith is the ground of hope.
4. How miserable! A night without a star---a day without the Sun of Righteousness!

V. HE IS WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT (Jude 19).

1. He does not have the Spirit in regeneration or sanctification, in conviction and illumination, in adoption and comfort.
2. He does not have the Spirit as a pledge of heavenly glory---not under His gracious influence---does not feel His operations---nor experience communion with Him.
3. The Spirit is free, and sensual persons are slaves to sin. The Spirit is pure, and they are unclean. The flesh is contrary to the Spirit (Ga. 5:17).
4. The spirit of the natural man, his higher part, which ought to be the receiver of the Holy Spirit, is not so. It is not in its normal state---man is spiritually dead---separated from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Life (John 3:5-6).

IV. HE IS WITHOUT CHRIST (Eph. 2:12).

1. All lost sinners are in a Christless state---separated from God. Without any saving knowledge of Christ, nor interest in Him, no life or blessing from Him.
2. Better to be without bread and water than to be without Christ---better to be without a nickel or a friend---a home or a car.
3. How sad to be without a saving knowledge of Christ and at a distance from the gospel of grace.
4. The true Christian has Christ for him, in him, with him, and coming to receive him!

VII. HE IS WITHOUT GOD (Eph. 2:12).

1. Men have countless deities, but not God. How man needs God in this present evil world. Oh, to be in this world without a God to go to in times of trouble!
2. He has no faith in God, no living relation to Him, unconscious of His presence and providence.
3. He does not worship God, nor love Him, nor serve Him. A traveler to eternity without God! Standing on the grave without God! An immortal being without God!

What Is A Revival?

(Continued from page 177) ♦

that the Devil told me, that I could not be saved. Then somebody began to talk in Welsh. I had not heard any Welsh since I was eight years of age, but I listened and understood. Then some one began to sing. I cannot translate it in all the beauty and loveliness of its truth, ---it was something about the Lamb, the Lamb of Calvary. They sung that refrain over and over:

*"The Lamb, the Lamb, the bleeding Lamb,
The Lamb that died for me."*

And I found myself singing "The Lamb that died for me." All at once I realized what I was saying, "The Lamb that died for me." God said, "This is for you. The Devil is a liar; he was a liar from the beginning." The truth of God penetrated through my conscience until there was something in my soul that gripped, ---the Lamb that died for me. The next thing I knew was that I was standing up, and my voice sounded through that great church, "Oh, people, pray for me." The whole audience seemed to turn itself into a stream of intercession. As they prayed, I felt the power of God, and I knew it was God, God does not have to educate us, we know by the witness of the Holy Spirit that we are begotten of God, and that we have passed from death unto life. I knew it then, and I was overcome with the joy and the wonder of it.

Oh, people, do not lose the sense of wonder. Unless you become as little children, you cannot see the kingdom of God, and the child is full of wonder. You can never have a revival if you lose the sense of wonder. Do you wonder what God will do for you tonight? Did you come into His house hallowed by the prayers of His children, or as a matter of course as you would go into a store or into any other hall? Do you always come through that door, saying, "What will He do tonight?" "What will He say to me this morning?" "What has He for me?" as if no one else were in the world except you and your Lord? I have never lost that sense of wonder. I am always wondering what God is going to do, and He has done some strange things with me. At a time when most men retire into what they term a well-earned rest, at nearly sixty years of age, He took me out into the mission field, and landed me upon the borders of Russia, and then brought me back to London, and here I am in America. I am wondering what He will do next, and where I shall go. I am sure only of this, that I shall never go

anywhere without Him.

So, dear friends, there is revival when God takes possession of every faculty, when every part of your being is absolutely surrendered to Him. You cannot walk with God if there are two wills. There must be only one will, the dominating will of the divine Person. Do you know anything of the pressure, the burden of the sins of others? This is what I mean by burden: "**Lord, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things? And all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?**" Do you want a revival for your church? For the purpose of your church? You will not get it. But if you are stirred to the very depths of your being because the honor of God is jeopardized and because your Lord and Master is brought under the contempt of men; if you are crucified with Christ and have entered into His death; if you are willing to suffer with Him, and suffer because of Him; if the sin of the world around you hurts you, and causes your heart to throb and to ache until you cry out because of the very burden of it, "**Lord, how long, how long, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things?**" Ah, beloved, if that is why you want a revival you can have it.

Are you concerned because sin stalks through the land, and because the children of darkness, urged by the spirit of disobedience, are more blatant in their blasphemy than ever before? Does that break your heart and break you down before God, until you can neither preach nor pray nor speak because of the pressure and the burden of the sin of others? That is revival. The spirit of prayer is the gift of God. It is not an art, an accomplishment that can be acquired. A child can fall into it, while a wise man can pass over it. Revivals are when Christians have the spirit of prayer for revival, and a deep, continual and earnest desire for the salvation of sinners. This is what constitutes the spirit of prayer, and brings the salvation of sinners. It is not so much to save them from the penalty of their sins as to save them from dishonoring God, it is having God as the center in the saving of men and not because he is my brother, or my son, or a relative of my family. How often we pray for our relations, because they are our relations!

(Sunday School Times via News and Truths, Sept. 21, 1927)



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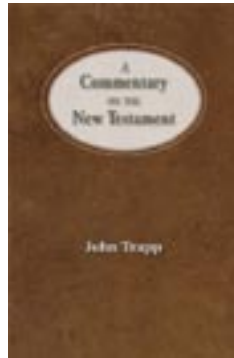


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The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Silsbee, TX would like to announce their 24th Annual Sovereign Grace Bible Conference.

The conference begins Friday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m. and will continue through the Lord's Day, October 18th.

Scheduled speakers are Elders Jerry Dodson, Larry Wilson, Tom Horn, Jimmy Nelson, Dan Taylor, Nathaniel Hille, Doug Newell IV, and Richard Perfecto.

For those that arrive on Friday, a light meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. The church will also provide lunch and dinner on Saturday and Sunday.

All are invited to attend.

For further information please contact Pastor José Serrano at (409) 385-9344 or email pastorserano@sbgcsilsbee.org.

The Providence Baptist Church of Louisville, KY and Pastor Kenneth Long would like to announce a Bible Conference September 26th - 27th.

Service time begins Saturday at 10:00 a.m. with Elders Lonnie Bennett, Tom Ross, Randy Titus and Mark Minney speaking. Sunday services begin at 10:00 a.m. with Elders Nathan Long, Billy Holbrook, Dan Gordon and Garner Smith scheduled to speak.

All are invited to attend the services.

For more information contact Pastor Long at (812) 967-1321.

The Victory Baptist Church of Chehalis, WA is in need of a pastor.

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Elder Andy Proctor is available for pulpit supply, mission work, special meetings and/or pastoral work. Any interested parties can contact him at (352) 895-1437 or email npbc5@juno.com.

Walking With God

(Continued from page 180) ☞

God which makes you want to obey and glorify Him, you have no right to call yourself His child. Jesus Christ said, **"If God were your father, ye would love me"** (John 8:42).

Moreover, we have it as a true command from our Lord that we are to "lay up treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:20). It is not pleasing to our Lord that we should come into His presence in the world to come as spiritual paupers. We can have eternal rewards, incorruptible treasures, in Heaven, if we will faithfully serve Him on earth.

Enoch walked with God because he believed in God as the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

NEWNESS OF LIFE

If you are a child of God and know what it means to walk with Him, you may learn from Enoch to maintain that walk, that habitual fellowship with God, to the end of life's pilgrimage. If you are not a child of God, believe in Him now as your Judge and as your Savior, and then having become a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus, rise to walk in newness of life and trust Him as your Rewarder according as you diligently seek Him.



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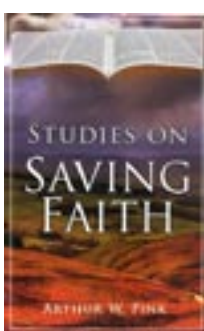
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Walking with God

By Rosco Brong
(1908 - 1985)

THE WAY TO PLEASE GOD IS TO WALK BY FAITH---TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

“Enoch walked with God” (Gen. 5:22-24).

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Heb. 11:5).

The word **“walk”** in Scripture often refers to the life, conduct, or behavior. So when we read that Enoch walked with God, the meaning is not merely that he took a few literal steps in the company of God, but that his life was a life of fellowship with God. The statement in Hebrews makes it clear that this walking with God, the conduct of life in fellowship with God, pleased God. The apostle John was writing about this kind of life in I John 1:6-7: **“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.”**

AGAINST THE WORLD

Enoch walked with God and so enjoyed fellowship with God while the world in general was departing from God. The world was walking in sin, becoming more and more sinful until the people of this world brought upon themselves the judgment of God in the flood of Noah's day. But while the people of the world walked in sin, Enoch walked with God.

It is still true that if we would walk with God, if we would have fellowship with Him, if we would be His friends, we must be separate from the world, we must count the world an enemy. **“Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”** (James 4:4).

Too many Christians would like to walk in fellowship with the people and in the customs of this world and still claim the fellowship and blessings of God. Too many of us have forgotten the teaching of Jesus that His true and faithful disciples are not of this world. Too many would like to escape the persecution which the Bible declares is the necessary experience of **“all that will live godly in Christ Jesus”** (II Tim. 3:12).

Enoch walked with God because he was not afraid to walk apart from and contrary to the world.

A HABITUAL WALK

“Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years,

and begat sons and daughters” (Gen. 5:22).

Many Christians try to walk with God a little while and perhaps even at repeated intervals in times of revival, but turn aside to walk with the world at other times. Surely such an inconsistent walk is not pleasing to God.

If we really know what it means to walk with God, to enjoy His company, and have found this to be a better way than the ways of the world, surely the wise course is always to walk in this better and happier way. Yet, how often do even the true people of God turn aside from fellowship with Him and return again, at least temporarily, to their old sinful ways!

Enoch walked with God not only for a day, or a year, or during a small part of his life, but made it his habitual practice; day by day, for over three hundred years, he walked with God. It was this consistent walk that obtained for him the testimony that he pleased God.

READY FOR HEAVEN

Enoch's fellowship with God was such, that at the end of his walk on earth he was ready for Heaven without the necessity of natural death and resurrection. He was **“translated that he should not see death”** (Heb. 11:5).

Certainly, even with the closest walk of fellowship with God in this world, we shall experience a great change when we move to realms above. But God's people are admonished in His Word to live in this world as citizens of Heaven. We shall have a better home in eternity or a better place in that home in proportion as we shall have spent our time here preparing for it.

This does not mean that getting to Heaven depends on our life here, but our position, our rewards there, on the authority of our Master, will be according to our works. Therefore we are advised,



“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2).

Of course, **“flesh and blood can not inherit the kingdom of God”** (I Cor. 15:50). Hence the necessity of the resurrection of the saints who die, or the translation of those who are still living when our Lord returns (I Cor. 15:51-54).

Undoubtedly, before we can enter into the presence of our Lord in glory, we must leave behind all that pertains to this present evil world. If we have lived worldly lives after trusting Christ for salvation, we shall indeed get to Heaven if we are truly His children, but **“so as by fire”** (I Cor. 3:15). Faithful children of God will prefer, as did Enoch, to be strangers and pilgrims in this world so that in due time they may be **“at home with the Lord,”** rather than to be at home in this world and strangers to Heaven.

WALKING BY FAITH

Even as we **“walk by faith, not by sight”** (II Cor. 5:7), so **“it was by faith”** that Enoch walked with God and obtained the testimony that he pleased God. Whatever may have been the means by which Enoch came to know God, without doubt he heard often from Adam himself the account of the creation and fall of man, and God's promise of a Savior. It is possible that God revealed Himself to Enoch in other ways, but we can be sure, since Adam did not die till Enoch was 308 years old, that the warnings and promises of God's Word had been often heard and certainly believed by this man who walked with God.

That Enoch walked with God by faith is not mere supposition, for we are plainly told in Hebrews 11:6 that **“without faith it is impossible to please him.”**

GOD AS JUDGE

At the first mention of Enoch we read that he **“walked with God after he begat Methuselah”** (Gen. 5:22). The very name Methuselah was an expression of Enoch's faith in God as the Judge who would send a flood of waters to destroy the world at the time of the death of Methuselah.

Thus the faith of Enoch included the recognition of God as Judge, and this is necessarily true of saving faith. Much of modern so-called Christianity fails to recognize God as Judge, and even denies His right to judge His own creatures

according to His own will. But such religion is not only vain; it amounts to open rebellion against the authority of God.

Enoch believed the warnings as well as the promises of God's Word, as does every true child of God. Sinners who do not believe in His judgment certainly will not walk with God. **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom”** (Ps. 111:10). It is worthy of note that Methuselah, the man whose lifetime measured the forbearance of God, His delay in visiting a wicked world with its deserved destruction---this man Methuselah lived longer than any other man. Surely this goodness of God, His mingling of justice and mercy, ought to lead men to repentance.

Enoch believed in God as Judge, and walked with God 300 years.

GOD AS SAVIOR

God's only way of bestowing mercy is in and through His Son. This has always been true, and this redemptive work of Christ was first announced in the garden of Eden.

Enoch learned what every child of Adam needs to know: that there is no escape from God's judgment except in His grace and this grace is in Christ. God has only one way of salvation and never had any other. All the true saints of Old Testament days were saved by believing the promises of God concerning the Messiah Who was to come, just as all the saints of this age are saved by believing the testimony of God's Word concerning this same Messiah Who came over 19 centuries ago.

Any religion that rejects the plain teaching of God's Word about His Son, any religion that holds forth any hope of salvation other than Jesus Christ alone, is contrary to the will and Word of God, and will lead its worshippers to Hell. Enoch walked with God because he believed in Him as Savior.

GOD AS REWARDER

According to Hebrews 11:6, the man who comes to God must not only believe that he is (namely that He is the God of the Bible) but also that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Because of the false teachings of false denominations of so-called Christianity, most Christians today are completely confused on the subjects of salvation and rewards. The Bible teaches that salvation is by grace through faith, but rewards are according to our works.

Sad to say, the only concern of millions of people who think they are Christians is to escape hell and get to Heaven. Such an attitude is certainly not pleasing to God.

The true child of God with a real experience of God's grace is constrained by the love of Christ to serve Him. Whatever your religion or denomination, if you have not in your heart that love of

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