

# 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 Other Elam

By Joey Newell  
Silsbee, TX

By Joseph Newell

The Book of Nehemiah is a very encouraging book. The setting is as follows: After the children of Israel (northern portion of the kingdom) had been taken away into Assyrian captivity (II Kings 17) and the children of Judah (southern portion of the kingdom) had been taken away into Babylonian captivity and the temple burned (II Chronicles 36), they were permitted to go back and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1), and approximately 14 years later rebuild the surrounding wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah). Along the way, there were obstacles, hindrances, enemies, and intense labor. Yet, the Lord provided great grace at every station, and resilient men (and women) of God persevered by God's grace to complete the work. When all was settled, Nehemiah (the "Tirshatha," or governor; Neh. 8:9) desired to make a registry of genealogy of those that had come out of captivity and returned unto the promised land (Neh. 7:5-



7). Mentioned among 42,360 besides the menservants and maidservants (Neh. 7:66-67) was "The Other Elam" (Neh. 7:34; **"The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four."**). There are at least a few encouragements that can be savored in consideration of this man.

First, each name mentioned is particularly significant, as each one was "individually" stirred up by the Lord Himself to return unto Jerusalem (Ezra 1:5). What a wonderful and blessed thought that the Lord stirs up His children, who once were "bound" in sin and "captive" to our own devices and defilement and draws us unto Himself. What gracious chords of love are strummed in that the Lord, calling His own by name, is effectual in that call, and that not one of His precious children are "left behind" in sin, depravity, and wretch lowliness! How humbling to recall that while each one shall

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## Scriptural Evangelism

By Harold Harvey  
1937-2000

Acts 1:8 says, **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."**

The Bible presents a definite plan of evangelism. But we have been brainwashed by high pressure evangelists and religious racketeers. These preachers have made merchandise of God's people in Baptist churches. They ramrod



people into unscriptural soul-winning campaigns. They have a special gift, whereby, they shame people. They continually beat

them over the head with give more money and win more souls. The club is properly handled and it produces a group of people with zeal not according to truth. If all the membership does not respond favorably, they are supposed to leave feeling guilty. Two gross errors are committed today:

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## Nickels And Noses

By Milburn Cockrell  
(1941-2002)

Through pride King Hezekiah showed all his wealth to the ambassadors of Babylon. II Kings 20:13 says: **"And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not."** For this act of pride he was divinely judged (II Kings 14:14-19). The sin of Hezekiah led to the Babylonian



Captivity. Hezekiah's problem, in a manner of speaking, was that he wanted to impress the people from

Babylon with how many nickels he had.

King David was moved by Satan to number Israel: **"And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beer-sheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that**

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## July 5, 2024 Volume XXXIV, Number 7

Whole Number 540

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

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

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

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

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

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

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Two years.....\$10.00  
Five years.....\$24.00

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

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## The Other Elam

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be "called by name," that the reality of the matter is that only "some" of the people will be called, "stirred up" by God Himself, and brought to the wonderful knowledge of salvation in Jesus Christ (Ezra 2:70). This should give the children of God great cause for admiration, thankfulness, humility, and joy!

Second, considering "*The Other Elam*" specifically, his name is translated by Strong as "veil, conceal, hidden, or blinded." Thank God that while a particular child of God may be "veiled, concealed, or hidden" in this present world, not one shall be hidden or concealed from the Omniscient eyes of God, the Omnipotent effects of the gospel of Jesus Christ in being "stirred up" by the grace of God unto salvation, or prevented from the Lord's eternal Omnipresence. In fact, Thayer translates Elam's name as "eternity," further giving us thought of the wonderous love, mercy, and grace that the Lord had toward His people.

Lastly, "*The Other Elam*" gives great hope and comfort to those of us who are the "lesser, lower, or other" guy or gal. Growing up, to say that I was a terrible athlete is an understatement. Both my older brother (Doug, IV) and younger brother (Stephen) were tremendous athletes. So being referred to as "Newell's Brother" was not terribly uncommon for me. Considering this, I can relate to what "*The Other Elam*" must have felt like in the camp. "Hey! Have you seen Elam? No!! *The Other Elam*!!" In considering this, I also consider what "eternity" may be (knowing that I truly know very little). "Hey! Have you seen

Joseph? No!! Not the one who was second in Egypt! No!! Not Jesus' stepdad!! No!! Not the rich man who buried the Lord Jesus!! No!! "The Other Joseph!!" I thank God, that while those thoughts of fantasy may be "nothing" what glory would be like, that there is a fact that stands; that if I am the "least, the lesser, the lower, and the end of the line" of *The Other Joseph's*, that my name is "reckoned by genealogy" according to the family of God in Jesus Christ! Yes, my name is there written, and I thank God for the prospect of being "The Other Joseph," just as in our text we would read of "*The Other Elam*."

Thank God that He calls His people by name. Thank God, that while He "saves His people from their sins," that He calls, saves, and preserves particularly named children unto Himself. Thank God that He eternally receives to Himself those who may otherwise be concealed. Thank God, that as "*The Other Elam*," the least of the children of God are "children of God, nonetheless," and that the "least" are named and come to the Lord such as He "stirs up our hearts!"

Pastor of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Silsbee, TX



## Scriptural Evang...

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unscriptural evangelism, and no evangelism.

Some pastors teach their peoplescripturalevangelism. They are concerned about scriptural evangelism. They are concerned about scriptural missions and their zeal is according to truth. They lead their people and do not use them as a whipping post.

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# Scriptural Evang...

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When properly taught, Baptists will beware of unscriptural soul winners. The temptation to use unscriptural means is paraded before our people. Both preachers and laymen will be tempted to remove the old landmarks. The key to scriptural evangelism is Lord, what do you want me to do? Paul said: **"...do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry"** (II Tim. 4:5).

I will consider three things concerning scriptural evangelism:

## THE MEANS OF SCRIPTURAL EVANGELISM

*The Message.* He has given us a message. Luke said, **"Witnesses unto Me."** The person of our message is the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul writing to the Corinthian church said, **"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake"** (II Cor. 4:5). Without Christ, we have no message. He died for our sins, and He was buried, and He arose the third day according to the Scriptures.

Now, let us notice the power of the message. The world believes that the preaching of the cross is foolishness. How could a person that died on a cross provide deliverance for anyone? It was according to God's divine plan for His son to die for the sins of His people (Matt. 1:21). He gave His life. Jesus said, **"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father"** (John 10:17-18).

He was not powerless in death. The grace could not hold Him. He is the crucified, buried, risen Savior. The message of the gospel is made effective in the hearts and lives of sinners. I rejoice in the power of God. Paul said, **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God"** (I Cor. 1:18).

What is the purpose of the message? To save them that believe for Paul said, **"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe"** (I Cor. 1:21). The primary purpose of the message is to make Jesus known. We can not make men believe but we can make Jesus known. The theme of all preaching is the Lord Jesus Christ. Philip preached Jesus unto the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:35).

*The Medium.* The person of the Holy Spirit. The church at Jerusalem was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus foretold this event. He said, **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). The fulfillment of this promise is recorded in Acts 2:1-16. The Jerusalem church was gathered together before Pentecost, and they were waiting for the fulfillment of the promise. He had previously told them to tarry in Jerusalem, for He said, **"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high"** (Luke 24:49). He spoke of the event a few days before it happened in Acts 1:5. John the Baptist knew of

this event, for he said, **"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire"** (Matt. 3:11). **"And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost"** (John 1:33).

What is the purpose of this event? The baptism of the church in the Holy Spirit not only accredited, but also empowered the church. It took place only one time. Every New Testament Baptist Church of the same kind has the same accreditation and power. He enabled the Jerusalem church and every one that has come from her to do scriptural evangelism. She was empowered to fulfill the commission to the Gentile nations. We have this power to perform mission work today. As New Testament Baptists, we have a double portion of the Spirit.

*The Messenger.* God takes His Word (the message) by the Holy Spirit (the medium) and gives it to a messenger that will give it to another messenger. He does not have to use a messenger, but it has pleased Him to use one. We will notice some familiar messengers. First, we notice John the Baptist. **"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe"** (John 1:6-7). Another familiar messenger is the apostle Paul. He was saved by the Lord on the Damascus road. The Lord told Ananias that Paul was a chosen vessel to bear His name

before the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel (Acts 9:15-16). The third messenger is Philip. The Holy Spirit joined Philip to the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch and he preached unto him Jesus (Acts 8:26-40).

I call your attention to two unfamiliar messengers. The demonic man of Luke 8:38-39 and the woman of Samaria in John 4:28-30. Each of these messengers were used according to the plan and purpose of God. The messenger is a part of God's ordained means for scriptural evangelism.

## THE MANNER OF SCRIPTURAL EVANGELISM

*The Humanistic Method.* Soul winner classes and Seminars are conducted by men that are not Baptists. Some of these men claim to be Baptists. They have written many books, but I have not seen one that is totally scriptural. The majority of them is filled with the ideas of men, good ideas if you want to be humanistic in witnessing, rather than scriptural. I know that all books and classes are not one hundred percent bad. These preachers complain about humanism in our public schools, and then practice it in their churches. One famous preacher in Indiana said, "I do not tell my congregation when I am going to end my sermon, for I do not want them to get braced for the invitation." Another Baptist pastor said, "I do not stand at the front and greet people during the invitation, because I will lose eye contact." This is humanism of the worst kind. I have some questions for these super-duper humanists. Did Pharoah refute God at the Red Sea? Did Saul of Tarsus reject Christ on the road to Damascus? Did Lydia of Thyatira open her

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heart, or did the Lord open it? The Word of God clearly gives the answers.

The reason many Baptist churches are experiencing difficulty is their manner of evangelism. They try to twist a profession out of every lost person, that they come in contact with. These churches can be identified by their easy-believeism and the Roman road to salvation. They will use the human approach, repeat after me, pray the sinners prayer. No wonder these churches have been filled with lost people that will never be spiritual. They will not follow the truth. A born-again believer will follow truth, for Jesus said, **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me"** (John 10:27).

*The Heavenly Mode.* It is not the evangelistic zeal practiced by many today, which is void of Christ exalting doctrine. It is not humanistic might or power and it is not emotionalism.

The heavenly mode is by the Holy Spirit for Zechariah said, **"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"** (Zech. 4:6). It is clearly revealed in Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica, he said, **"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake"** (I Thess. 1:5). We have evidence that the gospel is to be preached. It will be made effective by the power of the Holy Spirit. He brings us to salvation, Paul said,

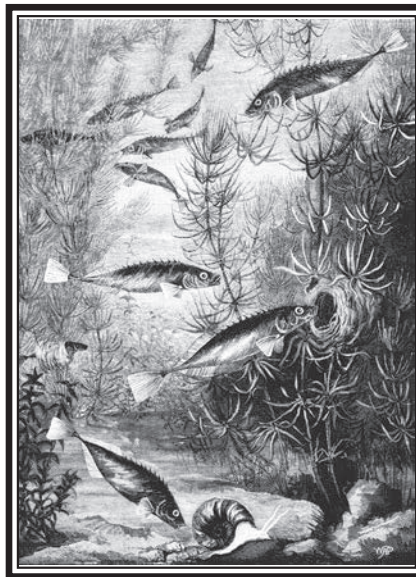
**"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"** (Eph. 2:1). We are made alive by the Holy Spirit, and He grants repentance and faith to all those that are quickened, then He brings them to prayer, for they do not know how to pray. The Holy Spirit presents our prayer to the heavenly Father in a proper manner and makes it acceptable. Paul said, **"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God"** (Rom. 8:26-27).

Man does not open doors, but the Holy Spirit opens doors for us. He brings people to us by causing our paths to cross with the person that he wants to receive the message of the gospel. The person welcomes the message and will eagerly hear the messenger again. One plants and another waters, then God gives the increase, for He completes the task (Phil. 1:6).

The Holy Spirit closes doors. When this happens, the person rejects both the message and the messenger. Jesus said, **"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn**

**again and rend you"** (Matt. 7:6). Every person will not be saved, only those that the Holy Spirit draws (John 6:44, 65).

*Human Messengers.* They were commissioned to be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. He not only commissioned them, but He activated them. He said ye shall, and they were witnesses in Jerusalem. The Lord added three thousand souls to the one hundred and twenty members of the Jerusalem church. Because



of persecution, they were scattered abroad and went into the regions of Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1, 4-5). The gospel was preached in Jerusalem, then Saul made havoc of the church, and they were scattered into the regions beyond Judea. Saul became

Paul and he carried the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 13:47). Stephen was stoned in Jerusalem. James the great was beheaded in Judea. John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos. They were faithful unto death for the witness of Christ.

The Lord both activates and motivates messengers today. He does the entire work of salvation for His people. A sovereign God that purposed and planned our salvation before the foundation of the world can cause the gospel to be preached to every one of the elect. He not only brings a messenger to each one of them, but He quickens them, and they

hear both the message and the messenger.

## THE MOTIVE OF SCRIPTURAL EVANGELISM

*The Good of the Person.* The saving of their soul. Jesus said: **"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul"** (Matt. 16:26)? Man can only destroy the body, but God can destroy both body and soul in Hell (Matt. 10:28).

Christ not only saves our soul, but He saves our life. We were in bondage to Satan and sin. Paul describes our past condition in the letter to the Ephesians. He said, **"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"** (Eph. 2:1-3). He speaks of our walk in past tense for our lives have been changed. We have been washed and sanctified by the Spirit of our God.

*The Glory of God.* This is the primary and ultimate motive of evangelism. We are witnesses for His glory. We are not our own, and the Holy Spirit indwells each of us. Therefore, our witnessing is for Him and His glory. Paul expresses this best in his letter to the Corinthians. He said, **"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"**

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**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's** (I Cor. 6:19-20). We do not witness to gain the praise of men, but to glorify God.

He has promised and purposed the whole scheme of salvation according to His will for His glory. **"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved"** (Eph. 1:6). All that will hear and receive the message of the gospel were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. They were predestinated unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself. **"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ"** (Eph. 1:12). He worked all things after the counsel of His own will, for His glory. Then He made known unto us the mystery of His will.

We have a glorious inheritance and it is to the praise of His glory. **"Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory"** (Eph. 1:14). We heard the Word of truth for He quickened us. At the same time, we believed and were sealed with the Holy Spirit. We are safe and secure until the completion of our redemption (glorification). Our salvation is to the praise of His glory.

## CONCLUSION

He has provided the means for scriptural evangelism. He has planned the manner for scriptural evangelism.

Many Baptists have resorted to unscriptural practices. They are victims of modern evangelism. Satan has enticed them to preach

and practice a mixture of grace and works. Preachers of the Word will not resort to worldly methods. Puppets, clowns, ponies and give aways will not be a part of their ministry.

By the grace of God, we will use the provided means and not resort to humanistic means. We will follow the New Testament method regardless of the pressure from modern evangelists. We will evangelize for the glory of God and not to be praised by man.

Rewards will be given for scriptural evangelism. When Christ returns, His true churches will be preaching and practicing scriptural evangelism. For God has ordained the means, the manner, and the motive.



## Nickels And Noses

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**I may know it** (I Chron. 21:1-2). This was done through the pride of David's heart to impress other nations with his great army. It showed he was trusting the arm of the flesh more than God. In a manner of speaking, David wanted to know how many noses he had. For his folly and vain glory a plague was sent on Israel, which resulted in the death of seventy thousand people (I Chron. 21:14).

One would glean from these two passages of Scripture that God does not care as much about nickels and noses as men do. Carnal men glory in such things as nickels and noses. We live in a time of big meetings, big churches, big church buildings, big preachers, and big church budgets. The failure or success of a church and its pastor is judged by the number of nickels and noses that they have. In all too many cases, there is seen in this more

## Satanic pride than spiritual piety. WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE

The first thing most religious folks look for when they visit a church is the record board, which reveals how many nickels and noses that a church has. If they fail to see a record board, they are frustrated and confused. They may assume that the church has gone hardshell or into apostasy. Much distressed, they will cry out, "What is your attendance and offering in this church?"

As a pastor for over thirty years I have many times been asked this question, and no doubt, I will be asked it many more times if I live. Never has anyone ever asked me such questions as the following: "Are your services spiritual?" "Is Christ real to your people?" "Are your members hearing the whole counsel of God?" "Are your people growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ?" "Is there a spirit of unity and love in your church?" "Evidently, these things are not important to modern-day religionists, who judge religious success by worldly standards---nickels and noses. I just wish one single time that a person would ask about something other than nickels and noses!

When you have a revival in your church and people ask about your services they will always ask: "How many additions did you have?" Never do they ask: Did the evangelist preach the truth?" or "Was Christ glorified?" Evangelists for revivals are usually chosen by the crowds they can draw and the number of additions they can get by nook or crook.

Today, every thing centers around nickels and noses. Pastors are hired and fired on this basis. Missionaries are supported or not supported by this criterion. Sunday school teachers are put

in or out on this standard. People seem to forget that it was Satan who invented nickels and noses in the days of King David.

## NICKELS, NOSES, AND GOD

The God of Heaven is independent of nickels and noses. Consider Acts 17:24-25: **"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things."** God does not need any thing or any person. He is perfectly happy in and of Himself. He is not dependent upon men or angels to accomplish His sovereign will.

God may accomplish His work with few or many, according to His sovereign pleasure. Jonathan told a young man in Israel: **"...for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few"** (I Sam. 14:6). Omnipotence can accomplish His will by the few and feeble. The Almighty can make a thousand **"flee at the rebuke of one"** (Isa. 30:17).

It would seem that the Lord takes pleasure in using the feeble and few in the Bible. When Gideon went out to fight against the Midianites, the Lord said to him: **"The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me"** (Judg. 7:2). Gideon started out with 32,000 men and ended up with 300! Jehovah intended to have all the praise for the victory of Israel over the Midianites.

The Prophet Elijah went up against 850 prophets of Baal and

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the groves ( I Kings 18:19). Look what God did with the Israellites who **“were the fewest of all people”** (Deut. 7:7). Jesus Christ took **“a few small fishes”** (Mark 8:7) and fed 4,000 people. Even in the matter of eternal salvation **“many are called, but few are chosen”** (Matt. 22:14). This is so **“no flesh shall glory in his presence”** (I Cor. 1:29), and that all might **“glory in the Lord”** (I Cor. 1:31).

## THE EFFECT OF THIS ON OUR CHURCHES

1. The philosophy of nickels and noses has drastically changed our churches for the worse. In the craze for nickels and noses churches have replaced preachers and pastors with puppeteers and pranksters. The gospel of Christ has been superseded by gimmicks, gum, gadgets, and games. Psychology has taken the place of Holy Spirit conviction. The faith has been displaced for finance, fun, and foolishness. Church discipline has been relegated to the back ground in order to swell the size of the church with religious hypocrites who might give a little money to the church now and then.

2. This syndrome has filled our churches with unconverted persons. We have far more churchanity than Christianity. The only change some church members made since joining the church was from wet to dry clothes following their baptism. Many church members are white-washed, but they are not blood-washed. Their names are upon the church roll, but they are not found in the Lamb's book of life. Many have been reformed, but they have not been re-born.

Many have been confirmed, but they have not been converted to Christ. There are so many lost people in our churches until you can not tell the difference between a church member and the unconverted. The reason is because there is no difference. Both are headed to Hell as fast as time can carry them!

3. It has produced icy services and cold, callous, complacent church members. Look at the average church. They have their robed choir; their cut and dried program, and their intellectual preaching. They have a beautiful edifice. They have all the organization and rituals one could ask for, but in most cases it is Spiritless! We have never faced such in our generation. We have form without reality; we have organization without power, profession without possession. We have a form of godliness without the power of it. We have religion without life.

4. It has caused pastors to spend more time worrying with goats than feeding the sheep. The pastor nowadays must provide a spiritual diet for people who have no spiritual appetite. Like Ezekiel of old (Ezek. 37:1-10), he must preach to dead, dry bones but without the blessings which Ezekiel experienced. These dry, dead bones can not hear, yet the pastor must keep preaching and pretend someone is listening. These dry, dead bones do not grow in grace for the dead do not grow. These baptized bones are in no way sensitive to the appeals made to them from the Scriptures by the pastor. Deep down each pastor knows most members do not enjoy Bible preaching. They merely pretend to enjoy what they really detest. They watch the clock on Sunday morning, hoping the pastor will preach a short

sermon so they can go home and do what they really enjoy.

In the average church there is constant wrangling, gossiping, backbiting, lying about each other, and a constant uproar among the members. One might well get the impression that about the only place people can not get along is in the church. It takes nine-tenths of the pastor's time trying to keep them pacified and trying to keep the church together. He is busy running from one church member to the other trying to soothe people whose “feelings have been hurt.” The pastor is no longer a powerful, plain preacher but a polite, polished politician! This is because our churches are cursed with contentious cliques, fighting factions, and petty partisanism.

5. The nickels and noses racket has made some habitual hypocrites in our churches. Church members say they enjoy going to church, but a large percentage can not get to church services on time. It is almost impossible to get up in time to come to Sunday School. They hate their job with its hard work and long hours. But, strange as it may seem, they have no problem going to work at 7:00 a.m. five days a week, but they can not bring themselves to make it to church at 10:00 a.m.. Supposedly, it is possible to consistently get up and do what is disliked, but it is impossible to get up and do what is liked!

6. This idea has given us the gimmick gospel. Most church members want to be entertained instead of instructed in the Word of God. They have far more delight in the gospel of amusement than the gospel of the atonement. Gospel celebrities must be brought in to entertain these worldly church members. These members love to hear these

clerical comedians who mix a few verses of Scripture with a large amount of humor. Special singing groups must be brought in, too. These have the same dress, music, hair style, and manners of any rock and roll group. Our church services nowadays have become a carefully produced theatrical production for the delight of carnal Christians and religious rascals. The only difference between this entertainment and that in the local nightclub is that it has a religious flavor! But they say it must be done to get nickels and noses.

7. Vain thinking has killed the spirit of revival in our churches. Our revivals have been turned into campaigns to get members into the church who will help with the church budget, so the older members can waste more of their money on worldly things. Near the end of the church year the pastor begins to think about his annual report, and as a result, he puts on a week or two of special services, I say special services for it has been so long since most churches have had real revivals until they do not even know what one is like.

We do not have time to wait upon the Lord to send a revival any more. Most of the time a church announces that it is going to have a revival beginning one Sunday and closing on Friday night. The evangelist comes and tries to imitate some big evangelist in his methods to induce people to come into the church. From what goes on one might think that Christ is only where the preacher is, and that responding to his proposition is part of the process of becoming a Christian. Multitudes are being deceived by this method. Children, when very young, are being led by this

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# Nickels And Noses

(Continued from page 6) ♦

practice to think such is the way of salvation.

Churches ignore the Scriptural way to have a revival. They plan a series of meetings. The evangelist comes. The meeting is well advertised in the community. But we neglect the most important thing, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The results---sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. We can plan our big meetings, get our big crowds, get our big preacher, organize our members, but unless the Spirit of God is present, it will be in vain!

In the average revival meeting there may be emotions stirred up, a confession of a few sins, a cleaning up of lives, and folks coming to some great religious experience. But, as a rule sinners are not broken and brought to repentance. Generally speaking, the emotions of people are aroused by intellectual oratory, but as soon as the emotions die away, they settle down in a worse condition than they were in before. It seems that the evangelist took the revival and the converts home with him!

8. It has made people look down on small churches. Preachers politic for the large churches which have a lot of nickels and noses. They will compromise their principles and preach almost any heresy to get a big church. Whenever a preacher is called to one he says to his wife: "Dear, you pack while I pray about the matter." This proves that we have more faithless mercenaries than faithful ministers. Some preachers will not even consider a small church which has a few nickels and noses. They look down on little churches and despise

them as being feeble and few.

Church members like big churches so they can hide out in the crowd and have no responsibilities. They like the upper class in society. Such churches have skilled politicians as pastors who do not offend their many nickels and noses. With such a large crowd on Sunday morning a family can miss to go fishing almost without being noticed. After all, they reason, God blesses big in big churches!



While there are some exceptions, most big churches are worldly churches. They have high carnality and low spirituality. Truth is very scarce in such fashionable churches because the Word of God has been compromised to keep nickels and noses. These churches are more like social clubs than spiritual centers. Christ has departed from these Laodicean churches (Rev. 3:14-22). All that keeps people in such liberal organizations is their love for social prestige.

When we speak about big and little churches we speak about the manner of men. We are viewing churches from the standpoint of nickels and noses. With God there are no big and little churches. To Him they are all **"the churches of Christ"** (Rom. 16:16). **"the churches of God"** (I Cor. 11:16),

and **"the body of Christ"** (I Cor. 12:27). The biggest religious thing on earth is a local church, regardless of its size. Men and ministers would do well not to despise **"the church of God"** (I Cor. 11:22) because it does not have 25,000 members and cover a city block.

9. It has discouraged many God-called men. Often young preachers, and some who are older, try to judge their ministry by Billy Graham, or Jerry Falwell,

or some other big-time preacher. Since they can not measure up to these men they think they are failures, and they go through life grieved due to their little success. This robs them of much of their usefulness and tends to hinder their ministry.

Preacher brethren, God does not require that we be successful. He does not require that we pastor a church with 10,000 members, which has 3,000 additions each year. The Lord requires only that we be faithful (I Cor. 4:2). He demands that we **"preach the word"** (II Tim. 4:2) and be faithful to declare **"all the counsel of God"** (Acts 20:27).

## RESULTS NOT OUR BUSINESS

Preaching the gospel to every creature is our business. Making disciples is our business. But we

can not save sinners. Salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9). Only God can regenerate a dead sinner (John 1:13). We can plant and water, but God must give the increase.

In I Corinthians 3:5-7 Paul wrote: **"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."** Paul had planted the Lord's vineyard at Corinth, and Apollos followed him and watered it. The increase in both cases came from God.

The idea in these verses is taken from a farmer who grows a crop from seed sown in his field. It is vain for a farmer to sow his seed and irrigate his field unless God shall give it life. There is no living principle in the seed, nor in the water, nor in the soil. God only can quicken the germ in the seed and make it live. Surely God does use the seed, the water, and the soil but the life is still from God. But let us remember that God made the seed, the water, and the soil, and the farmer used only what he had received from God.

The same is true with those who sow gospel seeds in the hearts of men. The power is not the naked Word, nor in the preacher, nor in the heart which hears it. The power to save sinners resides in God. The gospel is the power of God, but it has not power without God. The sower of gospel seeds uses only what God has made and given to him. His success or failure is determined by God. Even Paul and Apollos could have had no success unless God gave them the increase. Do not deify ministers

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# Nickels And Noses

(Continued from page 7) ♦

or put them in the place of God. The human instrument is nothing in comparison with God.

God is sovereign in adding to His churches: **“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”** (Acts 2:47). **“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him”** (I Cor. 12:18). Our business is to be a planter or a waterer. It is God's business to add to His church. Concern for nickels and noses must not cause us to use unlawful means to add to the Lord's church. We do not need to get the Lord out of an embarrassing situation as some suppose. But some, like Abraham, cannot wait upon God to add to His church, so they help Him out a bit.. The result is Ishmaelites in our churches!

Please do not take this truth too far. God does not make seed germinate and grow unless it is sown and watered. The Lord of the harvest blessed the faithful use of the means of grace. Some today are afraid to preach to sinners lest they get some of the non-elect saved---as if such were possible. They are so opposed to the false philosophy of nickels and noses that they fear to have any nickels and noses. They are afraid if someone is saved that their friends will think they have embraced Arminianism! To these do-nothing preachers and churches, I would point out that where there is faithful sowing and watering, God gives the increase. The Lord does add the saved to His church. The Lord does not add the saved to dead churches - just to living ones!



## Plodding Through Proverbs

By Elder Tom Ross  
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Plodding Through 29:25 Proverbs, todays Adult SS lesson in manuscript:

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe” (29:25).

What a sad commentary on man that he fears other men rather than the true and living God. The fear of man is a terrible trap of Satan that paralyzes many from doing what is right and standing up for what is true. The fear of man caused Abraham to lie about his wife even though God had promised to bless him immeasurably. The fear of man caused Peter to deny the Lord three times even though he had walked with Him for over three years and saw numerous displays of miraculous power. How strong must be the snare of the fear of man! Even the most spiritual and boldest of men have been bound by its grip. Dear Christian reader, how many times has the fear of man prevented you from witnessing to the lost? How many times has the fear of man caused you to remain silent while the ungodly boldly boast of their wicked deeds? Preacher, how often have you failed to preach the truth fearing that you might offend one of your hearers? Let us remember that every time we forsake our duty to God in order to gain the favor of men we are in violation of the principle set forth in Ecclesiastes 12:13: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his

commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Paul reasoned thusly with the Galatians: “For do I now persuade men or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10).

Why do we so readily get caught in the snare of fear? Often we fear we are going to suffer ridicule or lose the esteem of men. What flimsy excuses that will never stand the test of eternity! We should be willing to lose everything for the glory of Christ. He is the One who left everything to suffer the ridicule, hatred, and mocking of wicked men. Jesus is the One who was willing to offer His body, His soul, His blood, His merits, His righteousness on the cruel tree of cursing in the stead of unworthy sinners. Jesus loved us so much He did not fear to enter into the fury of the Father's wrath in order to save us from the guilt and penalty of our sins! If we truly understood the magnitude of our Great Saviour's finished work we would gladly say with the blessed apostle: “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung that I may win Christ” (Phil. 3:8). What holy boldness would fill our hearts if we were overwhelmed with love for Jesus Christ! We would be unstoppable if only we were filled to overflowing with the power of the Holy Spirit. The early churches were so inflamed

with love for Christ they had an earnest desire to serve and obey Him no matter what the cost.

How do we conquer the soul crushing fear of man? We trust in the Lord! We believe His Word. We live by faith knowing that His Word is true and that we belong to Him. Our safety is not found in men! Rather, we are only safe when we are trusting fully in our Great God. He will guide! He will strengthen! He will provide! He will protect! We can rest safely in the promise of Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Psalm 27:1 declares: “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Charles Bridges wrote:

“Thank God—there is a way of deliverance. Faith unbinds the soul from fear...Faith gives power to prayer. The strength from prayer makes us cheerful in obedience, and resolute in trial. Here is safety, strength, courage, peace. Nothing but faith gives the victory; but the victory of faith is complete. He only who putteth his trust in the Lord, is prepared when God and man are at contraries, to ‘obey God rather than man’ (Acts 4:19). A secret union with God is implanted in the soul by this faith; an union as mighty, as it is secret; a sacred spring of life—the energy of God Himself (Gal. 2:20); triumphant therefore in the mightiest conflict with the flesh. The man, dependent on the world for happiness, is in bondage. The servant of God is in liberty. It matters not to him, whether the world smile or frown. He is safe, beyond its reach, set on high. Faith brings him to his strong

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# Plodding Through..

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tower (Prov. 18:10). There he is 'kept by the power of God unto salvation' (I Pet. 1:5). Fear brings us into the snare. Faith brings liberty, safety, exaltation. Oh! thou God of power and grace, may my soul praise thee for this mighty deliverance, this joyous freedom! May I never be ashamed of my Master! May I be bound to His people, and glory in His cross (Gal. 6:14)!" (pages 586-587)



## Timely Tweets

By  
Sylvia Tweet

A Branch for Ladies

## Christian Joy in Adversity

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Prov. 17:22).

Introduction: The attitude of a Christian woman greatly affects her influence in both the family and the church. So, how can we develop a "meek and quiet spirit" and learn to rejoice in the Lord, in spite of our circumstances? Our prime example is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who "is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for

♦ (Continued on page 16)

# Heavenly Hymns

"...Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:18-20). [This hymn was printed with permission from the Olmstead Baptist Church and written by Mary A. Lathbury in 1877. You may access their free-domain hymnal by going to [www.olmsteadbaptistchurch.org/hymnal.pdf](http://www.olmsteadbaptistchurch.org/hymnal.pdf)]

## CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

40



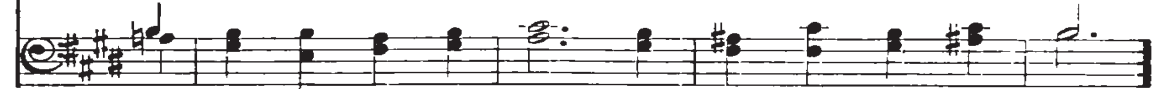
1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2. Crown Him the Lord of love! Be - hold His hands and side,—
3. Crown Him the Lord of life! Who tri-umphed o'er the grave;
4. Crown Him the Lord of heaven! One with the Fa - ther known,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an-them drowns All mu-sic but its own!  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau-ty glo - ri - fied:  
Who rose vic - to - rious to the strife For those He came to save:  
One with the Spir - it through Him given From yon-der glo-rious throne!



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee;  
No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,  
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high;  
To Thee be end - less praise, For Thou for us hast died;



And hail Him as thy match-less King Thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.  
But down-ward bends his won-dering eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
Who died e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.  
Be Thou, O Lord, through end-less days A - dored and mag - ni - fied.



The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

1) How do foreign missionaries (particularly the newly converted) observe the Lord's Supper while they are still a mission?

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JForeign missionaries as well as home missionaries here in the States can only observe the Lord's Supper by attending their sending (home) church. When their home church is having the Lord's Supper, the missionary and the members of the mission must be there to observe the Lord's Supper. It can not be done any other way.

You have to remember that the missionary and the members of the mission, no matter where it is located, are members of the home church, and their home church is the only one that has the authority to give the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper was given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave His Church that authority. The mission does not have that authority only the church they came out of.

I know of nowhere in Scripture that teaches differently. I hope I am not reaching too far here, but I believe Paul may have left the mission field to worship in Jerusalem for the Passover **"For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost"** (Acts

20:16). And again, in Acts 24, Paul went to Jerusalem for to worship **"Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship"** (Acts 24:11). So it is possible that Paul went back to the church in Jerusalem to partake of the Lord's Supper.

I will just throw this in here. Baptism is different, for we see in Acts chapter 6 they chose deacons, of which Philip was one, and it is apparent that he had been given the authority to baptize being an ordained deacon, because we read in Acts 8:36-39 that Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch with the authority given him by the Jerusalem Church.

I have been a part of two mission works, and both times when my home church was observing the Lord's Supper myself, and the membership drove to that home church to observe the Lord's Supper!

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The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance, not a mission ordinance. Those who attend the mission may be or become members of the sponsoring church, but that in no way gives them the right to observe the

Lord's Supper when the church has not come together. **"For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it"** (I Cor. 11:18) Verse 20 also states when ye come together in one place.

If in fact, it was okay for missions to observe the Lord's Supper, then there would be no need to attend the Lord's Supper; we could just stay home and others could bring the elements to us so we could observe it. The mission as a group could visit the sponsoring church, or individuals could visit and observe just as long as they were baptized members of the sponsoring church.

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This is another question that is not clearly addressed by way of example in the New Testament. I can tell you what the practice of my home church was back in the 1980's. Wilmington Baptist ordained me to the Gospel ministry in the early spring of 1986 and sent me out as a home missionary to Xenia, OH. Providence Baptist was started as a mission on April 13th, 1986 with an afternoon service in our mission building. We followed up the next week with another afternoon service. April 27th was when we started having Sunday School, Sunday Morning, and Sunday Evening services along with Wednesday night Prayer Meeting. For many services in the beginning it was just me, Tammy, and my six month old daughter, Katie. Over time God

was pleased to save some souls, and God added to the work. Wilmington Baptist organized us as Providence Baptist Church on August 1st, 1987. While we were still a mission I do not think we ever observed the Lord's Supper with Wilmington Baptist. After we were organized we started observing the ordinance as an independent, autonomous body of Christ. We were not a mission for very long. However, our Pastor, Elder Dan Ferrel stressed the importance of learning how to function as a church from the very beginning. Wilmington Baptist authorized our mission to use our tithes and offerings to pay for as many bills incurred by the mission out of the mission treasury as we could. Through this process we learned how to be self supporting. It is just my opinion, but I recommend that churches organize their mission works sooner rather than later so that they can function as an independent church. I realize that there is a difference in foreign and domestic mission works. However, churches can elect to continue supporting newly organized churches until they are self supporting. I remember Bryan Station Baptist Church continued sending support after we were organized to help with my salary for at least a year.

I believe that every New Testament Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous body of Christ with full and complete authority to conduct their own business without any outside interference from a convention, an association, or a fellowship of churches. Every church is answerable to their Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. No church has the right to dictate to another church regarding their business



## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit your questions on any Bible topic.

2) After all these generations of an American melting pot, are there really any restrictions on "interracial" marriages for American Baptists?

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While studying and researching in an attempt to answer this question I read an excellent book by Ken Ham and A. Charles Ware titled "One Race; One Blood." They address a lot of the misconceptions and false teachings surrounding the subject of race. I highly recommend this resource if you really want a scriptural presentation of the facts rather than relying on human philosophy and the fleshly reasonings of sinful men. One of the biggest takeaways from the book was that most controversies regarding "race" have nothing to do with skin tones, but rather sinful attitudes and preconceived prejudices we all have. The problem is not skin, but sin.

I grew up in a town close to Cincinnati, Ohio in the 1960's and 70's. Our schools and sports were all integrated. One of my very best friends that I have known since grade school is African American. Back then he was labeled as black, but he really had more of a brown skin tone. Kevin came to my house a lot and I went to his house a lot. We went to school together. We shared meals together (I was probably the only white boy who ate chitterlings, black eyed peas,

hog jowls, and sweet potato pie back in the day). We played sports together. I had several African American friends growing up. They had their prejudices and I had mine, but rarely did they ever hinder our friendship. One bridge too far back then was the idea of whites marrying blacks. It was considered socially unacceptable in the main by white families as well as black families. It was just the way it was.

Over the years I have come to adopt what I believe is a scriptural view regarding the variety of people groups represented throughout the world. I do not believe in so called "races" of people based on skin tone. The word "race" never occurs in our English Bible with reference to people or their skin color. The fact is, the idea of different races is unscriptural and has been popularized by the varied forms of Darwinian heresy spawned by the anti-christian theory of evolution. I have come to the conclusion that those who peddle the filth of evolution and its ugly step sister known as identity politics are the real racists in the world today. Darwin's heretical book, first published in 1859 was originally titled: *The Origin of the Species: The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life*, and was followed up with *The Descent of Man*. Evolution is rooted in racist philosophy.

I have adopted a biblical worldview. I believe that God is the Creator of our universe

and everything in it (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-4). God created man in His own image as Genesis 1:27 reveals: **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."** According to Scripture Adam was the first man: **"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul"** (Gen. 2:7). Eve was the first woman made from the rib of man: **"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man"** (Gen. 2:22-23). I Timothy 2:13 states: **"For Adam was first formed, then Eve."** Thus all men, women, boys, and girls ultimately trace their human existence back to Adam and Eve. Logically, this would include people of every skin tone depending upon the level of melanin (melanin determines how light or dark skin tone will be) in their body. Everybody descended from the first humans created by God, Adam and Eve. After the world wide flood in the days of Noah, only his family of 8 consisting of his wife, his sons and their wives, survived. All men after the flood descend from Shem, Ham, and Japheth who were the sons of Noah. Genesis 9:1 and 19 record: **"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...These are the three sons of Noah: of them was the whole earth overspread."** There are no separate races of men, only men who trace their lineage back to the sons of Noah, who traced

their existence back to Adam and Eve who were created by God. Period. End of story. There are no superior or inferior races of men. There is no race hierarchy based on so called evolutionary processes. We are all of one blood as stated in Acts 17:24-28: **"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; AND HATH MADE OF ONE BLOOD ALL NATIONS OF MEN FOR TO DWELL ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH** (Emphasis mine, TWR), **and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."** We are all part of the human race/family.

The variety of people groups and cultures were the result of God responding to man's rebellion at the Tower of Babel revealed in Genesis 11. God confounded their language and scattered them throughout the earth to defeat their desire to rebel and overthrow the government of God. This was the beginning of different people groups speaking different languages throughout the earth. The scattering had nothing to do with their skin tone, but was a result of their sin, defiance, and rebellion.

Ken Ham wrote:

"At Babel, mankind rebelled

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## Forum Question #1

(Continued from page 10) ♦

practices. Certainly, churches have the right to withdraw fellowship from churches that begin to receive alien immersion and or practice open communion. With that said, if a church determines to authorize a foreign mission work to observe the Lord's Supper prior to being organized it is within their rights. I may have reservations about the practice, but I am in no position to dictate to another church my preferences or convictions. With that said, it stands to reason that if a mission is unified and mature enough to observe the Lord's Supper, they are strong enough to be organized into an autonomous church body.

When I read the Book of Acts, which is a record of the missionary activities of the early churches, it appears to me that the missionaries would go to a city and preach the Gospel and baptize converts. They would go to another city and repeat the process. In time, they would revisit the works they had started, confirm the people in the faith, and then ordain elders in each church. Acts 14:21-23 records: **"And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."** It does not appear to me that these works went a prolonged period of time

as missions. If a work is seeing sinners saved and baptized, why not go ahead and confirm the disciples, ordain a God called man to lead and feed them, and organize them into a church? This would enable the newly organized church to observe the Lord's Supper when they so desired, according to the leadership of the Lord and the unity of the body.

## Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 11) ♦

against God and refused to follow His Word. They lifted up themselves as the ultimate authority and began a cycle of abuse that has been repeated by people in every generation. Later, the events of the Tower of Babel split up the human gene pool. Different combinations of genes in different groups resulted in some people having predominately dark skin, and others with every shade in between. With our current understanding of genetics, we now know that these biological differences are superficial and insignificant. Our physical differences are merely the result of different combinations of physical features that God put in the human gene pool at creation. Because of the small genetic differences involved and the genetic diversity God created to begin with, the appearance of different people groups was very recent. This could have occurred quickly in small populations only in a few generations after the Tower of Babel, as groups of people spread throughout the different regions of the earth." (pages 24-25)

Since all of mankind is of one blood and all descend from Adam and Eve there should be no restrictions regarding marriage that depends on skin tone and the

amount of melanin an individual may have. Since I do not believe in "races," I can not very well believe in something called "interracial" marriage. The only stipulation made by God is that a man marry a woman as set forth by the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 19:4-6: **"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."** There is nothing stated or implied in this passage regarding the color of a person's skin.

The Bible does clearly state that believers in Jesus Christ should marry **"...only in the Lord"** (I Cor. 7:39). Believers ought to marry other believers. The separation required is spiritual, not racial, or based on skin tone. II Corinthians 6:14-16 declares: **"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."**

I remember reading the Bible for the first time after I was saved in November of 1980. Moses had married a woman named Zipporah while the Israelites

were in Egyptian captivity. When God raised up Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt He required Moses and his wife to circumcise their sons. Zipporah performed the circumcision and complained that her husband was a bloody man because of it (Exodus 4:24-28). Nothing was said about her skin color in Exodus. When I came to the part where it stated that Moses was married to an Ethiopian woman (Numbers 12:1-8) it really threw me for a loop. Ethiopian's have some of the darkest skin tones in the world. Moses, an olive skinned Jew, was married to a black Ethiopian woman. It also means that the children of Moses and Zipporah were what people today identify as being "mixed race" children. Not a word of condemnation was said about this in Scripture. The context of Numbers 12 reveals that Moses' brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam, railed on him for marrying an Ethiopian woman and challenged his authority. I find it interesting that in this passage God did not rebuke Moses, but rather Aaron and Miriam for challenging his authority. Nothing at all was said about his wife. God smote Miriam with leprosy for her defiance and Moses prayed that the Lord would heal her (Numbers 12:9-16). Let this sink in for a moment. Moses, perhaps the most famous and influential Hebrew in the illustrious history of Israel, was married to a black woman and had sons by her. If God was going to condemn the "mixing" of skin tones do you not think He would have done it in the case of Moses? Yet not a word in Scripture against it.

Men have labored long and hard through the years to prove that God condemns what men

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## Forum Question #2

(Continued from page 12) ♦

refer to as “interracial marriage” in Scripture. The evidence is simply not there. The separation God requires is between believers and unbelievers, saints and sinners, light and darkness, children of God and children of the devil, godly and ungodly, God wanted Israel to separate from the heathen around them because He knew they would influence Israel in their idolatrous ways. Not a word is said about skin tone. Rather, God is warning them against accepting the sinful ways and idolatrous practices of the heathen.

I realize the answer to this question will ruffle the feathers of some folks. I understand. People have held strong views regarding so-called “interracial marriage” or the mixing of the “races.” Our society has been saturated with Darwinian evolution for 165 years. Farther back than that, men of all colors, skin tones, and people groups have held prejudices against one another. It is hard to believe that as late as the early 1900’s Darwinian evolutionists posing as scientists and anthropologists were teaching that the Caucasian is at the top of the evolutionary scale and other “races” were inferior. It is difficult to accept that the human philosophy we were taught to accept is not at all biblical, but rather manufactured by men tainted with prejudice. The teaching has been so ingrained and interwoven in society that if anyone dares to stray outside of the established “norms” there is a great disruption. As a result there has been a great deal of division, hatred, and animus over skin tones. I really believe that

America had made great strides in overcoming racism and prejudice. However, politicians saw they could use “race” to their advantage and began to promote “identity politics” dividing people up into groups by skin tone and gender in order to label their political foes as oppressors. It was a tactic used by Hitler and the Nazis way back in the 1930’s and 40’s. Marxists and Fascists need to divide people in order to further their quest for power. Critical Theory was the old Marxist ploy to pit the economic system of capitalism against communism, with an oppressor/oppressed component. In American politics, progressives who wanted to advance Marxist ideology added race to the equation in order to divide people and called it Critical Race Theory. The results have been catastrophic to the American Republic. We are more divided as a nation now than we have been at any time dating back to the Civil War. As long as race baiting politicians can gain influence, power, and money they will continue to label everyone who disagrees with them as “racist”, furthering their quest for division and hatred.

My advice is to simply accept what the Scripture teaches. We are all of one blood. We all have a common ancestry that ultimately dates back to the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, who were created by God in His image. There are no superior or inferior “races” of men. Only men of differing skin tones. Adopt a Biblical world view rather than the atheistic, immoral, and deceitful philosophies of men who hate God and His Word. Above all, do what honors and exalts the Lord Jesus Christ as Colossians 2:6-10 declares: **“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in**

**him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.”**

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I have never heard of any restrictions placed on any individuals that marriage was to stay in a certain race. I was always taught as the Bible teaches that all humans are one race, the human race. **“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation”** (Acts 17:26) That we as humans have one father, **“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”** (Rom. 5:12) If sin entered into the world and passed upon all mankind, then Adam is the one human father of all mankind, hence one race. I will say this, that even the term race is racist. I say that not to shame anyone but to prove a point that God makes no distinction between how much melanin you have in your skin. God makes a difference in nations, people, and

the righteous and the wicked.

Moses was never chastised or reprimanded by God for his marriage to Zipporah, although

Moses’ siblings were otherwise minded. **“And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman”** (Num. 12:1).

I hope we can put to rest this notion of interracial, outer-racial business and be thankful God does not see as man sees but looks upon the heart. **“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart”** (I Sam. 16:7).

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To be able to understand this question I had to look up what the questioner means by “Melting Pot” (I must be older than I thought, or just out of touch)! Maybe others are not sure what it means either so, here is the definition:

A melting pot is a metaphor for a society where many different types of people blend together as one. America is often called a melting pot.

Some countries are made of people who are almost all the same in terms of race, religion, and culture. Then there are places like the United States, where there are many different types of people.

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## Forum Question #2

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A place like that is a melting pot, because the people — despite their differences — manage to coexist and live together as one nation. Anywhere diverse people are assimilated could be called a melting pot. In a melting pot, differences become less important than unity.

My opinion of this question being asked is, that the questioner is seeking approval for an “interracial” marriage or marriages! Which I cannot do! I guess many want to believe that this is 2024 and things should be different when God spoke to the children of Israel and what he decreed then in His law does not apply to us today...you could not be further from the truth in this matter.

God said, **“Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly”** (Deut. 7:3-4). **“And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness. Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth**

**for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever. And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this; Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping”** (Ezra 9:10-14)?

This happened because of what they did in (vv. 1-2). **“Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass”** (Ezra 9:1-2).

Read the rest of Ezra! When Ezra heard this he was ashamed and rent his garment. It upsets me when people try to justify their actions. “Interracial” marriage is wrong, it is sin, and it is an abomination to God. I can give countless Scripture, but I believe every American (Sovereign Grace) Baptist should know this.

Furthermore Baptist should not marry Catholics, saved people should not marry lost people, and

white people should not marry black people, and you wonder why the world is in a mess. And do not throw the race card at me, because, I do not care what color you are, my only concern is your soul! **“Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Can two walk together, except they be agreed”** (Amos 3:1)?

Solomon sinned because he did not listen to God. One of his heathen wives drew him away from God when Solomon burnt incense with her to her god. There are countless others in the Bible that did the same. Many do not want to accept this because they claim that was for the Jews only, but I tell you it was for all mankind.

I worked in a place that had many “interracial” marriages, black-white, white-Korean, white-Japanese, and white-American Indian, the list goes on, and many were my friends and some I went to church with. I am convinced our country is in the shape it is in because we did not listen to God. I will not judge them, that is up to God to do!

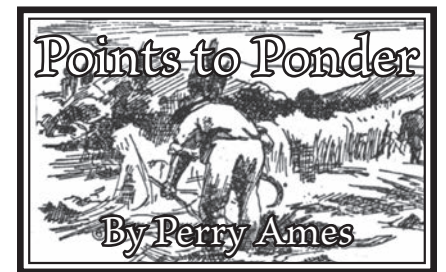
I even asked black ministers I worked with how they felt about “interracial” marriages, and they all replied, we do not like it either, but when you fall in love with someone it is hard for them to see the down side.

I will leave you with this, quoting my first pastor, *“It is not the people, it is their culture.”* So you can justify all you want, but I again believe it is wrong.

One more thing, the law is the law, we do not have to pay

attention to the ceremonial part of the law anymore because of Jesus Christ, but He did not change it, he fulfilled it. Thou shalt not kill! Thou shalt not commit adultery! Thou shalt not steal! Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour! Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s! These are part of the Ten Commandments Moses brought down out of Mount Sinai. If they were for the Jews only, then are you, dear reader, saying we can kill, steal, and commit adultery now because we are no longer under the law? I do not think so!

I believe a question like this is asked because Baptist people today are not willing any longer to hear the truth, but they want a pat on the back telling them it is okay to sin! You need to “study”!!! What part of **“Thou shalt not”** do you not understand? **“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so”** (Acts 17:11).



### Pathways in the Sea

**“The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever**

♦ (Continued on page 15)



# Points to Ponder

(Continued from page 14) ♦

**passeth through the paths of the seas**" (Psa. 8:8).

Bible-believing people are not stupid; in fact true Christianity is a thinking person's religion. We are not talking about a religion that parades itself as Christian but in reality is steeped in un-biblical mumbo jumbo. True Christianity follows the Bible.

The above statement that Bible believing people are not stupid and that Christianity is a thinking person's religion can be demonstrated over and over. For example, in the 1800s, while scientist Matthew Fountaine Maury was ill, his daughter read Psalms 8:8 to her ill father. When Maury heard the verse, he said, "If the Word of God says there are paths (or rivers) in the sea, they must be there. I will find them."

Before then, hardly anything was known about ocean currents or sea charts. Maury changed that and was nicknamed "Pathfinder

of the Seas". He published the "Wind and Current Chart of the North Atlantic," which showed sailors how to use the ocean's currents and winds to their advantage and drastically reduced the time required to complete an ocean voyage. In 1855, he published "The Physical Geography of the Sea," which is now credited as "the first textbook of modern oceanography" and he then became known as the Father of Oceanography. Maury was in fact one of the principle advocates for the founding of a national observatory, and also Annapolis Academy.

Ponder this; the ocean currents that the little lines on a globe represent were found by a Bible believing Christian because he believed the Bible. Also think about this; a land lubber prophet and former shepherd who never saw the sea/ocean wrote Psalms 8:8. Who told him there were paths in the sea? Only one answer, God gave him the words to write.



the Heavenly kingdom. We, too, should be obedient, pleasing, submissive, honest, and faithful unto our Master and God. In this way, we can adorn the doctrine of God – we can be a positive influence on the world of men. In so doing, we will be able by both our actions and our words, to be a proper representation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and a good example of the ways and words of God (II Tim. 2:20-21).

## Not Superficial

We should be certain that our lives are spent here, in such a way, that the Doctrine of God our Saviour will be adorned by our words and deeds. If this is our goal, then we will be prone to live lives that are more focused on eternal and heavenly things, rather than lives that are centered on the world and the lusts and the desires of the flesh. As servants of God our Saviour we must be inclined to the good and noble characteristics which are described in Scripture. It is a great honor to serve the Lord. It is a further honor and privilege to be called to adorn the Doctrine of God. I pray that God will bless us so that we will be found faithful (Rom. 10:13-15; Phil. 4:8-9; Eph. 4:1-3)!

## Not Occasional

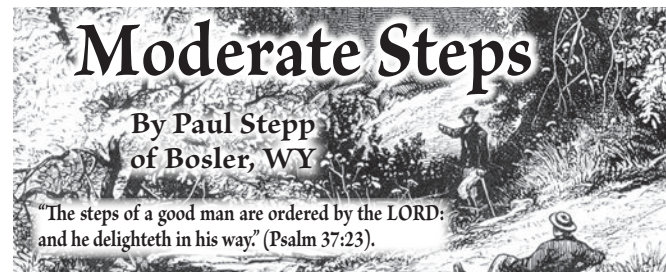
Adornments in the mortal realm, are often something that can be put on and taken off at the discretion of the wearer. Adornments in the mortal realm are sometimes even subject to the whims and emotions of the wearer. As an adornment to the Word of God, and as an example of the results of the teachings of the Doctrine of God, you and I ought to be a permanent adornment – not something that is just occasionally seen, or something that is only noticed from time to time. If we will do good works – if

we will study and proclaim God's Word and live lives that are above reproach before the world – then we will be a proper adornment to the Doctrine of God. The world may hate us, and though they may still fling accusations against us, they will not be able to justly condemn us. And they will find that our works and the Word of God (which we have portrayed) will glorify God, even as the sinners are condemned for having rejected God's Word (Acts 2:42; I Tim. 4:13-16; I Pet. 2:11-12; 3:16-17).

## Exalting God

The adornments to the doctrine of God ought to be complementary, harmonizing, and exalting to God. The adornment that is you, ought not detract or take away from the Doctrine of God. You should be a glorifying attribute to the teachings of the Word of God; you should, in fact, be about the business of always glorifying and exalting Jesus Christ in the presence of others. In this way, you can be a positive and contributing adornment to the Doctrine of God and the Cause of Jesus Christ. Our light should glorify God. Our good works should be performed with the intention of bringing glory to the Father and God in Heaven. Just to be pretty and an adornment, is not enough. But, to direct the attention of men towards God, and to reveal His glory unto them – this should be our goal. We are the presenters of the Gospel to the world. We are the fountain of truth on this earth. The responsibility is ours. We have no right to leave this responsibility to others. Others will give partial truths or perverted gospels. Others will give truths mixed with lies. But, as the Churches of Jesus Christ, let

♦ (Continued on page 16)



## ADORNING THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

**"Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things"** (Titus 2:9-10).

The key for servants to adorn the doctrine of God, is described

for us in our text passage, when Paul said that servants should be 1) obedient unto their own masters; 2) please their masters well in all things; 3) not answering again (complain or grumble); 4) not purloining (stealing) from their masters; 5) showing good fidelity (faithfulness) unto their masters. I suppose that these are all good for not only earthly servants to observe, but also good for servants unto God, in

## Moderate Steps

(Continued from page 15) ♦

us proclaim the whole counsel of God, and the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we do so, we ourselves, must adorn the doctrine of God in all things (Matt. 5:13-16; John 7:16-18; Phil. 1:27-28; 2:14-16).



**Quotes  
from  
Brother  
Ritechus  
N.  
Dignation**  
by Joseph Harris

# 2

### WIT AND WISDOM

Here is a word from the wise for preachers concerning sermon preparation and delivery: Bale your hay! Make sure you have it together before you climb into the pulpit. That is what old Brother Gerald Kellar taught us preacher boys down at the institute. Stand up, speak up, and shut up, otherwise you will start repeating yourself. The direct result of hay not baled is a long sermon that goes in circles.



## Timely Tweets

(Continued from page 15) ♦

**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. 12:2). We must learn to focus on the goal, as He does (Rom. 8:28-29; I Cor. 15:58).

I. God finds joy in His works (Gen. 1:31; Psalms 104:24, 31); in His Son (Isa. 53:10-11; John 8:29); in punishing sin (Rev. 18:20); and

in thinking of His people (Zeph. 3:17).

A. As they fear Him and seek His forgiveness (Psalms 147:11)

B. As they worship with gratitude (Psalms 100:2, 4; Proverbs 15:8)

C. As they pay their tithes and offerings (Psalms 96:8-9; Mal. 3:8-10),

D. As they express their reasons for being thankful (Hebrews 13:15-16)

E. As they are honest in business (Proverbs 11:1, 20; 12:22)

F. As they encourage and exhort one another (Mal. 3:16-18; Hebrews 10:25)

II. The unbeliever finds short-lived pleasure apart from God (Heb. 11:25).

He finds joy in good health and prosperity (Luke 16:19, 25); in the beauty of nature (Rom. 1:19-25); and in bad things.

A. When an enemy suffers (Proverbs 24:17)

B. When involved in wickedness (Proverbs 2:14; 2 Timothy 3:4)

C. When finding pleasure as others sin (Rom. 1:32)

III. Sin robs us of joy.

A. Satan lies to us with the thought, "Sin will bring us more joy than holiness (Proverbs 13:15; Mal. 3:13-15); or that sometimes it is "necessary" to sin or despair, but God always gives us a way to do what is right. (I Cor. 10:13)

B. Murmuring and disputing are sins that hinder us from shining as a light in this world of darkness. (I Cor. 10:10; II Cor. 10:5; Phil. 2:14-15)

C. Bad thoughts and words pollute us. (Psalms 19:14; Eph. 4:29; Phil. 4:8)

IV. The joy of a Christian is developed by renewing our mind (Rom. 12:1-2).

A. With meditation on the Lord, His precepts, and our

salvation (Psalms 1:1-3; 5:11)

B. With prayer to face temptations and trials (Matthew 26:41; Phil. 4:6-7)

C. When counted worthy to suffer for the cause of Christ (Matt. 5:10-12; Acts 5:41; 16:16-25; James 5:10-11)

D. When obedient to God's commandments (Matt. 5:19; 28:20; John 15:9-11)

Conclusion: An attitude of trust and joy in Christian women will honor God and bless our families and the Lord's church. He saves us to conform us to the image of His dear Son.

**"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength..."** (Hab. 3:19).



It is commonly taught that Jesus Christ gave His life for all mankind without exception. It is said that due to this, it is now "possible" for every sinner to have eternal life. But the possession of this eternal life is conditioned upon the sinner deciding for Christ or accepting Christ of his own free will. According to this system of teaching, Jesus did not actually save any one when He

died and rose again. He merely made salvation "possible".

Let us, however, examine this teaching. According to this system, Jesus died "equally" for the sinner who rejected Him as for the sinner who accepted Him. One will, however, wind up in hell and the other in heaven. But what decides that one will end up in heaven? Is it what Jesus did for him? No! For according to this teaching, Christ did the same for the man in hell. Therefore, the unavoidable conclusion is that the one is in heaven because of "what he did," because of his free will decision to accept Christ. Hence, the decisive factor in a man's having eternal life is his own free will, "not Jesus Christ!" This makes free will the actual saviour. But this is a false saviour!

First, no unsaved sinner is willing to accept Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul says that all men be they Jew or Gentile are "**under sin**" (Rom. 3:9). In that condition Paul further describes them: "**As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is (none) that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one**" (Rom. 3:10-12) (emph. writer). That certainly does not sound like a group of people yearning to accept Christ as their personal Saviour! According to this passage, all men do evil. "**There is none that doeth good.**" Jesus Christ said: "**Every one that doeth evil (hateth) the light, (neither cometh to the light,) lest his deeds should be reproved**" (John 3:20) (emph. writer). No sinner is going to freely accept what he hates. He does "not" come to the light!

But does not a sinner have a

♦ (Continued on page 17)



# The False Saviour...

(Continued from page 16) ♦

free will? Indeed he does! And the freedom of that will is identified in Romans 6:20: **"For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free (from) righteousness"** (emph. writer). The sinner's will is free "from," not "to" righteousness. Hence, any choices he makes with his will are away from righteousness rather than for righteousness. With a will that is free from righteousness, a sinner will not choose Jesus Christ, **"THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"** (Jer. 23:6).

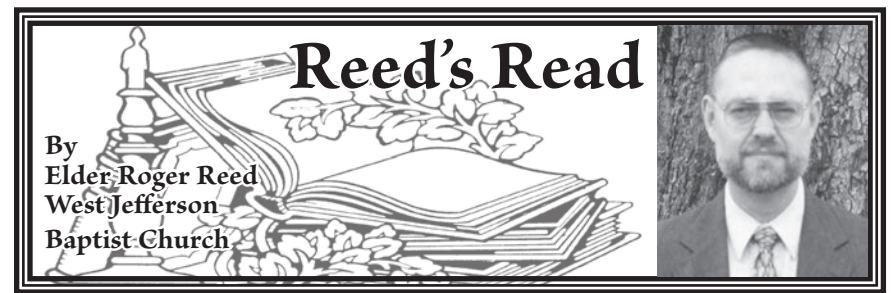
Secondly, Jesus did not come merely to make salvation and eternal life a possibility to be decided by the sinner's will. He came to save. Notice Matthew 1:21: **"And she shall bring forth a sin, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."** The verse says, **"He (shall) save,"** not "try to save" or "possibly save." That expression **"shall save"** is just as sure of accomplishment as **"she (shall) bring forth a son"** or **"thou (shalt) call his name JESUS."** (emph. writer).

Observe that Jesus saves **"his people,"** as **"all that the Father giveth me."** Note: **"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but raise it up again at the last day"** (John 6:38-39). Mind that the Father's will is that Jesus should lose none of those given to Him. Jesus came to do that will. And He did it! In John 17:4 Jesus said, **"I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."** Speaking of His Father, Jesus said,

**"I do (always) those things that please him"** (John 8:29) (emph. writer). Therefore, Jesus saved every soul God gave Him to save. He lost none of them. He did the Father's will!

Jesus Christ gave His life for the sheep (John 10:11). These sheep are the same as **"all that the Father giveth me."** Speaking of the sheep Jesus said: **"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all"** (John 10:29). The sheep do not include every human being without exception. John 10:26 says: **"But ye believe not, because (ye are not of my sheep!)"** (emph. writer). Thus, Christ did not give Himself for those addressed in these words. He gave Himself for the sheep, for **"his people,"** for all that the Father gave Him. And in so doing He saved them in fulfillment of the Father's will. The sheep are designated as **"God's elect"** in Romans 8:33). Because of Christ's death for them, no charge can be laid against them. **"They shall never perish"** (John 10:28)!

Therefore, it is not the execution of the freewill of the sinner that secures for him salvation and eternal life. It is rather the execution of the Father's will by Jesus Christ. Jesus **"alone"** is the Saviour. He **"by Himself"** purged sins (Heb. 1:3). No wonder then that when speaking of the new birth, the Bible says that men are born **"(not) of blood, ...nor of (the will) of man, (but of God)"** (John 1:13) (emph. writer). No wonder then that when Paul spoke of how men are God's children, he said: **"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of (his will),"** not **"your free will,"** but **"his will"** (Eph. 1:5) (emph. writer)!



## Junior Church is "NOT" Sovereign Grace

**"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Prov. 22:6).

First let me say, there is not one verse of Scripture to support such a teaching, it is Arminian at best. And those that try to bring such a teaching into the church are committing a great evil in the Sovereign Grace Church. I believe there is enough error being brought in to our churches today and we surely do not need to add to it.

I was repulsed when I saw that a church was setting aside money for such an unscriptural thing. So, what you will hear from some is them crying out... **"what's the harm, it's for the children."** Well, the harm once again is, it is not Scriptural, plain, and simple! I get so tired of hearing that phrase. That is what the world says about all the Catholic holidays. Xmas, easter egg hunts, Halloween, to name a few, that is how people justify doing it, **"it's for the children"** just look around and see how all those things worked out for the children.

What is happening right in front of our eyes is another of Satan's lies. If you did not know it, he is very good at it **"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth**

**in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it"** (John 8:44).

I can not for the life of me, understand why members of a Sovereign Grace Baptist Church continue to bring in Catholic and Protestants teachings and practices. My advice would be to take your garbage elsewhere, and stop polluting the Lord's Church with it.

So what is Junior Church, or as some may know it as Children's Church? Since I was once in a Baptist Church that had (to my shame) Junior Church, I can tell you what the concept is. While the adults are having the morning worship service, the children of various ages are in another room or in the lower part (basement) of the church building. Understand, that in order to have Junior Church, there has to be one or two adults, (usually a married couple) to supervise the kiddies. So, here is the harm: these two adults and the children never hear the sermon message from their pastor that he has prepared for all the people for that Sunday Service, and the children then are never taught how to be still and how they are to behave in the house of God. Now, you can pitch a fit and throw a temper tantrum over this, but you do not have a leg to stand on or any proof from the Word of God that it is alright to do!

My two children were in it,

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| BEREA BAPTIST BANNER                          |             |
|---|-------------|
| Financial Report                              |             |
| 5-1-2024 to 5-31-2024                         |             |
| Beginning Balance .....                       | \$12,807.06 |
| <b>RECEIPTS:</b>                              |             |
| Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....              | 750.00      |
| Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL .....          | 25.00       |
| The Lord's B. C., Goose Creek, SC .....       | 100.00      |
| Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH .....      | 100.00      |
| Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....         | 100.00      |
| S. G. B. C., Wellington, KS .....             | 200.00      |
| Indore B.C., Indore, WV .....                 | 400.00      |
| Berea B.C., Stonington, IL .....              | 60.00       |
| Big Creek B.C., Wayne, WV .....               | 200.00      |
| Victory B. C., Courtland VA .....             | 25.00       |
| Grace B. C., Corbin KY .....                  | 100.00      |
| Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY .....            | 45.00       |
| Tim/Carol Willett Cottonwood Shores, TX ..... | 125.00      |
| Portland B.C., Plumerville, AR .....          | 50.00       |
| Faith B.C., Lynn, AR .....                    | 12.50       |
| New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....         | 100.00      |
| Southside B.C., Fulton, MS .....              | 50.00       |
| Briar Creek B.C., Williamsburg, KY .....      | 150.00      |
| Parkway Landmark B.C., Springfield, OR .....  | 200.00      |
| West Jefferson B.C., West Jefferson, OH ..... | 100.00      |
| Subscriptions .....                           | 160.00      |
| Anonymous .....                               | 125.00      |
| Div. Checks .....                             | 177.00      |
| Repay from Bookstore .....                    | 185.29      |
| Sub Total .....                               | 3,539.79    |
| TOTAL .....                                   | \$16,346.85 |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>                          |             |
| Printing .....                                | 417.12      |
| Postage: .....                                | 559.94      |
| Wages .....                                   | 2,000.00    |
| FICA .....                                    | 153.00      |
| Div. Checks .....                             | 177.00      |
| Supplies .....                                | 449.42      |
| Total Expenditures .....                      | 3,756.48    |
| ENDING BALANCE .....                          | 12,590.37   |



| BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST                   |          |
|---|----------|
| Financial Report                          |          |
| 5-1-2024 to 5-31-2024                     |          |
| Beginning Balance .....                   | 6,780.13 |
| <b>RECEIPTS:</b>                          |          |
| Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....          | 150.00   |
| Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY ..... | 100.00   |
| Grace B. C., Corbin, KY .....             | 100.00   |
| Calvary I.B.C. - Sumas, WA .....          | 100.00   |
| .....                                     | 450.00   |
| Interst .....                             | 0.58     |
| TOTAL .....                               | 7,230.13 |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>                      |          |
| Radio time .....                          | 379.96   |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....                  | 379.96   |
| ENDING BALANCE .....                      | 6,850.75 |

# Reed's Read

(Continued from page 17) ♦

and we would go down to pick them up. All we saw was total chaos; they were not be taught anything, I learned from the Word of God that it was my wife and myself's responsibility to raise these two children (gifts) from God and no one else. I asked the late Elder Oscar B. Mink, my first pastor, about the use of certain words he used in his sermons and he said, "the Holy Spirit was able to apply his words to the very young and to the very old." I soon learned the wisdom in his answer. I would like to quote two of our older preachers that have been long taken from us and how they answered this question when asked them! And I quote; *"Should a church have a junior church? Should the young people be given something on their level while the older people listen to preaching in another part of the building?"*

This is what Jimmie B. Davis and Harold Harvey (both with their Lord) had to say:

"I assume that the person asking this question refers only to the worship service of the congregation, and not to Bible study classes.

I find nothing in the Scripture which would lead me to believe that there are different levels of worship-one for young people, and another for older people. Although many arguments may be advanced to justify this modern-day innovation in worship services, none of them are founded upon the Word of God. Jesus and the apostles most certainly did not teach anything remotely akin to the so-called junior church. During the personal ministry of Christ men, women, and children were present when

He taught. In Matthew 14:19-21 where we have a record of Jesus feeding the great multitude with five loaves and two fish, it is said that those **"that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children"** (14:21). Again, in Matthew 15:29-39, a record is given of our Lord feeding four thousand men, beside women and children. These were said to have continued with Him three days (v. 32). Jesus did not send the children apart when the time for eating came, nor did He send them apart by themselves when He preached or taught the message of God. We, in examining the ministry of the apostles, find absolutely no evidence that they ever separated children from adults —sending the children off to another place to be taught by one of their helpers.

If a preacher cannot preach on a level so that both young and old can understand, the fault is with the preacher and not the Word of God. Sometimes preachers who want to be looked upon as being learned and scholarly use high sounding theological terms that cannot be understood by young or old. Those who are older and advanced in study may grasp theological terms and definitions more easily, but it has been my observation that the simple preaching of the Scriptures is most always understood by young and old alike. There are times when the very young might be taken apart for various reasons, but I speak of those children who have been trained to the point that they know what a worship service means. It has also been my observation that many young people have a better understanding of the Word of God than others who are much older. We cannot, nor should we try to limit the power of God's

Word, by saying that children cannot understand and should be removed to another part of the building.

If we have been saved for a long period of time and have been blessed with knowledge of the Word, let us not assume that this knowledge came about because of being superior to our children but because God has been pleased to reveal truth to us. The God who used His Word in our case can also use it for the good of our children when we use the same language (or type of language) that He caused His Word to be written in. I believe His Word is plain, even in its translation into other languages from the Hebrew and Greek." JIMMIE B. DAVIS

**"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"** (Prov. 22:6).

No! We begin to train our children at birth. The first six years are some of the most important years of their life. It is especially important to train them in the way of the Lord. They should learn to respect those that are in authority. It is the desire of every young child to follow their parents or grand-parents. Have you ever noticed a young child trying to walk in the footprints of his father or older brother? The family should work together as a unit, at home and at church. The family should sit together in the preaching service. We have heard the saying "the family that prays together stays together." Why should not the family that prays together, worship together?

Why does a church need a junior church? It would be interesting to hear honest reasons for having a junior church. I have heard some pastors say that it was necessary to have a junior church,

♦ (Continued on page 19)



## Reed's Read

(Continued from page 18) ♦

because of the bus children, the children disrupt the preaching service, or the church auditorium is too small. Is the Lord Jesus Christ pleased with these religious shenanigans?

I have before me a church bulletin from a church in Ohio. It is hard to tell whether they are going to have Sunday School or a rodeo. It was called "Round up Sunday," and they were trying to round-up all the little "Doggies" and get them to the Sunday School Coral. In the Sunday School report, they announced the winners of the baseball contest. The prizes were a bicycle, radio cassette player and an over night outing. Congratulations were given to the winners, I quote the writer, "You all deserved the prizes."

The judgment seat of Christ will reveal the intentions of pastor and church. The apostle Paul said, **"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"** (11 Cor. 5:10). This church has a Junior church. Some churches have turned to these humanistic practices. The religious world sees them as being very successful. If any God-fearing pastor or church refuses to practice such shenanigans or warns against them, they are accused of being hyper-calvinist, against bringing poor little children to church, or against buses.

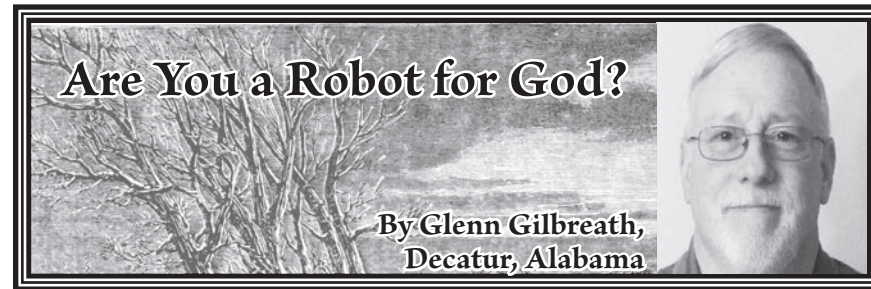
The preaching of God's Word is for the young and the old. The gospel is the power of God to every one that believes. It is interesting that some believe the Lord must

have help. God ordained the means for the salvation of His people both young or old. Paul said, **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God"** (I Cor. 1:18). HAROLD J. HARVEY

I have no problem with a youth group that is not on the same day as the church services and is under a controlled teaching environment with a well-seasoned person or couple. In this day and age, a married couple or

the pastor and his wife would be a good choice. There are many activities for young people far better than Junior Church, you can take them skating, bowling, out to dinner as a group, or a Bible Study at the church building!

My prayer is that if you are a Sovereign Grace pastor or church, you will consider a move of this nature and seek the Lord before you make a huge mistake, and the Lord chastises you/and or the church.



I guess one of the first robots I remember seeing was on the television show "Lost in Space." That particular robot had superhuman strength, futuristic weaponry, and often displayed human characteristics, such as laughter, sadness, and mockery, and even was able to sing and play the guitar. Of course, that robot was just a character on a fictional TV show.

Surely, "robotics" has evolved into a huge benefit to manufacturing and can do many duties quicker and more efficient than humans. Man has begun to create (build) robots that are similar in appearance to humans. But all robotics only do what its creator programs it to do.

Man is also a created being. In Genesis 2:7 we see that God created man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and then man became a living soul.

No matter what man does to create a robot, it cannot become a living, breathing soul. The robot does not have flesh and blood like humans, for God teaches that **"the life of the flesh is in the blood"** (Lev. 17:11).

God created mankind with a body, soul, and spirit (I Thes. 5:23). Robots may have a body (arms, legs, head, etc.), but they do not have a soul (mind, emotions, will) nor a spirit (eternal part that connects with God). The life of the robot consists of man-made technology such as computers, motors, power supply, sensor system, and so forth.

God created mankind with a mind to think, to have a conscience, to be sincere, passionate, and loving. A robot does its job without thinking. Man can use his mind to work out problems of math, science, technology, politics, or whatsoever. Robots only use information that has been

programmed into its computer by man to perform the tasks given to them.

In the same sense that man can create and program a robot to do certain tasks, God creates (saves) man to accomplish His commandments, teachings, decrees and principles (Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16). Man will use a computer to program his robot, while God's computer is the Word of God. The Word of God contains more information than all of man's computers put together. No matter what may come into the life of a child of God, He has programmed His Word so that whatever task needs to be done can be accomplished.

Some questions each child of God must ask themselves is, "Am I accomplishing the tasks given by God's computer (the Word). Is my computer malfunctioning? Has my 'hard drive' crashed? Have I been infected with malware?" What excuse can we come up with that will keep us from being that well-programmed "robot" for God? The Lord teaches His chosen elect to **"keep my commandments"** (John 15:10). The word "keep" in this verse means "to guard or observe;" and when we keep them, we shall abide in the love of Jesus Christ. But not only are we to "keep" His commandments, we are to "do" them. (Rev. 22:14). The word "do" means "to act rightly, do well, to carry out, to execute." If we are programmed right, we will do them just like a well-programmed robot.

What should we be programmed to do? Read and study the Word of God (Joshua 8:35; I Tim. 4:13; II Tim. 2:15). Spend time in prayer unto the Lord (Eph. 6:18; James 5:16). Take time to witness to others (Acts

♦ (Continued on page 20)

# Are You aRobot...

(Continued from page 19) ♦

26:16; Acts 22:15). Accomplish good works (Matt. 5:16). In Acts 26:20 the word “meet” means “suitable or worthy.” The Bible says that we ought to do works worthy of the salvation that we have been freely given in Christ. The work refers to a positive achievement.

How important are good works? Sometimes God’s people can be skittish about good works. We think, “Just preach the Gospel, and good works will happen on their own.” But according to Titus 3:8, God’s people are to “**maintain good works**” because they are “**good and profitable unto men.**” There is an urgency here that is often missing in our preaching. Good works call for our devotion. According to Ephesians 2:10, we were “**created unto good works**” and that we should “**walk in them.**”

What “works” are we to do? I will only list six, but there are many more that are so important for a child of God. 1) A work that is worthy of the Lord. 2) A work that is bearing the right kind of fruit. 3) A work that is an offering

and a sacrifice to God. 4) A work of witnessing to the unsaved. 5) A work that is an example to our fellow believers. 6) A work that ministers to the needs of our fellow believers.

And so, I ask, “Are you programmed to serve God? Are you a good robot for God?” The answer to these questions is – If you have been pricked in your heart by the Holy Spirit, and believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died on the cross of Calvary as your Mediator before the Almighty God, and you have repented of your sins, and you have been baptized into one of His true churches, then you are programmed with the ability to serve God.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Grace Landmark Baptist Church of Buckhannon, WV, is seeking a pastor. The church is Sovereign Grace and Landmark in doctrine and practice. Any interested called pastor of like faith may contact Brother Brad Butcher at (304) 669-4738 or (304) 745-6226.

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Grace Baptist Church of Gladwin, MI is seeking to start a mission work in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We are also seeking a sound preacher to go there. If you are interested and feel led of the Lord please contact Pastor Sam Wilson at 989-701-5564. You may also contact Brother Tom Coffee, who is currently working in the area at 843-254-3018.

This ministry currently has a blog written by Bro. Coffee that can be read online at <https://thefaithfulofgod.com/blog/>

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The Maranatha Missionary Baptist Church located at 14460 Ravenna Avenue, Alliance, OH, 44601, is seeking a pastor. The church was organized in 1981 and currently has seven members that are grounded in sound Baptist doctrine. Any interested elder can contact Brother Denny Morgan at [dennymatco@gmail.com](mailto:dennymatco@gmail.com) or call (330) 324-3038.

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The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, KS is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact the church in writing at SGBC, 400 N. Main St., Caldwell, KS 67022, or by phone Brother Darin Wiley 620-863-2431.

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The Victory Baptist Church of Chehalis, Washington is in need of a pastor. Any interested brother may call Gerry Greisen at (360) 985-7975, or Mark Fenison at (360) 751-2929.

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The Lord’s Baptist Church in Tacoma, Washington is in need of a pastor. For more information please contact Gaylen Russell at 360-879-5565 (home) or 253-495-4567 (cell) or by Email: [gaylenr@rainierconnect.com](mailto:gaylenr@rainierconnect.com).

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Bethel Baptist Church, which is located at 2603

Penfield, Pasadena, TX 77506, is in need of a pastor. Any interested Elders should call Brother Risinger at 832-564-6350 which is his cell phone or you can call him at home at 281-476-5099.

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The Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, AL by God’s grace is seeking a pastor. The church is Sovereign Grace, Landmark, Independent, Missionary, KJV Bible in faith and practice. If you desire a copy of our Articles of Faith please let us know. Any interested Elder of like faith may contact: Glenn Gilbreath (256) 476-1033 or Mike Gibson (256) 303-7747.

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The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Brownsburg, Indiana is in need of a pastor. The church firmly believes in the Sovereignty of God, the doctrines of Grace and the perpetuity of the New Testament Church. Interested brethren should contact Chris Rainey at 317-727-4755.

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Philadelphia Baptist Church of Decatur, AL will be hosting a Bible Conference September 21-22, 2024. Services begin Saturday at 10am, Noon meal, and 2:30pm. Sunday at 10am, Noon meal.

Speakers will be: Jonathan Bailess; Clint Keith; Wesley Titus. If you are interested in worshipping with us and would like more information, please contact Bro. Glenn Gilbreath (256-476-1033) or Bro. Mike Gibson (256-303-7747). We meet at 202 Mill Rd. Decatur, AL. All are invited to attend for a joyous time of fellowship and preaching of the Word of God.



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