

The Baptist Examiner

The Paper With a National Circulation

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa. 8:20).

Devoted to Evangelism, Missions and Bible Doctrines.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel!"

WHOLE NO. 447

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Thanksgiving

Offer unto God thanksgiving and pay thy vows unto the most High. *Psa. 50:14*

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with Psalms. *Psa. 95:2*

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise, be thankful unto him and bless his name. *Psa. 100:4*

Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever, Amen. *Rev. 7:12*

BOOM IN BIRTHS

The United States, with a 1945 population of 139,427,000, is growing at a rate to confound experts who once forecast a population crest of 151,000,000 in 1955. Revised figures now show that a United States of 190,000,000 by the year 2000 is not impossible. For the decade of 1940-50, the population gain will exceed 13,000,000.

In the three and a half years ending July 1, 1945, wartime births were almost 1,000,000 greater than earlier Census Bureau predictions. Births now are continuing near the 1944 rate of 2,800,000. By 1950 there will be 55,025,000 more children under ten years of age than in 1940—a warning to church and Sunday-school teachers. —Religious Digest.

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Judson, the missionary, when he was dying, heard from the lips of his wife as she read from the newspaper that some Jews in Turkey had been converted through the published account of his suffering for the gospel in Burma. Mrs. Judson relates that an unearthly solemnity came over the dying missionary's face. "Love," he said, which was his way of addressing her, "this awes me." "Why should this trouble you?" said she. "This is good news." He replied, "When I was a young man, I prayed for the Jews and tried to go to Jerusalem as a missionary because I read the words of the Lord about 'beginning at Jerusalem.' But God sent me here to preach in Burma, and to suffer tortures in Burmese prisons. Now, by this means, God has brought Jews to repentance in Turkey."

Mused Uncle Mose

One day pahson say to one o' he deacons, "Brudder Jones, do you b'leaves in election?" Brudder Jones look kinda 'sprised, an' say, "Whut dey votin' on?"

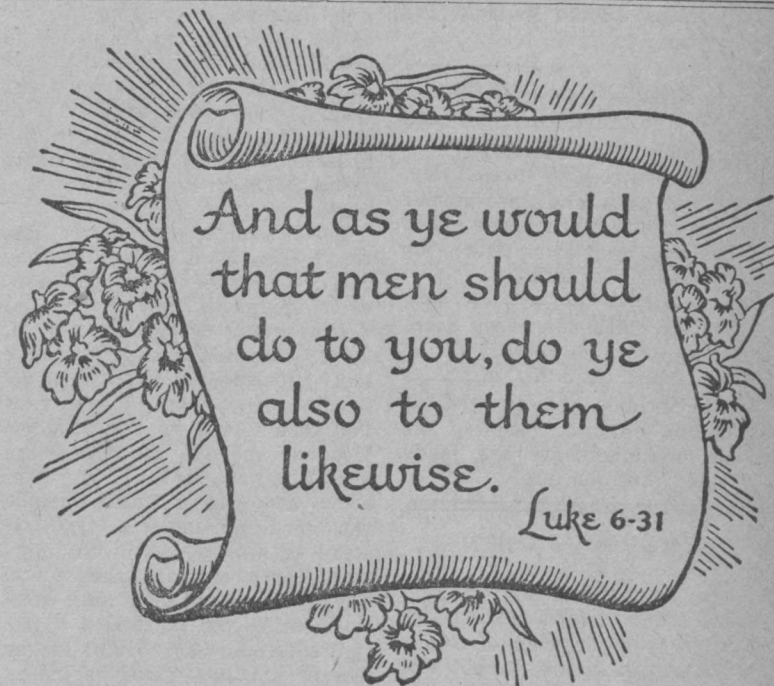
When You Pray, You Get Not Coincidence But God's Power

A flier went in to skip bomb a Japanese ship in the Pacific. He let go his bombs, then came around again for another run. Then as he came over the target and smashed his controls. He finally pulled out of the dive, dropped his bombs, and looked around for another of the planes to follow back to the base. There were none. Frantically he searched the skies—controls gone, hundreds of miles from any land, wounded. He raised his plane to the cover of the clouds and applied a tourniquet to his leg. Now high way to head? He flew along a while . . . then a prayer went up from the lost plane. A flier went up. On and on he flew . . . No controls . . . Lost . . . Alone . . . What hope could he have? No compass but a prayer. Finally, he dropped down below the clouds . . . In the distance was . . . land . . . a landing field . . . his landing field. He pulled the plane in safely . . . Coincidence? Or Prayer? Had he been alone? Had he been lost? The skeptic shouts "Luck"; the Christian whispers "Prayer."

A letter came from a service man recently. He said that he was glad to get the letter telling him that he had been put on the church prayer list and had been remembered in prayer, and that explained something that had

worried him. He said that one night he was "all down in the dumps" after a particularly strenuous day, and could not sleep. Then a strange feeling came over him and he seemed to feel a presence about him . . . something stirred within him . . . he walked to the window . . . looked up at the skies . . . and went back to bed feeling somehow that everything was all right. He said he got the best night's sleep since he has been in the army. Then just a couple of weeks ago he got the letter, which enclosed the Prayer List—and he looked down the names figured the dates—it was the same night! The skeptic shouts coincidence . . . the Christian whispers "Prayer."

An old lady lay dying, body wrecked by periodic spasms of pain. The pastor went by, and he and the daughter of the dying one had a prayer. The daughter said, "I know she must die, but if only she did not have to suffer so . . ." The one praying said, "Oh, God, may her passing be easy for her." The preacher left. In peace she died. The critic says "Impossible." The Christian says "Prayer." —Alabama Baptist



A Doctrine That Distinguishes Baptists From All Other Sects

By Roy Mason
Tampa, Fla.

In T. T. Martin's book, "The New Testament Church," he makes a statement something like this "Baptists are the only people among all the great denominations, who insist that a person claim to be a saved person before he is baptized or joins the church." We believe that investigation will prove this statement to be true. If some one tries to say that Methodists, Presbyterians, Campbellites, etc., insist on people being saved, it may be pointed out in reply, that those practicing infant baptism receive and baptize those who can't even understand the way of salvation. And in the case of the Campbellites, Catholics and others who hold to the doctrine of baptismal regeneration, they immerse a person to make a Christian out of him.

Since Baptists insist that all must claim conversion before they are eligible for either baptism or membership, and since so many others baptize before belief is possible or else to make one a Christian, this doctrine of "Re-

generate Church Membership" may be said to be a distinctive Baptist doctrine.

Do Baptists Always Live Up To It?

Unfortunately, No. How do Baptists violate their doctrine of "Regenerate Church Membership?" Some answers:

1. Through their "junior choirs," children's story hours, "decision days," and special Sunday School services during revivals, in which pressure is brought to bear on children en masse to induce them to make a profession. We venture that fully a third of the so-called conversions in Baptist churches of this day, are of this sort. Not for anything would we have in our church one of these evangelistic singers who comes with his "bag of tricks" to pull the children in. Herod who slaughtered the innocents, was no more an enemy of childhood, than the man who works his way into the affections of a bunch of children with the intention of leading the whole group into the church. That is like leading lambs to slaughter.

This Sort of Thing Fills Churches With Unconverted. How Do We Know?

1. We have had dozens of people. (Continued on page four)

IF YOU MUST DRINK

Says the "Log of the Good Ship Grace": "If you are a married man who absolutely must drink, start a saloon in your own home. Be the only customer and you won't have to buy a license. Give your wife two dollars to buy a gallon of whiskey. Remember there are sixty-nine glasses in a gallon. Buy your drinks from your wife. When the first gallon is gone, she will have eight dollars to deposit in the bank and two to start business again. If you should live ten years, continue to buy booze from her, and then die with snakes in your shoes. She will have enough money to bury you respectably, bring up your children, buy a house and lot, marry a decent man and forget about you!"

-- The First Baptist Pulpit --

"The Prodigal Son"

Notice four things about my message; or rather, notice four things about this Prodigal Son about whom we have just read. First, he sinned; secondly, he lost everything; thirdly, he repented; and lastly, he was welcomed home.

He Sinned

Notice in the first place that this young man sinned. He sinned in several ways.

First of all, he wanted the world more than he wanted his father. He had a good home, he had a good place to sleep and to eat, he had everything that the rest of the household had. He had fellowship with his father and his mother and the rest of the fam-

ily. He had all that he needed to let him enjoy life. He had security and all that was necessary to maintain a good standard of living. But his eyes were set toward other shores. He wanted to get out and away from home into another land. He wanted to have his fling at life and to enjoy this world as much as it were possible. It didn't matter about his father, it didn't matter about his mother, it didn't matter about the rest of the family nor anything that was at home. He wanted to get out away from it all.

And people today would rather serve the devil than they would God, they would rather have their sin than to live righteous, they (Continued on page two)

JOHN L. BRAY
Jacksonville, Fla.

Read Luke 15:11-22.

In the fifteenth chapter of Luke we have one of the clearest pictures of God's love for poor lost sinners that can be found anywhere in the entire Bible. It is the story of the Prodigal Son. It has been said that some preachers preach on the story of the Prodigal Son so much that he has about been worn out, by dragging him down to the hog pen and dragging him back home again. But I think that this great story should be told over and over again, because it illustrates how God loves a poor, lost sinner.

THOU, GOD, SEEST ME

When King George VI, of England, visited the ruins of one of Britain's heavily bombed cities, thousands turned out to see him, among them a group of school children. After the King's departure one of the little boys was seen to be crying bitterly. "What's the matter, lad?" his teacher asked him. "Didn't you see the King?" "Yes, I saw him," the boy answered, "but the King did not see me."

That is not astonishing, for an earthly king cannot see all his subjects. But the King of glory, our Lord Jesus Christ, seated at the Father's right hand, can and does see all His own.

When Hagar, fleeing from her mistress, was alone and distressed (Continued on page four)

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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THE PRODIGAL SON

(Continued from page one)
would rather live according to worldly standards than to live a Christian life. And I tell you right now that most people will lick salt out of the devil's hand if he will only promise them a half pint of pleasure. They are just like this young man who wanted the world more than he wanted his father's home — they want the world more than they want God.

If this young man had only contrasted what he had living where he was, what he was going into, he would have seen a great difference. He had everything at home; where he was going he would have nothing. He was leaving the fellowship of home, the joys, the happiness, the peace that only his home life could give, in order to go out into a world of sin where he would find his happiness gone, his peace gone, his joys gone, and with no friends nor members of his family for fellowship. And how like men today! Instead of choosing God and all He has to offer they choose the world and all of its sin. They shun the peace and happiness and the joys that only God can give and they choose instead the temporary pleasures of life that soon pass away like

soap bubbles bursting before the eyes.

In the next place, this young man was shortsighted. He wanted everything ahead of time. He was too impatient to wait till the time had come when he was supposed to have fallen heir to the things his father would have left him. Instead of waiting for all of the things he was supposed to get, he said, "Dad, I want everything that's coming to me right now. I don't want to wait until the proper time for me to have possession of the things to which I will fall heir. Let me have mine now!"

Have you known people like that? They want everything they can get out of life right now, even though it may mean that they forfeit everything for it. They want temporary pleasures and amusements out of life regardless of what they lose by having them. They will turn down Heaven and all its glories in order to have a little fun now. They are like a young couple who go ahead and live in sin instead of waiting until the marriage ceremony has taken place. They want everything now without waiting for it. It is a shortsighted fool who would rather live in sin now than to live a Christian life and have Heaven a little later on.

In the third place, this young man wasted his substance. The Bible says, "he took his journey into a far country and there wasted his substance with riotous living." He wasted everything that he had. I don't know how much money he had when he left, but it must have been quite a bit, and the Bible says that he wasted it all. He lived in sin—spent everything he had.

And you know, when I see the world living in sin as it is today, I say to myself, "The world is wasting everything that God has given to it." When I see the theatres being packed in by the hundreds, I can't help but feel in my heart, "They are wasting everything that God gave to them." When I see the cars lined up at the juke joints and the honkey-tonks, I say, "They are wasting everything that God gave to them." I passed by a dance hall the other night and it seemed as though there were a hundred cars around the front and on the side. I could only think, "They are wasting everything that God

gave to them." One night driving out from Jacksonville I passed by Orange Park and saw there at the dog race tracks hundreds of cars all lined up and parked in the parking lots there. I could only feel in my heart, "they are wasting everything God gave to them."

That is the way with people today — they are wasting — they are throwing away all the good that God has put into their lives.

Listen, my friend, the world will claim everything that you have. It will take away the good about your life. Sin is costly — it robs you of all that is worthwhile in your life. Sin will rob you of your time; it will cost you your money; it will deplete your health and rob you of the real joys of life.

It will rob you of your spiritual health. Surely, you cannot have spiritual fellowship with God and live a good Christian life and live in sin at the same time. It does not work. Sin lowers your spiritual health and brings you down until you are weakened in soul and have not much desire to live for God.

It will rob you of your physical health. You cannot go on living in sin and dissipating your life and get by with it. Sin will bring you down.

It will rob you of your mental health. Sometime ago I was holding a revival meeting with a church at Milledgeville, Georgia. The State Insane Asylum for Georgia is located at Milledgeville. I asked the pastor just why it was that so many people were there, what the reason for it was. He answered me with a three letter word—SIN. That is what sin will do for people.

I was reading in a clipping the story of a young girl who found a little white Spitz puppy. Dr. C. E. Matthews told the story, and the girl was a member of his church. It was a stray dog and so she picked it up and took it home with her. When she got home she showed it to her mother and said, "Isn't he a pretty little dog, Mama? May I keep him?" The mother told her that someone may have lost the dog. But she said that if no ads appear in the paper in the lost and found column saying the dog had been lost, she could keep the dog. Days went by and no such ad appeared, so the girl kept the dog.

When Newton Visited Russia

"Innocence Abroad" would be as good a title as any, we think, to describe the recent visit to Russia of Dr. Louie De Votie Newton, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. After a whirlwind trip of twenty-five days in the U.S.S.R., during which the Russians rolled out the Red carpet for him, including two visits with Josef Stalin, Dr. Newton, returning to Atlanta, was brimming over with enthusiasm for Russia and the Russians. The non-alcoholic Baptist was even persuaded to try vodka, but he did not like it as well as other things the Soviets offered him.

Dr. Newton reports that he was permitted to preach to throngs of workers. Said he: "The reception to my sermons was overwhelming. I never saw anything like it before. Why, at the end of one sermon in Moscow, an Army captain in full uniform came to the pulpit and read a poem which he had dedicated to me . . . The congregation cheered him. It was most impressive."

We should be interested to hear whether there were any more vital and lasting results than the one described. At any rate, Dr. Newton thinks, and we quote him, that "religiously we should regard Russia as our great ally." We do not agree with Him. God does not honor alliances with atheism. There are lost souls in Russia, as there are in every land, and we should seek to reach them with the message of salvation in Christ. But for America, which calls itself "Christian," to ally herself with godlessness, whether in peace or war, is God dishonoring and cannot prosper.

—Gabelein.

One day the girl was playing around with the dog and he bit her on the wrist with his sharp little teeth. They didn't think much about it at the time and the mother only bandaged up the wrist, after putting some mercurochrome on it and sent her on to school. About ten days later she became critically ill. She was taken to a doctor. After the doctor examined her wrist he asked the mother if they had any pets around the house. The mother told him they had a little, Spitz puppy that the girl had found sometime ago. The doctor asked her to bring the puppy down and let him see it, so she did. An analysis was made, and it was

found that the dog had rabies. The girl's condition grew worse until they had to put her in hospital. Nothing could be done for her. It was too late to save her. She died in the hospital. Dr. Matthews said that he would never forget the sight of that girl as she died on that hospital bed. There she was with her arms strapped down to the bed and foam was coming out of her mouth. She tossed in agony. That little dog, that pretty, little Spitz pup that she had found was the cause of it. She didn't know that it was going to do that. But death came through that which looked innocent and that beautiful and that is the way that sin does you. It looks beautiful at the time. It seems like there is nothing wrong with it but in the end it will bite and sting and grip your soul in its very hold.

He Lost Everything

Secondly, this young man lost everything that he had. Notice first that the Bible says that he "spent all." All the money he brought from home he spent. He had none left. He was down and out, bankrupt, destitute, and without a penny to his name. And when men go into sin that is exactly what happens to them spiritually. After a while everything is gone and there is nothing left. There is no peace, there is no joy and contentment in life. There is no satisfaction even in living when sin has been followed to its final degree. Sin leads a man down to where he has nothing, to where he is alone and forsaken. It is no wonder that in these modern days there are so many people committing suicide, and countless numbers of others losing their minds. Sin takes everything a man has away from him. After this young man had spent everything that he had, then a famine came in the land. The Bible says, "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land." (vs. 14). Notice too in the sixteenth

(Continued on page three)

SOME HELPERS TO THE TRUTH



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bell
Elberon, Virginia



Favorite Verse

"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." — II Tim. 1:12.



We have been reading THE BAPTIST EXAMINER for about eight years. It has been a real help and inspiration to our Christian living. For religious study, we use mostly the Bible, Sunday School periodicals and THE BAPTIST EXAMINER.

Some special copies we keep for future reference, but mostly after reading it, we pass this good paper to our friends.

Thank God for it and may it long be a blessing!

THE PRODIGAL SON

(Continued from page two)

verse, that, "no man gave unto him." Here he was away from home in a strange land where he had no friends. At first he had plenty, but he wasted everything he had in living a sinful life. The time came when he had nothing left. I can see him in my mind as he feels in his pocket for his last penny and there is none there. His clothes are all worn away, and he had no others to put on. Holes have been worn in the bottom of his shoes but there is no money to buy others. And then across that land sweeps a famine. The Bible says that no man gave him anything to eat. I used to think that the reason no one gave this young man anything to eat was because that perhaps they did not like the looks of his dirty clothes, his wornout shoes and his half-starved appearance. But the truth about the matter is that no one could have helped him very much even if they had wanted to. It was not because they did not want to help him, but it was because they could not. The famine affected everyone. So there was no one to turn to, even if he had money to buy the necessary things that he needed. No one else would have had anything to sell him. And you will find it at way in life, that when you go off into sin and live in the world away from God, there is no one else that can help you. If you are living in sin, then ten thousand friends cannot do you any good; they have nothing themselves to offer you. They need the same things that you need. It's like that R. A. F. bombardier, who after a mission over England dying. He leaned over to his neighbor and said, "Say, buddy, can you help me with a little bit of religion?" The fellow replied that he couldn't help himself. He turned over to his other side and asked the man on that side if he could help him. "I am dying," he said, "Can't you help me?" "No," replied the other, "I have never been a Christian myself. I can't help you." Neither can the world help you, friend, from God — no one in all the world can do you any good.

No one can help you in death either! There is coming a time when the cold, clammy hand of death is going to be placed on your brow — there is coming the time when you are going to pass out of this life over into the next. But no one can help you then. Others have the same need as you and they have no ability to do you any good.

But notice that after this young man had wasted everything he had, until it was all gone and then after famine had come and no one else was able to help him, **there was just the beginning!** The Bible says, "He began to be in want." He began! It was just for the start. There was a long way for him yet to go. He had yet to see the final results of sin. He really do for him. He had yet to see the awful end that comes to those who live in the way they want not. He began to be in want and could do nothing about it. "He would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat." (vs. 16). That was pretty low, but it was just the beginning.

My friend, when you start in sin and keep on, you can't stop! After you have tasted of what sin is and heard its call to go deeper you do not have the ability to hold yourself in check as you always want to do. Sin is so alluring and attractive and a per-

son becomes so enamored by it, that he is soon held under its sway and in its grip. He feels its bonds and chains holding him down, but he cannot get away. Sin will grip your soul and hold you until every vestige of life is crushed from your bosom.

Do you know why it is that yonder man staggers to and fro from one side of the street to the other? It is because somewhere back along the way he took that first drink. Here is a man who finds himself bound down to the habit of smoking. He cannot quit it even though he has tried over and over again. There is a reason, and it is because back somewhere along the way he took that first puff. Young people, if you don't want to find yourself held in the chains of sin by a captor stronger than yourself, then never give in to sin the first time. It is easy to take that first drink, it is easy to say "yes" to that first time, it is easy to yield just once. But "just once" turns out to be more than once, and sin holds sway. You cannot get by with sin; it will drag you down and hold you in its grip.

This young man not only lost everything he had, but he was **lost himself.** Later on when he came home his father said, "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." (vs. 4). He was lost! So said the father. Some preachers use the story of the Prodigal Son to illustrate a man who has once been saved, as backsliding, and then coming back to God. No! No! This is not the teaching of this story. This story very plainly teaches God's love for a poor lost sinner, not for a backslider. The first two verses of this chapter will show you that. "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." The Pharisees and scribes were murmuring against Christ, because He was having association with sinners. And so Jesus gives them this story to show them God's love for such sinners. It is clearly not a story concerning backsliding, but rather showing how God is ever anxious and waiting to receive those who are lost.

This young man was lost! Away from home, away from friends, away from family, he was out in a cold, dark world by himself. And you, my friend, are lost tonight if you have never come to God and found forgiveness of all your sins. You are not only lost to God, but you are lost to everything that is good and worthwhile in life. You are lost to the church, you are lost to Christian friends, you are lost to your praying mother and to your godly father; you are lost to the Bible, you are lost to prayer, you are lost to the Christian life. You are lost to everything spiritual, and finally you will be lost in Hell itself.

This young man was not only lost but he was dead. That is what his father said a little later on. "This my son was dead and is alive again." That young man may have been walking about in the hog pen, he may have been searching for something to eat, he may have had just as much life as possible under the circumstances, but so far as his father was concerned, he was dead!

And if you have never come to God and been forgiven of your sins you are dead too. You may move with your hands, you may talk with your mouth, you may see with your eyes, you may think with your mind, but so far as God is concerned you are dead, dead, dead! That is why unsaved people have no appreciation for

God, that is why they cannot understand the Bible, that is why they are not interested in revival meetings. They are dead. They love their sin too much. They are out in the world away from God, and so far as God is concerned they are dead.

He Repented

This young man finally decided to do something about things. First of all, the Bible says, "He came to himself." He saw his condition. I can see him now as he looks down at his worn shoes, with the mud oozing out of them. I can see him as he looks upon his clothes that are worn and dirty. I can see him as he looks upon the hogs and the cows that are around about, and finally think of what a mess he had gotten himself into. He saw his condition, and he saw that he needed to go home.

Listen, my friend, any man is completely out of his senses who does not see his need for God. This young man woke up, he "came to himself." That is exactly what unsaved people need to do today — come to their senses! If you do not see your need of God then something is wrong somewhere. Way, everything round about you ought to prove to you that you need God. Even nature should lead you to see that you need God. The results of sin all round about you should prove to you the condition of this whole world, and prove that you, too, need God. Every hospital and every death bed ought to be a warning that some day you are going out to meet God, and that you need Him now. Every jail house, every prison, every penitentiary, should surely show you to the fact that you need someone to save you from your sins. Temptations' darts piercing at your heart's door should urge you to feel your need of Christ. This young man saw his condition and came to himself; and so ought you, if you have not already done so.

He not only came to himself and saw his condition, but he realized that back at home his father had plenty. He said, "How many hired servants of my father have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger." (vs. 17). Back at home was plenty. I can imagine him saying, "There at home I had a nice bed to lie down in every night, with soft covers on it. I could get up in the morning and have a good breakfast fixed by Mama with hot coffee and everything. I could sit down and eat dinner with the family around me, with stuffed chicken and all the trimmings and cranberry sauce and all the pudding I could eat." He realized what he was missing out here in this faraway country, away from father and home. Back home there was everything he needed and wanted.

And sinner, God has everything for you, too, if you will only come to Him. He has everything you need in this life and for eternity. He has happiness for you, He has joy for you, He has peace for you, He has victory over sin for you, and finally He has a home for you in Heaven. All this if you will only come to Him. People are seeking those things that God has to give them, but they will never find them while living in the world in sin apart from God.

This young man not only saw his condition and realized that back home there was plenty, but he **confessed at last that he had sinned and done wrong.** He said, "I will arise and go to my father and say, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee." (vs. 18). He confessed his sin.

No man will ever be saved and find the forgiveness of a heavenly Father until he confesses that he is a sinner and needs forgiveness. Bro. Joe Henry Hankins, former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, and now doing evangelistic work, once said, "You can never get men saved until you get them lost." He meant by that that men are not going to be saved until they first come to a realization that they are lost and need to be saved. If you are not a sinner, then you do not need to be saved from your sins. But the truth of the matter is that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. Some people seem to think that they are going to lift themselves into Heaven by their own boot-straps. They think they will get to Heaven by their good works and by their good lives. They think they have never done very much wrong. Somebody says, "Preacher, I never have committed sin, I have lived a pretty good life." Yes, my friend, and I guess that when you get to Heaven you will have a hard time getting your robe on because your wings will be so big! Oh, no! You will never be saved until you first come to the place where you are willing to own up that you are a poor, lost sinner and need to be saved.

This young man not only confessed his sins but he **humbled himself.** He said, "(I) am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of your hired servants." (vs. 19). He was willing to go back home and become as one of the hired servants. He was going to say, "Dad, I will not even sit at the table with the family; I will be willing to go out and eat with the servants if you

will just take me back."

You know, pride is one thing that keeps many people out of Heaven. Some people refuse to be Christians unless they can have their own way about the matter. One says, "I won't be a Christian unless I can have a big place in the church!" All right, my friend, go ahead — hold on to your pride but it will take you to Hell too!

He Was Welcomed Home

Notice what this young man did: "He arose and came to his father." He did what he said he was going to do. In the eighteenth verse he said, "I will arise." In the twentieth verse we read, "He arose." He didn't waste any time about the matter. He arose and came home.

I have been in revival meetings where people have held up their hands asking for prayer, saying that they needed to be saved. But they have put the thing off and left the church, perhaps with some thought in mind of accepting Christ at some later date. I was in one church in Georgia where night after night hardly anyone came forward accepting Christ. I became concerned about it and asked the pastor what was wrong. It was a good-sized church and we were having a good meeting, and I didn't see any reason for more people not being saved than were. He said, "the people at this church most always wait until Sunday mornings to come forward." The next night I told that group of people that that kind of an attitude would take them straight to Hell. My friend, you don't get saved just whenever you take a notion to get saved. You get saved whenever you feel your need of God and Him speak-

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Is That What We Want?

The Communist party with its tentacles in labor unions and other political centers are striving to bring absolute socialism to America. Those who are coming to their way of thinking and who are beginning to believe that we should follow Russia's pattern might do well to consider these facts.

"In Russia no one can own a foot of land. No one can hire another to run even a cobbler's shop, a cigar store or a filling station.

"In Russia there is only one employer and that is the state. You work for it or starve. You cannot change your job or residence unless it permits you. You take the job its gives you—and like it.

"In Russia the Radio and Newspapers are owned by the state. You hear and read what the state allows.

"In Russia all farmers work on state-owned farms and work like the serfs in the middle-ages. If they are good, they are allowed a small garden, a pig, a few chickens.

"In Russia there is no 'collective bargaining' and the only trade unions are competitive plant organizations which compete with each other to raise production output.

"In Russia no minority—racial, religious, or political—has any rights it can assert against the views sanctioned by the state.

"In Russia there is one automobile to every 252 persons, while in America there is one to every 4."

Americans with all of our faults, we have a good county. Let us work for her, vote intelligently, and pray that America might remain the land of the free.—Message of the Open Bible.

Editor's Note: In spite of this, Louis D. Newton, in an article syndicated to all Southern Baptist papers, recently tried to "sell" Russia to Southern Baptists. Our federal government has already swallowed the Communistic propaganda of Russia. It's too bad to see a great man like Louie Newton fall so gullible before the most god-less nation on earth.

Perfect Security

The ark of Gensis 6 is a type of Christ. Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. Their safety did not depend upon their feelings or their conduct, but entirely upon the sea-worthiness of the ark. They might fall down *inside the ark*, but none of them could fall *overboard*! There was only one door, and Jehovah Himself shut it! Read John 10:28-29.

THE PRODIGAL SON

(Continued From Page Three)

ing to your heart, or you never will get saved at all. This matter of procrastination will take you to Hell. Better do like this young man did and not only make up your mind to accept Christ but go ahead and do it while you feel the urge within you.

And then the Bible says, "He arose, and came to his father." Let's picture this young man as he comes home. Can you see him as he leaves the pig pen and starts on his journey homeward? Watch him as he picks up an old stick and ties an old piece of rag around it for a bag and throws some husks in it, thinking he may want some dinner tomorrow! See him as he starts trodding, plodding his long journey home. His feet begin to ache, his back begins to feel the rays of the hot sun beating down upon him, and on he goes. Every step seems like a mile; and then at last he comes to the place where his father lives. He trudges up the long winding road that leads to his father's house and then at last he reaches home. Is this the picture that the Bible gives us? NO! No doubt, it was a long journey home, but the Bible does not mention it and Jesus did not say anything about it. The Bible merely says, "He arose, and came to his father." It is just that easy in the matter of a sinner coming to God. It does not take a long, drawn-out affair for a person to get saved. All that a person has to do is open up his heart and come to God. I have heard of people who would stay on their knees praying in agonizing prayer, asking God to save them. That is not necessary! Salvation is instantaneous the moment we put our trust in Christ. Some people think you get saved by degrees. Every time I think of that I think of Brother Roy Mason telling in his paper of the little boy who cut his dog's tail off by degrees so that it wouldn't hurt so much!

And the father was ready to receive this young man the instant that he saw him, in fact, his heart had been yearning all the time for his son to come home. The Bible says, "But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck, and kissed him." (vs. 20). The son started to confess his wrong doings, but before he had a chance to go very far his father stopped him and called to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe; and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet." I can see that father as he waited day after day for his son to come home. I can see him as he stands at the gate looking off into the distance, wondering if every little speck on the dim horizon might not be his son coming home. And then one day he sees him. He throws open the gate, rushes out to his son, throws his arms around his neck, lets the hot tears fall down upon the boy's

shoulder. Such was the loving heart of this father.

And so it is with God. He is ready too, and waiting for you to come home. His yearning heart is aching, even now, while He waits for you to come to Him.

He proved that to you by giving you a free Gospel. He has salvation that is offered to all who will take it. (Whosoever will let him come). It is inclusive of all races and classes and creeds and people. It reaches around the world, from the white to the black, from the North to the South and from the East to the West. It is for the Japanese; it is for the Germans; it is for the Americans. And God wants you!

He proved His love for you in giving His Son to die for you on Calvary's Cross. Jesus hung for six long hours with His blood dripping upon the ground, that you might be able to come to the Father and find forgiveness of your sins.

Not only that but He sent His Holy Spirit into the world to convict you of your sins and point you to the Saviour. Even now He is pressing upon your heart the realization of your need for salvation; even now He may be striving with your heart, trying to lead you to Christ. Do not turn Him away, but open up your heart and receive the forgiveness that God offers to you through the Lord Jesus Christ this very hour.

Perhaps you read the story somewhere. It was about a shepherd in a Scotch village some years ago. One night when he counted his sheep he found that three of them were missing. He went inside his cabin and spoke to his collie dog who was laying on the floor in a corner by her puppies. "Cis," he said, "three are missing; go out and get them." The dog looked at her puppies and hesitated, but finally bounded out into the cold, wintry air in search for the missing sheep. After a while the shepherd a noise at the door. He opened the door and there was the dog and on the ground beside her were the two sheep that she had brought back. The shepherd took the two sheep out to the fold and placed them with the others. He counted the sheep again, thinking perhaps he had made some mistake in saying three were missing, because the dog had only brought back two. He counted, "One, two, three, four—96, 97, 98, 99—" and that was all. No there was still one missing. He went back to the cabin and said to the dog, "Cis, there is one missing; go get it!" The dog looked up and winced. "Go get it," said the shepherd. "There is still another one out there lost." The dog walked to the door and stood there and whined, as much as if to say, "Do I have to go back out in that cold and rain again?" But out she went, bounded out thru the open door and into the blasts of that chilling wind and rain. After a while the shepherd heard

a noise at the door again. He opened it and there was the dog, and with her was the little sheep that had been lost. But the dog's fur was torn and her flesh was bleeding. Blood was running down from her side upon her legs. She had been battered by wind against the rocks and thorns, where she had gone to look for the sheep. But she had found the sheep! She shook herself and fell exhausted upon the floor. The old shepherd walked over and patted her on her wet back, trying to comfort her. With one last attempt, the dog tried to make her way to where her puppies were, and fell dead. She was a dumb brute and would do that for her master. But yet Jesus did that for you! He suffered, bled, and died that you might be saved. Will you receive Him right now?

"THOU GOD SEEST ME"

(Continued from page one)
in the wilderness, the Angel of the Lord found her, to comfort and bless her. And Hagar "called the name of the Lord that spake unto her, Thou God seest me . . . Wherefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi," which means: "The well of Him that liveth and seeth me" (see Gen. 16). This is the same Lord of whom David sang: "Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways" (Psa. 139:3). It is the same Lord who "knoweth them that are His" (II Tim. 2:19), and who "callest His own sheep by name" (John 10:3). No child of God needs to complain, as did that British school-boy, that he is not seen by the King, for "the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry." (Psa. 34:15).

—Our Hope

A DOCTRINE THAT DISTINGUISHES BAPTISTS

(Continued from page one)
ple to tell us of getting into the church unsaved in the way described above. For every such mistake discovered, there are a dozen who never come to realize it.

2. The fact that the young people of the average church of today are as worldly as the devil would have them, shows that they were taken in without conversion. Young people won't want to be dance and movie fiends if they are really saved.

3. The fact that on the Sunday after the children are rustled in, they get up and go home from Sunday School, indicates that there is no spiritual life there. We have seen crowds taken in during revivals that never started in regular attendance.

Unregenerates Get In Through False Claims

No matter how plain the way is made, there are folks who will make a false profession to get into the church. They did this in New Testament times. (Simon Magus of Acts 8 and Judas Iscariot are examples.) We have had such to get into our church. We have had to turn out some such, and we have a list of others whom we should deal with in the same manner.

The New Testament Doctrine Of Regenerate Membership

This doctrine is plainly taught in the New Testament, and is affirmed in every Baptist confession of faith. Note some Scriptures in which it is taught.

1. Acts 2:37-41. Repentance and belief ("gladly receiving the Word") precede baptism into church membership.

2. In New Testament times the saved were added to the church (Acts 2:47).

3. In the Great Commission making disciples is put before baptizing. (Matt. 28:18-20).

Nowhere do we find this order changed. Not to make a Christian is one baptized, but because one has become a Christian. There isn't anything to be baptized for until one is saved.

DEFINITIONS OF DOCTRINES

Volume I The Doctrine Of God
By C. D. COLE
Mortons Gap, Kentucky
Price \$1.25

This book is a Scriptural appraisal of our great and glorious God. We read and enjoy biographies of great men like Bunyan, Spurgeon, Truett and others. But here is a book about the greatest of all persons—God, in His Being, personal perfections, and providence. The book if read and pondered will definitely be a blessing.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

"Not many writers can take doctrinal subjects and make them so interesting that the reader does not want to lay the book aside. But C. D. Cole has that gift . . . The book is easy to read and easy to use. The author has presented deep truths in understandable terms." Harold J. Purdy, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Madisonville, Ky.

"Pastor C. D. Cole has a doctrinal mind. He is logical and methodical in all he does. But most of all he is a diligent student of the Scriptures and knows how to correlate and systematize its teachings. There are few men who are so able along this line. His writings are easily grasped and readily understood. We had many testimonies of approval when his articles on doctrine were run in the Florida Baptist Witness . . . We most heartily commend this book."—E. D. Solomon, Editor, Florida Baptist Witness, Jacksonville, Fla.

"I got your new book and have enjoyed it greatly. I have never read anything quite so good, interesting and Scriptural."—E. B. Gatlin, Madisonville, Ky.

"My heart has thrilled, my soul has rejoiced, all that is within me has blessed the Lord, as I have read the manuscript."—D. F. Sebastian, Plant City, Fla.

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