

The Baptist Examiner

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

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✓ Not Ashamed Of Jesus

A miner who was lately converted, and works in the pit among a lot of godless youths, took down his Bible with him to the pit the day after his conversion. He was met with a volley of abuse by the ungodly young men as they gathered in a group to play cards, and invited him to take a "hand" as he had done before.

"I've changed my master," said the young miner, "and if you are not ashamed to own your master, neither am I to own mine."

So he sat down a little way off from the group to read his Bible by the light of his pit lamp. When they saw that he was determined to "stick to his colors" they let him alone, and in a short time a number of them gathered around David to hear him read the Word aloud, and God blessed it to the conversion of several of them.

Never be ashamed of Christ. The servants of the devil are not ashamed to own their master. Why should those who are the servants of Christ?

"Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whoso-

ever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32, 33).

The New Testament Church recommended the "beloved Barnabas and Paul" to the newly converted Gentiles as "men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." The mission fields of the earth still call for hazard loving spirits, men who consider not their own peculiar ease, men who love not their own lives unto the death. With the clouds of persecution rising as Rome casts her shadow over many lands we are called again to expose ourselves to the circumstances of God's choice. God chooses to have Philistines invade rather than let saints slumber in their tents of ease.

It is not uncommon to hear of soldiers donning another uniform to escape shell-fire. A cowardly thing it is. It is worse. It is treason and treachery. Yet it is indulged in—by saints. They fear the enemy's shot and shell. In order to escape "reproach for Christ"—Moses esteemed it "greater riches than the treasures of Egypt"—they become turncoats in disguise.

A woman dressed in style would never be suspected a Christian. She escapes the shell-fire of being reckoned Christ's only. She fears the slur and the slime and the insult which may be poured upon the "exposed road." On the highway of the world she is reckoned respectable. Neither the gun of gaze nor remark is trained upon her.

It is the mark of a false cult to conceal its identity. But Paul said, "We have bidden farewell to the things of shame"—we use no art of cleverness, no policy of concealment; all disguise we refuse. Christian workers get no place hiding their identity or fearing exposure for Christ. The circumstances of Christ's choice, the way of exposure, they shun—but in so doing they miss His smile, lose His power, forfeit His protection. The Cross knows no concealment. Expose yourself. Come out of your shell.

Let God's jeopardy be your only place of safety! Cease all concealment. Your road is under fire. But God's own armor affords protection all-sufficient. Those who are all His will be covered by His own curtain of fire. —Light and Liberty.

BAPTIST HISTORY IS TRULY A TRAIL OF BLOOD

I again call your attention to those upon whom the hard hand of persecution fell. If fifty million died of persecution during the 1,200 years of what are called the "Dark Ages," as history seems positively to teach—then they died faster than an average of four million every one hundred years. That seems almost beyond the limit of human conception. As before mentioned, this iron hand, dripping with martyr blood, fell upon Paulicians, Arnoldists, Henricians, Petro Brussians, Albigenes, Waldenses and Ana-Baptists

--of course much harder on some than others. But this horrid part of our story we will pass over hurriedly. . . .

Sad and awful was the state of these Ana-Baptists. The world offered no sure place for hiding. Surely theirs was a "Trail of Blood."

The hated Ana-Baptists (called Baptists today), in spite of all prior persecutions, and in spite of the awful fact that fifty million had already died martyr deaths, they still existed in great numbers. It was during this same period that along one single European highway, thirty

miles distance, stakes were set up every few feet along this highway, the tops of the stakes sharpened, and on the top of each stake was placed a gory head of a martyred Ana-Baptist. Human imagination can hardly picture a scene so awful! And yet this thing was perpetrated according to reliable history, by a people calling themselves devout followers of the meek and lowly Jesus Christ.

—The Trail of Blood

Mused Uncle Mose

Dey's lots ub 'scuses fo' not goin' to chu'ch, but de bes' reason fo' goin' is dat de Lawd said to git dar.

This is how Baptists were treated by the Catholics in the Dark Ages, and it is how they would treat Baptists today if they could. Order a copy of this book at 25 cents postpaid. It will be a blessing to you.

The First Baptist Puplit

"OBEDIENT OR DISOBEDIENT CHRISTIANS"

"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."—I Sam. 15:22.

I know of no portion of the Word of God that has blessed my soul more than the passage that I have read to you this day. It goes back to the time when Saul was king over Israel. You recall that the Amalekites had been one of the age-old enemies of the people of our Lord. When the children of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, journeying through the wilderness over into the land of Ca-

naan, the Amalekites had carried on a sort of guerilla warfare against the children of Israel. They had sniped at the hindmost and the feeble and those that couldn't keep up with the main body of the children of Israel during their wilderness wanderings through the land of Amalek. Because of what the Amalekites did in this day when the children of Israel was passing through the land, God swore a perpetual hatred against the Amalekites. The record tells us that God even went so far as to remind Israel that they, themselves, were to remember that Amalek had done unto them.

Doubtlessly, that generation of the children of Israel that came through the land of the Amalekites and over into the land of Canaan—doubtlessly, that generation forgot all about the sin of Amalek. In all probability the next generation knew nothing at all about the way in which the Amalekites had treated the Israelites. Tho Israel forgot, God never forgot. God remembered the way in which Amalek had treated His people and though four hundred years passed by without anything being done to the Amalekites by way of retaliation, God never forgot the sin of the (Continued on page two)

Infant Baptism, A Heresy Not Found In God's Book

Baptists believe that no person should be baptized, except on a profession of faith in Christ. Since infants are incapable of exercising or professing that faith, they evidently are not proper subjects for baptism; and to baptize them would be both unauthorized and wrong. Pedobaptists, on the contrary, believe in and practice infant baptism as right and Scriptural. Who is correct? Whose actions and teachings are in accord with the teachings of the New Testament and the practice of the apostles? Baptists assert the following facts:

1. That in the New Testament there is neither precept nor example to authorize or sanction the practice, nor even an allusion to the baptism of infants.

2. That Christ did not command it, and neither the apostles nor early Christians practiced it.

3. That it arose with, and was a part of, the early corruption of the Christian Church.

4. That it is presumptuous and censurable on the part of parents, sponsors, and administrators, and productive of great evil to the child which receives it, and to the church which allows it.

When Did Infant Baptism Arise?

The first mention of it in history is made by Tertullian, the beginning of the third century; and he opposes it, and speaks of it as a practice of neither long standing nor general observance. Bingham, before mentioned, believes it existed at an earlier period, which he is anxious to prove by vague inferences and obscure allusions. Yet this mention of it by Tertullian is the earliest he was able to find; though it is certain he would have found it, had there been any earlier reference to it accessible.

Bishop Burnett says, "There is no express precept or rule given in the New Testament for the baptism of infants."

Luther says, "It cannot be proved by the sacred Scripture that infant baptism was instituted by Christ, or begun by the first Christians after the apostles."

Goodwin says, "Baptism supposes regeneration sure in itself first. Read all the Acts, still it is said, they believed and were baptized."

Limborch says, "There is no instance can be produced from which it may indisputably be inferred that any child was baptized" (Continued on page four)

Why Ministers Fail

Thomas Chalmers affirmed that ministers fail, when they do fail, not because they do not study, nor because they do not visit, but because they do not pray. We go to do by ourselves alone what no man can do except Christ be with him. Without this communion we may easily become too dependent on human aids, "mere echoes of the last book read," and not voices that speak the soul's tested veracities of Christ; too dependent on our tools and not sufficiently ourselves His tool. Men who pray are men of the mystic way. Prayer amply attests itself and when it is missing no miracle happens. —John MacBeath

Why The "Annual Call" Of A Pastor Definitely Wrong

The "Annual Call" has no justification in Scripture. The pastor is the "shepherd of the flock," and the shepherd does not change from year to year according to the fancy of the sheep. The church "calls" in the sense that it finds and follows the will of God, who himself chooses and places his called men where he desires.

The "annual call" does not benefit the church. The pastor is not the church's "hired man," but its spiritual leader. A church which changes leadership annually will always be a weak church.

The "annual call" puts a distinct handicap on the pastor. He dare not project a long-term program for at the end of any year he is subject to change and it would be manifestly unfair for him to make plans which someone else would change under necessity of carrying on. A pastor who is thus compelled to live from hand to mouth is seriously hindered in his work.

The "annual call" gives occasion for division in the church. Any pastor who preaches and serves courageously will have his critics. They are virtually invited to express their dislikes once a year if the pastor is called annually. It is a target to the pastor's honor that has certain people who are against him. Our Lord warned against being well spoken of by men. No man can please everybody. If the pastor makes mistakes there are other ways of correcting them than by getting the annual call.

The "annual call" is wasteful and expensive. The pastor spends his first year getting acquainted, his second year in settling the field, his third year in stabilizing the church program in the light of discovered needs. He is not until his fourth and fifth years in position to reap an abundant harvest of cumulative blessing. It is doubtful if any pastor should ever be called to a new church less than five years; and a ten-year period of service is better.

The "annual call" has no place in good business. What would employ an overseer on a year basis? Imagine a bank employing a president for a year at a time! Or a responsible being willing to accept the responsibility of a business or educational institution on a one-year contract!

The purpose of the "annual call" which is obviously to protect the church against having an unsuitable man in its will, can be achieved better in other ways—by prayer and prayer in making the choice. (Continued on page four)

Missionaries' Plea

Do you not pray for us? Alone we stand against the awful tide of sin and shame, cast out demons in the mighty name of Jesus. He is alone the hope of every land.

Pray for us! We are but frail vessels; the world's appalling need would crush us down that in vision we behold the crown of the brow who shall at length prevail!

—Christ Life

It is better to walk in the dark with God than to walk alone by sight

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

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EMMETT SEBASTIAN



Brother Emmett Sebastian, and the White Plains Baptist Church of which he is pastor, conducted their annual Bible conference of recent date.

It was the pleasure of the editor of this paper to be on the program and to enjoy the fellowship with the brethren there. It is always good to go to this church and I thank God for the privilege of having made an annual visit to this church each year for the past five or six years.

It is always a joy to be with these dear people, who though small in number, believe and contend for the Word of God.

Brother Sebastian, their pastor, is surely God's man in God's place. What a joy to know him and to have fellowship with this church!

EDITOR TO ATTEND A W. VA. ASSOCIATION

The Mt. Pisgah Baptist Association will meet with the Upper Steer Run Baptist Church on Wednesday and Thursday, September 1st and 2nd, 1948.

The brethren of this association are extending an urgent invitation to all Bible-believing Baptists to attend this meeting.

It is the plan of the editor of this paper to attend the meeting on Wednesday and to preach to the association on the invitation of that body. It is with keen anticipation that we look forward to the meeting of old friends, greeting the subscribers of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER, and meeting new acquaintances.

"I enjoy reading THE EXAMINER better than any other paper. It has more spiritual food for the one who reads it."

MRS. NANNIE B. CALLISON,
Springdale, W. Va.

THE BAPTIST EXAMINER
AUGUST 21, 1948
PAGE TWO

JUST BETWEEN US

The summer months are fast passing by and I thank God for each passing day, bringing us one day nearer our Lord's return and giving us one more day in His service. This year has been a busy one and I am glad for every opportunity of service that He has given us.



From far and near have come many reports of blessings derived through reading THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. Naturally, I am glad.

Brother John H. Hooks, pastor of The First Baptist Church of Rayville, La., writes:

"I have just finished reading your great sermon on the subject 'GREAT THINGS GOD HAS DONE FOR US.' Like all your messages, it is a great sermon. I would not be without your paper for many times the price of it. Credit me with \$1.00 worth of paid up subscription. I don't know when my time expires, but don't want to miss an issue. Thanks a lot."

Brother J. E. Walker of Akron, Ohio, in sending a contribution for our publishing work, says:

"I enjoy your paper. I read it in preference to any other paper."

Brother J. E. West, a deacon of the Park Hills Baptist Church of Pueblo, Colorado, and a teacher of the men's class of that church, sent us \$10 recently as a gift from his class, saying:

"We appreciate your sacrifice in carrying on the great work of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER. You have our prayers and appreciation. After I presented the matter of THE BAPTIST EXAMINER to our class yesterday, our pastor, Brother Higgs, said, 'I take several good papers but I get more from the EXAMINER than from any of them.'"

Elder Wallace Norris, writing from Patesville, Kentucky, sends us the names of twenty-three members of his church by way of new subscriptions. He says concerning THE BAPTIST EXAMINER:

"... that it is one of the most sound papers that Baptist people have access to. I believe that it will be a great help to the people of our church. We are praying for you as you inform the people about the truth."

How we do thank God for these letters from our readers! Every day the mail brings words of encouragement from someone whose soul has been enriched as the result of our paper.

At the same time may I remind you that we carry a tremendous burden financially in sending out this paper from week to week. This has been the year of worst financial difficulties that we have ever known. We got behind as a result of the flood in April. Our loss through it was fully \$1,000 and we have never been able to overcome that obstacle. Then, too, the summer months have been unusually lean so far as subscriptions are concerned. The months of June, July and August are always our hardest, but somehow they have been most unusually difficult this year. Even many of our most faithful supporters have seemed to forget us during these vacation months.

Accordingly, we are going to come to the end of August fully \$2,000 behind.

In view of this, and knowing that many of our readers are most definitely interested in the work of this paper, I am asking for your support NOW as never before. You can render us a real service today if you will:

- (1) Pray for us.
- (2) Order a copy of Elder T. P. Simmons' great book, "A Systematic Study of Bible Doctrine," at \$3.00 postpaid.
- (3) Renew your own subscription for at least two years.
- (4) Send us a fine list of new subscribers, whereby you will be a blessing unto these new readers as well as unto us.
- (5) Make a definite contribution, either large or small, in our behalf.

May I ask that you do this TODAY. A hundred

"OBEDIENT OR DISOBEDIENT CHRISTIANS"

(Continued from page one)
Amalekites.

Eventually when Saul became king over Israel, God said unto Saul, "I swore vengeance against the Amalekites and now you are to be their executioner. I want you to carry out my desires concerning Amalek. You are to slay them, old and young. Bring not any of them alive, destroy all the spoil of the land, and be sure that Amalek is utterly wiped out so far as remembrance is concerned under heaven." King Saul went forth to battle against the Amalekites with a tremendous army. At least it was a tremendous army for his day. 210,000 men rallied about him out of all the tribes of Israel and with this tremendous army he bore down upon the Amalekites and slew them, utterly destroying them, thoroughly spoiling the land of Amalek. Doubtlessly some of them escaped here and there but in the main it was a wholesale destruction of the people of Amalek. However, though he utterly destroyed the majority of the nation, he spared King Agag, and he spared the best of the sheep and the best of the cattle that he might bring these home for sacrificial purposes.

Beloved, God has a way of telling His prophets and His preachers what He wants them to preach. God made a revelation to Samuel the prophet as to the sin of Saul, how that Saul spared Agag and the best of the sheep and the cattle. Having made that revelation unto Samuel, God said, "Samuel, you go meet Saul and preach to him according to the message that I give unto you." When Samuel came face to face with Saul, the latter put on a "prayer meeting" look and with a sanctimonious whine, he said, "I have performed all the commandments of the Lord." He knew he lied. He knew that what he said to Samuel was a definite and positive lie at the time that he uttered it. Samuel immediately countered by saying, "If you have done all that the Lord has commanded, then what is the meaning of the lowing of the cattle and the bleating of the sheep that comes to my ears?" Saul immediately said, "The people — the people brought these back for sacrificial purposes."

Beloved, it is mighty nice to blame your sins off on somebody else. It is mighty nice to have somebody else to be the "scape goat" for you. That is what Saul attempted to do so far as the people were con-

cerned. He said, "I killed everybody but Agag and I spared him; he was the king. The people spared the cattle and sheep. Other than that we utterly destroyed everybody else." The record tells us how Samuel, the man of God, took sword and hacked old Saul into pieces and how the things that they brought home for sacrificial purposes were all destroyed. Then Samuel said to Saul, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."

I

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE OBEDIENT UNTO HIM. Certainly our text, in an emphatic manner, teaches that God desires our obedience even above our sacrifices. He would rather we heard and listened to what He said than to offer sacrifices. Him. Beloved, that is just keeping with all the balance of the Word of God, for if we will begin in the book of Genesis and go all the way through the Bible, you will find that God demands obedience of all His people. Listen to what He said to Noah: "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." — 6:22.

God had given commandment to Noah as to the building of the ark — the dimensions of the ark where the door was to be placed, how many stories it was to have, and how it was to be finished within and without. God had told Noah all of these things. God had told him the kind of cargo to take on board both of the clean and the unclean beasts. Having made that revelation unto Noah, the Lord tells us that Noah did according as God commanded him. In other words, Noah's obedience was an implicit obedience in the light of the command of God to him.

That which characterized Noah likewise characterized Abraham. We read:

"And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad; neither shalt thou do him any harm: for he is mine only son. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because THOU HAST OBEYED MY VOICE." — 22:12, 18.

Abraham had taken his Word. God said, "Thine only son as a sacrifice to Me." And Abraham had done exactly as God had commanded him. Now having that God had told him to do, he did it. (Continued on page three)

years from now I won't need your help. I need it today. I need it more than I am able to express in words. These financial burdens have given me many hours of perplexity of late. If the 13,000 subscribers of this paper would make a very small contribution of \$1.00 each, our financial problems would be more than solved. Some churches, Sunday School classes, and individuals could contribute a great deal more. I believe that there are many of our readers who could share at least \$100 worth of this burden. May our Heavenly Father lead you now to make a definite offering in our behalf.

My philosophy has always been: "Trust the Lord and tell His people." I am trusting Him and I have told you.

I beseech you that you help us keep this paper in the mails until Jesus comes in the air.

Faithfully yours,
John R. Gilpin