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MISSIONARY

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The Baptist Examiner

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"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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✓ Is One Baptist Church As Good As Another?

By ROY MASON
Tampa, Florida

The answer is a positive no! Undoubtedly the seven churches mentioned in Revelation were what we would today term "Baptist" churches, because that early, there were no other churches — even as John Clark Ridpath, Methodist historian said when he wrote, "In the first century — all Christians were Baptists." Now among those seven churches, was one as good as another. Compare the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-4) with the church at Laodicea (3:14-

19). Quite a difference indeed. Let us make some comparisons between Baptist churches of this day:

1. A church that is loose doctrinally is not as good as a church that stands for the whole Word of God. Some Baptist churches in the north, particularly, have come to repudiate the full inspiration of the Scriptures, the deity of Christ and in general the fundamentals of Christianity. Such a church has ceased to be a real Baptist church and it is a sin to belong to such. God's Word concern-

ing such is "Come ye out from among them" (II Cor. 6:17).

Then some Baptist churches that hold to the fundamentals of Christianity are loose on other doctrines. They ignore what the Bible says about women speaking, leading in prayer, etc., in public, mixed gatherings of men and women. Yet the Bible is plain. (I Cor. 14:34). They receive alien baptism—that is, baptism administered by man-founded churches. They practice open communion when the Bible makes (Continued on page four)

VERY FEW REALIZE THAT THE READING OF GOD'S WORD IS . . .



I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. Job 23:12



A Disappointed God Is No God At All

By JAY GREEN
Madisonville, Kentucky

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater; So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: IT SHALL NOT RETURN UNTO ME VOID, but it SHALL accomplish that which I PLEASE, and it SHALL prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." —Isa. 55:8-11.

do it? Or hath He spoken and shall He not MAKE it good? Behold I have received commandment to bless: and He (God) hath blessed (in His eternal purpose) and I CANNOT reverse it."—Numbers 23:29,30.

The finite mind of man can know only those truths about God that are revealed in God's Word. "If we think that we know anything, we know nothing as we ought to know it" is very true about the character of God. There is very little excuse in the Word of God for those who make God to be like as we are. Millions of professing Christians know no God except the god of their imaginations, and those who truly DO know God oftentimes are content to have Him referred to in a most shocking manner as if He were not in control of all things. Any taking from the glory of God must please Satan; and those who ascribe to God the weaknesses of man, the foolishness of man, the subjection of man, the changeability of man, the bounds and limits of man, the dependence, the incompleteness, the imperfection, the insufficiency, the outside needs for happiness and

blessedness — I say any who mistakenly assign God such a character as man has — serves Satan in doing so.

A DISAPPOINTED GOD IS NO GOD AT ALL! One of the blasphemous adjectives attached to the Blessed God is this word "disappointed." May God be merciful to those who in error and carelessness say or even infer that the Almighty Trinity are subject to disappointment. Think not that I scold anyone, but only that I, in love for God and my fellow saints, desire that "ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in ALL wisdom and SPIRITUAL understanding; that 'ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto ALL pleasing,' (Col. 1:9,10). The meaning of "disappointment" is as follows: "To defeat of expectation, hope, desire, or intention; to frustrate; to baffle; to hinder from the possession of or enjoyment of that which was desired; to thwart, to prevent the realization of or success of." Frustrate, balk, baffle, foil, defeat, all have the same meaning as disappoint.

Is it not blasphemy to say that God's expectations can be defeated, His wishes come to nought, His hopes blasted, His intentions mocked? Can the God you worship be frustrated? If He purposes to do something in you, can His purposes be made null and void, or of none effect? Will you agree with those who make God to be sometimes baffled as a man is puzzled or perplexed? Can Deity have a problem too hard to understand, or can a person be too stubborn to be moved by Divine Power? Are you truly calling Jesus LORD of your soul and at the same time believing that He can be hindered from possessing even ONE thing that He desires to have? "I have not so learned Christ" for I know Him as eternal God, Lord of Lords, Creator, Supporter, and Preserver of all things, able to will and do of His good pleasure all things whatsoever He pleases to do whether in earth or in heaven. If you deny that He is all these things then you deny

Holy Scripture. If you say "disappoint" and "God" in the same breath, you contradict yourself. AN UNCHANGEABLE GOD CANNOT BE DISAPPOINTED! "I the Lord change not." (Mal. 3:6). Man changes because man is mutable and is capable of being better or worse moment by moment. Not so with God, for He is perfect. If He were to change just once for the better, then it must be that HE WAS NOT PERFECT TO BEGIN WITH; or if He were to change for the worse then He would no longer be perfect. His understanding is infinite and eternal. No man can understand the infinite, but if we will apply our minds, we will see that God's understanding can be neither increased nor decreased. If He (Continued on page four)

SALVATION BY WORKS

The forms, in which this deadly doctrine appears, are manifold and multitudinous. Salvation by character, humanitarian betterment, serving God by serving your fellow-man, church salvation, baptismal remission, baptismal regeneration, morality, ritualistic religions, sacramentarianism, priest-craft, lodgism, Kuklux, Socialism, civic righteousness, soup-and-soap salvation, social settlement work and social service are some of the many ways in which this hydra-headed monster, salvation by man's works or merit or character, lifts its slimy, subtle form to deceive and delude and damn men.

Here is a test that every reader may apply to himself and ascertain whether you are poisoned with the deadly virus of salvation by works. There are just two kinds of religion in the world in their last analysis. All of them may be summed up in the two words—Do or Done. If you are depending upon what you have done or are doing or hope to do to save you or to help to save you or to keep you saved, you are a dupe of the deadly doctrine of salvation by works.

The First Baptist Pulpit

"A Church Which People Were Afraid To Join"

"And of the rest durst no man join himself to them but the people magnified them." —Acts 5:13.

I am ready to grant you, at the very outset, that this is an unusual subject and that it is a message from an unusual text. Here was a church which people were afraid to join, and if you will study the chapters immediately preceding the text, I don't think it will be hard for you to see why it was that people were afraid to join this church.

There was a tremendous difference between the membership of the church and the people who lived within the city of Jerusalem—such a tremendous difference, beloved, that you can easily see why it was that the people who lived in Jerusalem were definitely afraid to become members of that church.

Let's look in those chapters immediately preceding my text at some of the things that would indicate the differences.

In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit

came to dwell within that church. Heretofore the Holy Spirit had been in every believer, but up to this time had not indwelt them as a body. On that day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit took up His residence within the church as a body and indwelt the church itself, so that the Holy Spirit sat as a tongue of fire upon the members of that New Testament church.

The result was that the people (Continued on Page Two)

WHICH CAME FIRST—HEN OR EGG?

In answer to the question: "Which came first, the hen or the egg?" a curator of birds at the United States National Museum in Washington, D. C., made the following comments:

"The question is one that appears superficially, like a really fair thing to ask, but inasmuch as both are stages in the development of the same organism the question loses meaning. One might as well ask: which came first, the child or the adult? The cases are quite comparable. It is only because from a purely human standpoint, based chiefly on experience with both at the dining table, that hens and eggs seem to us to be totally distinct and unrelated things."

Such an evasive answer is not satisfactory. A young skeptic said to an elderly lady: "I once believed there was a God, but now since studying philosophy and mathematics I am convinced that God is but an empty word."

"Well," said the lady, "I have not studied such things, but since you have, can you tell me from whence comes this egg?" (Continued on page four)

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"A Church That People Were Afraid To Join"

(Continued from page one)
ple of the church had a power that they never had before. They began to speak in other tongues with languages they had never learned. These illiterate, uneducated people, who had never studied other languages, began to speak fluently and coherently in languages which were not their own, so that the people who had gathered within the city of Jerusalem from about twenty different nationalities had the Gospel story in their own tongues from the lips of men who had never studied and who knew nothing at all about the languages which they spoke. That was all because of the power of the Holy Spirit within that church.

Of course, there were enemies. Wherever the Lord has been at work, the Devil has always had enemies at work too. The enemies immediately said, "These people are full of new wine." That was the world's explanation of this extraordinary, unusual event — men speaking in other tongues. Immediately, one of the preachers answered them, saying, "It is too early in the day. It is just 9:00 o'clock in the morning. It is too early for them to be drunk yet." This preacher arose and began to preach, and the result was that 3,000 people were saved and added to the church that day.

Beloved, that first event following the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell the church set that church off as an unusual body of people. Of course it was unusual. You don't see men speaking in other tongues today, other than the languages in which they themselves are trained. You don't see revivals today when 3,000 people are saved and added to the church within a single day. It was an unusual event, but immediately following came another which was just as great.

There was a man lying outside the gate of the temple, who had never walked a single step in his life. He was there at the gate of the temple to ask for alms of the preachers as they entered into the temple at the hour of prayer. The Word of God tells us how the preachers spoke to this lame man and that strength entered his ankles which had never borne his weight, so that he leaped up and praised God and entered into the temple with the preacher, shouting and praising God for the new-found strength within his legs. The world saw this just like the world had seen this church filled with the power of the Holy Spirit on that day of Pentecost.

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Page Two

HIS NAME IS CALLED JESUS

The Son of Jehovah came down from on high,
In Bethlehem's stall in a manger to lie—
All sinless, for sinners to suffer and die.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

He came as foreseen by the prophets of old.
In Scripture's pure pages the story is told.
The visions of myst'ry in Shiloh unfold.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

He healed all afflictions: gave breath to the dead,
With manna from heaven the hungry He fed,
To life-giving fountain the thirsty He led.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

And now in the Glory for sinners He pleads.
My High Priest each moment for me intercedes.
Each day toward heaven my footsteps He leads.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

His Spirit within me speaks peace to my heart.
His Word Everlasting can solace impart.
His Father's Arms shield me from Satan's vile dart.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

His love will through ages eternal endure.
Though sorrows and trials His face oft obscure,
I joy in the knowledge salvation is sure.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

If through the dark valley of death I must go,
The waters of Jordan will not overflow.
My Pilot will guide me to Glory I know,
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

Some day He will come in the clouds of the sky
To take His redeemed to the mansions on high.
Transformed in His likeness, I'll nevermore die.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

O laud Him, ye ransomed, in psalter and song!
O echo the praise of the heavenly throng!
All glory and honour to Shiloh belong.
His name is called JESUS. He saves!

—Anna Hoppe

Immediately following that, beloved, was another event which set the church off as something unusual and extraordinary. They arrested the preachers, and when this first persecution had begun Simon Peter preached a sermon unto them, wherein he looked his crowd in the face and accused them of being the murderers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of God tells us the results of that sermon.

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."—Acts 4:13.

Every event pertaining to this first church caused the people of Jerusalem to take notice of this church and to marvel over the events that had happened.

Then, beloved, another event followed. There were a lot of poor people in that church who didn't have the necessities of this world's goods. God laid it on the heart of one man named Barnabus, who in later life was one of God's noble men, to sell his property and to bring the money and lay it down before the preachers, saying, "Use this money for the care of the poor of the church."

Following that event came another. Ananias and Sapphira were members of the same church. They saw the praise that came to Barnabus as a result of selling his property and giving the money to the church. They wanted the praise Barnabus received, but they didn't want to pay the price. They sold their property and agreed among themselves to bring a part of the price of the land and lay it down at the apostle's

feet. At the same time, they lied when they said that they had brought the full price of the property. When the Apostle Peter interrogated them concerning it, they fell down dead and were taken out for burial.

Now, beloved, notice these events which I have enumerated to you, one by one. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit empowered them to speak in other tongues, and three thousand souls were saved. A lame man that had never walked received strength miraculously and supernaturally, and was able to shout and sing for God's praise. The disciples were arrested, and when they made their defense the world took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. Barnabus sold his property and gave the money to the church, which was an unusual and extraordinary thing for any individual to do. The two liars of the church, Ananias and Sapphira, died when trying to get cheap praise at the expense of a Holy Spirit filled church. My text immediately follows, saying, "And of the rest durst no man join himself to them."

Beloved, I can see why it was that this was a church that people were afraid to join. Everything they had seen about that church following the death of Jesus Christ had impressed the crowd. There hadn't been one thing that had happened but what had marked that church as being entirely different in every respect from the balance of the citizenry of the city of Jerusalem. The result was that nobody else dared to join the church without being sure that he was right with the Lord.

I am persuaded to believe

that our churches ought to be like this church at Jerusalem. I am persuaded to believe that this, the First Baptist Church of Russell, ought to be so different from the world, and that every Baptist church ought to be so different from the world, that the world would be afraid to become a member without first being sure that they were saved. But, alas, beloved, how few churches there are that are different from the world and how few church members there are that are different from the world!

Let's see what it was that made this church the kind of church that it was.

I

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS CHURCH HAD THE RIGHT LEADER—THE HOLY SPIRIT.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."—Acts 2:1,3.

"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people and elders of Israel."

—Acts 4:8.

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabus and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

—Acts 13:2.

I have called attention to three Scriptures that would indicate that the Holy Spirit was the leader of that church. I was amazed this morning, after I came to the house of God, to find in studying through this book of Acts that there are better than seventy references in the book of Acts alone as to the Holy Spirit's leadership in this first church. I know, beloved, why it was that that church had power, and I know why it was the people at large could see a difference in the lives of the membership of the church and in the lives of the people in the town. I know why it was that the people at large didn't dare to join that church until they were sure that they were saved. I know why it was — this church had the right leader — the Holy Spirit was leading and directing the church.

I stood down at Frankfort several years ago just outside the old arsenal building and I noticed the cannon balls that were piled up in a pyramid, lying there on the ground. I looked at the cannon that was mounted in front of the arsenal and looked across the Kentucky River at the cliffs of limestone and I thought how it would be possible to send a cannon ball against those limestone cliffs, to pulverize them and to tear them down. I said to myself, "Those cannon balls in themselves are powerless. An individual might pick one up and at close range throw it against the limestone cliffs, but it would do no damage. All the militia of the state might pick up one of those powerless cannon balls and throw it against those rocks, but it would accomplish virtually nothing." Then I looked at that cannon and I thought it is just as powerless as the cannon ball. Then I looked inside the arsenal and I saw the powder piled up there, case after case of it, and I thought how powerless is that powder. Then I thought how about putting one of these powerless cannon balls inside the powerless cannon and tamping it with powerless powder to see what happens. My brother, you can put that pow-

der and that cannon ball inside the cannon and it is still just as powerless when it is amassed together as it was when it was lying separately about. Then it came to me that if that powerless powder and that powerless cannon ball were placed inside that powerless cannon, and if a spark of fire were applied, you would have power to shatter those limestone cliffs on yon side of Kentucky River. You would have power to tear down impregnable strongholds. As I stood there I thought how powerless a Baptist church is; how powerless a preacher is in himself, how powerless the membership of a church is unless there is the fire of the Holy Spirit applied to the lives of the children of God.

I tell you this morning, beloved, this church at Jerusalem was different from most churches today, and people were afraid to join this church because they had the right leader—the Holy Spirit.

II

THIS CHURCH DEMANDED A REGENERATED MEMBERSHIP ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE THAT COMPRISED THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."—Acts 2:47.

"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed, and the number of the men was about five thousand."—Acts 4:4.

"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."—Acts 5:14.

I want you to notice from these verses that the membership was comprised of believers — people who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. They believed in regeneration. Oh, it is easy to see why it was that the crowd was afraid to join this church. It is easy to understand that the world was afraid to become a member of this church at Jerusalem. Beloved, they demanded a regenerated church membership.

How different this is today? I sat this morning in the study and I thought of some letters that I have received from various places over the nation. I thought of one man who wrote me of moving to a town and who was invited to become a member of a church, and this was the appeal: "Our church is just around the corner—so convenient." Not one word was said about the doctrinal integrity of that church. Not one word was said about the doctrinal position of that individual. Not one word was said as to whether or not that person was saved.

To another it was said, "The best people in town go to our church. We don't have any of the lower class come to church with us."

To another it was said, "Our church had the best bowling team in the league last year."

To another it was said, "We take our young people for skating parties and swimming parties, and we would like to have your child with us."

To another it was said, "You ought to see our kitchen. We have the biggest feeds in the world right here within our church."

Beloved, we have come a long ways this side of the position of the New Testament church. Today men and women are urged to join the church for various and sundry reasons. Today people

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"A Church That People Were Afraid To Join"

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ple are urged to affiliate themselves with churches just like they join any kind of a sorority or a fraternity or a social organization.

I tell you, beloved, a regenerated church member acts differently to a membership composed of sheep and goats—good and bad—a mixture of all kinds and classifications. When I speak of this, I am reminded of that little nursery rhyme which says:

"Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been?
I've been to London to see the new Queen.
Pussy cat, pussy cat, what saw you there?
I saw a little mousey, right under her chair."

Why, beloved? Because she was a pussy cat, and it is a pussy cat's nature to see a mouse. You see what you have a nature to see. You act according to the kind of a nature you have.

I tell you, beloved, a regenerated church membership is the most powerful organization that can be found this side of Heaven. No wonder the world was afraid to join this church.

III

THIS CHURCH MAINTAINED A CONQUERING PRAYER LIFE.

When our Lord Jesus had ascended back to Glory, this church held a prayer meeting. They didn't pray an hour and then go home. They prayed that day; they prayed the next day; they prayed ten days; and after a ten days' prayer meeting the Spirit of God descended upon them, on that first memorable Pentecost following the Lord's resurrection. That day, beloved, three thousand souls were saved.

Notice: They prayed ten days, they preached one day, they saved three thousand souls, and it took them many days to baptize them. We reverse the order today when we get ready for a revival meeting. We usually pray one day, or none at all, we preach about ten days, and don't baptize anyone.

Beloved, this church had maintained a conquering prayer life.

It used to be that we would sing:

"Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known."

Sometime ago I picked up a devotional book that was put out by the Southern Baptist Convention and it was called "God's Minute." In it were a number of prayers and devotional thoughts. We used to talk about "sweet hour of prayer," now it is "God's Minute."

Acts 4 tells us how this church was threatened by the world. They were called up by the judge and threatened for their preaching, and after the judge charged them that they were not to preach any longer in the name of Jesus, they returned to their own company and told what had befallen them at the hands of the council of the city. Then, beloved, they prayed. Listen:

"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine

hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

—Acts 4:29-31.

Here was a church who when they had a problem didn't do a thing about it but took it to God. When the leaders and the rulers of the city threatened their lives, they took the matter to God. This church looked to God, and God answered by shaking the place with His presence.

A little later these preachers were arrested and they would have been put to death had it not been for a religious holiday. After the Passover they were expecting to bring them forth and kill them. They locked Simon Peter up in an inner prison, and between him and his liberty were sixteen soldiers guarding him, three gates locked and sealed, and he was chained with a chain fastened to each hand.

Beloved, there wasn't anybody in that town who had enough money to get Simon Peter out on bail. Simon Peter was there, and he was there to stay until he came out to die. Humanly speaking, that was all that was awaiting Simon Peter—death was the only thing he had to look forward to. But, beloved, notice what took place in the church.

"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."

—Acts 12:5.

The membership of this church had no ability to get Peter released. All that they could do was to look up to God, night and day, and they prayed continually and asked God to get Peter out of the predicament that he was in. Though there were two chains, three gates, and sixteen soldiers standing between Peter and his freedom, Peter walked out of that prison to freedom. The chains fell from his hands unaided by himself. When he came to the gates, the gates opened of themselves, and the soldiers stood there as dead men, temporarily paralyzed by God. Simon Peter walked out to liberty, all because that this church maintained a conquering prayer life.

IV

THIS CHURCH HAD THE RIGHT AUTHORITY.

They found all of their authority in the Bible. Listen:

"But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."—Acts 4:19,20.

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."—Acts 5:29.

These people got their authority from the right source.

Beloved, God wants the people in this town to get their authority from His Word. I was never more convinced than I am at present that God wants a membership in this town that is willing to take the authority of God's Word as final in every particular.

There are a lot of so-called churches that get their authority elsewhere. The Catholics get the least of their authority from the Bible. Then they add tradition and to this they add the findings of the church councils



"AND JESUS ANSWERING SAITH UNTO THEM, HAVE FAITH IN GOD." — MARK 11:22

through the ages. To this they add the decree of papal infallibility of the pope. From these four they get their authority. Therefore, it is not hard to understand why the Bible means so little to a Catholic.

There are a lot of other people who get their authority as far from the Word of God as do the Catholics. I have read repeatedly in literature put out by the Jesuits who say that "the end always justifies the means." Beloved, that is a dangerous philosophy. That is a dangerous authority.

There are a lot of Baptists that are just as bad, for a lot of Baptists talk about substituting sanctified common sense for the infallible Scriptures of God.

Beloved, this church at Jerusalem was different from most churches of today. They wanted to be in obedience to the Word of God, and to take God as their authority.

V

THIS CHURCH STOOD FOR A SEPARATION FROM WORLDLINESS ON THE PART OF ITS MEMBERSHIP.

You can't find one time in

the book of Acts any story or any implication that the members of this church at Rome ever dabbled in Rome's politics. You don't find that church at Jerusalem ever at any time had members to go out to the arena and watch the gladiators as they fought with wild beasts. You don't find this church mixing with the world. I can understand why it was that this church was so different. I can understand why it was that the people at Jerusalem looked at them and were afraid to join that church. I am saying to you, God wants His people separated from the things of this world.

Sometime ago a church wrote to me and asked me to recommend a pastor to them. Among other things they said, "We want this man to be a good mixer. Our former pastor was not any too friendly, and we want a man that is a good mixer." I didn't recommend anyone to this church, but when I wrote back I said, "Brethren, I am afraid you are looking for the wrong man. What you probably need is not a good mixer, but a good separator—someone that is able to separate the wheat from the chaff—someone that is able to preach to you concerning a consecrated life—someone that is able to hold up to you something of the standards of separation from the world. God doesn't want His people mixing up with this world."

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world

passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."—I John 2:15-17.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." — Gal. 2:20.

What made this church at Jerusalem what it was? Beloved, it was what it was because they had the right leader—the Holy Spirit, they demanded a regenerated church membership, they maintained a conquering prayer life, they had the right authority, and they were separated from the world.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, if we had a church like that, that was given over entirely to the Lord, there wouldn't be anybody come to church." Beloved, I can prove from God's Word that you are wrong. Listen:

"And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them."—Acts 5:13.

Beloved, you don't add members to the church that amount to anything, by compromising. Do you know how they added the real, genuine members to this church at Jerusalem? They shut the world out and believers were continually added to that church.

Oh, my prayer to God this morning is that God will help us to be the kind of a church that the world would be afraid to join.

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One Baptist Church

(Continued from page one)
clear that such is unscriptural. (See I Cor. 11:18-20—Revised Version). A church that carelessly junks even a portion of the Bible is not as good as one that respects it all. (See Matt. 5:19).

2. A church that is worldly in life is not as good as one that stands for separation. (See Rom. 12:2). The average Baptist church is rotten worldly, and little is said against the worldly amusements that characterize the membership. There is a vast difference between a church having members who live worldly lives in spite of the teaching of their church, and members who live worldly lives with at least the tacit approval of their church.

3. A church that is part picture show and entertainment agency is not as good as the church that sticks to its divine mission as given by Jesus. That mission is stated in Matt. 28:18-20. Many churches have taken over functions that are not even mentioned in the Bible. This is unwarranted and a perversion of what Jesus intended. A church should be a religious institution—not a play house or supper club.

4. A church that is missionary is bound to be better than a church that isn't. One of the main questions concerning any church ought to be, "What is that church doing to get the Gospel out before the world?" Many churches spend more on feeds, suppers, socials, than is spent to send the Gospel abroad. Such need to consider this Scripture (Rom. 14:17).

5. A church unscripturally organized is not as good as one that follows the Scriptures along the line of its organization. What right do people have to change the organization of a church—to put in clubs and societies and auxiliaries of all kinds? None—and it is a sinful and wrong thing to stuff a church with things that Jesus the Founder, never authorized.

It not only matters that a Christian be a member of a New Testament church, but it matters that he belong to a Baptist church that seeks to follow the Scriptures to the letter. One should not consider lightly any of the teachings of the Word of God.

Hen Or Egg

(Continued from page one)
"Why, of course, from a hen," was the reply. "And where does the hen come from?" "Why, from an egg." Then the lady inquired: "Which existed first, the hen or the egg?" "The hen, of course," rejoined the young man. "Oh, then a hen must have existed without having come from an egg?" "Oh, no, I should have said the egg was first."

"Then I suppose you mean that one egg existed without having come from a hen?" The young man hesitated: "Well, you see—that is—of course, well the hen was first!" "Very well," said she, "Who made that first hen from which all succeeding eggs and hens have come?"

"What do you mean by all this?" he asked. "Simply this, I say that He who created the first hen or egg is He who created the world. You can't explain the existence even of a hen or egg without God, and

yet you wish me to believe that you can explain the existence of the whole world without Him!"

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

(John 3:16).

A Disappointed God

(Continued from page one)
increased in knowledge then He would change, and would not have been perfect in knowledge and understanding to begin with. From this you should see that God is the same "yesterday, today and forever"—He has not learned anything, neither has He forgotten anything—He has not a single expectation defeated, not one plan frustrated, not one hope disappointed, for all these things would cause change in God. Because He accommodates Himself to man's poor understanding and speaks of repenting (as with Ninevah), being entreated to extend a man's life (as in Hezekiah), as being frustrated (which means no more than that men reject and despise His outward commands), as being grieved, etc., does not mean that in these cases He changed His eternal plan so as to accommodate circumstances or persons, but that in the original plan all these things were ordained to be by His decree and He chooses various methods and means of bringing them about. And so it is in our text God speaks of His Word not returning unto Him void, by which He does not mean the Bible, but means that whatsoever He spake to be done in the eternal past before time began will by all means and without question come to pass—and far from any possibility of disappointment in what He decided. God states it shall NOT be voided, but it SHALL accomplish that which He pleases. Not what He could persuade man to do, NOT according to what man chose of His free choice, BUT that which God pleased to come about regardless of and without consideration of men as such, except as He has determined to use men AND circumstances to bring about His glory and honor. "My counsel SHALL stand, and I will do ALL my pleasure." (Isa. 46:10). Think about this, my friends. If God "worketh all in all" as He expressly states, then how can anything be excepted from those things He worketh? "Because He could swear by no greater He swore by Himself" that He would perform His promises.

AN INFINITE GOD CANNOT BE DISAPPOINTED! Infinite means unlimited, unmeasurable, unbounded. That God is infinite can easily be shown in Scripture. God cannot be limited by what you do, and it only complicates your thinking if it is imagined that God has the power to limit Himself—it is not the nature of an unlimited force to be limited. If God creates anything which is not subject to Him, then He ceases to be LORD of all. "Being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will," is proof God has NOT set a boundary where man can say "thus far can God come, but no further without my permission." His purpose

and His predestination would be hollow mockeries if He could not work ALL things after the counsel of His own will. If you cannot understand how man's will is free, and God's will is done anyhow, perhaps prayerful study will bring light on the subject—but if you do not understand it ever, be content to believe it anyhow. Christ called the Disciples fools because they would not believe what they could not understand (Luke 24). I don't know whence cometh the wind, nor where it listeth, but I know it IS and that it is under the control of God Almighty. I don't know God's infinite plan, but I believe He has one and that "all things work together for the good of them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." I cannot comprehend Him, I cannot limit Him, but one thing I can do, I can hear Him speak, I can believe what He says without questioning, and I CAN OBEY HIM.

AN ALL-WISE GOD CANNOT BE DISAPPOINTED! "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world." "But He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? and what His soul desireth, that He doeth. For He performeth the thing that is APPOINTED for me." (Job 23). "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out: For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counselor?" (Rom. 11:33,34). That God at one time decided the entire course of events from the world's beginning to the world's ending is hard to understand, yet this is so and MUST be so if God is not to change. How He could do this is of course part of being God—for He is deep in riches of wisdom and knowledge. He could actually decide upon a plan which takes in all men and all creation, then put this plan into effect and not have one jot or one tittle of it fail—just as He planned it. This is infinite wisdom, and not just foresight as some would have it. Man makes plans, not having any power to order them, but in the hope that they will come about—for man is weak in knowledge, weak in power, and can only be one place at a time. But if God

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How True Are The Advertisements Which The Catholics Are Currently Publishing

In the September, 1951 issue of the Baptist Call, an editorial exposed the false propaganda the Catholic Hierarchy is promoting in the way of advertisements run in newspapers, magazines and over the radio. He is reproduced a summarized list of themes used in these advertisements. The left hand list gives the themes as the Catholic Hierarchy presents them in their advertisements. The right hand list gives them just as they are taught by the Catholic Church and as they are published in the catechisms and other official publications. These lists are taken from pages 298 and 299 of the book entitled "American Freedom and Catholic Power," by Paul Blanchard. This book should be in the library of every American citizen, both Catholic and non-Catholic. You may order from the publishers, The Beacon Press, Boston, Mass.

The "Erroneous Ideas" As Advertised By The Knights Of Columbus

1. You hear it said that Catholics believe all non-Catholics are headed for Hell.
2. That they believe non-Catholic marriages are invalid.
3. Some think Catholics believe the Pope is God.
4. That he can do no wrong.
5. That they owe him civil allegiance.
6. And that he should have the political power to rule America.
7. It is said that Catholics want religious freedom only for themselves.
8. That they oppose public schools (as an evil which should be destroyed).
9. And separation of church and state as evils which should be destroyed.
10. The claim is made that Catholics pay the priest for the forgiveness of their sins.
11. That they must buy their departed relatives and friends out of Purgatory.
12. That they adore statues.
13. Are forbidden to read the Bible.
14. Use medals, candles and holy water as sure-fire protection against the loss of a job, lightning or being run down by an automobile.

What The Hierarchy Actually Teaches

1. Non-Catholics who deliberately reject Catholicism are headed for Hell.
2. Non-Catholic marriages involving a Catholic are invalid.
3. Catholics owe "complete submission and obedience" to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.
4. The Pope can do no wrong when he speaks as head of the Church in matters of faith and morals.
5. They owe him civil allegiance in matters of morals, education and priestly rights.
6. He should rule America in moral, educational and religious matters.
7. They advocate complete religious freedom for non-Catholics only as a temporary concession in non-Catholic countries, and in Catholic countries they restrict other cults.
8. They oppose public schools for Catholic children as an evil which should be destroyed.
9. They condemn separation of church and state and advocate support of both Catholic schools and churches by public taxation.
10. They pay the priests for Masses and those Masses are recognized as factors in securing forgiveness of sins, granted by priests.
11. They pay established fees for priestly Masses for the dead and the Church guarantees that these Masses will help depart souls in Purgatory.
12. They venerate statues by Canonical order.
13. They are forbidden to read any non-Catholic version of the Bible.
14. They use scapulars, relics . . . with . . . assurance . . . these articles will help . . . protect the faithful against disaster.—The Baptist Call.

is as Scripture portrays Him—wise beyond comparison, powerful to the exclusion of all opposition, able to "make known the riches of His glory on His vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto glory," able to "harden whom He will," able to make salvation certain to His chosen ones. (It is written—"As many as were ordained to eternal life, believed"—Acts 13:48. "I was found of them that sought me not, I was made manifest to them that asked not after me," then certainly such a God cannot find failure, disappointment, frustration, bafflement, in any person or circumstances.

AN ALL SUFFICIENT GOD CANNOT BE DISAPPOINTED! How man does howl when He is told that God does not need him—yet how many times we read this truth in God's Holy Word. "Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?" Then if a man cannot be profitable unto God, neither can God be disappointed by the man—for the man may indeed be used of God to show forth the glory of God,

that does not add to God's glory—for He is the same in glory yesterday, today and forever. "If thou sinnest, what doest thou against Him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto Him? if thou be righteous, what givest thou Him? or what receiveth He at thine hand?" (Job 35: 6,7). A man's sin may trouble his own breast but God is not troubled.

THE GREAT FIRST CAUSE CANNOT BE DISAPPOINTED! "For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are ALL things: to whom be glory forever." "Who hath first given to Him and it shall be recompensed unto him again?" Now if all things are of Him, then ALL things are caused by Him as the very first and efficient cause, "for the cause was of God, that the LORD might perform His word." (II Chron. 10:15). "For there is no power but of God." (Rom. 13:1). Surely the great first Cause shall not be disappointed in what He has Himself caused to happen out of His infinite wisdom and through His infinite power.