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MISSIONARY PREMILLENNIAL BIBLICAL BAPTISTIC

The Baptist Examiner

Paid Circulation In All States and In Many Foreign Countries

"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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How Our Churches Are Hindered

The most sacred institution this earth is the Church that was established. It is the institution which Jesus originated for the purpose of being in charge of his affairs during his personal absence from this world. How important then are churches function properly and that they do the things Jesus designed them to do! It can be truly said that churches in general are not doing half what they should do, could do. Why is this true?

What are the things that serve to hinder churches, and to hold them back from being and doing as they should? We mention a few things:

1. THE DEVIL. Of course he is the great antagonist. He is at the bottom of practically all of the hindering things we know anything about. He it was who put his Judas in the first church, and caused him to betray the Lord. (See Luke 22:3). Satan it was who inspired Ananias and Sapphira to start

dishonesty among God's people. (See Acts 5:3). Satan has from then until now, been busy getting church people all wrong. Every one of us need to take heed lest we lend ourselves to the devil to do harm.

How, let us ask, do Christians co-operate with the devil in doing harm to churches?

(1) BY MAKING THEIR OWN FEELINGS PARAMOUNT. A lifetime in the ministry has shown me that the (Continued on page four)



"... now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." —Eccl. 12:1.

Fifty Pointed Questions As To After Death—What?

By the Late H. A. Ironside
Pastor of Moody Church,
Chicago, for many years

Fifty pointed questions for the consideration of those who deny everlasting and conscious punishment of the finally lost, the consciousness of all while in the disembodied state. What did our Lord mean, when He said not to fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do to you? If the loss of the soul is the same as physical death?

2. A soul which cannot be reunited with the body, is it not immortal?

Have you noticed that Scripture uses the terms "mortality," and "immortality" in relation to the body? (Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 15:53).

4. If a spirit cannot live without a body, how do you account for the existence of God, who "is Spirit?" (John 4:24).

5. What of the angels, who are called "spirits?" (Heb. 1:7, 14).

6. How do you account for the prolonged existence of demons, who are wicked and lost spirits?

(Luke 8:27-29; Mark 1:23-26).

7. What of the angels that sinned, who are reserved under chains of darkness unto the judgment of the great day? (Jude 6).

8. How could the people of Sodom and Gomorrah be suffering the vengeance of eternal fire, if they were annihilated, or totally unconscious, when destroyed by material fire? (Jude 7).

9. When the Lord told the thief on the cross, "To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise," (Luke 23:43) did He mean that he should be fast asleep, and know nothing?

10. How could Abraham, Isaac and Jacob be said to "live unto Him," thousands of years after they had died, if death and extinction of being are synonymous? (Luke 20:38).

11. Do you not think all who heard the Lord Jesus relate the story: of the rich man and Lazarus, would naturally suppose He meant to teach conscious existence after death in happiness or woe? (Luke 16:19-31).

12. If it is "only a parable," and represents the changed relations of Jew and Gentile after Christ's rejection, as some teach, (Continued on page four)

GRACE AND SECURITY AS SEEN IN JONAH

We would do well to ponder the blessed story, in the word of God, concerning one of God's preachers named Jonah. The entire story brings a blessed lesson unto us of the eternal preservation of God's precious ones. Jonah must have been very close kin to some of us. When God called him, he immediately rebelled. Yet, the Lord took not His hand off Jonah, but laid it even more heavily upon him. That is about the way He deals with us today. When we rebel, He lays His hand of chastisement upon us. But we should be very glad of that fact. For the Bible teaches, "whom He loveth, He chasteneth." Many a time in the life of Jonah, he should have realized that all God had to do to lose him was to let him alone. But I am so glad He never leaves His children alone, and even in the belly of a fish, God was still round about. So, we find in the story of Jonah eternal preservation, even in spite of our sins. That is grace for you. The grace you need.

Remember a great storm came upon the sea while Jonah was aboard ship, yet God preserved him. Even though the men cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah, he was thrown overboard, yet God (Continued on page four)

Let Us Again Realize The Importance Of Doctrine

Kenneth A. Muck,
Pastor Baptist Church
Lansing, Michigan

There is an increasingly popular tendency on the part of many religious leaders to discard any doctrinal creed, thinking that such procedure will be very attractive to all religious groups. It seems to be the prevailing sentiment of certain liberal clergymen to "accept no doctrinal position," thus making an attempt to be very broad-minded. Such an attitude is deplorable in the fact that it confuses the mind of the average individual, and clouds the real issue involving eternal truths. More than that, such attitudes reveal the utter ignorance of God's Word as well as forgetting the simple meaning of the word "doctrine."

In the Apostle Paul's first letter to the young preacher Timothy, he writes, "Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine" (I Timothy 4:16). To another young preacher Paul writes, "Speak thou the things that become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). Paul's words provide a warning which is of solemn significance to every child of God. There is

far too much loose theological thinking with purely human wisdom involved. In a great movement to unify various creeds there has been a compromising of doctrinal position. The apostle's words also carry a distinct exhortation to every servant of God in his responsibility toward His people. Strong doctrinal teachings result in strong spiritual churches. The writer feels very strongly that one great lack among Christians is strong convictions on Scriptural truth.

In just a very brief outline let us think of some of the salient features which relate themselves to doctrine.

1. THE DEFINITION OF DOCTRINE.

The popular conception of Christian doctrine as something dry and ponderous is very much a misconception. The word itself simply means "teaching" or "belief." Therefore what anyone teaches and hence is believed is his doctrine. The question as to

(Continued on page three)

WHAT IF?

1. What if God does have an ELECT people?
2. What if God alone can save sinners?
3. What if God does demand holy living in the lives of His people?
4. What if God does demand that His people be praying people?
5. What if God does demand that His people be living witnesses unto His truth?
6. What if God does send all "empty professors" to hell?
7. What if God does demand that His people be filled with His Holy Spirit?
8. What if your "good works" turn out to be "bad works"?
10. What if salvation is wholly of the Lord?

In the light of the above questions, are you sure that your salvation is real or a counterfeit? I beg you in Jesus' Name not to (Continued on page four)

The First Baptist Pulpit

"False Prophets"

"The prophets prophecy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"—Jer. 5:31.

Let me remind you that generally speaking, people are mighty, mighty gullible. They will believe most anything in this world that they are told. It is a fact that the majority of people are not possessors of an analytical mind. There are mighty, mighty few folk who are capable of carefully analyzing

and weighing and considering facts, and since mighty, mighty few people have such a capability, it is very, very easy for people to be deceived and confused thereby.

I say, beloved, that is true in the natural realm. That is just true with people generally, and what is true in a general sense is surely all the more true when you bring it over into the religious realm. I am satisfied that the majority of people who attend church services on Sunday do so without even analyzing or scrutinizing or considering

whether or not, what they are hearing, is of the Lord, or of man. I believe that the majority of folk cannot see any difference between the true religion and a false religion. I am sure that the majority of folk will support error just as readily and as freely and as cheerfully as they will support the truth. I am positive, beloved, that the majority of folk think that one denomination is just as good as another, that one church is just as good as another and that one preacher is just as good as another.

(Continued on page two)

CRIME INCREASING

As the crime rate grows, a considerable section of the British press urges the "reintroduction of the dreaded 'cat' as a punishment for criminals. Flogging was discontinued in 1945 as an experiment." Crime has risen from 283,220 acts of violence in 1948 to 524,506 in 1951. A veteran London policeman said: "I favour the use of the lash and the birch on a much greater plane. Many of the crimes for which corporal punishment was given are now a common practice. These young criminals would understand only a violent punishment and I favour giving it to them. The only thing they know is violence" (Calgary Herald, Nov. 5). Sir Waldron Smith said in the House: "The increase in violence is the direct result of six years of Socialist and materialist philosophy in action. All moral standards are cracking" (Time, Nov. 24).

With such a startling point as the cross and such a goal as the Lord's coming, how can a Christian love the things of the world, the flesh and the devil?

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False Prophets

(Continued from page one)

I say, beloved, I am satisfied that the majority of people would go along with such a philosophy, and frankly, beloved, the majority of people think I am crazy because I contend that when Jesus Christ was here in the days of His flesh, He established a Baptist church; and when I contend that that church has the authority to carry out the commission of the Lord Jesus Christ and that none other has, and when I contend that that church has the authority to baptize and none other has, and when I contend that that church has the authority to set the table of our Lord and no one else has that authority—when I make these contentions, the average person of the world thinks,—"Well, if he isn't crazy, he certainly is eccentric, to say the least."

I repeat, beloved, the majority of folk can't see one bit of difference between truth and error. They just fail to see and understand that some folk are false prophets and don't truthfully represent the Lord Jesus Christ.

I

THERE HAVE BEEN FALSE PROPHETS THROUGH ALL THE AGES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

If you will go back, for example, to Elijah's day, you will find that when Elijah met with Ahab out on Mount Carmel, Elijah found himself sorely outnumbered by the false prophets of his day. Listen:

"Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men."—I Kings 18:22.

There was just one prophet of the Lord, but there were four hundred and fifty false prophets—prophets of Baal. What was true in the days of Elijah was true throughout all periods of Old Testament history. I sat down after I came to the study and looked up the expressions relative to the false prophets as recorded in the Old Testament, and I was amazed at the startling number of times that God referred to false prophets in the books of Deuteronomy, I Kings, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Micah. Time and time again does God warn His people relative to false prophets.

Beloved, what was true in the days of the Old Testament was likewise foretold to be true in the days of the Lord Jesus. Listen:

"And many FALSE PROPHETS shall rise, and shall deceive many. For there shall rise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."—Mt. 24:11, 24.

You will notice, beloved, that

the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking about the second coming and He says that there's going to be lots of false Christs and false prophets that are going to arise between His day and the day of His second coming, to the extent that He said, that if it were possible, that they would deceive the very elect of God. Surely, beloved, when you read such an assertion as this from the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ, you are brought face to face with the fact that not every man who calls himself a preacher is God's preacher, and not every church which calls itself a church is a true Scriptural church. In the day of the Apostle Peter, he warns us as to what we are to expect in the future.

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."—II Peter 2:1.

As there were false prophets in the Old Testament, so there will be false prophets down to the end of the age when Jesus comes. In Paul's ministry he met with such. On one particular occasion he met a man to whom he referred as "a false prophet."

"And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a FALSE PROPHET, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, set his eyes on him, and said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"—Acts 13:6, 9, 10.

When Paul met this false prophet, he didn't call him preacher. He didn't refer to him as a minister of outstanding reputation in that community, but rather with a scathing denunciation he said to him, "You are nothing but a child of the Devil, who is perverting the right ways of the Lord."

I say then, beloved, from these verses of Scripture which I have read to you from both the Old and New Testaments, you can't help from seeing that if there were false prophets in all ages back in the days of the beginning of creation, so shall there be false prophets through all the days to come, until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

Why, beloved, it is obvious to me that if there have been such in the past, it is only logical to expect such in the future. To me, beloved, it is obvious that we ought to be warned thereby that not every man who calls himself a preacher—who affixes a ministerial prefix before or after his name—is a God-called man.

II

NOTICE THAT THESE FALSE PROPHETS ARE THE POPULAR PREACHERS SO FAR AS THIS WORLD IS CONCERNED IN THAT THEY ARE LOVED BY THE WORLD.

"That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things. SPEAK UNTO US SMOOTH THINGS, prophesy deceits."—Isa. 30:9, 10.

That is how unsaved people want their unsaved preachers to preach to them. I believe with all my heart this morning that the majority of folk who go to church on Sunday would much rather not have their sins denounced, and that the majority of people who go to a so-called house of God on Sunday would

much rather be coddled in their sins than to be castigated for their sins. If I understand human nature, a carnal people like to have a carnal preacher preach to them smoothly, easily and fashionably that which is pleasing unto the flesh. A carnal people love a carnal priesthood. Unsaved preachers who have no commission from the Lord are the folk who are popular in the eyes of the world. They are the ones that the world speaks well of. In that respect, remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Woe unto you, when all men speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets."—Luke 6:26.

Some people say, "I just don't understand why it is that a preacher has to have enemies, and why it is that a preacher has to preach in such a way that folk don't like to hear him and don't care for his message and his ministry." Well, listen to this little poem:

"He has no enemies, you say!
My friend, the boast is poor.
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty that the strong endure,
Must have made foes! If he has
none

Small is the work that he has
done:

He has hit no traitor on the hip,
He has cast no cup from tempted lip;

He has never turned the wrong
to right,

He has been a coward in the
fight."

I believe, beloved, in the light of this poem, and in the light of what God's Word has said that I have read to you thus far, that the man who is loved by the world and who is highly received and well spoken of by the world at large proves thereby that he is not God's man, and that he does not preach God's truth.

III

THERE ARE SOME VERY OBVIOUS FACTS THAT STAND OUT IN THE BIBLE CONCERNING FALSE PROPHETS.

One fact is that they make a great pretention that they have been sent of God. In fact, beloved, false preachers like to have it known of them that they have been sent of God, and they take great pains and make great pretentions to prove to the world that they have been sent of God. Listen:

"THEY SAY still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. For who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it? Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say HE SAITH."—Jer. 23:17, 18, 31.

If you will carefully study these three verses of Scripture, you will find that in Jeremiah's day there were men who were preaching and saying, "Now the Lord gave me this message and the Lord told me what to say, and I am just using my tongue to give to you what God has given to me." Beloved, God says, "I am against such prophets that use their tongues, and say, He saith." In other words, in Jeremiah's day there were people who pretended to be sent of God, who absolutely had no commission from the Lord and whose message was positively repudiated by the Lord.

There is another obvious fact concerning these false preachers—they have not been sent of God. They pretended to be thus

sent, but they had not been sent of Him.

Before I read to you even one other verse of Scripture, I will say that I believe that God has only called about one-tenth of the men who claim to be preachers in America today. Why, beloved, it just doesn't make sense that all have been called of God. Ninety per cent of them preach contrary to this Bible. Fully ninety per cent of them preach that you have to be saved by your works, or by the city's water works, which, as you well know, is a direct contradiction to the Word of God. Beloved, do you mean to tell me that God would call a man to write a Bible and call another man to preach that which is contrary to the Bible. I believe I have sufficient sense to do better than that. I believe that I would know better than to do that, and certainly God, with all of His omniscience and all wisdom, would never in any wise at all choose men to write a Book which carries one message and then call men to preach a message contrary to the Book. I say, beloved, it is an obvious fact that fully a tremendous proportion of the so-called ministers of America are false prophets—they have not been called of God.

SURPRISED

When you have been saved by Grace,

And the world counts you a disgrace,

DON'T BE SURPRISED!

When your sins are all washed away,

And your friends show much dismay,

DON'T BE SURPRISED!

When by the BLOOD your record is clear,

And from your friends you receive a sneer,

DON'T BE SURPRISED!

When from your heart GOD removes your doubts,

And still the world around you pouts,

DON'T BE SURPRISED!

When sometimes even at best you fail,

And you find SATAN dogging your trail,

DON'T BE SURPRISED!

When you find the going tough,

And the way seems so very rough,

DON'T BE SURPRISED!

Just keep your heart set on the CROSS,

And GOD will never let you suffer loss!

If HE does—I'LL BE SURPRISED!—T. G. New

Let me read to you from God's Word just to show you that there is many a man who claims to be a God-called preacher, who is not called of God.

"Then the Lord said unto me, the prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded hem, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart."—Jer. 14:14.

Beloved, if our God were to attend the worship service in many, many so-called churches of the world today and were to hear men stand up and preach that you have to keep the law to be saved, that you have to be a member of some particular organization in order to be saved—if our God were to come to such a so-called church and were to hear such a message, I am satisfied that He would say exactly what He said through Jeremiah, "The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not."

Let me read you another Scripture which shows us the same truth.

"I HAVE NOT SENT THESE PROPHETS, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied."—Jer. 23:21.

Jeremiah had a hard time with false prophets. All the while through the book which bears his name, he contended with false prophets of his day. He didn't make him very popular. They put him in the stocks. They gave him a whipping one day when he was speaking in the streets. On another occasion they put him down into a cistern that had miry clay in the bottom of it and let him sink down in it and left him there to die. He didn't make him a popular preacher because he thus contended with them, but he contended any way because his heart was filled with the thing of the Lord and he couldn't otherwise, but to stand up and speak what he knew God said. The result was they hated him. As Jeremiah contended with these individuals, the Bible shows us that God spoke through him saying that He had not sent these false prophets. The Lord repudiated them. The Lord showed forth through His prophet, Jeremiah, that they were not sent of Him. I tell you, beloved, I cannot believe that God would inspire the forty men who wrote the Bible to write like this, and then call hundreds and thousands of men to preach contrary to the message of the Book. That can be said of those who preach contrary to the Word of God, who go against what God is the same that was said in the days of Jeremiah, when God said, "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied."

Something else is obvious, beloved, and that is they get the message not from God, but from the Devil. We read:

"And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a LYING SPIRIT in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so."—I Kings 22:21, 22.

If you will read the whole story of this passage of Scripture, you will find that Micaiah, the true prophet of God, said that Ahab's preachers were nothing but lying preachers and that the Devil had put a lying spirit into their ministry.

Now, beloved, who ever thought up the idea of salvation by church membership? It is to be found or even hinted in the Bible. Somebody had to think it up. Who ever thought up the idea of going to a priest to confess your sins to that priest and letting that priest absolve you from your sins? Somebody had to think it up—it isn't in the Bible. Who ever thought up the idea that if a man would stand down at the table of the Lord and would drink a little bit of wine and take a little morsel of bread upon his lips, that by partaking, his sins would be forgiven? Yet, beloved, it is thought by ninety-five per cent of the so-called Christians of the world that our sins are forgiven by the partaking of the Lord's Supper. Now, beloved, somebody had to think these things up. They didn't come out of the Bible. There is no thought in the Bible that could be twisted or perverted that would allow a man thus to believe. I ask you, beloved, where did that come from? I believe with all my heart that a lying spirit from the Devil has given the message to those preachers preach today.

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False Prophets

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It was thus in the days of Miah, for Ahab's prophets were given forth a message just because a lying spirit inside them was dictating the message to them. I believe that what was true back here could just as well be true today.

Another obvious fact concerning these false prophets is that they led people into error and away from the truth. God says:

"And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and CAUSED MY PEOPLE ISRAEL TO ERR."—Jer. 23:13.

Why is it that they err? Why do they go off after false doctrine? Why is it that they are led astray, and why is it many times that people will get mad when they hear the truth? Beloved, it is because a false preacher who has not been called of God has caused the people to err. They have led the people off into error.

Some of you who are here this morning probably can't even see the difference between truth and error — between the right message of the Lord and the heresies of men. To me it is the most pathetic and the most pitiful thing in this world to think that people will go to church and will sit under the sound of the gospel for months and years, and then will go listen to some pretentious person who doesn't know the first thing about the Word of God, who hasn't been called of God, but has been sent of man who goes out and preaches contrary to the things of God. I just can't understand why God's people can be so gullible to thus be led into error.

IV

IN VIEW OF THESE FALSE PROPHETS, WHAT ARE GOD'S PEOPLE TO DO?

In the first place, the Bible tells us we are not to listen to them.

"THOU SHALT NOT HEARKEN unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God loveth you; to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind."—Deut. 10:16.

If you will read this entire chapter, you will find that the context shows that this is talking about false preachers.

Somebody may say, "Brother Gilpin, how am I to know whether or not he is preaching the truth if I don't hear him? How am I going to know what these folk teach if I don't go to hear them preach?" Beloved, God says, "Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet."

Sometime ago I heard how that one of these false preachers here in Russell was very much perturbed and disturbed over one thing that he had heard that I had said. He understood that I had said that I didn't want the membership of this church to attend any other church, other than a true Baptist church. Beloved, it is a per adventure you hadn't heard that, I will pause and say again—I don't want you to attend any services where you will hear error. I don't want you to go to churches, so-called, where you are going to listen to heresy and falsehood. Beloved, this fellow was very much disturbed when he heard it. He said that he couldn't understand any man claiming to be a preacher who didn't want his people to hear from both sides of the question. Beloved, there isn't but one side to preach, and that is the right side. God tells us what attitude we are to take toward these false preachers. He said we are

There is no danger of conforming to the world without if you have enough of Christ within.

not to hear them.

Listen again:

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, HEARKEN NOT unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you; they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord."—Jer. 23:16.

"Therefore HEARKEN NOT YE to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: For I have not sent them, saith the Lord, yet they prophesy a lie in my name; that I might drive you out, and that ye might perish, ye, and the prophets that prophesy unto you."—Jer. 27:9, 15.

I tell you, beloved, you can't read these verses of Scripture without realizing that God wants you to stay away from error. We are not to even listen to false prophets.

God also tells us how we can test them to see whether or not they are preaching the truth. Listen:

"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.

You say, "Brother Gilpin, I go to church and I hear Brother Smellfungus, or I hear Brother Cloudsmasher, or I hear Rabbi Skybuster, and I know that he reads the Word of God. You say to test him by the Word, and I listened to him and I heard him read the Word. Surely he must be right." Beloved, that reminds me of a man here in Russell who sometime ago announced one night that he was going to preach on the subject of "Salvation by Grace." I had said that that man didn't know the first principle of the grace of God, and as a result of what I had said, he announced that he was going to preach on the subject of "Salvation by Grace," and he did so. He got up in his pulpit and said, "A preacher in town said that I didn't believe in the grace of God, and that I don't know the first principle of the grace of God." He said, "I am going to preach on 'Salvation by Grace,' and this is my text," and he started out by reading a good text—"For by grace are ye saved through faith." Beloved, when he got to the end of his text, he was at the end of grace. I had two men sitting in the services that night and they told me when that man got to the end of his text, that he immediately said, "Now I believe in grace, but a man has to be obedient to God to be saved. He has to be baptized to be saved." It was on that same night that he took a man and stood him over to one side of the baptistry and said, "Here you see a sinner." Then he took him down into the baptistry and brought him out and said, "Here you see a man saved. Do you want to see his Saviour?" He pointed back to the baptistry and said, "There is his Saviour—that pool of water." Yet, beloved, he said that he believed in the grace of God.

Listen, brethren, you should test any man who preaches to see if he preaches according to the Word of God. It doesn't make any difference how much a man says he believes in God's grace for salvation, if when he turns from his text and says you have to be obedient to the Lord and you have to be baptized to be saved, and he points to the pool of water and says that there is what saves him, such a one is a false prophet. I tell you, beloved, God says to test the prophets.

CONCLUSION

As I have said, it doesn't make a man popular when he stands for the things of God, but I have

a feeling that when God calls a man to preach, that God gives that man a message out of His Word and God expects that man to stand for, and contend for, that message—not for a day, and not for a year, and not for a season, but forever. We read:

"And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were PASSED CLEAN OVER JORDAN."—Josh. 3:17.

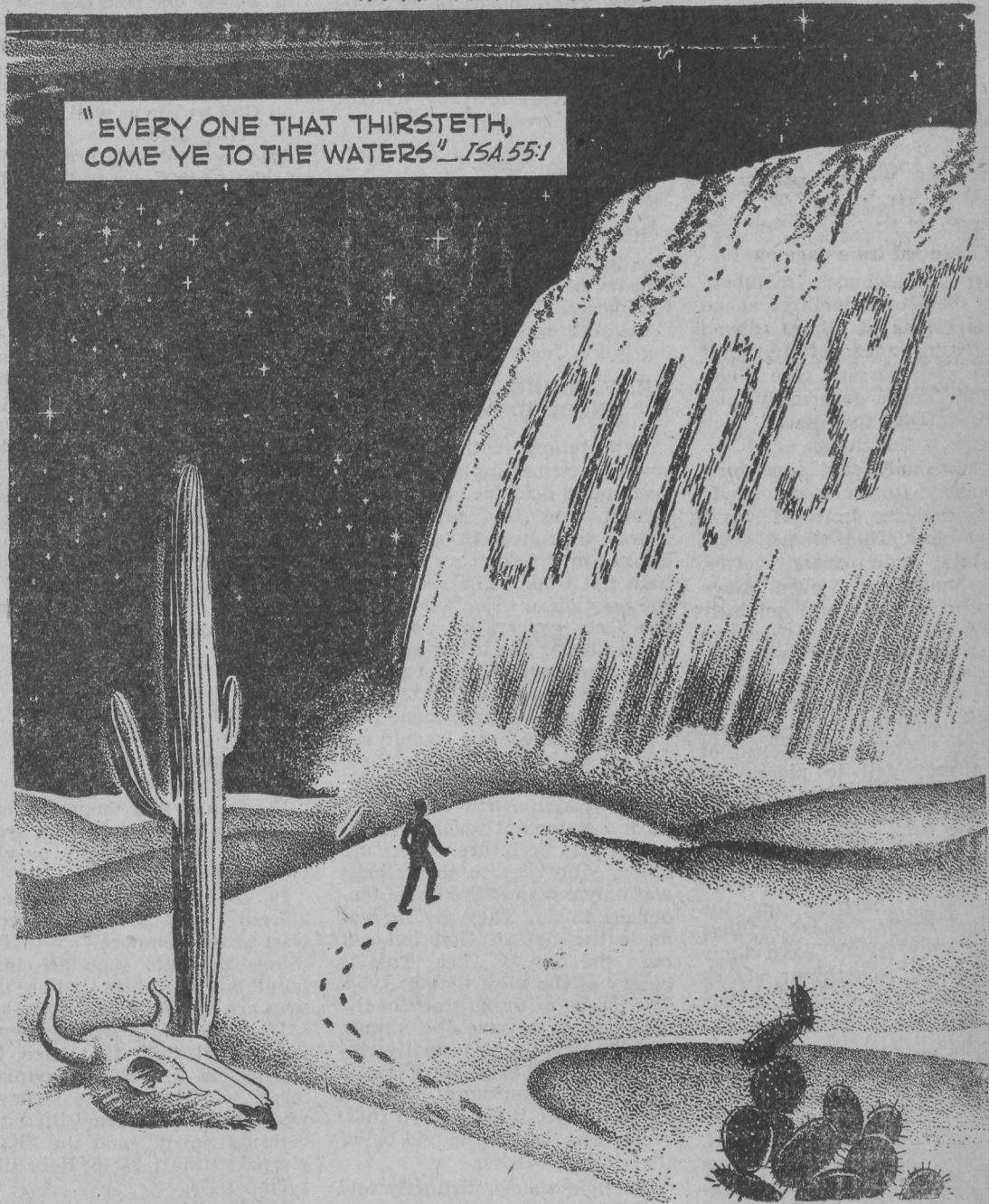
How long did they stand firm? Until all the Israelites were passed over Jordan. God doesn't want his preachers to be true to Him for just a while and then compromise. God wants his preachers to stand firm until the last one of His elect is passed over Jordan and is safe with the Lord in Glory.

Sometimes, beloved, it would be much easier to do otherwise, but some of these days I am going to give an account for a ministry in Russell for a quarter of a century. When I stand to face my Saviour, I don't want to have to apologize for what I have preached, and I don't want to face Him at the end of a quarter of century in one town knowing that I haven't stood for what the Book says. It would be much easier now to compromise and a man could be much more popular now, and in every particular, things would be much smoother in the eyes of the world, but, brother, sister, why compromise a man's ministry today for seventy years when he has an eternity out yonder to live with the Lord.

I like the words of that poem, which says:

"However the battle is ended,
Though proudly the victor comes

IN AN ARID WORLD



"EVERY ONE THAT THIRSTETH, COME YE TO THE WATERS"—ISA. 55:1

With fluttering flags and prancing nags
And echoing roll of drums,
Still truth proclaims this motto
In letters of living light—
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

Though the heel of the strong oppressor
May grind the weak in the dust,
And the voices of fame with one acclaim
May call him great and just,
Let those who applaud take warning,
And keep this motto in sight—
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right.

Let those who have failed take courage;
Tho' the enemy seems to have won,
Tho' his ranks are strong, if he be in the wrong
The battle is not yet done;
For, sure as the morning follows
The darkest hour of the night,
No question is ever settled
Until it is settled right."

Oh, may God help you to see again, afresh and anew, the need of standing for the Word of God, and standing by your pastor, as he tries to stand for the Word of God, and contending for the Book as he contends for the Book.

May God bless you is my prayer this morning.



Doctrine

(Continued from page one)
the correctness of the teaching is another matter entirely. To attempt to escape a doctrinal position is to be like the proverbial ostrich hiding its head in the sand to escape the stern reality

of impending danger. A "No Doctrine" placard on the flyleaf of one's theological beliefs is enough to very seriously question the soundness of those beliefs. In other words, one cannot escape having beliefs—thus a doctrinal position — however loud he may sound forth the "live and let live" slogan of so-called religious tolerance.

II. THE BASIS FOR SOUND DOCTRINE.

Perhaps the easiest way to establish the principles of sound doctrine is to cite the Word of God. After all, that is the authority of each Church. II Timothy 3:16 states that the "Word of God is profitable" first for "doctrine." The Bible, then is THE BASIS for sound teaching. That does not mean part of it, nor those portions which we might like more than others, but ALL of it. To accept God's Word is to have a firm doctrinal basis. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My word shall not pass away."

Lest that be too indefinite, God speaks again concerning the facts of sound doctrine. It is that which claims that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (I John 4:2). In brief, sound teaching is based upon the Lord Jesus Christ and all that the Bible teaches concerning Him. That includes His Virgin Birth, His Sinless Life, His Substitutionary Death on the Cross for Sin, His Bodily Resurrection from the Grave. To be incorrect in belief as to the Person of Jesus Christ is to be incorrect in doctrine. These glor-

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THE BAPTIST EXAMINER

PAGE THREE

JULY 4, 1953

What If?

(Continued from page one)
trust any goodness of your own but to claim the help of the Lord, for true salvation is in no other.—Contender.



Hindered

(Continued from page one)
majority of church members place their own feelings ahead of the Cause of Christ, ahead of lost souls, ahead of anything! I have seen persons give liberally, and serve generously, and it seemed that they had a deep interest in the things of God—then somebody said something derogatory to them—somebody criticized them, and that was a mortal blow. They wilted down and took their church letter. Often such don't even move their membership and get busy elsewhere. To every Christian appeal and entreaty, they answer, "My feelings have been hurt. My feelings have been terribly wounded." The world may go to hell—the Cause of Christ may fall to pieces for aught they care—their "feelings have been hurt." To such persons "feelings" is god. I have seldom, if ever, been pastor anywhere but that there were some folks hanging on the sidelines with "their feelings hurt." They didn't have their way about something; somebody criticized them; or they thought that somebody slighted them. The thing wrong with such persons is unadulterated selfishness and rotten egotism. SELF is so big they can't see anything BUT self. One great thing about Paul was the fact that he put Christ ahead of self. (See I Cor. 9:19; Rom. 9:3). He put lost people ahead of himself too.

What if your feelings do get hurt? So what? Are you better than Jesus? Weren't his feelings hurt, and many times?

(2) BY TALKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE. Gossip, back-biting, talking about people is one of the greatest afflictions that any church can know, and nearly every one is afflicted with it. Many church auxiliaries are nothing less than little gossip societies. I doubt if any institution is hindered as much by gossip as the church. The Scriptures have some harsh things to say concerning tale-bearers and gossips. (See Levit. 19:16; Prov.26:20).

(3) BY ACTING OUT OF WHIM AND CAPRICE. Most every business is run on some good sound principles, except a church. Many give to the church just as the notion happens to hit them—not in any regular, systematic way. Many attend church when they happen to be in the mood. Many serve spasmodically. No regularity, no dependability, everything according to whim and notion. That's why Sunday school classes fluctuate so in attendance.

(4) BY HAVING LESS LOYALTY TO THE CHURCH THAN TO ANYTHING ELSE. Run down the members of a man's family, and he is ready to fight. Run down his political party and he gets blazing mad. Say something against his lodge and he is up in arms, but often he has no resentment if some one criticizes his church. Moreover such will often join in run-

ning down his church and his pastor. There needs to be a revival of church loyalty in this day. Often loyalty to a "denomination" exceeds loyalty to the local church. Such is fraught with base treachery.



Doctrine

(Continued from page three)
ious facts are the bases of Christian truth. Thus we see that the foundation of Christian doctrine is the Written Word and the Living Word, Jesus Christ.

III. WARNINGS REGARDING UNSOUND DOCTRINE.

Exhortations with respect to sound doctrine imply that there is unsound doctrine. Such is absolutely true! God states, "Who-soever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God." That is exactly the position of those who DENY the facts concerning our Lord Jesus Christ. For instance, many deny the Virgin Birth of Christ, calling it unscientific and an impossibility. One prominent pastor remarked that he "would not ask his brain to do such a theological somersault as to believe in the Virgin Birth of Christ." Such a statement reveals beliefs contrary to Scripture. There are others who declare that Christ was only a man with human tendencies to sin. They say He was made the Son of God but not born the Son of God. This is heresy of the most blatant type. The denial of the efficacy of the shed blood to save the sinner, and the denial of the bodily resurrection of Christ substantiate the fact of unsound doctrine. However, let it be known inasmuch as it is teaching and belief that it IS doctrine.

Further, we are distinctly told in I Timothy 4:1 that there are "doctrines of devils" which are departures from the faith coupled with unscriptural practices. The devils, then, have a doctrinal position which some human beings have tried to emulate! When men depart from the Word, inventing religious practices all their own, they are simply working out the teachings of the devils.

One other statement from God's Word informs us that "the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away . . . from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim. 4:3). Such is the condition of those who deny the Word, claiming it to be myth and fable and who grasp at any new fad of belief that attracts the mind. These people attempt to do away with the supernatural in Christianity. This substitution is entirely unscriptural, unwarranted and spiritually unhealthy. So we see that unsound doctrine is a denial of the Word in an attack upon Christ, it is of devilish origin and it is a definite departure from the truth as revealed in the Bible.

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF DOCTRINE.

That doctrine is important is evidenced by the references to it in the New Testament. In Timothy and Titus are definite statements regarding correct teaching and belief. There is needed today a clarion call sounding forth the great doctrines of the Word in no uncertain tones. Its importance is temporal as well as eternal.

1. Sound doctrine matures the believer (II Tim. 3:16, 17).
2. Sound doctrine leads to godly living (I Tim. 6:3). Creed is followed by conduct, deeds follow doctrine. Sound teaching will be fol-

lowed by sound living.

3. Sound doctrine enables the believer to meet the arguments of the enemy (Titus 1:9).
4. Sound doctrine glorifies God by life as well as by lip (Titus 2:10).

The issues of the present day in relation to God's truth are being finely drawn. The forces of Satan with smooth words and attractive phrases are lulling many to sleep and blinding the minds of others (II Cor. 4:4). Paul's words bring a serious challenge to every child of God. It behooves us to take heed unto the doctrines of the Word that we may "stand fast in the faith" and not be swayed by the cunning craftiness of men nor the subtleties of Satan.

Christians! Awake to the condition of apostasy in our country! We dare not compromise with truth but rather to rally around our glorious Christ. The challenge of this hour is to "hold fast the faithful Word."



After Death—What?

(Continued from page one)
why is the great gulf fixed?

13. Could you honestly say that they who would pass from Judaism to Christianity or vice versa cannot do so?

14. If "eternal does not mean eternal," why is it put in contrast with "temporal?"—"The things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are unseen are eternal." (2 Cor. 4:18).

15. If there is a stronger word for eternal than that used for eternal or everlasting punishment, why is not the stronger word used for "eternal life," the "eternal Spirit," and the "King eternal?" (Matt. 25:46; Heb. 9:14; I Tim. 1:17).

16. If all the solemn statements as to an undying worm, outer darkness, and a lake of fire are symbols, is it to be supposed that the reality is weaker or less than the figures employed to picture it?

17. If final punishment is extinction, how will it be possible for the judgment of the people of Sodom to be more tolerable than that of those of Capernaum? or that of Tyre and Sidon, than Bethsaida and Chorazin? (Matt. 11:21-24).

18. If Judas is annihilated, what special force can you see in the Lord's words, "It had been good for that man if he had not been born?" (Matt. 26:24).

19. In what sense will it be any worse for Judas than for any other lost one, if all are to be annihilated together?

20. If "cast into the lake of fire" results in extinction, how is it that "the beast and the false prophet" are described as alive in it a thousand years after they are cast into it? (Rev. 20:10).

21. On the same hypothesis, what force can you see in the words, "Shall be tormented, day and night forever and ever?" (Rev. 20:10).

22. What warrant have you to explain, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever," and "He that liveth forever and ever," as meaning eternity, while you limit, "tormented day and night forever and ever," to a brief period?

23. Do you really see any hint or thought of annihilation in the expression, "Wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever?" (Jude 13).

24. Do not the words just quoted at least seem to picture the lost as comets or stars out of their orbit, for all eternity away from the Sun of righteousness?

25. Can you logically couple the thought of abiding wrath with annihilation? (John 3:36).

26. Could unconscious spirits

"desire a better country?" If not, how do you explain Heb. 11:16?

27. If Paul believed that his soul and spirit would become unconscious at death, what did he mean when he wrote of being "willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord?" (2 Cor. 5:8).

28. Could one be absent from the body and asleep in the body at the same time?

29. What did Peter mean when he wrote: "Knowing that I must shortly put off this my tabernacle?" (2 Pet. 1:14).

30. Does it not imply, at least, that he would be living apart from his bodily tabernacle?

31. If souls cannot consciously exist out of the body, why are they so pictured in Rev. 6:9-11?

32. In what sense are some to be beaten with few stripes, and others with many, if all who die in their sins are to be annihilated? (Luke 12:47, 48).

33. Is it honest to say, "Death means extinction, or annihilation," in the face of, "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth?" (I Tim. 5:6).

34. If death means extinction, did Christ become extinct when He died?

35. If so, do you not see that He could not be "that Eternal Life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us?" (I John 1:2).

36. Have you observed that the same Greek word which is translated "destroy" in many passages, is translated *lost* in Luke 15:32?

37. Would you conclude from this that the prodigal had been annihilated while he was in the far country?

38. If not, is it logical—is it true or false—to maintain that destruction and annihilation are synonymous?

39. Have you observed that in Scripture life and existence are never confounded?

40. If men exist now, who "have not the life" (I John 5:12), why may they not exist eternally without that life—which is eternal life?

41. Christians are said to "have come to . . . the spirits of just men made perfect" (Heb. 12:23). In what sense have these spirits been made perfect, if unconscious?

42. It is sometimes said that as no human father would cast his child into material fire, so God will never cast sinners into the fires of hell and let them suffer there forever; but is not this an ignoring of what we see every day?

43. Would you allow one you loved to be afflicted with a painful or loathsome disease if you could hinder it?

44. Does not God permit such affliction to go on for years?

45. If He permits great anguish in this life as a result of sin, who can say what sin may entail in the world to come?

46. Have you observed that sinful men eagerly accept the teaching that punishment is not eternal, while holy men have ever received the Bible's teaching as to it?

47. If annihilation is the punishment of sin, why did the Lord Jesus speak of "weeping and gnashing of teeth," following the being cast into outer darkness? (Matt. 8:12).

48. If hell—or rather "hades," is merely the grave, why is it put in contrast with heaven in Luke 10:15?

49. Since the people of all cities of the past have gone down to the grave, in what sense was Capernaum's punishment different from theirs?

50. Caviller! Consider this well: "How shall you escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33).

Jonah

(Continued from page one)

preserved Jonah. God had a fish waiting for Jonah. The Lord had prepared this great fish for the very definite purpose—to swallow up His rebellious preacher. But even in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights God still preserved His own. In this story of Jonah we learn the blessed lesson of salvation by the irresistible influence and power of God's Holy Spirit.

God didn't move upon Jonah to rescue him or to deliver him, but God moved on the fish. We find this statement in the word of God. "That the Lord God spake unto the fish, and the fish vomited up Jonah." So Jonah's deliverance wasn't up to Jonah but up to God, as He moved upon the fish. And our salvation today is not up to us but up to God's own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In the blessed story of Jonah, we find our picture of deliverance by another—deliverance through and by the finished work of Jesus Christ, God's own Son. The blessed old time story of the Substitutionary Atonement of God's own Son—dying in our stead, hanging where we should have hung, bleeding when we should have bled—Christ dying for us! Jonah was delivered by the fish prepared aforetime by God. We, today, are delivered from our sins by God's own Son, prepared aforetime to deliver us from all our sins and our transgressions. Yes, the story of Jonah is true, in spite of all the modernism, scepticism and infidelity of this day.

God's word still speaks to the hearts of His own. Remember, friend, if you be one of God's sheep, you too are at God's disposal today and I trust that you may be kindly disposed toward you, that you might receive His grace and appreciate the same. Remember Jonah! The Lord is taught from the book of Jonah. I believe we should too. Some of the richest blessings of heaven ministerial experience have come in the past few weeks as the Lord has blessed my soul by a fresh study from the book of Jonah in regard to the teaching of the sovereignty of God.

—T. G. New

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